

1950

Meetings

Dates of Meeting:

20-09-1950 – 29-09-1950

Type of Meeting:

1st National Conference on Worker-Peasant Education

Place of Meeting:

Beijing

Attendance:

Major Agenda Items:

Speeches/Reports:

Ma Xulun: 20 September began by warning delegates to resist the temptation simply to 'decree' the abolition of illiteracy in China. Raising the people's impoverished educational level, Ma told delegates, was an enormous and complicated undertaking that defied quick solutions. It could only be accomplished by 'gradually eliminating' illiteracy over an extended period.

The brave and diligent workers and peasants of China created Chinese history and civilization, but they were deprived of the rights of enjoying culture and education in the old China. Such phenomena began to change fundamentally in a nation-wide scope after the founding of the People's Republic of China. The victory of the great people's revolution makes the workers gain political status as the country's foundation and they start to enjoy the political rights of formal education at different levels. New China had inherited a corps of peasant cadres with impeccable revolutionary credentials - but with no education.

To raise the cultural and political levels of the workers and peasants is an indispensable condition in development and consolidation of this people's democratic dictatorship. Meanwhile, our nation's current central task is to restore and develop rapidly the productive construction which mainly relies on the two big troops of workers and peasants on the production front. If our education can't help to raise the ideological consciousness, cultural and technological levels of the two big troops, there will not appear the new working attitudes and creative spirits needed for the productive construction. Our productive construction will be harmed and our education will be divorced from reality. Therefore, to carry out correctly the worker/peasant education is a grave political task for the people of the whole nation especially for educators

Other Decisions and/or Actions:

adopted the optimistic position, that illiteracy could be eliminated among 70% of peasants within only 7 years (3-5 years for cadres)

A decision to launch a literacy movement was adopted by the conference and ratified by the GAC immediately afterwards, in order to develop worker-peasant education and train educated workers and peasants

Remarks: