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Self-Preface

Fifteen years ago, the manager Zhang Gui-quan from Taipei's Sansitang Publisher came to the CMA headquarters in Tainan to conduct an interview with me about the process and related details of instructing a girl, Su Wan-ting, who had just won a championship in an international contest in learning the abacus and mental arithmetic. At that time, the publisher was preparing to publish a book about Su Wan-ting's success and experiences with learning abacus and mental arithmetic. After we finished the interview, I told him, "I need to work harder, so that hopefully you can come back after ten years to interview me again and write a book about me." Zhang replied, "You've already had rich experiences and also trained a lot of teachers and students. Now your student has won a championship in an international contest. I believe you have a lot of stories worth writing about. I think I can start planning to write a book about you right after we finish publishing Su's book." At that time, I replied, "Please wait for another ten years. I still have many targets I have not reached yet. After ten years, please come back to interview me again, so you will have more stories to write."

While I recalled this part of the conversation with Zhang, I realised that setting a target is the most important step in one's life. Today, I can achieve my ideals and goals because I already had the ideas in my mind ten years ago, and I am now able to set some targets for these ideas to help myself to achieve them step by step.

I have been engaged in teaching and researching abacus and mental arithmetic for nearly 30 years. According to my grandfather's wishes, my first target in life was set when I was 14 years old: I was going to become an excellent abacus and mental arithmetic teacher. After I achieved this, I set another target: To train three students to reach level 10 in abacus and mental arithmetic. Then I set another target: To train a student to win the world championship. Then another target: Expand the CMA to 20 countries and regions. These targets become the direction of my life. I have experienced all kinds of joys and sorrows while trying to reach my own targets in real life.

At the same time, these targets also made me happy, gave me a sense of achievement, and helped me to enjoy the glory of fame.

I'd now like to share my other four targets:

- To train third-grade students to be qualified in level 10 at abacus and mental arithmetic.
- To teach 300 students simultaneously during remote teaching.
- To establish a professional school of abacus and mental arithmetic.
- To make a movie based on this book. After I set my targets, I arouse my fighting spirit and devote every effort

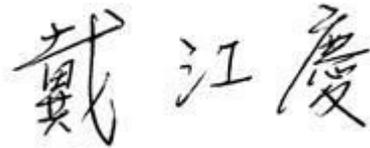
to achieving them like Superman. Setting targets also makes my path clearer and allows me to become more active, so I can gain more rewards.

I've heard that the founder of Taiwan's Tzu Chi Master Cheng Yen, founder of Fo Guang Shan Master Hsing Yun, and other leaders in the world with merit and achievements, all have the same distinguishing feature: "They all set their own targets when they were young." Thus, setting a target is extremely important for one to reach his or her dreams.

Even though I have still not had a perfect career and level of achievement in my life for over half a century, I'm satisfied with my own efforts. Now I'm glad that I can have my own life story about the process of conducting business written down and I can share it with my family, friends, and also those who are interested in starting an enterprise.

I'd like to thank my parents, family, teachers, students, friends and those who have helped me. Because of their encouragement and help, I have been able to achieve great things. I'd like to especially thank my good friend, Wang Sen-liang, who's been there for me for 30 years. He's been not only a good friend, but also a good teacher to me on my entrepreneurial journey.

Finally, I hope that I can continue to publish the book series titled “Target” every 50 years. Apart from the “Target” that was ready to publish in 2011, I wish to publish “Target 2” in 2061, “Target 3” in 2111, and so on. Thus, the development and innovation for each stage of the “CMA” can be truly documented, and as such I hope it will help to carry forward the true essence of abacus and mental arithmetic.

The image shows a handwritten signature in Chinese characters, '戴江慶' (Dai Chiang Ching), written in a cursive style. The characters are black and appear to be ink on a light background.

By Tai Chiang Ching, founder of CMA May 1, 2011