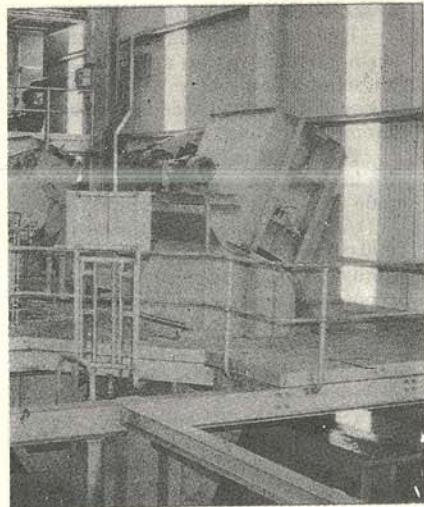


NEED FOR PROPER STRATEGY ON TECHNIQUE AND TECHNOLOGY

Some previously underdeveloped countries can catch up with rich countries in living standard, but to date they haven't been regarded as NICs. Thanks to natural favour, they tried to exploit and sell their natural resources for prosperous lives, but what is expecting them once their resources run out. Vietnam doesn't follow that way and has no ability to do that.

In recent years, realizing the Party's innovation line, Vietnam economy has been promising but it is still of backward agriculture, its industrial share remains at 20% of GDP with technique and technology which are obsolescent, patched up and not synchronous. Supplying capability and impact of industry on national economy are poor. The following



dustries playing the key role in the economy, consider that as centers for the process of industrializing and modernizing so as to avoid false steps in improvement. Recently, the Party's Secretariat affirmed to concentrate on serving agriculture, along with mine exploiting which provides raw materials to industry and brings in most foreign currency through exportation. In making those centers develop, we should re-supply, expand industrial establishments and build series of factories so that we can raise productivity and make agricultural and mineral products into finished goods of high quality for domestic consumption and export. This does not say that other industrial structures are not built if really necessary.

Secondly, we should select technique and technology in the direction defined on the base of calculating care-

ABOUT THE FALLING BEHIND OF VIETNAM ECONOMY

(continued from the last issue)

by TRẦN BẠCH ĐẰNG

figures will show that: meeting only 23% of mechanized ploughing and 25% of basic building materials excluding electricity, coal, cement; importing 60% of iron and steel, 90% of various materials from petrochemicals, 98 to 100% of fertilizer. Two thirds of exports are raw materials. Thus, in order to tackle the falling behind in economic field, there is no way but pushing up the country's industrialization and modernization. Modern achievements in science, technique and technology are big advantages for Vietnam to shorten its process of keeping pace with East - Southeast Asian countries in economy if VN has proper strategy and steps on the way to industrialization and modernization. A certain mistake could delay and even spoil the achievement everybody gives full hope to.

Firstly, we should start from in-



fully effect of every development stage together with combining the world's advanced technique and technology with valuable traditional ones. Not all of the technique and technology imported from abroad are suitable to Vietnam and not all of the traditional ones are obsolescent. On the other hand, besides what we cannot receive due to subjective condition, it's sure that the bought technique and technology are not of the most advanced ones. They should be joined onto Vietnamese intelligence and creativeness for original solutions to fast development of VN economy.

Thirdly, the role of the government and economic managers are decisive in this choice. All the right or wrong decisions will put influence on the task of industrialization and modernization and on overcoming the falling behind of VN economy.

TRAINING PROBLEM

It's too difficult to find solutions to capital, technique and technology in industrialization and modernization. But to raise qualification of our workers is much more difficult. It requires most time and effort. But it plays the most decisive role to tackle the falling behind in economy, to succeed in industrialization and modernization and to develop the country. After finishing the stage of developing industry with low salary, Malaysia and Thailand are pouring mass investment into education and training, consider them as the major and first condition to become NIC. The superiority of the US and the West in economic field originates from excellent achievements in education and research. So do Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea.

The crisis of VN economy has been considerably surmounted whereas the result of quantity and quality in education didn't have encouraging figures.

The following figures of HCMC - the biggest and the most potential city in the country - were presented as a base to deduce:

From the above figures we see that for four years, the city's population increased 479,000 people, of which 366,344 are newly - born (not to mention the dead). In reality, the city's population increase is much higher if we count even the babies who don't have birth registration in the city.

Based on the yearly increase in population and number of pupils in primary education from 1992 till the year 2000, in 10-15 years VN will encounter a real danger of falling behind secondly in economic field owing to Vietnamese lowest cultural standard.

At present, in the first years of the open door era, to start industrialization and modernization is mainly to struggle against the industry with low salary. Vietnam could still get on with its labour force having low qualification although it has suffered not a few losses. Economic crisis will result in the whole socio - cultural crisis.

The danger of falling behind secondly could come true in the coming decades if there is no appropriate solutions to education and training just at the moment. First, policy makers need to overcome their viewpoint of applying market mechanism to education.

All of the management bodies should see that no investment can produce more profit than that in human resource, only regarding economic aspect, not to mention the fatherland's destiny. The state should bear responsibility for education by subsidizing. This task is not contrary to the people's contribution if this contribution is not regarded as extra taxes. Therefore, it is considerable that the world's financial institutions has granted to VN loans for primary education. Secondly, the government should made appropriate policy for teachers so that they feel peaceful to carry out their noble task. It's unreasonable to treat pedagogy students and teachers ordinarily as other students and civil servants in the administrative apparatus. The government's subsidy is though necessary but not sufficient to show the national respect for teachers as our ancestors' tradition long ago. Why can't this subsidy be made into part of their salary? Why does it remain as a relief? We should keep ourselves from the viewpoint of equalization in treating policy. Thirdly, teachers have to affirm their qualification in doing their noble task, meeting the requirement of the country's development.

RESUMPTION OF SELF - RELIANCE SENSE

Since the time of implementing the open door policy on economy, the phrase "self - reliance sense education" was almost forgotten in official documents, mass communications and meeting. We should resume it, consider it as one of strategic measures - even

leading one - to tackle the danger of falling behind in economic field.

In the past, the humiliation of having the country ruled by foreign aggressors forced the whole nation to throw itself into struggle. Today we enjoy independence in the fatherland abounding in natural resources and human resource, but our country still ranks as the poorest country. This humiliation is not different from that of the past. Why don't we resume the national self - respect, turn the humiliation of falling behind into material power to build our country? ♣

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993
Population (1,000 persons)	4,113	4,259	4,426	4,582
Newly - born (person)	85,002	91,064	94,052	96,226
Pupil (primary education - person)	419,978	420,665	425,892	428,558
Student (10,000 persons)	1,632	1,537	1,567	1,561

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