

Taking Over and Early Development of Taiwan Machine Manufacturing Corporation (1945-1953)

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ABSTRACT

This paper focused on exploring how Taiwan Machine Manufacturing Corporation (TMMC) took over Taiwan Iron Works of the Japanese colonial era. The technical talents of TMMC came from different sources. Machine designers were mainly local Taiwanese who had served in Taiwan Iron Works. Technical talents in production of railway vehicle were former employees of the Ministry of Railways in Mainland China. As for shipbuilding, Mainland Chinese experts played the supervisory role with actual engineering work handled by technicians trained under the Navy in Magung, Penghu during the Japanese colonial era.

In the early post-war years, the operations taken over by TMMC changed from simple machine maintenance to more complicated machine production and engineering construction. Job orders for TMMC were mainly production and maintenance of machines for public enterprises; hence, it could not specialize in manufacturing of certain commodities, and thus could not achieve economies of scale. Products of TMMC were sold not only in Taiwan but also to Mainland China. Supported by the government policy, TMMC began to concentrate on constructing fishing boats from the 1950s, thus achieving the goal of production specialization.

Keywords: Taiwan Iron Works, Taiwan Machine Manufacturing Corporation, National Government Resource Committee, Take over, Pass on Technology