

Government Trade School

1937

Governemnt Trade School's badge

The History of The Department of Mechanical Engineering dates back to 1937, when the Government Trade School, the early predecessor of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was established at Wood Road, Wan Chai, with Mr G. White as the Principal.

The Government Trade School was built in 1935-1936. Three full-time courses were opened in 1937, including a 3-year Engineering course in Automobile maintenance and repair for youths who wished to become



View of the Government Trade School

The complete lack of suitable Chinese Instructors compelled ma to decide that English must, at that time. be the medium of as my European Staff. on whom the great bulk of the workshop instruction and generally unsatisfactory. The need for courses with medium of instruction has always been recognised, and the progress and carefully followed. school to be reorganised on a much more satisfactory basis than was previously possible.

With these limitations, the following courses were opened in 1937 ...

3-year course for training of potential Contractors Assistants, Clerks of Works, etc. Engineering: 3-year course on Automobile repair and maintenance for youths who wished to become garage foremen etc. Wireless Telegraphy: 9 months course for ships Radio Officers, transferred from Postmaster General's Department, and considerably extended.

EVENING -

Engineering: 5-year course for apprentices who had either completed 3 years at the Junior Technical School and young journeymen who had completed 5 years in the "Evening Institute" during apprenticeship. 5-year course for Carpenters etc. who aspired to posts Building: as foremen Electrical Engineering: 5-year course for apprentices at the China Light & Power Company, etc. Shipbuilding: 5-year course for apprentices from Taikoo and Kowloon Preliminary Engineering: 3 or 5 year course held in Kowloon and Taikoo Docks to enable apprentices to reach necessary standard for "Engineering" or "Shipbuilding" Courses.

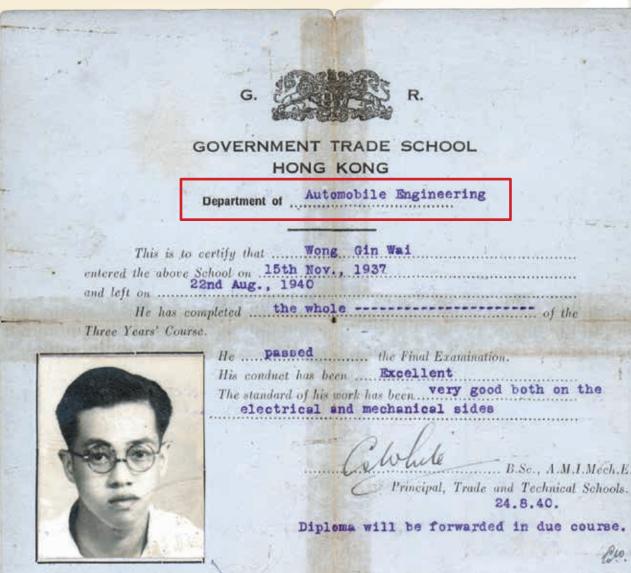
A memorandum written by the first Government Trade School Principal *Mr George White* in 1941 mentioning the early courses offered by the School

Early lecturers included Mr F. Buckle and Mr Watt Hoi Kee. Mr Watt became the Principal of Hong Kong Technical College in the 1960s and retired in 1965.

for apprentices.

Mr F. Buckle was the Chief Instructor of the Engineering programme, a post which is equivalent to the Department Head.

The first cohort of about 20 students included Mr Cheung Tsang Wai and Mr Wong Gin Wai. They were graduated under the Department of Automobile Engineering and they obtained the Diploma in Automobile Engineering.



The Certificate of merit conferred on *Mr Wong Gin* Wai by the Government Trade School (1940)





Mr Watt Hoi Kee



DIPLOMA	IN	AUTOMOBILE	ENGINEERIN
DIFLOMA	11.4	AUTOMODILE	ENGINEERIN



is awarded to

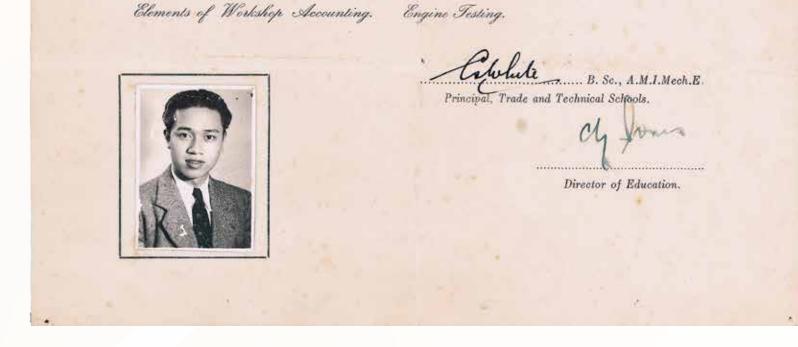
CHEUNG TSANG WAL.

who, having completed a Three Years' Course of Instruction in Automobile Engineering has satisfied the Examiners at the prescribed Examinations in the following :-

Workshop Tractice Lecture Subjects Internal Combustion Engines Fitting and Electrical Fitting. Automobile Construction Turning, Shaping, Milling. Electrotechnology Automobile Maintenance and Overhaut Applied Mechanics Elementary Electric and Acetylene Welding. Machine Drawing

After the start of the Second World War, courses such as motor vehicle repair work and radar operation were provided for Army personnel, at the request of the Army authorities.

Recent photo of *Mr Cheung Tsang Wai*



Diploma in Automobile Engineering obtained by Mr Cheung Tsang Wai from the Government Trade School (1940)

1941

The Government Trade School was not in operation from 1941 to 1947 due to World War II.

1947

The Government Trade School reopened and was renamed the Hong Kong Technical College.

	HON. C.S.
43	Considerable confusion has been caused by the present name of the Government Trade School, Wood Road, Wanchai. I should like to point out that in general the names given to schools of this nature are
1	(a) Junior Technical School (which already exists)
	(b) Technical College.
•	The work which is being done at the Trade School is similar to that of Technical Colleges which I have visited elsewhere, e.g. Jamaica and Ceylon and is of a higher standard than that achieved by some Technical Colleges in the Colonies. I consider, therefore, that it would be more in keeping with the standard of the work undertaken if its name were changed to "HONG KONG TECHNICAL COLLEGE". I therefore request your approval for change of title.
	FRowell
SEC ET	Director of Education.
	13. 2. 47.
Serial North	15 CT 14 FEL 1947

An official letter written by The Director of Education, *Thomas Richmond Rowell*, in 1947 requesting to change the name of the "Government Trade School" to "Hong Kong Technical College"

