

Koto Kogyo Gakko (High-level Industrial Schools)

The establishment of Koto Kogyo Gakko (高等工業学校), a system of schools for educating mid-level industrial instructors and factory supervisors, was proposed by Gottfried Wagener (German engineer hired by Meiji Government) and Tejima Seiichi (Ministry of Education official). **Tokyo Shokko Gakko** (Tokyo Craftsmen School), the first of such schools, was established by MOE in 1881. It selected students among graduates of Chugaku (High School, about age 16-17) through exam, but students with good records in industrial subjects in Chugaku were accepted without exam. Exams were also held in other regions in Japan. Original courses were mechanical engineering and chemical engineering. More courses were added later. The name of the school changed several times.



G. Wagener



S. Tejima

Unlike Kobu Daigakko (Institute of Technology), all teachers were Japanese except Mr. Wagener (teaching ceramics & glass making). Japanese teachers mainly came from the Faculty of Science of Tokyo University. The first several years of Tokyo Shokko Gakko (later renamed Tokyo Kogyo Gakko) could not attract many students and faced administrative and financial problems, but management stabilized around 1890 as Mr. Tejima became the Principal. Tokyo Kogyo Gakko became the leading institute for producing industrial instructors, factory managers, engineers, and entrepreneurs. Education of industrial instructors was later delegated to another institution. When its Kuramae campus (near Asakusa) was destroyed by Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, the school relocated to O-okayama (Meguro-ku, Tokyo). It is now the Tokyo Institute of Technology.



Tokyo Kogyo Gakko at Kuramae



In addition to Tokyo (1881), publicly-run Kogyo Gakko (Industrial Schools) were established in Osaka (1901), Kyoto (1902), Nagoya (1905), Kumamoto (1906), Sendai (1906), Yonezawa (1910), and Akita (mining course, 1910) with a total of 8 schools during the Meiji period. After Meiji, 23 more Kogyo Gakko were added all over Japan (until 1945). After WW2, most of these schools were transformed into faculties of engineering of national universities. In addition, there were also industrial schools run by the private sector but most of them were established after WW2.