

**THE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
LEARNING FROM TACHING
IN INDUSTRY**

Selected Documents



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IN INDUSTRY

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Publisher's Note

Taching is a red banner designated by our great leader and teacher Chairman Mao. Within the short space of 17 years, Taching has been built into an oilfield up to world advanced levels and a new, socialist mining enterprise which combines industry with agriculture and city with country. It has trained a proletarian contingent in the mould of the "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi, set up a revolutionized leading body and accumulated a wealth of experience in running a socialist enterprise well. Taching sets an example in keeping to China's own road in industrial development. After Chairman Mao issued the call **"In industry, learn from Taching"** in 1964, the Party Central Committee prepared several times to hold a national conference on learning from Taching in industry. Each time, however, interference and sabotage by Liu Shao-chi, Lin Piao and, especially, the anti-Party gang of Wang Hung-wen, Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and Yao Wen-yuan aborted the plan. Now, with the smashing of the "gang of four" by the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua, and the removal of the stumbling-block, the conference was finally held.

The National Conference on Learning from Taching in Industry, presided over by Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Premier of the State Council, and attended by 7,000 representatives from the whole country, was opened at the Taching Oilfield on April 20, 1977. From April 27 to May 13 when the conference was triumphantly concluded, the sessions were continued in Peking. It was a remarkable gathering of unprecedented scale on China's industrial front. Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and Vice-Chairman Yeh Chien-ying made important speeches at the conference. Li Hsien-nien, Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee Political Bureau and Vice-Premier of the State Council, delivered the opening speech, and Chi Teng-kuei,

Member of the C.P.C. Central Committee Political Bureau and Vice-Premier of the State Council, delivered the closing speech. Vice-Premier Yu Chiu-li was entrusted by the Party Central Committee to make an important report. The Taching Party Committee outlined Taching's basic experience, and the representatives shared the experience of various localities in learning from Taching. Holding high the great banner of Chairman Mao, the conference was highly successful. It will certainly usher in a new all-round leap forward in China's national economy and stand as an important milestone in China's history of industrial development.

The speeches presented in this booklet are taken from the documents of the conference.

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experience in waging struggles against the "gang of four" and learning from Taching in industry, you have discussed plans to build Taching-type enterprises throughout the country and demonstrated the strong determination to push forward industry and the entire national economy speedily and without fail. This conference is highly successful and will certainly be an important milestone in the history of China's industrial development.

You comrades will be returning to your respective posts after the conference. You should take back the spirit of the conference, the Taching experience and the experience of other advanced units, together with the eager expectations of the Party Central Committee and the people of the whole country for the entire body of workers, cadres and scientific and technical personnel fighting on the industrial front. We are deeply convinced that after the conference, as we firmly grasp the key link of class struggle, deepen the exposure and criticism of the "gang of four" and resolutely put Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line into implementation, a new upsurge in the mass movement to learn from Taching in industry and build Taching-type enterprises all over the country is bound to emerge and a new situation of an all-round leap forward in our national economy certainly will take place.

Comrades!

All of us are now conscientiously studying Volume V of the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung*. Its most important content is Chairman Mao's great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat. This theory is his greatest contribution to Marxism in

the period of socialist revolution and socialist construction; it provides the theoretical basis on which the Party's basic line in the entire historical period of socialism was worked out; it is the beacon guiding our work in all fields, including our work on the industrial front. It was under the guidance of this brilliant concept of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat that Chairman Mao laid down the Marxist-Leninist line and a series of principles, policies and measures to achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in China's socialist industrialization.

We say learning from Taching is of fundamental importance to China's industrial development because the Taching red banner put up personally by Chairman Mao is a model of studying Mao Tsetung Thought and applying the great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat to the industrial front, a model of bringing about industrialization under the command of revolutionization and of taking China's own road of industrial development.

The theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat teaches us to use the fundamental law of materialist dialectics, the unity of opposites, to correctly understand and handle the basic contradictions in socialist society, i.e., the contradictions between the relations of production and the productive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base, and to correctly understand and handle the question of classes, class contradictions and class struggle which exists throughout the historical period of socialism. In socialist society, there is harmony as well as contradiction between the relations of produc-

tion and the productive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base. Both that part of the relations of production which is not suited to the productive forces and that part of the superstructure which is not suited to the economic base hamper the development of the productive forces. That is why we must take class struggle as the key link, continue the revolution in the realm of the superstructure to make it harmonize with the economic base, continue the revolution in the realm of the relations of production to make them harmonize with the development of the productive forces, make big efforts to carry out technical innovations and technical revolution and develop the productive forces rapidly, so as to provide an ever stronger material basis for our socialist political and economic system. Only thus can the dictatorship of the proletariat be continually consolidated and strengthened. And on the industrial front, these revolutionary tasks should be fulfilled by every enterprise. The principles of the **Charter of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company** approved by Chairman Mao, which integrate the great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat with the concrete practice of running socialist industry and orient us in continuously carrying out the revolution in the superstructure, the relations of production and techniques of production in industrial enterprises.

You comrades have all gone to Taching to visit and study and have heard reports on its experience by Comrade Sung Chen-ming¹ and other comrades from

¹ Comrade Sung Chen-ming is Secretary of the Taching Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chairman of the Taching Revolutionary Committee. — *Tr.*

Taching. From the visit and the reports, you have been deeply impressed by the fact that, guided by the great theory of continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat, Taching has applied the Charter of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in an all-round way and it has attached great importance to the revolution in the realm of the superstructure and in the relations of production and to technical innovations and technical revolution, thus developing production rapidly.

In industrial enterprises, the fundamental task of the revolution in the realm of the superstructure is to ensure that the task of consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat is fulfilled at the grass-roots level amidst acute struggles between the two classes, the two roads and the two lines. To this end, it is necessary to carry out resolutely Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in enterprises, resist and defeat revisionist lines, keep the leadership of enterprises in the firm grip of Marxists and the mass of workers, do deep-going political and ideological work, arm the people with Mao Tsetung Thought and work unceasingly to promote the revolutionization of people's thinking.

Since its founding struggle, Taching has had a clear orientation, followed a correct line, relied on Mao Tsetung Thought and Chairman Mao's essays *On Practice* and *On Contradiction*¹ for guidance and broken with revision-

¹ When Taching was being opened up in 1960, the first decision of the Taching Party Committee was to call on the builders to study Chairman Mao's philosophical works *On Practice* and *On Contradiction* and his other writings and use Mao Tsetung Thought as the guide to action. The Taching people say the opening up and building of the oilfield was guided by these two works. — Tr.

ist conventions for running enterprises, thus opening up new vistas for China's industrial construction. In its early years of hard struggle, Taching persisted in following Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, withstood pressure from the Khrushchov renegade clique and Liu Shao-chi's attacks and sabotage, surmounted the difficulties caused by severe natural disasters and pushed construction of the oilfield ahead, thus establishing itself as a bright red banner on China's industrial front. At crucial moments in the fight against Lin Piao and the "gang of four" in the course of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, Taching stood the test, withstood pressure, unflinchingly defended Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and smashed their schemes to pull down the red banner of Taching. Taching has distinguished itself remarkably well, especially in its struggle against the "gang of four" in the last few years. No matter how the gang tried to stir up trouble, Taching's leading bodies never flinched, the workers' ranks were never split, and order in production was never disrupted. It has all along exercised effective dictatorship over class enemies. "Sitting tight in the fishing boat despite the rising wind and waves" — this is the true picture of Taching. What is meant by ensuring that the task of consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat is fulfilled at the grass-roots level? Just look at Taching, and there you see what this means. Comrades, we are carrying out industrial construction in a historical setting in which classes and class struggle will continue to exist for a long time. As proved by numerous facts, any enterprises and industrial departments which adhere to and carry out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line in the struggle make rapid progress, whereas those failing to

ward off interference and sabotage by revisionist lines make slow progress or even hover about and move backward. If every enterprise and every industrial department in China keeps its bearings in class struggle and the two-line struggle as Taching does, then no storm, no matter how fierce, will be able to prevent our triumphant advance.

Taching has a tempered revolutionary contingent cast in the mould of the Iron Man¹ and nurtured in Mao Tsetung Thought. This contingent is imbued with the spirit of revolution plus hard work, a real tenacity to carry an undertaking once started through to the end and an unflinching will power in face of all difficulties. That is what is most valuable and moves people the most. "Go ahead with the work when the conditions are available and, when they are not available, go ahead by creating the necessary conditions." This heroic utterance by Comrade Wang Chin-hsi, the Iron Man, voices the lofty aspirations of all revolutionary workers and cadres of Taching and their families. The Taching spirit of "hauling and carrying the machines manually," its spirit of "starting a revolution with five shovels"² and its spirit known as the "ten no's," that is, fearing neither hardship nor death, seeking neither fame nor fortune,

¹A reference to drilling worker Comrade Wang Chin-hsi (1923-70) who earned the name Iron Man. An outstanding representative of the Chinese working class, he made great contributions in opening up the oilfield. — Tr.

²When the Taching Oilfield was first opened in March 1960, there was a general lack of cranes and tractors, as of many other things. Comrade Wang Chin-hsi and his 1205 Drilling Team unloaded a 60-ton drilling rig from a train and moved it to the well site with ropes, cables, wooden planks and crowbars. To drill Taching's first oil well they surmounted many more

paying no heed to whether working conditions are good or bad, whether working hours are long or short, whether pay and position are high or low, whether the job is within or beyond one's sphere of responsibility, and whether it is work at the front or service in the rear — what kind of spirit is this? It is the spirit of serving the revolution wholeheartedly! The true communist spirit! This revolutionary spirit is the source of the strength behind Taching's great achievements. Where does it come from? It emanates from putting proletarian politics in command and revolutionizing people's thinking. Taching has applied the concept and line on army building established by Chairman Mao during the protracted revolutionary wars and the tradition and experience of the People's Liberation Army in political work to the concrete practice of industrial construction, so as to strengthen ideological remoulding, resist corruption of the workers by bourgeois and petty bourgeois ideologies, enable people from various classes to **"make the transition towards the working class,"** and thereby build up a contingent of industrial workers who are highly revolutionized, both red and expert and especially good at fulfilling fighting tasks. Chairman Mao issued the call to learn from Taching in industry, urging us to learn from the Liberation Army and strengthen polit-

difficulties. This is called the spirit of "hauling and carrying the machine manually," which has been fostered in Taching ever since, though of course under different circumstances.

In the spring of 1962, Hsueh Kuei-fang and four other housewives, each with only a shovel, were the first to answer the Taching Party Committee's call to reclaim wasteland under extremely harsh conditions. They took the lead in setting up Taching's first agricultural production base run by housewives. Hence, the spirit of "starting a revolution with five shovels."

—Tr.

ical and ideological work as Taching does so as to **"call forth the revolutionary spirit of millions and tens of millions of cadres and workers in all branches of industry (and commerce and agriculture as well)."** Comrades, guided by Chairman Mao's correct line during the period of the revolutionary wars, we relied on millet plus rifles and revolutionary enthusiasm plus death-defying spirit to conquer the snow-capped mountains and the trackless grasslands, drive out Japanese imperialism and overthrow the reactionary Kuomintang rule. The Taching spirit has the same vigour, the same revolutionary enthusiasm and the same death-defying spirit as in the years of revolutionary wars which it has carried forward and enhanced in the socialist revolution and socialist construction. If all our enterprises and industrial departments adhere to Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and have a revolutionized contingent of the Taching type plus this kind of revolutionary spirit, enthusiasm and perseverance, all difficulties can be overcome and every kind of miracle can be performed.

The revolution in the realm of the relations of production involves the following three aspects: ownership of the means of production, relations among people in the course of labour and relations of distribution. In enterprises under socialist ownership by the whole people, many things can be done in the revolution of relations among people in the course of labour. Taching has done many things successfully in this respect with new relations among people being formed and developed, things that meet the requirements of socialist ownership by the whole people. Taching has indeed succeeded in **wholeheartedly relying on the working class.** Taching's work-

ers have high political consciousness and labour enthusiasm, take an active part in enterprise management, consciously observe labour discipline and unite in struggle — they have truly become masters of the enterprise. Taching's cadres work hard, persistently take part in productive labour, consult the masses whenever questions arise, are concerned with the well-being of the masses and enjoy high prestige among them. Taching's scientific and technical personnel have made inventions and creations while integrating with the workers and are welcomed by them. The families of the Taching workers and cadres have organized themselves to take part in production and have become an important force in building Taching. According to conditions in the area, Taching also undertakes agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fisheries, increasing collective welfare step by step and building up an oilfield of a new type which combines industry with agriculture and town with country. All this contributes to narrowing the three major differences between worker and peasant, between town and country and between manual and mental labour, restricting bourgeois right and preventing the emergence of a class of bureaucrats. Comrades, in the harsh conditions of the revolutionary wars in the past, our officers and men, the higher and lower levels, and cadres and masses were united as one, shared weal and woe and established revolutionary relations among people. We should for ever maintain and develop those relations. This is what Taching is doing. If all our enterprises maintain and develop the new socialist relations among people in the course of labour as Taching is doing, this will greatly promote the consolidation of socialist ownership by the whole

people, the revolutionization of people's thinking and the development of the productive forces.

Revolution means liberating the productive forces. One important task of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to develop the productive forces rapidly, make technical innovations and technical revolution and achieve labour productivity higher than under capitalism. This is an indispensable prerequisite for the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat, prevention of capitalist restoration and thenceforth for the elimination of classes and the transition to communism. Taching vigorously stimulates the growth of production by making revolution in the superstructure and in the relations of production. Following the general line for building socialism and upholding the principle of maintaining independence, keeping the initiative in our own hands, relying on our own efforts and hard work and building the country with diligence and thrift, Taching studied and worked hard, and built up one of the world's few huge oilfields at high speed, thus ridding China once and for all of backwardness in the petroleum industry and ending the days when China had to depend on imported oil. Taching's petroleum output has been rising steadily over the past 17 years at an average annual increase of 28 per cent. The present Taching is equivalent to six Tachings in 1965, the year before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution. In exploring and constructing the oilfield, Taching assimilated some of the science and technology of foreign countries, but did not simply follow the trodden path. It has its own unique creations, many of which are up to or surpass the most advanced world standards. This proves that

the proletariat of the East can accomplish whatever the bourgeoisie of the West can accomplish, and with better results. This is the pride of the Chinese working class and of the Chinese nation. Comrades, we started industrial construction from scratch. On the whole, our country is still relatively backward industrially and economically and our material base is not powerful enough. It is the urgent desire of the people of the whole country to change this state of affairs as soon as possible. If many more enterprises and industrial departments make achievements as great as those of Taching, we will certainly be able to catch up with and surpass the advanced world level in economy and in science and technology.

Party committees at various levels in Taching are skilled in the art of leadership and creative in their methods of work. Their revolutions in the superstructure, the relations of production and the techniques of production are all carried out under the leadership of Party committees by applying the mass line, boldly arousing the masses and launching mass movements in a big way. They are good at grasping advanced models, organizing mass campaigns to evaluate the ideology and outlook of comrades, compete in making contributions, elect model workers and pace-setters, so as to mobilize the masses to the full and bring into play all positive factors. They persistently combine high revolutionary spirit with a strict scientific approach, deep-going and painstaking political and ideological work with rational rules and regulations, ideological education in communism with implementation of the economic policies for the period of socialism, and hard work with concern