

The following is a speech delivered by Trần Hoàn, Minister of Culture and Information, opening the third conference of economic press organized by the Ministry of Culture and Information in cooperation with the Central Committee of Culture and Ideology and the Vietnamese Association of Journalists in HCMC from Oct.3 to 5, 1996 on "The Press and the Task of Popularizing Economic Information and Realizing Resolutions of the 8th Party Congress".

The Conference organizer assigned the Saigon Times Group and the *Phát Triển Kinh Tế* magazine the task of playing host. The attendance includes over 100 representatives from 22 business journals; 18 magazines; 9 newspapers, news agencies, TV and radio stations; 9 businesspersons and from various central and HCMC governmental bodies. Thirty-five discourses have been presented at the conference.

The EDR has the honor of presenting here the speech given by the Minister of Culture and Information (other discourses are included in this issue and the next ones). The title is ours.

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The 8th National Party Congress has succeeded in deciding important issues in all fields of the country. Particularly, the Congress has presented great economic thoughts aiming at changing Vietnam into an industrialized country by 2020. This is the prolongation of the series of achievements in the past 10 years.

As we know, the realization of these important tasks requires us to try our best to make studies, to work and draw lessons from realities with a view to perfecting solutions and carrying out as best we could the renovation process which is still new to us in spite of some experience gathered in the last few years.

Recognizing this feature, and the complexity and diversification of the task of popularizing economic information in this period, along with our progress and inevitable defects in this task, the Central Committee of Culture and Ideology, the Ministry of Culture and Information have decided that the mass media, including economic journals, should organize regular conferences to compare notes in order to improve the quality, and meet requirements posed by the renovation process. Therefore since 1994,

after reaching an agreement with the Central Committee of Culture and Ideology and the Vietnamese Association of Journalists, the Ministry of Culture and Information has decided that a conference of economic press will be held annually. The 2nd Conference, with *Thương Mại* magazine acting as host in 1994, discussing the topic "To improve the quality of the economic press in order to carry out the resolution of the Party's mid-term congress" has ended in success. The economic press has made remarkable progress since. To develop that achievement, the 3rd Conference of Economic Press was held today to discuss the problem "The Press and the Task of Popularizing Economic Information and Realizing Resolutions of the 8th Party Congress" with *Thời Báo Kinh Tế Saigon* of HCMC People's Committee and *Phát Triển Kinh Tế* of the Ministry of Education and Training acting as hosts.

Realities show that this is a wide problem including many topics and activities. Although we speak of supplying economic information only, but in fact, it's hard to discriminate economic issues from problems of politics, foreign affairs, national defense, social and cultural affairs, preserva-

tion of national secrecy, etc. because, as we know, the problem of economic development can not be solved by economic factors only but it is affected by the overall development of the society. Taking wrong solutions to social and cultural problems sometimes leads to economic depression. On the other hand, the economic growth didn't ensure social equality or preservation of national cultural traditions. Moreover, besides discussing problems which need to be agreed on, each journal with different policies should make more profound researches, supply more information, carry more success stories, criticize negative effects, suggest feasible solutions or amendments to the Party and Government's policies on all economic activities. This requires a lot of contributions from the press and it is also the task of great difficulty for us in the future.

Because of the width of the problem and the time limit, I think that we had better concentrate our discussion on key issues which are related to questions of what the press should cover and how to make our coverage appropriate to the Government's domestic and foreign policies, to the law, to the present conditions of the market economy in Vietnam under the socialist orientation and government management. Moreover, the press must carry the correct public opinions, take an active role in improving and making government policies more suited to the reality.

Another topic, in my opinion, is the question of what conditions the writers need to approach and reflect exactly changes in our society. Because these changes include both positive and negative effects, the press must appraise the positive ones and criticize the negative ones with a view to encouraging the people to realize as best as they could resolutions of the 8th Party Congress.

Because of its importance, the attendance at this conference has included not only economic journals, but also newspapers, central and local radio and television stations from HCMC and southern provinces. Particularly, the presence and opinions from government bodies and big enterprises will encourage the discussion and the press to carry out well its task.

I think that, with a large attendance and good preparation made by related bodies, the press circle, the HCMC People's Committee, the HCMC Committee of Culture and Ideology, the *Thời Báo Kinh Tế Saigon* and the *Phát Triển Kinh Tế*, our conference will end in success ■

WHAT THE PRESS HAD BETTER COVER AND HOW TO REPORT CORRECTLY

by TRẦN HOÀN

Minister of Culture and Information