

Founding of Tainan Technical College during Japanese Colonial Era

Yao-te Wang

ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the background and the decision-making processes on the founding of Tainan Technical College during the Japanese colonial era. By analyzing the changes in the specialized education system, this study examines the establishment theory of technical college and the factors of influencing policy decisions to shed light on the founding history of specialized vocational schools in the colonial education system. This analysis revealed a close relationship between the establishment of technical college and the gradual transformation of Taiwan from an agricultural society to an industrial nation after World War I. In addition, technical colleges were founded in response to the growing need of human resources for industrial development. Following the proclamation of two times of Education Acts and their amendments, the Taiwan Governor-General Office conducted a comprehensive review of vocational education and advocated to combine the establishment of technical college with the overseas development.

Nevertheless, there was a controversy against the policy-making; in particular, the founding of Tainan Technical College to replace the Tainan Commercial College. Such policy had significantly impacted the intricate historical development of the specialized education system in Tainan for a decade. On the one hand, the high turnover of the Governor-General of Taiwan due to partisan politics in Japan led to inconsistency of the colonial education policy. On the other hand, the subtle interactions were taken place between the Japanese Central Government and the demonstrators of popular movement in Taiwan in consideration of the fiscal budget, the balance of regional development and the specialized education reforms introduced by the colonial government. To modify and adjust the infrastructure of the vocational colleges in the fields of medicine, agriculture & forestry, business, and engineering made the specialized education system be gradually established and adapt to the trend of the times change.

Keywords: Japanese Colonial Era, Specialized Vocational College, Establishment Theory of Technical College, Tainan Technical College, Tainan Commercial College