

That was the opinion given by Prof. Dr. Trần Chí Đáo, Vice-minister of Education and Training, and concurrently Director of the HCMC National University at the installation of the Directorate of the HCMC National University on Feb. 6, 1996 at the conference hall of the HCMC University of Economics. The attendance at this ceremony included Prof. Trần Hồng Quân, member of the VCP Central Committee, Minister of Education and Training; along with vice-ministers and service chiefs of the Ministry of Education and Training; representatives of central departments and local authorities (HCMC, Sông Bé, Đồng Tháp, etc.); and some 1,000 professors, doctors and heads of colleges belonging to the HCMC National University.

The HCMC National University was established by the Decree 16/CP signed by the Prime Minister on Jan. 27, 1995 on the rearrangement of nine existing universities in HCMC (HCMC University, Polytechnic, University of Economics, University of Agronomy and Forestry, University of Architecture, University of Pedagogy, University of Finance and Accounting, Thủ Đức University of Vocational Education and University of Law in HCMC).

The HCMC National University includes:

- General university.
- Specialized universities: University of Natural Sciences, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Pedagogy, University of Polytechnic, University of Agronomy and Forestry, University of Economics, University of Law, University of Vocational Education and University of Architecture.
- Research centers and institutes.

The Directorate of the HCMC National University includes:

- Prof. Dr. Trần Chí Đáo, Vice-minister of Education and Training: director.
- Vice-directors:
 - Prof. Dr. Trương Minh Vệ, concurrently the Rector of the University of Polytechnic.
 - Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Tấn Phát, concurrently the Rector of the University of Pedagogy.
 - Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Văn Hanh, (former chief of the Education and Training Office)
 - Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Ngọc Giao (former Rector of the HCMC University)
 - Prof. Đào Công Tiến (former Rector of the HCMC University of Economics).

The following is the speech of Prof. Dr. Trần Chí Đáo given at the ceremony. The title is ours and some details were trimmed

EDR.



THE HCMC NATIONAL UNIVERSITY MUST BECOME A TRAINING CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

by Prof. Dr. TRẦN CHÍ ĐÁO

Speaking for the Directorate of the HCMC National University, I would like to welcome all delegates, professors and representatives of 10 universities belonging to the National University.

In the Resolution 4 of the VCP Central Committee of the seventh term, the opinion of the Party about the role of education has been stated clearly: "Besides science and technology, the education is of the national leading strategy. This must be a dynamic and a basic condition for realizing our socio-economic targets, developing and protecting the country".

At present, all nations who gained fast growth rate had depended on the education for developing human resources and improving the quality of their labor force.

In Vietnam, the human being is always considered as the aim and the dynamic of the revolution directed by the VCP. The human being is the most precious capital in both humanistic and economic meanings. Thus, to invest in education means to invest in human resources and infrastructure.

The twenty-first century is coming, many countries have prepared for it by making global plans and striving

for prosperity with a view to keeping pace with the international community, whereas in Vietnam, how is the progress of the education, and especially the tertiary education, at the threshold of the twenty-first century? What role will it play in the industrialization and modernization of the country? Acting as a dynamic of the modern Vietnam, can the Vietnamese tertiary education be as backward as it is today? Can it keep pace with, and integrate into, the education of developed countries? All teachers, researchers, and educationists have pondered a lot on these questions. Should we take vigorous actions to overcome existing shortcomings or should we wait for the economy to develop and carry out educational reforms later?

At present, the ratio of university students to the population is 30 to 10,000. In the 1994-1995 school year, there were only 206,025 university students, equalling the number of students of some foreign universities. This number didn't increase considerably in the 1995-1996 school year. Thus, the size of our tertiary education is too small in comparison with other nations.

At the same time, the quality of the tertiary education is too low to meet requirements of the society. The system of universities wasn't well organized. Its three tasks (training, researching and serving the society) weren't well coordinated.

A large part of knowledge supplied and teaching methods have seen no considerable changes for one decade or two. We have tried our best to train and develop the army of professors but there was no policy to develop the army of first-rate professors.

In such a situation, our education, or the tertiary education to be precise, can't be a dynamic or the "basic condition for realizing our socio-economic targets, developing and protecting the country" as expected by the Decision 4.

The HCMC National University, Hà Nội National University and other universities are established with a view to overcoming these shortcomings.

In order to contribute a considerable share to the national industrialization and modernization before entering the next century, the HCMC National University must become a first-rate training center of the country, that is, the three following aims must be achieved:

a. To reorganize the multi-disciplinary university which have the ability to develop on its own and to train students according to a new process with a view to helping them become the owner of the country in both scientific and ethical aspects.

b. To form an army of professors who are good with both theory and modern technology. They can be trained at home or abroad. The methods of training and examining, and the training process should be changed in order to enhance the knowledge and ability of students and help professors improve their standards.

c. To equip the university with facilities for study (library, laboratory...) in order to coordinate training with scientific research.

Our training process will include two stages and be divided into many credits in order to:

- Allow students to study at different universities, prepare preconditions for community universities, make the tertiary education available for everybody and at the same time, to make certain of students' quality and help them choose appropriate disciplines.

- Help university members of the national university cooperate and coordinate together in professional issues, especially when there is a shortage of good professors or modern facilities for study.

- Enhance the students' basic level of knowledge and standardize the knowledge levels of students of the national universities.

- After the first stage of education, students can choose the discipline appropriate to themselves.

Besides carrying out the new training process, we will introduce new kind of tests. A system of questions for each discipline should be made. Professors will be trained in using computers for giving tests.



These measures aim at realizing targets in educational field set forth by the Ministry of Education and Training. These targets can be summed up as follows:

"The education targets are of three aspects: people's intellectual standard, human resources and talents. We should recognize that the most important task of the education is to create a new working ability for the country. The labor efficiency created by this ability will be the decisive factor in the industrialization, modernization, and economic cooperation and competition of the country. This new level of labor efficiency must be based on ethical, intellectual and technical qualities of the Vietnamese people. The Vietnamese education should cause the students to consider the task of industrializing and modernizing the economy; of making our nation richer, stronger, more civilized and equal to other nations as their ideal. The education should produce a new generation of citizens who love the country and socialism; have the enthusiasm for the revolution and national traditions; have good health and diversified spiritual life; bear full responsibility for the country, the nature and for themselves; have the ability to think scientifically and to work with high efficiency".

What mentioned above are main targets that the HCMC National University must achieve. Prof. Trương Minh Vê will present our current tasks and plans for the

future more minutely (EDR carries also this speech of Prof. Trương). The following are our main tasks:

a. To reorganize university members of the national university and establish certain research institutes (such as institutes of science and technology, of social sciences and humanities, of resources and the environment, of tropical biology, etc.)

- To organize managing bodies of the national university.

- To publish a scientific magazine and establish a publishing house.

- To prepare for the entrance examination of the next school year.

b. To gather basic numerical data needed for making pre-feasibility study which will be submitted to the National Estimation Commission and the Government as soon as possible. New trees should be planted in the campus and the beltway round the campus should be built.

c. To complete formalities to get loans from the World Bank according to the basically-prepared plan.

d. To coordinate with the city authorities to organize the VCP organization and other public organizations in the national university. The VCP committee in the Ministry of Education and Training has assembled a task force of 13 comrades commanded by Comrade Nguyễn Tấn Phát to deal with this matter.

We are facing a lot of difficulties and advantages as

well. The best advantage we have is the enthusiasm and determination of the army of professors and cadres to innovate the tertiary education. We also appreciate the assistance provided by the HCMC People's Committee, the VCP Committee in HCMC and authorities of many southern provinces.

On behalf of the Minister of Education and Training, and the Directorate of the HCMC National University, I want to give our warmest thanks to the leadership of HCMC and other southern provinces who have offered assistance for the education. We hope that we will receive your precious assistance in future.

We also give thanks to the leadership of Thủ Đức and Thuận An districts, of Tân Phú, Đồng Hòa and Bình An villages who have helped the national university a lot.

On behalf of the army of professors and cadres and the Directorate of the University, we promise that we will try our best to develop the HCMC National University into a training center of international standard.

On the occasion of the New Lunar Year, on behalf of the Directorate of the HCMC National University, I wish the leadership of the Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, the leadership of HCMC and southern provinces, all professors and cadres of the University, and all representatives a happy and prosperous years.

Thanks for your presence■

STANDARDIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

by NGÔ VĂN PHƯƠNG

The Vietnam economy is developing fast and its development should be accelerated with a view to keeping pace with other nations, especially ASEAN members.

At present, however, one of great obstacles to the economic developments is a system of complicated, unreasonable and inconsistent administrative procedures.

All private persons or organizations who want to obtain something, from trivial ones such as certifications of copies, permission to open a shop or to place a billboard... to other things of greater importance such as formation of a company, getting a passport, a building licence or a land-use right certificate... have to go through many complicated and time-consuming procedures which could take months, or even years, to complete. For example, it could take a constructor some months to get a certificate of completing a building

work from the service of construction, that is, in many cases, he had to spend more time in this procedure than on construction works.

Many procedures are so time-consuming that even the most patient persons feel discouraged.

Moreover, these procedures vary with localities, because any governmental bodies, from provincial to district level, could set forth their own guidelines or procedures which make it difficult for citizens to obey the law.

All those complicated procedures are annoying the people and hindering the economic development. They could cost the people hundreds of billions a year, because they force the people to waste time, money and energy; to miss business opportunities or fail to compete with foreign companies...

It's high time the Government standardized all administrative procedures. A commission of procedure standardization should be formed in

order to carry out researches into all procedures applied in foreign countries (ASEAN members or developed nations) and set forth a system of procedures appropriate to Vietnam's conditions.

No governmental body (at provincial or district level or below) is allowed to set forth guidelines or procedures of its own contradicting policies or measures set forth by the central government.

No local authorities are allowed to set forth new charges or fees and new guidelines of their own which could cause damage to interests of the people and economic development.

I think that, the standardization and rationalization of administrative procedures will make the people feel encouraged, increase efficiency of the administrative machinery and accelerate the growth rate (the GDP will increase by 10-20% annually without requirement for new investment)■