

## Documentation

# *Strengthening Grassroots Scientific and Technological Works*

*Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party  
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The work of popularizing scientific and technological knowledge among the grass-roots is crucial to raising the people's quality of life. The content of this programme is important for the development of a socialist material and spiritual civilization, and it is also vital for the educational nurturing of a new generation of young people.

In order to meet growing international and domestic demands, and to continue to move forward in strengthening and improving the work of popularizing science and technology in our country, we offer the following suggestions:

1. Science and technology is a primary force in economic development and social transformation. This modern revolution is global in scope, and brings rapid and unremitting changes on a daily basis to the world economy and social development, which have momentous consequences for every aspect of human life. Science and technology is also a major focus of an ever-growing international competition, especially when competing in the area of human resources. Many nations view the progress and development of their sci-tech culture as the key element in their struggle to attain hegemony in the 21st century. Education to produce a scientific culture and allow people to enter into a more science-related life-style is essential if we are to meet the rising tide of global technology and the challenge it will present for us in the next century. The focus of our economy must shift towards furthering scientific and technological progress, which is directly related to raising the quality standards of our labour force. The promotion of technological progress and the spread of scientific knowledge will serve also to promote the establish-

ment of the socialist material and spiritual civilization, and this will result in our being able to safeguard social stability. This is a responsibility of national importance, and a vital element in developing our nation's economy, science and technology, and social stability both now and in the future.

2. In the 45 years since the foundation of our nation, the work of popularizing scientific knowledge among the masses has been highly successful, due in large part to the strenuous efforts made by our vast army of scientists, technicians, educators and workers. The promotion of science has had a long and distinguished history, not only through the organized activities of our provinces and cities but also in the constant encouragement and support of our local government bureaus. Down through the years, an increased awareness of the need for scientific and technological progress has been fostered by a wide variety of educational schemes and related activities, which have also helped to integrate into a workable whole other related technologies, such as agriculture and light-industry. With the enthusiastic participation and cooperation of all sectors of society, we have made an excellent beginning in popularizing science in all its social forms throughout the entire nation.

While a good foundation has indeed been laid, there exists a gap between what has been done and what still remains to be done to meet more fully our economic and social requirements. In recent years the work of popularizing science among the masses has received a lesser emphasis, which, in turn, has brought about a daily decrease in our total effort, which has caused some old problems to resurface. At the same time our efforts to advance scientific thinking decrease, superstitions and other foolish practices are on the increase. Activities that might be described as pseudo-scientific or even anti-scientific occur at a shocking rate. Such practices are inimical to modern civilization. They lead the gullible astray, corrupt the younger generation and create obstacles in the way of establishing the socialist material and spiritual civilization. We must then act with new strength and resolve in order to rededicate ourselves to this most important task, for it is a job whose need strikes very close to home.

3. Socialism cannot be based on poverty nor on foolish-

ness, but only on sound scientific principles.

4. There can be no other foundation on which to build the socialist civilization than on scientific methodology and scientific thinking.

5. We must begin by educating our Party cadres and government civil servants.

6. Science Week and other such science-related activities should be organized in such a way so as to reach each and every level of society.

7. Special care must be given to children, farmers and members of our minority groups. They must be taught how to apply scientific thinking to the practical problems of daily, ordinary life.

8. Organizations should work to nurture a scientific atmosphere that is ordered to the personal development and prosperity of their members.

9. All levels of the governments must become more sensitive to the need for developing science and technology as a means for furthering economic growth, and this awareness should be reflected in a proper allocation of their resources, both human and financial.

10. Government must encourage the establishment of high-tech industries, welcome foreign capital investment in them, and grant them special legal protection where necessary.

11. The mass-media should be mobilized to inculcate an appreciation and love of science among the young, and legal action should be taken to prohibit the dissemination of all forms of superstitions, as well as banning the use of unscientific terminology.

12. The struggle against anti- or pseudo-scientific thinking will be long and hard. We must bring the law to bear on those individuals who would use feudal superstition in the

commission of crimes, and on those organizations that encourage such illegal practices. People who engage in feudal superstitious activity must be re-educated, and it is up to the cadres of every rank to set an example for others in their personal pursuit of scientific knowledge and in furthering the goals of a scientific culture. They must be resolute in resisting the recent tide of anti-scientific thinking in all its forms, and they must never show the slightest encouragement of such superstitious practices by their own participation in or attendance at such events. They are reminded that Party and government cadres are strictly forbidden to take part in the worship of spirits, in any and every form of divinization, and even in the elaborate funerals where feudal superstitious activities abound. They are to be the leaders and role models of the new society.

Administrative procedures and legal action should be mobilized to root out any prevailing superstitious practices among the people, such as worshipping at wayside shrines and the many forms of fortune telling. Cadres should have a thorough working knowledge of the government's religious policy and how to apply it to local cultural conditions. Tours to major religious sites for the purpose of sightseeing should be brought under tighter scrutiny, and the educational standards of the tour guides themselves should be raised so that they might become more adept at applying scientific knowledge to the task at hand.

13. The work of popularizing science and technology on the grass-roots level is directly related to the basic development of our nation as it prepares to enter the 21st century. It is a task demanding 'combat readiness', to borrow a military term, and it requires a firm grasp of essential scientific principles, along with a high place in the esteem of Party members and citizens alike. Relevant government departments must study how to become stronger in their resolve and more efficient and practical in the execution of their task of spreading scientific knowledge in attractive and popular ways. Party committees and all levels of government departments must, within the practical realities of personnel and finance, explore in detail how best to implement the directives of this document, and do so as quickly as possible.

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