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Recommender's Preface 2: A sumptuous feast

All parents and students who have learned abacus and mental arithmetic will clearly feel that such learning can improve the ability of hand operation, brain stimulation, memory and concentration, which is especially important for inspiring children's intelligence and schoolwork. Although Taiwan's education authorities have not focused on the abacus and mental arithmetic in recent decades, and even eliminated the abacus and mental arithmetic course from the elementary school curriculum, much scholarly research has proven that learning the abacus and mental arithmetic is not only good for children, but can also prevent mental degradation, hence helping to improve memory. A learning wave for abacus and mental arithmetic has risen in other countries in Asia, such as Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and China. The abacus and mental arithmetic has been considered as artistry and a type of skill that can enhance children's quality, to the point where abacus and mental arithmetic educators are still actively teaching. Some of them have even tried to apply it to an entrepreneurial approach in order to expand their careers to foreign countries.

Similarly, based on the study of heuristic abacus education for children and enlightening their interests and skills in abacus and mental arithmetic, the Chung-hua Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Education Association has organised contests and exams in abacus and mental arithmetic. Additionally, aural mental arithmetic has been carried out each year since it was established in 1990 in order to educate outstanding abacus talents for the benefit of the nation and promote children's abacus and mental arithmetic education. With the aim of carrying forward abacus arithmetic as a traditional Chinese quintessence, the association periodically performs various tasks, such as organizing events on abacus and mental arithmetic for children, promoting authentication for excellent teachers, publishing special issues, etc. The subject Tai Chiang Ching is an excellent senior abacus and mental arithmetic teacher. Furthermore, the "CMA" he created is a teaching method that promotes "Two-handed Abacus Manipulation." Combined with

other innovative teaching methods, such as image numbering, he has trained many qualified students, who have achieved Advanced Level over the years. He is also active in community service and devotes himself to promoting abacus skills as a Managing Supervisor in the association.

I have known Tai for years, and also know that he has lived abroad in recent decades in order to promote his international career as a CMA franchisee; however, I know little about the entire process of how he invested himself in his career of abacus and mental arithmetic education. However, this book, “Target: Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Master Tai Chiang Ching and International Teaching Franchise,” will not only help readers to understand how Tai interacts with his family, but will also allow them to learn more about the secret and charm of the abacus and mental arithmetic.

The book title, “The Target,” implies that Tai is someone who can grasp an opportunity once he has set the goals. Additionally, I believe Tai’s background and the abacus and mental arithmetic he loves will influence people, who can then move through the various stages of their lives and achieve their own goals step by step. In this book, I can see not only the interaction between him and his students, but also his enthusiasm in the way he communicates with their parents. His desire is always to improve children’s skills by creating innovative teaching materials.

We can also see his vision, courage and perseverance in expanding his international career of abacus and mental arithmetic. From his stories, I believe that readers can learn about starting a business, management, teaching, and education.

Finally, I’ve summarised what I feel are the key points of this publication:

1. In this book, we can see how Taiwan has transformed from an agricultural environment into an industrial and business one, read stories about how small businesses have made an effort to conduct greater amounts of business, and learn about how second-generation farmers from rural areas came to start their own businesses.

2. In this book, you will find out how a teacher with love, ambition and passion for the abacus, mental arithmetic and education tries to strengthen children's skills and encourage their interest in learning.

3. You will read stories about the rise and fall of the abacus and mental arithmetic education in Taiwan; and how educators have come to lead the world in expanding the abacus and mental arithmetic education.

4. Readers will experience how the teaching and learning of the abacus and mental arithmetic has kept pace with the times and how it applies to the Internet and multimedia technology, thus embodying the true essence of boundless education.

5. Readers will learn about the cultural education enterprise of small businesses in Taiwan, how they survived in the local market during the recession and how they envisioned becoming international enterprises despite a global economic decline. With all the rich stories in this book, it is worth recommending to

students, parents, schoolteachers and professionals for reference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of three Chinese characters: 吳文雄 (Wu Wen-xiong). The characters are written in a cursive, flowing style.

By Wu Wen-xiong, chairman of Chung-hua Institute of Abacus and Mental Arithmetic Education.