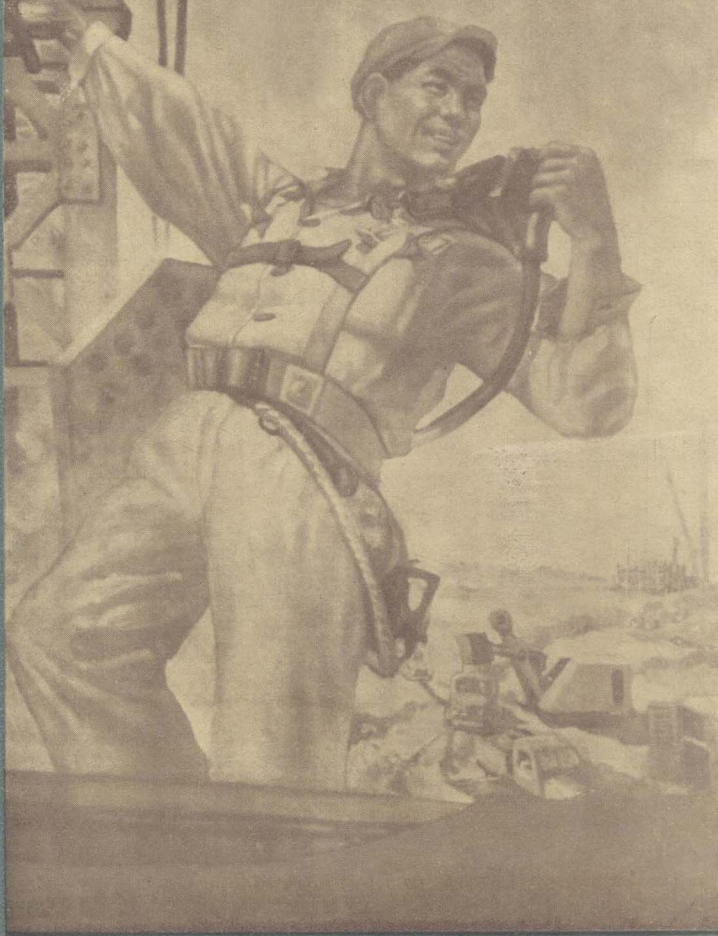


C  
H  
I  
N  
E  
S  
E  
  
W  
O  
R  
K  
E  
R  
S



MARCH TOWARDS  
S O C I A L I S M



# **CHINESE WORKERS MARCH TOWARDS SOCIALISM**

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS  
PEKING 1956**

*Printed in the People's Republic of China*

# CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i> . . . . .	7
The All-China Federation of Trade Unions . . . . .	9
Building Socialism . . . . .	15
Higher Wages and Better Living Conditions . . . . .	34
Development of Communal Labour Insurance Establishments . . . . .	39
Gradual Emancipation from Heavy Manual Labour . . . . .	46
Improvements in Housing . . . . .	53
Women Workers Enjoy Equal Rights . . . . .	58
Cultural and Technical Advancement . . . . .	65
Flourishing Cultural and Recreational Activities . . . . .	73
Unemployment Is Being Eliminated . . . . .	79
We Are Determined to Liberate Taiwan . . . . .	84
Strengthening International Friendship and Unity . . . . .	89



## PREFACE

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese working class, which has gone through years of heroic struggle, has proved that it was not only the vanguard of the Chinese people in overthrowing the reactionary rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism, but is also the leading force in the construction of New China.

Over the past six years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese working class, united with the people of the entire country, has stepped onto the path of socialist construction, and begun to transform the face of the country, gradually improving the material and cultural life of the working people. The Chinese trade unions have done tremendous work in organizing and educating the workers.

However, we know that our industry has a very weak foundation, and our experience in building up modern industry is inadequate. The same can be said of our experience in trade union work in the period of construction. In order to reconstruct our country, we have gone through and overcome innumerable difficulties and have achieved the good results we have obtained today. We have only just begun our socialist

construction, and difficulties still lie in our way. Many shortcomings still exist in our trade union work, which we will continuously endeavour to overcome. But we have full confidence that we will be able to accomplish our work efficiently.

The Chinese working class and the people of the whole country are more confident of success today than at any time in the past. We are striving to turn our country into a great socialist land, and at the same time, in co-ordination with the workers and peace-loving people of other countries, we will play our part in the struggle for the solidarity and unity of the workers all over the world and in the defence of world peace.



## THE ALL-CHINA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions is the only central body of the Chinese trade union movement. It has more than 12,400,000 members, and has become a strong force in the peaceful construction of the People's Republic of China as well as an important part of the Asian and world trade union movement.

Before liberation, the Chinese workers were not allowed to form their own trade unions. But now, they are not only completely free to do so but also have this freedom confirmed in law. In 1950, the Central People's Government promulgated the Trade Union Law, defining in explicit terms the legal status of trade unions—the mass organizations of the working class. The Trade Union Law stipulates: All manual and non-manual workers whose wages constitute their sole or main means of livelihood, irrespective of nationality, sex, or religious belief, shall have the right to organize trade unions; trade union committees at all levels shall be set up by election at general membership meetings or representative conferences; the administration of the enterprise or the owner should inform the trade union organization in advance, if they want to dismiss workers or staff members. In the state-owned enterprises, trade

unions shall have the right to represent the workers and staff members in administering production and in concluding collective agreements with the managements. In private enterprises, trade unions shall have the right to represent the workers and staff members in conducting negotiations and talks and concluding collective agreements with the owners, and in participating in the work of the labour-capital consultative councils. Trade unions have the duty to protect the interests of workers and staff members, to ensure that the managements or owners effectively carry out all labour protection regulations, labour insurance, wage standards, factory sanitation and safety measures as stipulated in the laws and decrees of the Government and other relevant regulations and directives, and to take measures for improving the material and cultural life of the workers and staff members.

As the Chinese working class is the leading class in the state, the interest of the country and of the whole people is also the vital interest of the Chinese working class. The workers enjoy broad democratic rights; participating in the administration of state affairs, quite a number of workers have been elected deputies to the National People's Congress and the various local People's Congresses, while many others have been elected to the People's Councils of all levels. The Chinese trade unions represent the workers in drafting the laws and decrees concerning production and labour, as well as the material and cultural life of the workers; and they resolutely support and carry out all the policies, laws and decrees

which they have helped the People's Government to frame, functioning as a strong backbone of the people's democracy.

The present All-China Federation of Trade Unions—the highest leading body of the Chinese trade unions—was elected at the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions.

Held in 1953, the Seventh Congress elected an Executive Committee of 99 full members and 42 candidate members, and an Auditing Commission of 17 members. Liu Shao-chi was elected Honorary President, Lai Jo-yu was elected President, and Liu Ning-I, Liu Chang-sheng and Chu Hsueh-fan Vice-Presidents. The 10 members of the Secretariat are: Lai Jo-yu, Liu Ning-I, Hsu Chih-chen, Chen Shao-min, Li Chieh-po, Liu Tse-chiu, Li Tsai-wen, Tung Hsin, Chang Wei-chen and Chang Hsiu-chu. The following departments have been set up within the All-China Federation of Trade Unions: General Office, Organization Department, Propaganda Department, Production Department, Wages Department, Labour Insurance Department, Department Concerned with Workers' Housing and General Living Standards, Labour Protection Department, Women Workers Department, International Liaison Department, Administration of Communal Labour Insurance Establishments, Finance Department, General Affairs Department, Physical Culture and Sports Department, Workers' Press, Workers' Daily, and Trade Union Functionaries Training School of ACFTU.

The Chinese trade unions are set up on the principle of industrial unionism. Members working in the same enterprise are organized in the same primary industrial trade union. For instance, in the Harbin Flax Mill, all the spinners, weavers, maintenance workers, printing and dyeing workers, technicians and staff members are organized in one primary trade union organization—the Working Committee of the Chinese Textile Workers' Trade Union in the Harbin Flax Mill.

On a national level all trade union members working in the same industrial branch of the national economy are organized in the same national industrial union. This makes it easier for the unions to function within the industrial framework of the country and so play their full part in solving the various problems connected with production as well as those in relation to working conditions, living and welfare and education. The national committee of each industrial union is elected by the national congress of the industrial union concerned. Local trade union organizations are also organized along industrial lines where there are enough workers to make this possible. The trade union councils at provincial, city, county or town level are formed from the various industrial unions and other local trade union organizations in the given province, city, county or town.

At the present time, under the leadership of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions there are 3 trade union councils of municipalities directly subordinate to the central authority, 22 provincial trade union councils, 2 trade union councils of an autonomous region, 163 city trade

union councils and various county or town trade union councils, in addition to 18 industrial unions. Among the industrial unions there are 13 which have national committees, viz, Railway Workers' Trade Union, Electrical Workers' Trade Union, Posts and Telecommunications Workers' Trade Union, Textile Workers' Trade Union, Coal Miners' Trade Union, Educational Workers' Trade Union, Commercial Workers' Trade Union, the Trade Union of Workers of the First Machinery Industry, the Trade Union of Workers of the Second Machinery Industry, Road Transport Workers' Trade Union, Heavy Industry Workers' Trade Union, Seamen's Trade Union and Petroleum Workers' Trade Union. Three have preparatory committees, viz, the Building Workers' Trade Union, the Agricultural and Water Conservancy Workers' Trade Union and the Forestry Workers' Trade Union. Two have working committees, viz, the Light Industry Workers' Trade Union and the Salt Industry Workers' Trade Union.

The trade union organization of China is built on the basis of democratic centralism in accordance with the Constitution of the Trade Unions of the People's Republic of China. The leading bodies of the trade unions at all levels are elected from the bottom up at the general membership meetings or at representative conferences, each committee electing the members of that directly above it. They should report their work at regular intervals to the membership through general membership meetings,

representative conferences and through their own papers, developing criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from the bottom up, so that the work of the trade union organization is placed under the supervision of all the members. All trade union organizations must carry out their work in accordance with the Constitution of the Trade Unions and the decisions of their organizations, all such decisions are adopted by a majority vote of the members present at meetings of the union organization concerned. The lower organizations must carry out the decisions made by those above them. All sections are bound by the Constitution to report at regular intervals to the membership on their financial accounts. The leading bodies of the trade unions are strongly based on their local organizations and the broad mass of the members.

Over the past few years, membership of the Federation has increased rapidly. In 1949 the total membership was more than 2,373,000; in 1950, 5,170,000; in 1951, 7,297,000; in 1952, 10,200,000; in 1953, 12,229,000; in 1954, 12,454,000; in 1954 the trade unions of China had 200,000 primary organizations, with 2,730,000 members taking an exceptionally active part in the work.

## BUILDING SOCIALISM

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country has entered upon the road of transition to socialism. The Preamble of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China says: "From the founding of the People's Republic of China to the attainment of a socialist society is a period of transition. During the transition the fundamental task of the state is, step by step, to bring about the socialist industrialization of the country and, step by step, to accomplish the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts and capitalist industry and commerce."

The First Five-Year Plan for Development of the National Economy of the People's Republic of China began from 1953. The implementation of the Plan is an important part of the general task of the state in the transition period—to lay, in five years, the preliminary groundwork for the socialist industrialization and socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, as well as the groundwork for the socialist transformation of private industry and commerce. With this as the basis, we can guarantee the building of a socialist society in our country after fulfilling another two five-year plans.

The tasks of the trade unions of China are to unite and help all the workers, technical personnel and staff to fulfil the First Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule, to gradually improve the material and cultural life of the working class and all the labouring people and to struggle for the gradual realization of socialist industrialization of the country and transition to a socialist society.

The Chinese workers, in order to achieve a happier and better life as quickly as possible, are showing an unconquerable fighting spirit, tackling all difficulties and working heroically to build up their country. Many examples could be given of the great efforts they are making: In constructing the railway line to Urumchi in Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, on the plains of Northwest China, the workers had to overcome great difficulties. They had to build bridges across the rushing waters of the Yellow River, cut long tunnels in the rarefied atmosphere of Wushiaoling Mountain, move roads and change rivers from their ancient courses. But they were inspired and encouraged by the call of Chairman Mao and by the warm support given them by the people of various nationalities in Northwest China. They also felt the necessity to exploit the resources of the frontiers of their motherland, to bring the rich products of the Northwest such as petroleum, non-ferrous metals and coal to other parts of the country, and to transport to Northwest China the large machines needed for industrial construction. The workers proudly said: "We trample all the difficulties under our feet and leave time behind us in making new records. Bridges



will appear on the rivers like the growing of bamboo shoots in spring and railways will stretch forward rapidly along the valley." The workers constructing the Sikang-Tibet Highway on the plateau of Southwest China had to climb the Chueherh Mountain which is 5,300 metres above sea level, enduring extreme cold reaching 30 degrees below zero. They struggled against mountain floods and frozen rivers. They conquered rocks and shifting sand, overcoming the problems of building in an earthquake region, and countless other obstacles. They finally reached Lhasa, and completed the construction of this highway which created conditions favourable to the political, economic and cultural development of our brother nationalities on the Sikang and Tibet plateau.

The workers constructing the Han River Bridge never stopped their work even during fierce storms. The divers worked in a torrent running at a rate of more than one metre per second, assemblers and crane operators worked on the pillars at a height of 30 to 40 metres above the ground. The construction work of this modern steel bridge was completed in January 1955, having taken a little over a year.

The Chinese workers have already brought about a high tide of socialist construction. In the factories and mines all over the country, socialist emulation drives have been initiated by the workers under the leadership of the trade unions. In formulating the production plan the experience and enthusiasm of all the workers is drawn upon. In the different enterprises the production targets are not something which has been arbitrarily set by the management, but deci-