



## From Nagasaki to Asia



● Places associated with Umeya Shokichi



Shokichi (center) and members of the Revolutionary Army in Manila\*

### ■ Awareness of being Asian

In 1882, at the age of 14, Umeya Shokichi traveled to Shanghai, where he saw how Westerners acted as if they owned the country, backed by the force of arms. After that, starting in Shanghai, he moved from place to place in East Asia, as if he were searching for a purpose. The sense of crisis and awareness he felt as an Asian at this time became the driving force behind his bond with Sun Yat-sen and his activities in support of the nationalists.

### ■ Photo studio business

As a boy, Shokichi posed for the camera. Being a curious boy, he must have taken some interest in photography. Above all, Nagasaki was home to the famous Ueno Hikoma's photo studio. It is said that Shokichi learned photography in Singapore and opened a photo studio, but he was not able to get the business off the ground at first. However, Umeya Photo Studio, which he opened in Hong Kong, was a success, partly because it introduced new services such as on-site photography.

### ■ Fateful encounter

In 1895, Shokichi was introduced to Sun Yat-sen by Sir James Cantlie, a British physician, at a charity party in Hong Kong. A few days later, Sun visited Umeya Photo Studio. There they had a lively discussion and Shokichi made a pledge: "You raise your army, and I will raise my money to support you." It was a fateful encounter between Sun Yat-sen and Umeya Shokichi, who had the passion to open up the future.