

Turning a New Page of Industrial Innovation in Taiwan

Through five years of solid preparation, MIRDC has turned the mode of foreign aid into that of independent development and thus reformed Taiwan's industrial model. As the leading role model of industrial innovation, MIRDC has triggered quite a few industrial transformations in Taiwan since then.

In the 1960s, Taiwan's industrial development experienced three stages of a four-year economic construction plan. Gradually, production technologies were improved while both the domestic and export markets were expanded. However, there were more than ten thousand domestic metal processing factories at that time. Their equipment, production technologies and management all had room for improvement. In 1961, the Ministry of Economic Affairs planned to set up a tool service & training center and applied to the United Nations Special Foundation for a subsidy in order to solve the fundamental problems of the machinery industries.

In 1963, the United Nations agreed to allocate a special fund to the renamed 5-year project of the "Metal Industry Development Program." This was the origin of MIRDC. In the following year, the headquarters building and machine shop were both commissioned in Kaohsiung. The R&D and promotion of metal related industries have undoubtedly become the main mission of MIRDC. Under the guidance of the United Nations Special Foundation and the International Labor Organization,

MIRDC mainly focused on industrial development and planning, consulting services, product R&D, production technology development, and enterprise management development at the initial stage of its establishment. Through the above efforts, MIRDC has not only given fresh impetus to the metal industry but fostered a large number of professionals who are equipped with knowledge of modern technology and management, not to mention the solid foundation that MIRDC assisted in establishing for further industrial development in Taiwan. After half a century of change, MIRDC has been through rigorous challenges, including technical advances, diversified industries, and fierce competition. In response to these challenges, MIRDC has had to adapt itself. On one hand, MIRDC endeavors to make constant progress so as to become a globally advanced metal technology R&D institute. On the other hand, MIRDC assists industry to make use of government resources, introducing advanced technology and integrating processing procedures in order to accelerate industrial upgrading and operational transformation. All these efforts are made to enhance the core competitiveness of Taiwan's industry.

In the future, MIRDC will undoubtedly continue to be industry's most intimate partner and be a driving force behind Taiwan's industry. Being rooted in Taiwan, MIRDC will take a global view and implement it locally to meet the challenges of the international market.