



The Popularization and Development of Mental Arithmetic By Image of Abacus Education in Indonesia

By Erly Feniwatii, Indonesia

I. Introduction

As early as the 1930s, abacus arithmetic was taught in the Chinese school of Indonesia until 1960s.

There were about 8 million foreign citizens of Chinese origins in Indonesia, most of them inhabited in the urban cities to deal with business. Abacus & mental arithmetic, one of the achievements of Chinese civilization with 5000 years of history, was naturally popularized in the Chinese society. Many of the bosses and accountants in groceries, drug stores and small -and -medium businesses used suanpan as their calculation tools. They all used suanpan with a string of seven beads. With the close of Chinese schools and popularization of computer, this age -old culture is gradually forgotten and suanpan also is collected as antique.

2 .The Surge of Interests in Mental Arithmetic by Image of Abacus in Indonesia

In the early 90s, a private make -up courses school introduced "mental arithmetic by image of abacus". Various circles mistook that this was a pure make -up abacus course school because suanpan acted as the logo of the make -up center and then it was not really popularized.

Unti1 1977, "E&P" Mental arithmetic by image of abacus Training Center (a branch of Singapore E&P Training Center) was founded in the capital city Djakarta, which aimed at children aged between 4 -14. The center adopted the upper one bead and lower four beads abacus mode and formula to train the children in calculating on an imaginary abacus in their minds, which were taught by the private kindergarten to the students. This kindergarten also called on parent lectures to expound that mental arithmetic by image of abacus did not purely study the traditional abacus and mental arithmetic, nor it was different from arithmetic in school. It is sort of teaching that develop the brains potentials and it is also sort of necessary fundamental teaching that improve the children' calculation capabilities and promote their thinking in images. The most qualified children trained by our kindergarten will make on -the -spot demonstration to the parents.

This made it more convincible that it is useful to popularize mental arithmetic by image of abacus to the children. "E&P" mental arithmetic by image of abacus training center still invited Jeremy Ng Cheng Tee, Master, president of Singapore mental arithmetic by image of abacus arithmetic studies society, the senior training teacher Ms Amanda Lian Tai -yu and Mr. Kouzi Suzuki from Japan annually to offer questions for the students, grading test and to hold large scale test in big urban cities of Indonesia, thus Indonesian students can possess the grading certificates for qualified international criteria abacus and mental arithmetic abilities. With the efforts of popularization, from the beginning of dozens of students to nowadays of thousands of

students, "E&P" training centers have been founded in Indonesian 6 big urban cities, thus brought along the surge of interests in mental/ abacus arithmetic in various big urban cities in Indonesia.

There exist some difficulties in popularization abacus in Indonesia. Confronting with these obstacles, it is really necessary to combine the Indonesian mental arithmetic by image of abacus training centers .We hope to establish national association of mental arithmetic by image of abacus companies in Indonesia with the help of World Association of Abacus and Mental Arithmetic to promote the development and opening up of Indonesian abacus mental and education.

3. To unite to make joint efforts

Though Indonesian education only has a history of several years and is in trouble now, we are still full of confidence. We need the assistance and support of the overseas venerable seniors to help to train Indonesian mental arithmetic by image of abacus teachers, to provide latest materials and to create new teaching method. We believe that we can march forward the mental arithmetic by image of abacus educational path with significant meanings by learning your specialized knowledge and experience.

We further need to maintain intimate contacts and exchanges with World Association of Abacus and Mental arithmetic. We hope to hold forums; lectures and exhibition activities to further penetrate mental arithmetic by image of abacus into the folks.

We believe that under the joint efforts of various circles, the children's results of learning mental arithmetic by image of abacus practically and the development of their brains potentials will definitely enable Indonesian mental and abacus arithmetic education to have a bright future.

Courtesy:

(The author is President of the Association of E & P Mental Arithmetic By Image of Abacus)