

# The process of Tangshan Engineering and Mining College Participated in the 1910 Nanyang Exposition in the Late Qing Dynasty

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**Abstract:** *The holding of the 1910 Nanyang Exposition is closely related to the innovation and development of Chinese society since the Self-Strengthening Movement, the trade war thought, industry trends, and the development of the capitalist economy. It was both the measure and result of Qingmoxinzheng for industry and commerce. As a representative of the new school, Tangshan Engineering and Mining College Just over a decade after its founding, was able to compete in a world class fair with student assignments and gained the golden medal, all these proved the success of the educational reform in the late Qing dynasty. The combination of them fully demonstrates the positive role of the Qingmoxinzheng in promoting China's modernization .*

**Keywords:** *Tangshan Engineering and Mining College, 1910 Nanyang Exposition , Qingmoxinzheng*

## 1. Introduction

Founded in 1896, as one of the oldest 100-year-old University ,Southwest Jiaotong University is China's first railway college and the origin of China's civil engineering and Mining Engineering. Because of its long history, there have been a number of academic vacuum in early history which need to research futher. Recently, the author was browsing through Materials Collection of Early Exposition (I)(II) , which was copied from the Fung Ping Shan Library of the University of Hong Kong and provided by the National Library of China Document Microcopy Center, and discovered the predecessor of Southwest Jiaotong University, Tangshan Engineering and Mining College travelled south to Nanjing in June 1910 to take part in the first official World's Fair in Chinese history, the 1910 Nanyang Exposition, and won three gold medals. In order to build a more complete picture of Southwest Jiaotong University's early history, so I wrote this article.

## 2. The background and fundamental condition of 1910 Nanyang Exposition

The 1910 Nanyang Exposition was the first International Exposition held by the government in Nanjing in the late Qing dynasty, in the context of the rapid development of the capitalist economy in the Liangjiang region and the implementation of Qingmoxinzheng. When it was initiated, the government was expected to hold several such events, so the 1910 Nanyang Exposition was called the first 1910 Nanyang Exposition.

In 1904, overseas Chinese Cheong Fatt Tze returned to China. He received the official title of "Minister of the Taipusi Temple" for his donation of 200,000 taels of silver to the Qing government and was summoned by the Empress Dowager Cixi. He proposed that for China to become rich and powerful, it must hold a large-scale commodity fair, promote competition among business people in order to develop industry and commerce. As a result, Cheong Fatt Tze was the first proponent of the 1910 Nanyang Exposition. In the autumn of Guangxu 34 years(1908), Duan Fang, returning from a constitutional inspection tour of Europe, was appointed governor of Liangjiang and concurrently Minister of Commerce in Nanyang, and began to prepare for the 1910 Nanyang Exposition in Nanjing. He put forward the five principles of the 1910 Nanyang Exposition: "Purport should be pure, scope should be small, system should be extended, praise should be excellent, preparation should be quick". Later, as Zhang Renjun took over the Governor of the Liangjiang Region from Duanfang , the important task of organizing the Exposition fell to Zhang Renjun and his appointed general director Chen Qi.

From June 5, 1910 (April 28, The Second year of Xuantong) to November 29, 1910 (October 28, The Second year of Xuantong), the 1910 Nanyang Exposition proceeded well under the uphold of Zhang Renjun and Chen Qi, under the promotion of the Patriotic Overseas Chinese, the industrialists and the local power faction. The news of The opening and the various situations of the Exposition were reported in Shenbao, Dongfangzazhi, Shangwuguanbao, The North-China Herald, The Chinese Recorder And Missionary Journal, Huaziribao and Huichangribao. Both the organizers and the audience, as well as the venue layout, architecture and publicity methods, have taken on new features of modernization and achieved the effect of "Opening the atmosphere for a while, making the future prosperous and strong". As a typical representative of China's modern education, Tangshan Engineering and Mining College, which is known as China's first railway college, also participated in this Exposition.

According to The Commercial Annals of the local chronicles of Jiangsu, the 1910 Nanyang Exposition covered an area of more than 700 mu (466666 square meters) and was located in "East of sanpailou, north of Gulou, west of Fengrun Gate, and close to the park" in Nanjing (present sanpailou to Dingjiaqiao area). By category, region and country, "The Exposition contained Education, crafts, agriculture, machinery, transportation, arts, hygiene, military, capital goods exhibition area and so on. In addition to this, the Jinan exhibition area displayed products from overseas Chinese in Nanyang. The first, second and third reference pavilions displayed products from Europe, the United States and Japan. There are also more than 10 self-built pavilions in other province, 3 special pavilions and 3 particular pavilions. Tangshan Engineering and Mining College's exhibits are distributed in the education pavilion.

### **3. The condition of Tangshan Engineering and Mining College in education pavilion**

According to The visit guide of Nanyang Exposition published by the government of the late Qing dynasty that year, the education pavilion was located on the east side of the south main gate. After entering the venue, it is only a few steps away from its entrance. It is the first pavilion to be seen after admission, opposite to the Crafts pavilion. The building is modeled on the German style and is in the shape of "工". It covers an area of "91.44 meters wide, and 5.33 meters high" and is used for displaying all educational supplies. According to the travel notes written by the participants of the Exposition and published by the Shanghai Commercial Press, the education pavilion is divided into six sections: Primary School, Girls' school, secondary school, Normal school, industrial college, books and instruments, all are displayed in curvilinear arrangement using glass cabinets. Tangshan Engineering and Mining College and Imperial Polytechnic College of Ministry Communication occupied a separate room, which was located at the beginning of the industrial college and at the end of the Normal School. The exhibits in this pavilion include "College teaching program, method, time, subjects, lecture notes, special instruments assignments and grades."

### **4. Review and Award of the Exhibits**

As mentioned above, when Duanfang and Chen Qi first initiated the Exposition, they thought "praise should be excellent", it was appropriate to imitate the example of the western Exposition, "invited professional people to investigate, appraise, elect and grade the exhibits, then awarded the outstanding exhibits". So, the 1910 Nanyang Exposition attached great importance to the review and research of exhibits. The review was mainly conducted by the government, while the research of exhibits was mainly conducted by the private sector. Therefore, the imperial court ordered the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry Yangshiqi as general director of the review, responsible for all matters related to the review of exhibits. Yang Shiqi immediately arrived and convened 57 experts formally began to investigate, from Xuantong July 1, 1910 (August 5, 1910). The purpose of the review, was "to award industry, especially the company and factory". Therefore, in the review, with the goal of promoting industry and gaining profits, as "the foundation of industry," education should be given preferential treatment.

The exhibits in 1910 Nanyang Exposition can be divided into 24 parts, 440 categories, 1 million sub-categories. During the exhibition period, 5269 exhibits were awarded, of which 66 were for Memorial Awards (first-class Awards), 214 for Super Awards (second-class awards), 426 for excellent awards (third-class awards), 1,218 for gold medals (fourth-class awards) and 3,345 for silver medals (fifth-class awards). Ni Zhongcheng's assignment "Static diagram calculation", Zhou Xiongwan's assignment "Static diagram calculation" and "Culvert diagram", and Xu Shiyi's assignment "Arch

Bridge” from Tangshan Engineering and Mining College were awarded gold medals, It was a great achievement by participating in the competition as a student.

## 5. Conclusion

The holding of the 1910 Nanyang Exposition is closely related to the innovation and development of Chinese society since the Self-Strengthening Movement, the trade war thought, industry trends, and the development of the capitalist economy. It was both the measure and result of the policy of “New Deal for industry and commerce”. Tangshan Engineering and Mining College, as a representative of the new school, its running mode, training idea and examination mechanism also fully reflected the basic ideas of the education reform in the late Qing dynasty. Just over a decade after its founding, Tangshan Engineering and Mining College was able to compete in a world class fair with student assignments and gained the gold medal, All these proved the success of the educational reform in the late Qing dynasty. The combination of them fully demonstrates the eager desire of a sleeping empire to seek change and progress, and the positive role of the Qingmoxinzheng in promoting China’s modernization in the late Qing dynasty.

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