

## **The Expansion of the Modern Industrial Development Policy and Participation in the Exposition: Expositions, the Salt Industry, and Management Entities**

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This paper clarifies the achievements and limitations of the Meiji-era exposition policy on Shokusan Kogyo (“encouragement of new industry”). The challenges for the salt industry during the Meiji era were to improve the quality and increase production, the former of which was inevitable as salt is a raw material for the chemical industry and for salting fish catches. In reality, however, the domestic market demand for sashijio salt, which contains nigari (“bittern”) content, was higher, with only gradual quality improvements seen. In addition, since a fewer amount of salt could be sold at a higher price, increased production did not yield the expected results.

Although innovative salt production methods were exhibited at the exposition, they were not adopted in practice with technological progress being gradual. While the government presented the challenges and evaluated the exhibits, it was left to the individual salt producers to make concrete improvements. The intent of the exhibition was clearly stated in Hakurankai Kisoku (“Exposition Regulations”) and Shuppinnin Kokoroe (“Instructions for Exhibitors”), etc., which were issued beforehand, so that the exhibits were highly evaluated if the intent was met. This was the achievement and limitation of the exposition policy.

Key words: Domestic industrial exhibition, Salt industry, Exhibition of fisheries industries,  
Domestic industrial exhibition, Nozaki Bukichiro, Dai nippon Salt trade society