

TRUTHFUL OPINIONS AND BRILLIANT FLOWER BASKETS

Notes of the meeting commemorating the 5th anniversary of
the Phát Triển Kinh Tế magazine

by PHẠM VIÊM PHƯƠNG



It's a solemn and friendly meeting with the presence of many guests of honor. They have spent the Saturday evening (Nov.4,1995) which is usually used for relaxation, on attending this meeting. These guests came from the Ministry of Education and Training, the Prime Minister's Office, Education Research Institute, Vietnam Teacher Trade Union, other universities (University of Finance and Accounting, Center of Banking Research, HCMC Branch of the National Institute of Politics), from other magazines (Kinh tế và Dự báo, Người Lao Động, Mỹ nghệ Kim Hoàn, Thời báo kinh tế Saigon, etc.) or from various businesses having relationship with the PTKT magazine.

In addition, the presence of the HUE leadership, from the dean, vice-deans, Secretary of Party Committee of HUE, Chairperson of Trade Union, secretary of HCM Youth League, to Chairperson of the Student Association, heads of faculties and departments of the HUE; and some retired professors, showed that there was considerable concern for the development of the PTKT magazine, and their presence made PTKT personnel feel highly honored.

Needless to say, there must be a lot of guests who have the closest relation with the magazine. They are contributors who are lecturers, professors, and researchers of the HUE or other universities and institutes. They comprised the decisive factor of

the magazine's quality.

After short formalities which include reading congratulatory letters from the Minister of Education and Training (carried in last issue) and local authorities (in this issue); and presenting achievements of the PTKT in the past five years, the most impressive part of the meeting was the presentation of guests' opinions about the magazine.

These opinions were of everything about the magazine, from its layout to methods of issuing and marketing it. But the better part of these opinions were about its contents and prospects.

These opinions showed that in the past five years, there were many shortcomings in the contents of the magazine. The shortcomings were in truth what the PTKT personnel most wanted to hear.

Generally, both readers and contributors have had great expectations for this magazine, because it's a scientific one, and was published by an important university and research organization of the South and of the country as well.

There is always a topic for each issue, but many topics have been discussed too generally on the magazine. Many problems existing in reality haven't been mentioned seriously. This was the opinion of Prof. Trần Dinh Bút who wanted that unsolved problems in Vietnam socio-economic life should be discussed and solutions

should be found out. In order to do this, the magazine should have the ability to gather many scientists and economists round its editorial staff in order to discuss the problems and present them on the magazine.

Ngô Ngọc Bửu, a lawyer, thought that many topics discussed in past issues should be studied more profoundly from all aspects (finance, banking, law, education, etc.)

Presenting a more detailed analysis, Prof. Văn Thái said that the magazine has only mentioned general problems and informed of policies of the Government and the Party instead of discussing controversial problems existing in the reality, therefore readers had the impression that the magazine avoided mentioning them, that is, the magazine was rather conformed.

Prof. Nguyễn Anh Hoài and Dr. Hồ Hữu Nhựt shared this opinion and said that the fighting spirit of the magazine should be enhanced, that the magazine should be bold enough to discuss controversial problems and suggest feasible solutions to the Government. These speakers thought that, after all, a magazine of a university should be considered as a research institute who was responsible for finding out solutions to real problems before anyone else.

Trần Tô Tử, an active contributor, hoped that the editorial staff would be stricter with contributions. They should allow no articles of me-



Hồ Chí Minh City, Nov. 1, 1995.

From: Phạm Chánh Trực
Chairman of the HCMC People Council's
To: The *Phát triển Kinh tế* magazine

In the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the *Phát triển Kinh tế* magazine (1990 - 1995), speaking for the HCMC People's Council, I would like to offer my congratulations to your guests of honor and the PTKT personnel.

Due to urgent business on Nov. 4, 1995, I will be absent in your meeting. I thank you for the invitation and wish the magazine and its personnel health and success in doing business and contributing to economic development of the country and our city.

With regards.



Hồ Chí Minh City, Nov. 3, 1995.

From: Trương Tân Sang
Chairman of HCMC People's Committee
To: The *Phát triển Kinh tế* magazine
Attention: Mr. Editor-in-chief and Magazine's personnel

Receiving your letter of invitation to the celebration of the Magazine's 5th anniversary, I was very sorry to say that my business would keep me from being present at your celebration. On this occasion, however, speaking for the HCMC People's Committee, I would like to offer you, the editorial staff and personnel my warmest congratulations.

In the past five years, all of you have done to the best of your ability to overcome all difficulties, make the Magazine newer and more useful to theoretical researches and practical activities, contribute to building new mechanism for economic management and developing the socio-economic life of the country and our city as well. In the eyes of readers, your magazine is a serious scientific magazine. I feel very happy about your achievements in the past.

I hope that in the coming years, all of you will heighten past success, improve the quality of your magazine and contribute more to the renovation process of the country and our city.

With best regards,

dium or low quality to be carried on the magazine, that is they mustn't forget the role of a scientific magazine.

In addition, many opinions were presented with a view to improving the quality of the magazine: opening new columns, informing about theoretical researches and international workshops carried out in the HUE, paying attention to various factories and localities in order to find new readers, etc.

Working with poor facilities, having only a small readership and being considered as a part of an important research institute, the PTKT personnel felt worried because they knew their ability was very limited. However, besides the worry, they also

felt assured, because they knew that all their efforts were supported and assisted by their readers and contributors. With such assistance and support, they believed that they would complete assigned tasks.

The PTKT personnel felt more worried again when they heard Mr. Dean of the university giving his speech. Prof. Đào Công Tiến connected the development of the PTKT with the renovation of the HUE curricula and researching activities. He hoped that the PTKT would be a forum for economic researches of all economists aiming at solving real problems in the Vietnam economy and contributing to the HUE teaching and researching activities.

Prof. Tiến instructed that the

magazine should keep this direction, satisfy the readers' need for knowledge, grasp the reality more closely, and at the same time, keep the orientation set forth by the Government and the Party, in order to contribute to the national renovation process.

Looking back on its five years of development, the PTKT personnel could feel confident because the magazine has had a position in the press business and attracted some foreign readers, but they also felt worried because they knew their tasks were very difficult. The PTKT personnel had many reasons to believe that they would complete the tasks, but above all, they believed there were a lot of helping hands ready to give to them.