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### Part 3:Echo

The pusher who trained a talented child to level 10 in mental arithmetic

It's wonderful to establish a lifelong enterprise based on your own interests. However, how do we operate a successful and outstanding enterprise? Tai Chiang Ching believes that helping "students surpass their teachers" can achieve this kind of great ambition.

The title of "King of the Abacus" as given by Tai's grandfather

Under the earnest operation of Tai Chiang Ching and his wife, the CMA gradually gained a positive reputation.

Here is a story proving that CMA has earned a fine reputation: After Tai Chiang Ching established the CMA headquarters in Tainan City, his grandfather, Tai Yun, was highly concerned about its operation. On one occasion, he and his wife went to Tainan to see their grandson. They found that Tai Chiang Ching had succeeded in operating his abacus mental arithmetic institute. After Tai Yun went back to Huwei Township, he told his friends and relatives, "My grandson is the 'King of the Abacus!'" Thus, Tai Chiang Ching came to have another nickname: "King of the Abacus."

One of Tai's relatives heard from Tai Yun that the CMA was operating prosperously and then went to Tainan from Huwei to see if this was true.

The relative was surprised to see Tai Chiang Ching's large office, and its many medals, trophies, banners, certificates and plaques sent by parents as appreciation tokens. He asked Tai, "Are you teaching abacus mental arithmetic, or doing business in trophies?" Tai laughed and explained, "These trophies and banners were earned by CMA students who participated in varieties of contests and gave excellent performances." After the relative had gone back to his hometown, he started praising Tai Chiang Ching and told stories

about how he had succeeded in teaching thousands of students to win international contests. Tai was considered to be the pride of the village.

Tai Chiang Ching not only earned him a reputation in his hometown, but also gained him a truly deserved title, “Taiwan’s famous teacher for level 10 abacus mental arithmetic.”

In the Degao Elementary School located near the CMA in Tainan, there were many students who had reached level 10 in abacus mental arithmetic. These learners were all Tai’s students.

When CMA was first established in Tainan, Tai Chiang Ching often brought his students to participate in varieties of contests. They not only earned a lot of rewards, but also attracted the media’s attention. On November 23 1990, one of Taiwan’s major newspapers, the United Daily News, published a story written by reporter Wu Zhen-fu about Tai Chiang Ching and his students:

“Tai Chiang Ching, from Huwei Township, Yunlin County, has taught and operated his abacus mental arithmetic institute in Tainan for four years. He also gives tutoring in Degao Elementary School, which is located near his institute. Some interested children even went to his house for further practice after school at night and during the holidays. Mr. Tai, who enthusiastically promotes abacus mental arithmetic, has the greatest aspiration of hoping that he can nurture students who can pass the national exam of level 10 abacus mental arithmetic, the highest level in the national exam. When Tai’s students, Lin Yin-zi and Huang Ru-min, passed the exam, his dream had come true. He bought fireworks to celebrate...”

“Tai again brought his students from northern Taiwan to participate in the annual national abacus and math competitions and national teams’ selection contest on November 12. Tai’s students, Lin Yin-zi, a second grader from Degao Elementary, Lin Yu-sheng, a fourth grader from Degao Elementary, and Yang Ya-fei, a fifth grader from Dong-guang Elementary School, were selected for the national team. Lin Zi-yin’s younger sister, Lin Fen-hsing, was also put on the waiting list for the national team. These three national players represented Taiwan in the international contest where they

competed with players from China, Japan and Korea during the winter vacation.”

Afterwards, the students trained by Tai Chiang Ching continued with their outstanding performance, and attracted more media attention.