Study of the

Juche Idea

No. 93

Special Issue:

International Seminar on Juche Idea for "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" (Pyongyang)



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At a local industrial plant in Kimhwa County (February 7, 2024)

Work

January 15, 2024

On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People

—Policy Speech at 10th Session of 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK—

Kim Jong Un

Dear Comrade Deputies,

Respected Comrade Chairman of the SPA Standing Committee and Comrade Chairman of the SPA,

Comrade observers,

The 10th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly is being held at an important

time when the DPRK, our motherland, proudly reviewed 2023, specially recorded as a year of great turn and change in its history of development, and started the advance of 2024 to ensure the practical guarantee for the fulfillment of the five-year plan set forth by the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

As we all have experienced, last year was an unforgettable year when our Party, government and people displayed their utmost efforts and fighting spirit in the face of manifold difficulties and registered important successes and events in history with pride.

It is rare that the nearly 80-year-long history of the DPRK witnessed such a clear advance in increasing our national power in an all-round way and the full-fledged demonstration of our national sovereignty and prestige as in 2023.

The successes achieved in all fields of politics, economy, military affairs and culture last year were already reviewed and evaluated at the 9th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of the WPK. So there is no need to mention them again. But it is clear that as all the members of the state actively supported and upheld the leadership activities of the Party and the government, the cumulative strenuous efforts of several years have finally resulted in good fruitions.

It was proved through our 2023 struggle that the Party and the government of the Republic correctly adopted the line and administrative policy on achieving the comprehensive development of socialist construction in the right time and they not only overcame manifold difficulties and crisis and staunchly maintained the set course of state development, coordinating the state affairs in a flexible and vigorous way every year, but also achieved a sure upward trend by rousing the patriotic enthusiasm and heroic devotion of all the people.

The confrontation hysteria of the hostile forces has driven the situation to an extreme phase, but we turned it to our advantage and more boldly carried out the undertakings for bolstering up the self-defence capabilities and military counteractions. This was not merely a demonstration of our will to safeguard our national interests or of our overwhelming power.

Internally, it lifted the spirits of all the people and the service personnel of the armed forces of the Republic, and externally, made the country emerge as an absolute entity to be reckoned as a military power and brought about a dramatic change not only in its national prestige but also in the world geo-political landscape.

It is the fact to be held dearer than anything else that our people have once again confirmed the justice of their cause of building a powerful country they have chosen and

pushed ahead with, realized in actuality the period of overall development of socialist construction and hardened their faith in it through the current growth of our country.

All these valuable successes are associated with the efforts of you, Comrades Deputies who have strived for the proper exercise and development of our state power, always mindful of the people's expectations.

I express my thanks to you, deputies who have made efforts to fulfill your responsibility and duty with loyalty to the sacred cause of the Party and the state and in the spirit of devoted service for the people.

Comrade Deputies!

Of course, all these are not enough for us to be satisfied and we have just taken the first step in realizing our ideal for building a powerful country and winning a victory of socialism.

The issue of making continuous development and success in 2024 after gaining valuable achievements in 2023 and providing the next-term government with a solid foothold was a key agenda item of today's session which will discuss the state affairs for the new year.

The 9th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Party Central Committee defined 2024 as a decisive year of determining the victory in attaining the goals of struggle set forth at the 8th Party Congress by further raising the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction, and unanimously adopted scientific and feasible resolutions.

The resolutions comprehensively deal with the long-cherished desire of our Party for the beloved people and children and policies for the uninterrupted development of our great state social system.

The Party's resolutions are the guidelines for state building and activities and the political task the government of the Republic should carry out without an inch of deflection. Only through their thorough implementation, a radical turn in economic construction and improvement of the people's living standards, elevation of the national power, defence of the national interests and enhancement of national prestige are guaranteed.

We should regard the Party decisions as the lifeline in all fields of state affairs and carry them out perfectly without any mistake and without any shortcomings, thus continue to write the sacred development history of the Republic with more definite and innovative successes.

An important task facing the government of the Republic at present is to continue to increase the trend of upturn in the national economy and thus firmly put the overall economy of the country on the track of stable and sustainable development.

The economic front is the basic front of socialist construction and without the strong and modern support of the self-supporting economy, it is impossible to think of the high dignity and independent development of our state and the rich and civilized life of the people.

As we all have seen with our own eyes and felt with our own hearts, the struggle of our Party and people to implement the five-year plan is progressing successfully while steadily following the steps of progress and development, which are in sharp contrast to each year, despite unprecedented trials.

We should further boost the rising phase of the national economy and the spirit of dynamic advance which has been achieved through dear efforts, blood and sweat, and thus fully prove that our ideal is the reality we are facing not the one in the distant future.

All sectors of the national economy should put steady spurs to the growth of production and concentrate their efforts on finishing the work of reinforcement and readjustment.

Last year we set it as the main task of economic work to mainly finish the plan for reinforcement and readjustment decided by the Party Congress while revitalizing the production of the overall sectors and units of the national economy and conducted vigorous struggle. But there are some incomplete projects.

Since the fulfillment of the plan for reinforcement and readjustment is just the conclusion of the struggle to implement the resolutions of the Eighth Party Congress, we should continue to intensify this work, irrespective of the conditions and the changing situation, and thus bring about good results this year, too.

Consistent is our Party and state's policy of attaching primary importance to the key industrial sectors and bringing about a rapid upswing in the overall economy by further fostering independence and modernizing them.

The metallurgical and chemical industrial sectors should accelerate the completion of the projects now underway and ensure that they are in normal operation in a substantial way so as to further strengthen the pillars of the self-supporting economy, while consolidating the successes already achieved in the work of making them Juche-oriented and modern.

The power industrial sector is now striving to meet the country's demand for electricity despite difficulties, but decisive measures should be taken to increase production in keeping with the expansion of the economic scale and the progress of many construction projects.

If we make the use of the existing generating capacity to the maximum and accelerate the construction of the Tanchon Power Station and several other power stations, and operate atomic and tidal power stations in the future, we can solve the problem of power shortage as we want.

The coal and mining industrial sectors should not slacken their high fighting spirit but carry out their production plans without letup, thus fully supplying raw materials and fuel necessary for the major production sectors, and vigorously pushing ahead with the work of reinforcing and readjusting production processes and increasing their capacity.

The machine-building industrial sector should play a special role in economic work this year.

The machine-building industrial sector should vigorously push ahead with the work of turning the Ryongsong Machine Complex into a standard and model of modernization and, at the same time, produce and supply the machines and equipment needed at different sectors of the national economy in good time and qualitatively, thus actively supporting the upsurge and development of overall national economy.

The successes achieved by our Party and state in recent years by concentrating efforts on construction work are certainly laudable, but we can never rest on such laurels.

In particular, housing construction is an important affair directly related to the Party's authority and the people-oriented character of the government of the Republic. And it is the nature and duty of our Party and the government to unconditionally keep the promise made with the people, however harsh trials they may face.

Since the number of houses to be built in the remaining two years, including the completion of the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang Municipality, is considerable, we should make thorough preparations and continue to make vigorous offensive so as to live up to the expectations of the people.

We should make more strenuous progress in rural construction to eliminate the centuriesold backwardness and thus make the whole country filled with the joy of our agricultural workers moving into new houses this year, too.

In addition, the construction sector should make full preparations from now for the planned gigantic operations such as the remodeling of provincial seats and the construction of a large canal connecting the East and West Seas.

In order to step up the construction of houses and public buildings and industrial establishments on a nationwide scale, the building-materials industrial sector should continue to bring about a surge in production.

It is necessary to increase cement production by revitalizing the newly built or expanded building materials production bases and to massively produce and supply tiles, building stone, glass, vinyl wallpaper and other various building fixtures so as to prevent any practices of interrupting the schedule of construction.

The upward tendency of the overall economy inevitably results in an increase in the volume of freights transport and this requires further enhancement of the role of the railways, the main transport means of the country.

The railway sector should improve the organization and command of transport and direct efforts to maintaining the current state of railways to meet the demands of the national economy for transport without fail and successfully carry out the work for cementing the material and technical foundations of the railway industrial establishments.

Provinces, cities and counties adjacent to railways should always pay attention to the maintenance of railways and ensure the timely supply of necessary manpower and materials, thus contributing to increasing the stability of railway operation.

And the sectors of the IT industry, land and environment protection and urban management should also steadily push ahead with the fulfillment of the immediate tasks and long-term plans for continuously improving the conditions and environment necessary for state management, economic growth and the people's civilized life, as required by the overall development of socialism.

In order for the socialist economy to give full play to its advantages and might, it is essential to thoroughly ensure the unity in the guidance and management of the economy and establish strict discipline and order that all sectors unconditionally obey the decisions and instructions of the Cabinet of the Republic.

Gone are the days when economic sectors fomented with impunity imbalance and disorder in the state economic affairs through their pursuance of self-centeredness and improper implementation of the administrative orders by the government.

The Cabinet should exercise all the authority granted by the Party and the state in a responsible manner and take revolutionary measures to set right the administrative and economic work system and order.

The Cabinet should proactively and dynamically conduct all the work by putting the overall economy of the country under its firm control and continuously improve the phase of the overall development by displaying strong leadership, controlling ability and executive



A view of the groundbreaking ceremony for regional-industry factories in Songchon County (on February 28, 2024)

power.

The Cabinet should make sure that no unit is out of its control, and intensify the struggle against the practices of unit specialization and egoism so as to make the climate of giving priority to the interests of the state and the whole society definitely prevail throughout the country.

Moreover, it should correctly predict the important factors of economic development such as economic infrastructure, population and manpower management, take necessary measures and establish a system for developing the work of the state economic organs in a far-sighted way so as to promote the stable and sustainable development of the overall national economy.

Comrade Deputies!

The supreme task, to which the DPRK government should attach the utmost importance and pay great efforts at present, is to stabilize and improve the people's living as early as possible.

Our people always and invariably support the Party and the government and accept any policy as their own and uphold it with absolute and unconditional executive ability. This is because they firmly trust in the Party and the government of the Republic, which have put forward the promotion of the people's wellbeing as the supreme principle of state activities.

It is reality that the Party and the government yet fail to meet even the simple demand of the people in life although they are said to be striving to live up to the people's deep trust without fail.

The foremost important task in improving the people's living standards is to do farming well.

Kim Jong Un said that confidence and enthusiasm has been increased in the agricultural sector through the attainment of the grain production goal last year and only when such a victory is sustained for several years, can the people's living be put on a normal track and the people's trust in the Party and government be consolidated. He continued:

Like last year, the Cabinet and economic guidance organs should give priority to the supply of fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, fuel and other farming materials so as to provide the farms with adequate conditions for doing farming with ease. And the whole country should raise a hot wind of supporting the countryside from the beginning of the year so as to encourage the agricultural sector ideologically, morally, materially and technically.

The agricultural sector should further arouse patriotic enthusiasm and collective spirit of the agricultural workers, raise a strong wind of scientific farming on the basis of advanced agricultural science and technology and push ahead with increasing soil fertility and perfecting irrigation systems so as to unconditionally make this year a year of rich harvest again, in disregard of climatic conditions.

At the same time, it is needed to change the structure of grain production by expanding the fields for wheat cultivation, push ahead with the construction of wheat processing bases, the mechanization of agriculture and the reclamation of tideland on a full scale and develop vegetable farming, stockbreeding, fruit farming and industrial crops farming simultaneously.

In particular, we are going to provide our people with more eggs and meat by building another modern poultry farm in Pyongyang Municipality within this year and farms in every province in the future.

It is necessary to develop the fisheries, too, in order to diversify fishing in keeping with the ever-changing fishing conditions, conduct fish farming and aquaculture on a large scale and thus increase the output of marine products. And practical measures should be taken properly to ensure an even distribution of seafood to the people.

An important issue arising in improving the people's living standards at present is to tackle the differences between the capital city and the provinces and the imbalance between

regions.

It is the immutable principle of our Party and government that there may be differences between regions in their geographical setting, resources, economic potentials and living environment, but there should be no backward region in the aspect of the people's living in the territory of our Republic.

At present, there is a great disparity of living standards between the capital city and provinces and between towns and the countryside. Such a gap also exists in every province, city and county according to their conditions.

We can never ignore such phenomena that run counter to the idea of the comprehensive development of socialist construction, and we should take strong state support measures to improve the overall regional economy.

It is true that we, of course, built the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm and the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, gave complete face-lifts to the regional industrial factories in Kimhwa County in recent years, push ahead with the construction of rural dwelling houses across the country, focus on helping Kaesong Municipality live on its own efforts and carry on other projects for the people in provinces, but this is still too insufficient.

The implementation of important policies for the central-level projects adopted during the seventh- and eighth-term Party Central Committees has been successfully pushed ahead with without a moment's delay to bring about many changes, but the work for developing the regional economy has not been so.

The recent plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee specified in its resolution a decision to put the regional industrial factories in the urban districts of Kaesong Municipality, Jaeryong, Yonthan and Usi counties on the level of those in Kimhwa County and step up preparations for future construction in the remaining cities and counties. I think we can never develop the regional economy and bring about a marked change in the people's standard of living with such passive attitude.

Referring to the successes Kimhwa County achieved by concentrating on the work to supply by itself raw materials needed for the normal operation of modern regional industrial factories after the inauguration of those factories, Kim Jong Un said that cities and counties would have not a few problems to be immediately resolved in order to build modern regional industrial factories and keep high-rate production with locally available raw materials. But if they are determined to push ahead with the construction of regional industry factories and

the establishment of raw materials production bases at the same time like Kimhwa County, they can improve their regional economy as much as they want and bring about a substantial change in the living of regional people, he added.

In general conclusion, we have no ground or reason to view and approach the present backwardness of provinces from an onlooker's viewpoint and fail to take important measures for the development of regional industry under the pretext of economic conditions, he noted, adding all cities and counties are similar in their conditions and situations and the point is to secure the possible way of building regional industrial factories and ensuring their successful operation.

He continued:

If we do not work hard, waiting only for improved situation and conditions, when will we remodel the regional industry factories and who will bring about the possibility of raw materials supply?

We have to candidly ask ourselves in agony about when we will develop the overall regional industry, if we fail to take revolutionary measures, merely paying lip-service to building new factories and improving their capacity in the future as we have done so for decades.

As for the Changsong Joint Conference, how many years have passed since then?

In the 1970s and 1980s, too, many policy issues on the development of regional industry directly related to the people's living standards were discussed, but no revolutionary measures were taken on a nationwide scale, and due to the wrong viewpoint and attitude of our officials, many people-oriented policies and Party policies remained A paper promise with paragraphs of resolutions or policy documents, and no fundamental change was witnessed in the actual standard of living of the regional people.

It is easy to reflect ideals and ideas in writing but they don't come true at all with supernatural power or the lapse of time.

They can be realized only when we have correct fighting policy and proper methodology, make a revolutionary decision and put it into bold practice.

There is no iconic regional factory meeting the requirements of the times in provinces.

We should no longer ignore this fact but face up to it.

The Party and the government, being aware that the regional economy directly related to the life of regional people is in such a bad state as having no elementary conditions, have neither justification nor right to approach the matter later.

The 80th founding anniversary of our Party is close at hand and 75 years have passed since the establishment of the power of our Republic.

To our Party and government, which are obliged to be concerned of the life of regional people and prioritize the policy of regional development more than any other countries in the light of the idea of the Party founding, the main objective of its struggle and the nature of our power, it is a very serious problem that they have not yet eliminated the century-old backwardness of regions but taken a hands-off approach toward it.

I think that to create and proactively use locally available economic resources and raw materials of cities and counties and provide elementary living convenience and conditions to the people by always supplying citizens in every province with quality condiments, foodstuff and consumer goods is an urgent task, the fulfillment of which brooks no further delay, for our Party and government obliged to open up a period of comprehensive development of socialism.

It is an immediate task facing our government and a long-cherished desire of our Party to liquidate the century-old backwardness, narrow the gap between the capital city and provinces, develop the regional economy in a comprehensive and balanced manner, while accelerating the peculiar economic development in each province and making a competitive trend of development.

The recent plenary meeting discussing the implementation of immediate national economy plan failed to focus on making it a policy to fulfil such urgent tasks related to the people's living. So feeling deeply responsible for having not lived up to the great expectations of the people, I am determined to propose this crucial issue to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and make it a policy.

We have accumulated such excellent experience as building modern regional industry factories as icons in Kimhwa County and operating them by itself. This is actually essential for improving the people's living standards in the county and other cities and counties can cultivate such capabilities and this is an issue which should be resolved without fail any time in the future, I think.

Of course, it would be right to determine the order of construction in the light of the capabilities of cities and counties and start it in those counties capable of operating such factories first. We can set an order of construction but we should not prioritize someone or

discriminate against others by documenting or setting such order in taking care of the living of the citizens in this country and in implementing the resolution of our Party and the policy of the government of our Republic for the settlement of this problem.

I am going to make our Party keep hold on the construction of modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, carry it out successfully on such level as Kimhwa County and thus raise one stage further the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties and, in another word, across the country within ten years.

In addition to the line for rural prosperity, I am going to call this policy of our Party to develop onto a higher stage the basic material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country at the earliest date possible by pushing forward with the regional industrial development "regional development 20×10 policy", and push ahead with its implementation.

This is another gigantic change and revolution, not just empty words, to eliminate the century-old backwardness of regions, realize the long-cherished desire of regional people and bring about a turn in the realm of our people's understanding.

Kim Jong Un said that the Party would continue to provide funds, labor force and materials annually and compulsorily to each county on the basis of the experience gained in the course of building regional industrial factories in Kimhwa County as an example, and referred to the measures for establishing a state guidance work system.

He went on:

And I think of setting up a section for guiding regional industry construction in the Organizational Leadership Department of the Party Central Committee and reviewing its work on my own responsibility and pressing ahead with it.

To this end, I am going to convene an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee soon and discuss and decide on the "regional development 20×10 policy".

We should take a big substantial measure to achieve our centuries-old desire so as to push ahead with our Party's far-reaching plan for building a socialist power.

We should take this heavy responsibility by ourselves and fulfill our own responsibilities with confidence and certainly live up to the expectations of the people by bringing about such a substantial change.

Is this possible? It's quite possible.

We have enough ability, possibility and will to implement this plan.

I think that if we adopt the issue of turning all the regional industry factories in cities and counties to the level of those in Kimhwa County as an important state policy and push ahead with this project, the regional people will be pleased and confident.

Noting that regional industry factories should push ahead with the work to increase the production of consumer goods and improve their quality as intended by the Party Central Committee, Kim Jong Un stressed that what should be specially improved in implementing this year's socialist policies is to decisively raise the quality of school uniforms, bags and shoes as the Party Central Committee strongly reviewed and assigned at the 9th Plenary Meeting of the 8th Party Central Committee.

We took a measure to newly build the factories specializing in the production of school uniforms and shoes to meet the needs in provinces as factories for producing school bags were built in all the provinces, he said, adding that the deputies and the officials of the government bodies should render a special sincerity to the work of providing skilled workers and equipment to those factories and improving the quality so that the policies of the Party and the state can reach any regions, town or mountainous area, on an equal footing.

He stressed the need to take state measures to reduce regional lopsidedness in the people's living and foster the independence of relevant regions so that they can live by themselves.

The Party has already stressed the need for provinces, cities and counties to secure funds for the people's living by making rational use of the characteristics and resources of their regions, but the economic, practical and legal follow-up measures needed to guarantee this have not been taken in time, the procedures and processes of approval are intricate, many restrictions have been placed and other different factors made the regions not benefit from it clearly, he said, and went on:

After eliminating such evil practices on a nationwide scale, we should take practical measures to make the people in the coastal areas turn the sea to good account and those in the mountainous areas make the good use of mountains while encouraging them to offer tourist services and effectively exploit and mobilize resources, so as to contribute to improving their living conditions.

In this way we should bring about substantial improvement in our people's clothing, food and housing.

On behalf of the Party Central Committee, I have already defined the happy laughter

of our people and the younger generation as a symbol of the socialist system, the mightiness of the Korean-style socialism and a criterion deciding the position of a powerful country.

We should bring about changes and innovations in the overall space of socialist construction and the improvement of the people's livelihood in a multi-stage, three-dimensional and offensive way by further hastening the struggle and conducting continuous struggle for greater successes.

Comrade Deputies!

The present reality, in which every field of socialist construction is aspiring to an overall development, requires the might of science and technology and vehement activities of talents as never before.

In order to make the sci-tech sector which plays a great role in our revolutionary work for national prosperity fulfill its responsibility, we should further strengthen the state's integrated control over the development of science and technology.

When adopting the state strategy for the development of science and technology and setting the important tasks and research goals of the state, we should properly establish the political standard, correctly determine the order of priority for investment and make the most rational and effective use of the existing scientific and technological forces in the economic development and the improvement of the people's livelihood.

We should continue to take additional state measures to provide the scientists and technicians with conditions for their research work and to generalize their sci-tech achievements.

For the state's prosperity and development, it is ideal to make the climate in which everyone is willing to learn science and is most proud of contributing to the prosperity of the country by dint of science and technology prevail throughout the country.

We need to reexamine the existing laws of the state, system of talent management and all sorts of regulations and renew them if necessary such as strengthening the political and material assessment system to make all the people take active part in the sci-tech researches and technological innovations for the progress of the state and society.

In order to build a highly civilized and powerful country which is developed in a comprehensive way, education and public health should be duly put on the advanced world level.

In recent years our Party and the government of the Republic have made great efforts

to correct the educational structure of the country, improve the contents and methods of education and modernize the educational conditions and environment, but the educational revolution in the new century has only taken the first step.

In particular, the educational level and environment in the local areas are still in poor conditions.

The educational sector should conduct the work for raising the quality of primary and secondary education and higher education to a higher level in a planned and long-term way as required by the Party's educational policy and step up the on-going construction of the comprehensive educational equipment and materials factory to increase the capacities for supplying teaching tools and equipment for experiment and practice.

Importantly, central educational institutions should direct efforts to training talents with clear edge in the world competition and, at the same time, should develop rural schools and other regional educational institutions under the state assistance, thus decisively reduce the difference between urban and rural educational levels.

The public health sector, too, should improve the quality of medical services for the people.

If the Pyongyang General Hospital is completed and start its operation and a modern general hospital is built in Kangwon Province at the same time this year, models of health facilities suited to the new era will be provided.

Modern general hospitals should be built in other provinces every year and good hospitals be built in cities and counties in the future in order to make all the people receive advanced medical service everywhere.

At the same time, we should improve the material and technical foundation of the public health sector by modernizing pharmaceutical factories and medical appliances factories and pushing ahead with the work to build a central Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factory, and direct attention to properly carrying out the medical care system based on the health insurance fund which is expanding on a nationwide scale.

Comrade Deputies!

Our Republic is a peace-loving socialist state and remains unchanged in its desire for taking the road of independent development in a peaceful and stable environment free from aggression and interference and we have paid dearly for it.

But our country's security environment has been steadily deteriorated, far from being

eased, and today it has become the world's most dangerous zone with the risk of the outbreak of a war.

The frequent remarks made by the US authorities about the "end of our regime", vast nuclear strategic assets stationed in the peripheral area of the DPRK nearly all around the year, ceaseless war exercises with its followers staged on the largest scale, the military nexus between Japan and the Republic of Korea boosted at the instigation of the US, etc. are seriously threatening the security of our state moment by moment.

The policy of confrontation with the DPRK pursued by the US century after century and the suicidal acts of such servile states as the ROK unconditionally submitting to the US inflame the enmity of our Republic and at the same time offer reasonable and full justification for strengthening the military capability and more rapidly improving the overwhelming nuclear war deterrent.

The US and its stooges are now buoyed with war fever.

We should invariably cover the road of bolstering up our military capability for selfdefence to ensure wellbeing of the country, the people and the posterity.

The deputies present here should not regard the indiscriminate war holocaust in the Middle East as the other's affairs but do their best to bolster up our military capability for self-defence to the maximum, cherishing the firm belief that military strength is the security, dignity and prestige of the state and people.

Once again, I emphasize that our army should keep a sharp watch on even the enemy's slight military move and make confident and full preparedness to thoroughly and mercilessly control and frustrate provocative acts of any type through overwhelming counteraction, mindful of its noble mission which is to devotedly defend the security of the country and the wellbeing of the people.

As preparations for a great event have become an urgent reality and our army has been entrusted with the important mission of ensuring it through a powerful military action, every level of the entire army should sincerely study and implement the spirit of the plenary meetings of the Eighth Party Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the Party, intensify training under the simulated conditions of an actual war and, at the same time, direct great efforts to the political and ideological education as usual so as to prepare itself enough to surely win in the confrontation with the enemies by dint of political, ideological, military and technological superiority.

Kim Jong Un said that the People's Army's preparations for war are unthinkable without modernization of its military hardware. He set forth the strategic tasks to be maintained and carried out by the munitions industry in its responsible struggle for bolstering up the DPRK's nuclear war deterrent and augmenting the national defence capacity this year as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution and referred to other issues.

He went on:

All citizens living on this land should regard national defence as the greatest patriotic work and turn out in it voluntarily.

It is our Party's strategic plan to defend the country and greet a great revolutionary event through all-people resistance.

The civilian defence sector should draw a serious lesson from the fact that it had conducted the work for perfecting the preparedness for war in a formalistic and blindfolded way in the past, taking it as routine in the past, and make strenuous efforts in a revolutionary way with the viewpoint and attitude that it makes a new start.

As the work for strengthening the country's defence capabilities and military muscle is a nationwide undertaking both in name and reality, all institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens in the territory of the Republic should have a correct view of military affairs and regard it as an immutable iron rule to provide everything needed for strengthening the military capability on the top-priority basis and in the highest quality.

The people's government organs at all levels should take thoroughgoing measures to immediately switch over to the wartime system in case of emergency and make full material preparations for all-people resistance.

The deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly should regard it as their due duty to play a key role in strengthening the country's defence capability, and carry out the military tasks entrusted to their sectors and units without fail and promptly make an issue of practices of neglecting the military affairs to thoroughly overcome them.

Comrade Deputies!

Today the Supreme People's Assembly newly legalized the policy of our Republic toward the south on the basis of putting an end to the nearly 80 year-long history of inter-Korean relations and recognizing the two states both existing in the Korean peninsula.

As solemnly clarified at the 2023 December Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee, our Party, government and people had shown great magnanimity and tireless

patience and made sincere efforts always with the view that those of the ROK are still the fellow countrymen and compatriots in the long period of history and even discussed with them the great cause of national reunification in a candid manner.

But it is the final conclusion drawn from the bitter history of the inter-Korean relations that we cannot go along the road of national restoration and reunification together with the ROK clan that adopted as its state policy the all-out confrontation with our Republic, dreaming of the "collapse of our government" and "unification by absorption," and lost compatriotic consciousness, getting more vicious and arrogant in the madcap confrontational racket.

The north-south relations have been completely fixed into the relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more. This is the present situation of the relations between the north and the south today caused by the heinous and self-destructive confrontational maneuvers of the ROK, a group of outsiders' top-class stooges, and the true picture of the Korean peninsula just unveiled before the world.

We have formulated a new stand on the north-south relations and the policy of reunification and dismantled all the organizations we established as solidarity bodies for peaceful reunification at the current session of the Supreme People's Assembly which discusses the laws of the DPRK. It can be said this is an indispensable process that should take place without fail.

As the southern border of our country has been clearly drawn, the illegal "northern limit line" and any other boundary can never be tolerated, and if the ROK violates even 0.001 mm of our territorial land, air and waters, it will be considered a war provocation.

In this regard, I think it is necessary to revise some contents of the Constitution of the DPRK.

I have already recalled at the recent plenary meeting that the so-called constitution of the ROK openly stipulates that "the territory of the ROK covers the Korean peninsula and its attached islands".

Recently I studied the constitutions of some other countries and found that they clearly stipulate the political and geographical definition of the territorial parts in which state sovereignty is exercised, in other words, the territorial land, territorial waters and territorial airspace.

There is no provision specifying such definition in the existing constitution of our

country. Since our Republic definitely defined the ROK as a foreign country and the most hostile state after completely eliminating the original concept contradictory to reality that the ROK is the partner for reconciliation and reunification and the fellow countrymen, it is necessary to take legal steps to legitimately and correctly define the territorial sphere where the sovereignty of the DPRK as an independent socialist nation is exercised.

In my opinion, we can specify in our constitution the issue of completely occupying, subjugating and reclaiming the ROK and annex it as a part of the territory of our Republic in case of a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula.

And I think it is right to specify in the relevant paragraph of our constitution that such linguistic remnants misinterpreting the north and the south as fellow countrymen as "3 000-ri tapestry-like land" and "80 million compatriots" are not used in the political, ideological, mental and cultural life of our people, and that education should be intensified to instill into them the firm idea that ROK is their primary foe and invariable principal enemy.

Besides, in my view, it is necessary to delete such expressions in the constitution as "northern half" and "independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity".

I think the constitution of the Republic should be revised in consideration of such matters and the issue should be discussed at the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The constitutional revision should be followed by timely practical measures to get rid of the remnants of the past era which may be seen as symbols of "north and south Koreas with consanguineous and homogeneous relations", "By Our Nation Itself" and "peaceful reunification".

For the present, we should take strict stepwise measures to thoroughly block all the channels of north-south communication along the border, including the one of physically and completely cutting off the railway tracks at our side, which existed as a symbol of north-south exchange and cooperation, to an irretrievable level.

We should also completely remove the eye-sore "Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification" standing at the southern gateway to the capital city of Pyongyang and take other measures so as to completely eliminate such concepts as "reunification", "reconciliation" and "fellow countrymen" from the national history of our Republic.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to make clear once again the revolutionary character of the work for strengthening the self-reliant military capabilities, which our Republic firmly preserves as its own life, unfazed by any changes of situation.

I reaffirm that the strongest absolute strength we are cultivating is not a means of preemptive attack for realizing unilateral "reunification by force of arms" but the capabilities for legitimate self-defence pertaining to our right to self-defence, which should be bolstered up without fail definitely to defend ourselves.

In the present world where jungle law prevails, and to our country located in the hot spot where the danger of war has lingered for decades, the possession of powerful military muscle is an inevitable process of struggle to be indispensably chosen to defend the destiny of our country and nation and a historic task to be accepted as a fate.

Despite the worst difficulties accompanied by the enemy's persistent pressure and sanctions, we have remarkably bolstered up our self-reliant military capabilities and nuclear war deterrent to be strongest without any slightest vacillation. As a result, any aggressor forces on the earth have long dared not push the situation to such worst phase as the outbreak of a war.

Explicitly speaking, we will never unilaterally unleash a war if the enemies do not provoke us.

The enemies should never misjudge this as our weakness.

Then, will we confine our national self-defensive capabilities to serving the purpose of only defending ourselves and preventing war?

Absolutely not.

I have already clearly mentioned the second mission of our nuclear force, in addition to its basic duty of deterring war.

A level-headed judgment of the special environment, in which the most hostile state, the Republic of Korea, exists in our nearest neighborhood, and of the situation, in which instability of the regional situation is soaring due to the US-led escalation of military tensions, has found that the danger of the outbreak of a war to be caused by a physical clash has considerably aggravated and reached a red line.

We do not want war, but we also have no intention of avoiding it.

There is no reason to opt for war, and therefore, there is no intention of unilaterally going to war, but once a war becomes a reality facing us, we will never try to avoid it, and we will take perfect and prompt action we thoroughly prepared in order to defend our sovereignty, security of the people and right to existence.

The war will terribly destroy the entity called the Republic of Korea and put an end to its existence.

And it will inflict an unimaginably crushing defeat upon the US.

Our military capabilities, already in readiness to do so, are being rapidly updated.

If the enemies ignite a war, our Republic will resolutely punish the enemies by mobilizing all its military forces including nuclear weapons.

Comrade Deputies!

Anti-imperialist independence is justice and truth, and dignity and sovereignty, peace and security can be firmly defended only in this way.

It is the foreign policy stand of our Party and state to safeguard justice and peace, aspire toward progress and development and promote friendship and solidarity.

The DPRK will never tolerate the heinous infringement on its sovereignty by the US which is wantonly trampling down and plundering world peace and stability with illegal double standards, regarding anti-imperialist independence as its immutable and consistent first national policy, but will strive to realize international justice based on respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit and establish a new international order.

The external affairs sector should strategically and positively conduct the work to cope with the rapid change in the international political structure and security environment on the initiatives, so as to create conditions and circumstances favourable for our revolution and prevent any deviation or concession in the principle of defending national rights and interests.

It should set the development of relations with socialist countries as its primary task, further strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, launch a courageous anti-imperialist joint action and joint struggle on an international scale, and achieve new progress in the work for further expanding the sphere of external relations of the country, uniting and cooperating with all countries and nations aspiring after independence and justice, irrespective of ideology and social system.

The above-said tasks are the immediate major policy to be maintained and carried out by the government of the Republic without fail.

The result of the sacred tasks to be carried out for the dignity of the state, the wellbeing of the people and the victorious advance of socialist construction depends largely on the role of the people's government organs.

Our people's government is a powerful political weapon for socialist construction and an executor of the Party's lines and policies.

All the people's government organs should establish a steel-like work system and order of unconditionally remaining faithful to the idea and leadership of the WPK, completely eliminate the manual and meditative attitude and implement the Party's policies set forth before their regions and units with a high sense of responsibility and with due care.

In conformity with their original mission of existing for the people and serving the interests of the people, they should display boundless sense of responsibility so that the people-oriented policies of the Party and the state can reach our children and every citizen correctly and turn the work for solving problems in improving the people's standard of living into the one for giving people real benefits, not for being in someone's favour.

They should be burdened with the urgent tasks of solving the economic problem of the country, including the work for boosting the regional economy, by themselves and carry them out to the last and thus make a tangible contribution to the development of the state.

The people's government organs should play a due role in defending, maintaining, consolidating and developing the socialist system.

In the course of organizing and guiding the activities of all units and inhabitants, they should always pay attention to strengthening the single-hearted unity and encouraging and developing the people's patriotic spirit and strictly preserve the socialist character of our society and thoroughly guarantee the smooth function of the state through principled control and management.

The mission and responsibility of the deputies are important in the new year's advance for further advancing and developing the socialist construction and promoting the people's wellbeing as they were before.

The deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and other people's assemblies at all levels are political activists who are elected by the support of the people, participate directly in state affairs, reflect the will and demands of the people in the government's policies, lead their correct implementation and propose to take timely measures for correcting the deviations that appear.

Only when they are properly aware of their position and authority as representatives of the people and fulfill their duty, can the Party, the government and the people form an organic body, the overall state and social life become active and the lines and policies for the people be carried out thoroughly.

They have no right to be in a state of self-protection or idleness and indolence even for a

moment but should ensure the execution of state affairs through active and substantial practice.

Comrade Deputies!

I emphasize again that our state now has the bright prospect of overall prosperity under a sure guarantee with the prestige and authority reckoned by the world thanks to the precious blood, sweat and devotion of the great people who have devoted their all to the victory of the socialist cause firmly believing in only the Party and the government of the Republic even in difficult times.

In comparison with the expectations of the people who have absolutely supported and wholeheartedly upheld the policies of our Party and the government of the Republic, the successes achieved so far are too small and we have no right to spoil the devotion and efforts of the people made despite extreme difficulties.

The stronger our national power and our confidence grow, the further we should redouble our efforts, not forgetting even a moment the journey of hard ordeals our people have traveled, and bring without fail the rich and civilized era in the near future which we have promised to the people.

There are still many difficulties and trials to be faced, but our ideals and cause are truth and science and we are full of courage and spirit to win victory.

Let us all unite firmly with patriotism and fight vigorously for the eternal prosperity of our dignified state, for the happiness and glory of our great people and for the overall development of our style of socialism.

Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our great state!



Congratulatory Address

Thae Hyong CholFirst Vice-president of the Korean Association of Social Scientists

Esteemed Prof. Matteo Carbonelli, deputy director-general of the IIJI Board, Esteemed Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi, secretary general of the IIJI, Esteemed delegates,

Dear friends,

Today we are having an international seminar on the Juche idea for "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" here in Pyongyang in such a moving period when the aspiration and desire of mankind for an independent and just new world is becoming ever more ardent.

This seminar arouses big interests at home and abroad as it is held in the period when a new era of great change is opened in the DPRK thanks to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's outstanding political ability and noble devoted service for the people's wellbeing.

First of all, I, on behalf of the Korean Association of Social Scientists, offer my warm congratulations to the Juche idea study group delegations and delegates and the personages from many countries who participated in the seminar with the unshakable faith in independence and justice.

I also express my gratitude to the directors-general, secretaries-general and directors of the IIJI and other regional institutions who proposed the holding of this seminar and made unsparing efforts for its success.

As we are connected with "Juche", I and my fellows had been always deeply concerned about your health and prayed for your safety when the malignant epidemic infected the whole world. I am really glad to see you who have kept yourself healthy and come to Pyongyang.

Dear delegates,

Whenever we face all challenges infringing upon independence and rights to existence and development of countries and nations such as the health, ecological and war crises and disturbing progress and prosperity of mankind, we understand deeply that achieving independence and justice is urgent and significant.

I am sure that this seminar on "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" will be an important occasion that makes us understand once again that the bright future of mankind is decided by independence and justice and emphasizes historical tasks and role of the Juche idea study groups in the struggle for a new independent world.

In order to build an independent and just new world, a beautiful future of mankind that guarantees the sovereignty and prestige of countries and nations, peace and stability of the world and development and prosperity of mankind, it is important to hold high the banner of the Juche idea, that is, the banner of independence.

Independence is a foundation and a symbol of the Juche idea and the Juche idea is an immortal banner that guides the building of an independent and just new world.

Independence is justice. Justice wins sure victory and independence decides the development and prosperity of countries and nations and the progress and true future of mankind. This is the truth proved by the human history, which has been made by the people to realize independence.

The imperialist colonial system was collapsing, independent countries were born and big progress was made in realizing the people's independence, through the struggle for independence of countries and nations.

However, the progressive people are still faced with difficult and complicated historical tasks of building an independent and just new world where the people's independence is completely realized and sovereignty and equal rights of all countries and nations are guaranteed.

The people, the makers of history, demand independence and justice, and the people's cause of independence advances and wins victory through the just struggle of the people who are armed with the consciousness of independence.

The more people and the more countries and nations regard independence as their life and soul and turn out in the struggle for independence and justice, the more quickly an independent new world, the ideal and future of mankind, can be built.

The cause of independence to realize the noble ideal of mankind demands to make continuous progress and innovation in the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, an important and honourable work to make the people aware of the truthfulness and vitality of independence and the true meaning of justice and to encourage them to their realization.

We should be aware of the honourable and important mission of being the pioneers and disseminators of the great idea of the era and fully display all our wisdom and zeal in the efforts to build an independent world where independence and justice is realized.

Devoted and strenuous efforts you are making to realize the national and global independence and justice with the noble spirit of loving the country and nation, will be recorded in the history of human development and admired by the coming generations as an example for them.

In conclusion, I am sure that this seminar will be a good chance for the participants to clearly acquire the principle of independence and fully share experiences with each other and a meaningful gathering for them to encourage vigorously the people's advance towards a beautiful future.

I once again express my warm congratulations on the holding of this seminar. Thank you.

Keynote Paper

Realization of Independence and Justice Guarantees Bright Future of Mankind

Matteo Carbonelli

Deputy Director-General, Board of Directors, International Institute of the Juche Idea, Secretary General, European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea



Esteemed Mr. Thae Hyong Chol, 1st vice-president of the KASS,

Esteemed Mr. Pak Chol Jun, vice-president of the KASS,

Esteemed Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi, secretary general of the IIJI,

Dear friends,

Today we are holding a grand meeting of the Juche idea researchers on the April spring day in Pyongyang, the DPRK, the land of Juche after 5 years.

This seminar under the theme "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" is of weighty significance as it is held on the occasion of the 112th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, a great saint of mankind and a benevolent mentor of us, the Juche idea researchers.

Availing myself of this meaningful opportunity and in reflection of the unanimous desire of the world progressives, I would like to emphasize the role played by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who authored the Juche idea and developed it in depth as the great guiding ideology in the era of independence.

I offer heartfelt glory and thanks to the respected H.E. Kim Jong Un, who is seeing to it that the seminar on the Juche idea is held on an international scale in Pyongyang for the first time after the end of the world public health crisis, out of unanimous feelings of the



A view of the International Seminar on the Juche Idea for "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" (at People's Cultural Palace, Pyongyang on April 14, 2024)

participants in this seminar and the Juche idea researchers throughout the world.

My thanks also go to the KASS officials and IIJI secretary general Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi, who has channeled his biggest sincerity and efforts into the successful holding of this seminar.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sovereignty is precisely national power. It is the invariable truth of history that one cannot defend his fate to say nothing about the destiny of his country and nation if he fails to safeguard sovereignty.

As you all know, in the first period when he embarked on the road of revolution, President Kim Il Sung authored the Juche idea, a man-centred revolutionary doctrine, that man is the master of everything and decides everything, in reflection of the requirements of the era and the independent desire of the people.

President Kim Il Sung applied the Juche idea thoroughly in the revolution and construction to build a socialist country, independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in defence, and made energetic efforts in the whole period of his life for the victory in the cause of anti-imperialist independence and for the global peace and security by holding high the banner of independence.

Chairman Kim Jong Il further developed President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideas into the guiding ideology, the revolutionary philosophy of the era of independence and applied it with successes, thus building the DPRK into a fortress of independence and justice.

True to the noble intention of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who regarded "The people are God" as their lifetime motto and applied it to the letter, the respected H.E. Kim Jong Un formulated that the people-first principle is the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. H.E. Kim Jong Un has strengthened and developed the DPRK into an invincible fortress of socialism with an invincible national strength and, on this basis, is ushering in a new era of comprehensive national development.

H.E. Kim Jong Un is enforcing the independent foreign policy, thus increasing remarkably the international position and influence of the DPRK and leading the progressive people's struggle to realize international justice and establish a new international order on the basis of respect of sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits.

Thanks to his ideological and theoretical exploits and extraordinary leadership ability, the DPRK demonstrates its dignity and prestige as a country of single-hearted unity that is the one and only in the world, a powerful fortress of socialism, being independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in defence, along with a great nuclear power in the East.

The DPRK works one miracle after another to startle the world people, without yielding to or hesitating before the worst adversities, which gives confidence and courage to the world progressive people and serves as a source of great encouragement in hastening the people's cause of independence.

The world people are looking up to the DPRK with envy as a beacon of hope, and their aspiration for assimilating the Juche idea which is an ideological and mental source of its miracles, is now getting stronger as the days go by.

This is a valuable fruition borne by the truthfulness and vitality of the Juche idea.

Today the imperialist high-handedness and intervention, aggression and infringement of sovereignty are being committed so openly that the existence of sovereign countries and the people's rights to existence are severely being violated. Such realities prove that independence against imperialism is the justice and truth and that dignity and sovereignty, peace and security can be achieved only with independence against imperialism.

Independence against imperialism leads the world progressive people to the road for a peaceful life and guarantees the dignity of countries and nations and the bright future of mankind.

At present, the responsibility and role of the Juche idea researchers are very big and the importance of unity of anti-imperialist, independent forces is being emphasized in realizing the independence against imperialism and the international justice.

The subject in the cause of global independence is the anti-imperialist, independent forces, and the Juche idea researchers who are present here are among them.

The Juche idea clarifies the way and policies for remarkably expanding and strengthening the anti-imperialist, independent forces.

Only when the anti-imperialist, independent forces advance in concerted efforts along the road of independence indicated by the Juche idea, will the cause of global independence as an ideal and the future of mankind, be realized with sure.

I firmly believe that this seminar will be an important occasion for us to further expand and strengthen the study and dissemination of the Juche idea on a worldwide scale and provide the Juche idea researchers with fresh strength and courage, and also a big and important gathering in furthering solidarity of the progressive forces aspiring after independence and justice.

In conclusion, I congratulate the participants in the seminar once again, and I wish that your speeches would be meaningful ones for the attainment of a goal and success of the seminar.

Thank you.

Speech

Juche Idea Supports Realizing People's Aspirations for Independence and Equality



Ogami Ken-ichi

Secretary General of International Institute of the Juche Idea

Nations and peoples have long sought a new world based on the relations of independence and equality.

At a time when the first quarter of the 21st century has nearly past, many countries are now taking the path of independence. This has become the tendency seen among the majority of the world's population. So, it can be said that ours is the era in which mankind's aspirations for peace and prosperity is on a right track to be achieved.

On the other hand, in the world, wars of aggression waged by the weakened and increasingly violent US imperialism are forcing vast numbers of people to flee their homelands, and the merciless slaughter is being repeated at this very moment.

The world is facing an urgent problem and is in dire need of answers on how to advance the struggle for ensuring to safeguard the dignity and sovereignty of nations and peoples and how to look forward to the future society.

The Happiness of the People Can Only Be Realized under the Leadership of Great Leaders

Today, the road to the world of independence and equality sought by the world's peoples

is clearly shown in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the thoughts and leadership of its great leaders.

The pros and cons of politics should be seen with the people at the centre.

If politics is in the hands of the imperialists, all the precious things of the people will be taken away and their suffering and grief will continue endlessly.

When politics is placed in the hands of a leader who respects and loves the people, the people's songs of happiness will resound throughout the country.

The history of the Korean revolution and the DPRK today clearly shows the truth that the dignity of the people is enhanced, their creativity is strengthened, and the country is developed by the great leaders who put everything into the benefit of the people.

President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il devoted their entire lives to realizing the happiness of the people and followed the path of the revolution full of hardships.

President Kim Il Sung was a great leader who had the motto of "The peoples are God" and regarded the people as the sun.

President Kim Il Sung founded the Juche idea regarding that the people are the masters of the revolution and they also have the power to push it forward, and he promoted the people as the masters of the historical stage, thus strongly leading the world trend of independence.

As a result of the harsh anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle over 20 years based on his belief in and reliance on the people, President Kim Il Sung finally broke through the Japanese colonial rule and won independence of the country.

Furthermore, President Kim Il Sung defeated the US imperialist forces that had launched a war of aggression soon after the founding of the DPRK, leading to their decline in history.

President Kim Il Sung is the founder of the people-centred socialism for the first time in the world.

Kim Il Sung promoted the construction of Korean socialism on the pillars of independence, self-reliance and self-defence, made an example of socialism, and thus made the name of the DPRK as the land of Juche known to the world.

President Kim Il Sung looked up to the people as his teachers and visited all places and regions where the people lived and worked, such as along the rice paddy fields, by the blast furnaces and in the fish ports before dawn, listening to their simple and frank stories and discussing with them the work they should undertake and the bright future they should look forward to.

Indeed, President Kim Il Sung is the leader of the world people in the new era, the era of independence.

Based on the Juche idea, President Kim Il Sung set an example of building an independent, self-reliant and self-defence socialism and devoted great efforts to strengthening the unity of the anti-imperialist independent forces of the world.

During his repeated visits to other socialist countries as well as other developing countries, President Kim Il Sung while inviting those people concerned to the DPRK, kindly encouraged those countries to follow the path of independence and unite with each other.

In 1981, 1983 and 1987, President Kim Il Sung convened meetings of the non-aligned countries in Pyongyang and delivered important speeches on developing agriculture, culture and international cooperation.

In cooperation with developing countries, President Kim Il Sung paid primary attention to the development of agricultural production capacity and helped establish agricultural scientific research centres and experimental farms in the African region, dispatching competent agricultural scientists and technicians from the DPRK in an effort to extend generous assistance and cooperation.

In this context, it can be said that President Kim Il Sung actively pushed ahead with the struggle to achieve the cause of global independence and inspired great hope in the hearts of the peoples of all countries.

The revolutionary cause of Juche must be developed from generation to generation.

Kim Il Sung successfully raised Kim Jong Il as the leader of the people. In this way he completely solved the problem of a successor to the cause of independence and that of socialism.

Kim Jong Il was a great leader who defended socialist Korea against US imperialist aggression and laid the foundations of a thriving socialist country, while conducting benevolent politics by mobilizing the military at the forefront.

One of Kim Jong II's achievements was to have formulated President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thoughts as Kimilsungism, an integral system of ideas, theories and methods of Juche, and to have specified the guiding idea of the new era in which the people of each country emerged as masters.

Similarly, Kim Jong Il decisively strengthened the integrated body of the leader, the Party and the masses, or the driving force of the revolution through the politics of love for



At the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (on April 15, 2024)

and trust in the people.

Under the circumstances of the intensified US imperialist drive to break up the DPRK, economic sanctions and repeated natural disasters that occurred, Kim Jong Il launched the Party slogan of "serving the people" and worked day and night to overcome the difficult situation and improve people's livelihood, with the military at the forefront.

Love for and trust in the people are the essence of politics in the socialist society. Love for and trust in the people are also the source of the superiority and strength of socialist politics.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il said:

"In the days of the Arduous March and forced march, when the country was experiencing great difficulties, they tightened their belts and turned out as one in the struggle to defend socialism and build a great, prosperous, and powerful country under the Party's leadership. ... What can we not do if it is for the benefit of these laudable people? Waking and sleeping, I think about how to make our people's life richer. I intend to work wholeheartedly to ensure that our people lead, as soon as possible, a life in which they envy no one and can take pride in themselves. This is our Party's unshakeable will." ("Officials Should Become Devoted Servants of the People," on October 28, 2003)

General Secretary Kim Jong II, who dedicated his life solely to the people, made Kim Jong Un the successor to the revolution and firmly guaranteed a happy future for the people.

Kim Jong Un has taken the aspirations of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il as his beliefs and supreme norms, and is carrying out politics that is thoroughly in the service of the people.

The DPRK now enjoys the respect of the peoples of the world as a country that is advancing towards the complete victory of socialism for the first time in human history.

About the activities General Secretary Kim Jong Un has carried out, he formulated the thoughts of Kim Il Sung and those of Kim Jong Il as Kimilsung-Kimjongilism with regard to that they are integrated, and then clarified that Kimilsung-Kimjongilism is in essence the people-first principle.

Kim Jong Un is a great leader who strongly practices the people-first principle himself.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has presented "Do everything for the improvement of the people's livelihood" as the Party's slogan and is creating a frenzy of construction with the blueprint for the complete victory of socialism in hand.

In his policy speech made on January 15, 2024, General Secretary Kim Jong Un launched the "Rural Development 20×10 " policy to eliminate the gap between urban and rural areas.

The flames of the Korean people's struggle to complete factories with modern equipment and production processes in 20 cities and counties across the country are now burning, led by the military.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un instructed the builders in the military that raising the living standards of the rural people, who constitute the absolute majority of the population, cannot be turned away or prolonged even for a moment more, while stating that "Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail." (On the Occasion of the First Ground breaking for the Implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, February 28, 2024)

Kim Jong Un also maintains a non-compromising politics against the US imperialists and other US-following forces in Japan and the ROK.

As long as the threat of imperialist wars of aggression exists, the people cannot be guaranteed an independent and creative livelihood unless they are well prepared for militarization.

In November 2023, the DPRK successfully launched the military reconnaissance satellite "Malligyong", and the satellite has been orbiting the earth steadily. The DPRK already has nuclear capabilities such as ICBMs and nuclear submarines with a range of the US mainland,

and by equipping itself with military reconnaissance satellites, has become a military power capable of dealing with any aggression measures of the US imperialists.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has shaken US imperialism by stating that "Our armed forces have all the 'eyes' to look down on all the areas in the world and the powerful 'fists' to strike all the areas in the world".

In his last policy speech, Kim Jong Un summed up North-South 80-year relations and stipulated that "Relations between the two countries have been consistently hostile." He said as follows:

"South Korea at present is nothing but a hemiplegic malformation and colonial subordinate state whose politics is completely out of order, whole society tainted by Yankee culture, and defence and security totally dependent on the US.

"The north-south relations have been completely fixed into the relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more." ("Report on Ninth Enlarged Plenum of Eighth WPK Central Committee," on December 26, 2023)

Kim Jong Un stated that based on his historical-political analysis of US imperialism and its southern puppets, any collaboration or talks with them are invalid.

Kim Jong Un has made clear his intention to have a sophisticated military force of selfdefence superior to their military forces against those hostile forces that would destroy the well-being of the people and to immediately and completely repel any hostile attacks.

His trust in and love for the people are not confined only to the Korean people.

It was on January 5, 2024, when Kim Jong Un sent a heartfelt letter of sympathy to the people in the disaster-hit areas of Japan, which were hit by a major earthquake early in the New Year.

The letter reads: "Having received the news that Japan has unfortunately suffered a great deal of loss of life and material damage as a result of the earthquake since the beginning of the New year, I express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families and victims. We hope that the people in the affected areas will recover from the damage caused by the earthquake as soon as possible and regain a stable life."

Meanwhile, the DPRK has been hit by several large typhoons in recent years, which have caused extensive damage to the rural areas.

Kim Jong Un immediately went to the affected areas to assess the flood damage, while,

from the spot, sending a letter of condolences to those Party members in the capital, calling on them to stand up for reconstruction.

Kim Jong Un delegated the military and Party members to build new and splendid modern cities and rural towns in the affected areas, and within a couple of months a dreamlike ideal township was built.

It could be simply imaginable how much those people concerned might have been pleased to see their own homes and villages, which have become so splendid and looked different, at the result of all the efforts made by the leader, the military and Party members to rebuild them.

The letter sent by General Secretary Kim Jong Un to the victims of the disaster in Japan expresses his pain at the misfortune of those people and his wish that the reconstruction work would be conducted smoothly.

The reality of the DPRK clearly shows that when the political leadership is equipped with the idea of putting the people first, the people's happiness will surely be realized.

2. People's Struggle of Anti-imperialism and independence for a fair and peaceful world

The contemporary mainstream flows strongly along the path of independence.

However, the weakened and virulent US imperialism is waging a backwash of war and destruction.

Aggression and plunder are the essential characteristics and mode of existence of imperialism.

Since the advent of imperialism, mankind has been plagued by repeated invasions and wars, which have cost untold numbers of lives and the fruits of labour.

In particular, US imperialism is the most heinous imperialism, born of aggression and plunder, and has grown through constant aggression and plunder.

Weakened US imperialism is now making its last desperate efforts, committing Genocide in Ukraine and Palestine.

In Ukraine, the defeat of Zelensky, the puppet of US imperialism, has become decisive and the reality of the sacrifices made by the Ukrainian people is being revealed. By the end of 2023, the number of externally displaced persons in Ukraine is estimated to have reached 6.48 million, and internally 3.69 million (according to the statistics from the Office of the

UN High Commissioner for Refugees). Zelensky also announced that the number of their combatants killed in war had exceeded 30,000 by now.

Whereas in Palestine, the death toll in Gaza reached more than 30,000 at the end of February 2024, half of whom are young children. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warns that some 570,000 people are facing starvation. The World Health Organization also announced that more than 180,000 people are suffering from infectious diseases (on December 29, 2023).

US imperialism has continued to use Israel to perpetrate torture and genocide against the Palestinian people, depriving a large number of them of their lives and dignity.

The world people are now closely watching the situation in Ukraine and Palestine and strongly denouncing the historical crimes committed by US imperialism, which continues to provide Zelensky and Netanyahu with weapons of mass slaughter.

On December 29,2023, South Africa lodged a complaint with the International Court of Justice against the Gaza attack as having the character of genocide.

As early as 1969, President Kim Il Sung responded to a question from a correspondent of the Lebanese newspaper "Al Anwar" on the President's thoughts on the Middle East crisis as follows:

"The Middle East crisis has resulted from the aggressive stratagems of the imperialists headed by US imperialism, who, putting up the Zionists as a "shock force", are trying to suffocate the growing anti-imperialist national-liberation struggle of the Arab people and bring this area under their control. It is entirely because of the brazen aggressive machinations of the Israeli aggressors and their manipulators, the US imperialists, that the crisis has not yet been solved and the situation in the Middle East remains tense.

"The anti-US, anti-Israeli struggle waged by the Arab people today is a righteous struggle to safeguard national independence and dignity, to restore the usurped Arab territory and accomplish the Palestinian people's cause of liberation."

As President Kim Il Sung rightly pointed out, the independence and peace aimed at by the Palestinian people and other countries and peoples must be closely linked to the anti-US and anti-imperialist struggle. Without a thorough struggle against imperialism, it will not be possible to defend justice and independence.

President Kim Il Sung stated that if each country fights under the banner of independence and the banner of anti-imperialism and anti-US, tearing off the limbs of imperialism, it will

be possible to overthrow US imperialism and make the world independent.

"Even a small country can defeat a powerful enemy once it establishes Juche, unites the masses of the people, and fights valiantly, regardless of the sacrifice. This is a very simple truth of our times which has been borne out by experience. The experience of the Korean war demonstrated this truth." ("The Great Anti-imperialist Revolutionary Cause of the Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples Is Invincible," on October 8, 1968)

In 1951, Kim Il Sung visited the 1211 Highland, the decisive battlefield in the Korean War, and told the commanders on the spot: "People fighting for justice always win, while aggressors engaged in an unjust war are bound to lose. This is an immutable law of the development of history."

The US imperialism, which launched the Korean War with overwhelming military power, accompanied by its dependent countries, was miserably defeated in front of a firmly united Korean army and people.

The source of the strength of the DPRK lies in the Juche idea and the single-minded unity of the leader, the Party and the masses based on the Juche idea showed that they would surely defeat the imperialists.

Kim Il Sung led the countries to go the way of independence and cooperate with each other in order to create a new world order at a time when many countries in the world became independent after World War II.

In talks with the Zimbabwean parliamentary delegation on January 19, 1987, President Kim Il Sung stated that it was important for independent countries to follow the principle of self-reliance so that they would not again fall under imperialist subjugation. He said as follows:

"Today, the peoples of the developing countries are faced with the task of consolidating the political independence they have already gained, building an independent national economy, and defending the peace and security of the world.

"Maintaining political independence is the first prerequisite for the developing countries. ... A self-reliant national economy is the foundation of an independent state. Only when they build a self-reliant national economy can the developing countries consolidate their political independence and save their people from starvation and poverty.

"There are two ways for developing countries being self-reliant in the economy: one is to make the maximum use of their internal resources by displaying the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and the other is to realize South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance. In the long run, the one and only way for them to survive independently is by believing in their own strength.

"South-South cooperation is a noble way for developing countries to realize self-reliance in the economy by teaming up with each other economically and technically. The development of South-South cooperation will make it possible for them not only to build independent national economies successfully but also to destroy the old, unfair international economic order, and establish a new, fair one."

Nowadays, the independent, anti-US and anti-imperialist struggle is making great progress in the direction indicated by President Kim Il Sung, and the unjust world order created by imperialism and its double standards can no longer be applied.

In particular, forces of independence that follow the path of independence, such as the Global South, are cooperating with each other and exerting their greater influence on the world as a whole.

The Global South, with the majority of the world's population, has become superior to the imperialist countries in terms of vast land and the real political and economic capability in view of their influence on the world. Now, US and European imperialism cannot ignore the Global South in world politics.

Furthermore, the BRICS, which comprise around 40% of the world's land, abundant natural resources such as crude oil and iron ore, and a huge population as a source of labour power, have largely rewritten the Western-led global economy. The BRICS are increasingly moving away from the dollar and euro to their own currencies in terms of settlement.

In the Global South, more and more countries are no longer subject to supporting sanctions based on the double standards of Western imperialism. US and European sanctions against Russia, China and the DPRK have had the ironic result of encouraging the expansion of a new economic bloc.

In addition, in various regions of the world, there is a growing momentum towards cooperative development in a peaceful environment, and various co-operation structures are being formed in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

There is a phenomenon where some countries, advancing along the path of independence, follow the US and are complicit in the Israeli genocide, but this cannot be the mainstream.

In his work published on October 8, 1968 "The Great Anti-imperialist Revolutionary Cause of the Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples Is Invincible", President Kim Il Sung

stressed the need to thoroughly defend the unity of the anti-US, anti-imperialist independent forces and stated:

"It is true that there may be different categories of people amongst those who oppose imperialism. Some may actively oppose imperialism, others may hesitate in the anti-imperialist struggle, and still others may join the struggle reluctantly under pressure from their own people and the peoples of the world. But whatever their motives, it is necessary to enlist all these forces except the henchmen of imperialism in the combined anti-US struggle.

"We, small nations must unite and counter US imperialism's strategy of swallowing us up one by one, by each one of us chopping off its head and limbs. This is the strategy small countries must employ to defeat US imperialism."

US high-handedness is prompting previously pro-US countries to secede. Countries that had followed the US have come to have relations with the countries advancing along the path of independence, and thus imperialist relations with their alliances have come to be shaken.

The US' finances have deteriorated to an extreme level due to its military spending on the Ukrainian and Palestinian situations initiated by itself. European countries have also been exhausted by military aid to Ukraine, and the far-right forces have emerged in many countries.

The US and European countries, in a difficult situation, announced bandit-like policies such as freezing Russian assets and diverting its funds to their military spending. However, freezing Russian assets, for example, will simultaneously and inevitably encourage the downfall of the dollar and the euro.

US imperialism is facing a difficult situation of pro-US defections and unrest among its allies, while further domestic turmoil continues to plunge the country into more difficult situations.

Under the circumstances that the trend towards anti-US and anti-imperialist struggles for a fairer world order has intensified, it can be said that the decisive factor in their victory will be attributable to upholding aloft the banner of the Juche idea.

Study and Dissemination of the Juche Idea Should Be in Line with the Demands and Aspirations of the Peoples of One's Own Country

It can be said that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea is the preceding work that accelerates the people's struggle for anti-imperialism and independence.

Nowadays, study and dissemination of the Juche idea has been carried out in many

countries and regions.

It can be informed that in the Middle East and Europe, where the US imperialists have launched wars and there are extreme tensions, Juche idea researchers have been conducting their work with conviction.

About Japan, a national seminar on the Juche idea has been held in Okinawa every January to celebrate the birth anniversary of General Secretary Kim Jong Un. This year, introduced at the seminar was a congratulatory message to the seminar from the President of the Juche Idea Study Group of Lebanon. In his message, he expressed his regret at not being able to attend the seminar in Japan and said: "It is due to the direct situation in Lebanon and Palestine as a result of the continued Zionist-imperialist aggression against Gaza, occupied Palestine, and southern Lebanon. We are part of the battle of steadfastness and resistance."

Similarly, a Russian scholar of the Juhe idea delivered a speech on the struggle of the Russian people for justice and independence in Europe and the rest of the world at a European regional seminar on the Juche idea held in Rome in September 2023 to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Those participants who joined those gatherings were deeply moved by such message and the speech of the Juche idea researchers from the countries and regions that are in severe struggle against US imperialism and expressed their strong support for and solidarity with them.

In view of powerfully conducting the struggle of anti-imperialism and independence, Juche idea researchers in the world are requested to actively promote their study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

The first thing that Juche idea researchers should do for the promotion of the study and dissemination of the Juche idea in the world is to have a clear understanding of their own duties.

The first thing for Juche idea researchers to do is to study the Juche idea in depth and systematically.

In studying and deeply understanding the Juche idea, it is important to pay attention to the DPRK, which embodies the Juche idea.

It is indispensable for world Juche idea researchers to visit the DPRK, see with their own eyes the reality of the DPRK, which is in the height of socialist construction, and systematically and deeply study the Juche idea for pushing forward the struggle for making the world,

including their own countries, independent.

Next, it is important for Juche idea researchers to make efforts to become those who believe in Kimilsung-Kimjongilism themselves.

Those who believe in Kimilsung-Kimjongilism are revolutionaries of Juche type who have faith in it and are devoting themselves all to the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Furthermore, it is important for Juche idea researchers not only to dedicate themselves to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, but also to raise others to be new leaders and comrades in the study and dissemination of this idea.

Expanding the ranks of Juche-oriented comrades and organizing a wide range of people around them will contribute to forming the driving force of the struggle for making one's own country independent.

The second thing for Juche idea researchers to do is to be aware of the methodology for the study and dissemination of this idea and to put it into practice.

The Study and dissemination of the Juche idea requires to establish the principle of safeguarding independence.

That is to say to conduct activities in line with the feelings and demands of the people of one's own country.

Even if you say that the DPRK is the country that embodies the Juche idea splendidly,



IIJI Board members who took part in the 22nd Board Meeting of the IIJI (Pyongyang on April 14, 2024)

you will not be able neither to get the approval of your own people nor get their attention to your work if you fall into imitation and formalism of this country.

When visiting some regions that are doing well in the study and dissemination of the Juche idea on a regionwide scale, it can be found that there is something common in the work concerned.

One aspect is that those organizers of a Juche idea seminar are keen on paying careful attention to making the seminar be enrooted on their people's demands and awareness.

So, when they need to uphold a flag, they put up both the flag of the DPRK and the country of their own in an effort to promote the study and dissemination of the Juche idea in connection with the development of individual countries and regions.

Further, it is important that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea should be tackled on the principle of self-reliance with all the problems, including the issue of ensuring financial basis.

Juche idea researchers are requested to constantly establish their financial basis in terms of the study and dissemination of the Juche idea by setting up membership fees and collecting contributions from their supporters and volunteers. They could also raise funds by publishing and selling study materials and books on the Juche idea.

Furthermore, it is important for Juche idea researchers to get themselves involved in the socio-political problems of their own countries.

On September 25, 1977, in his speech to a Japanese academic delegation for the study of the Juche idea who had participated in an international seminar on the Juche idea, President Kim Il Sung said as follows:

"What was particularly good about the last seminar was that many delegates discussed the question of how to carry out projects to build a new society and consolidate national independence in connection with the actual situation in their own countries. The heads of delegations and representatives of the newly independent countries studied and discussed in depth how to build their countries into independent, self-reliant states and to go down the road to socialism."

Juche idea researchers in the world are called upon to work for the independence of their own countries as well as global independence.

In this context, in Japan, from the close of last year to this year, Juche idea researchers, in cooperation with some of the Palestinians living in Japan, held several lecture meetings in

major cities like Tokyo and Osaka to stop the US imperialists and their Israeli puppets from attacking Gaza, and organized demonstrations concerned in Kyoto, and letters of protest to the Japanese government, the US embassy to Japan and the Israeli embassy to Japan.

It was in Fukushima 13 years ago, on March 11, 2011, to be exact, when a huge earthquake caused nuclear power plants there to explode, taking a heavy toll of human lives. Subsequent investigations on this earthquake have revealed that the total of death or linkage death and missing amounts to 24,000 people and, also, there are approximately 30,000 people who have been evacuated and are still unable to return to their homes.

In mid-March this year, a rally was held in Fukushima in memory of the victims of the nuclear accident, attended by over 500 people.

Under the circumstances that there are still a large number of people affected by the nuclear accident who cannot return their homes, having to lead difficult livelihood, it has been planned to hold a national seminar on the Juche idea in Fukushima on April 20th this year to celebrate the birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

It is necessary that politics functions for the people and for the people to be happy. In this regard, it is necessary for Juche idea researchers in the world to persistently disseminate the Juche idea within their own countries.

Let us accelerate the study and dissemination of the Juche idea by cooperating with Juche idea researchers in individual countries and their respective regions, while making close contact with the International Institute of the Juche Idea.



A view of a National Seminar on the Juche Idea and Nuclear Plants Issue (Fukushima, Japan, on April 20, 2024)

Speech

Countries of Africa Should Struggle Against Neo-colonialism with Idea of Independence as Guideline



Francis Fanuel Lyimo

Deputy Director-General, Board of Directors, African Regional Committee for the Study of Juche Idea, Professor at St. Augustine University of Tanzania

Introduction

An International Seminar on the Juche Idea for "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind" held on the occasion of the 112th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung is very significant for our members of the Juche Idea study groups in our countries.

President Kim Il Sung authored and applied the great Juche idea which is man-centred philosophical thought. The Juche idea provides the most modern successful idea of human emancipation, an idea of national liberation. The Juche idea is the guiding ideology of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Juche idea is very powerful in guiding the struggle to achieve liberation, independence, sovereignty and development.

Independent countries of Africa inherited colonial economic and social structures. Some countries of Africa do not have a correct ideology to guide their national economic construction and development. Imperialists' maneuvers are against unity, solidarity and development of the countries of Africa. Imperialist actions frustrate those African independent countries.

Globalization and underdevelopment of countries of Africa

The capitalist countries of the Western Europe and the United States of America advocate and put forward globalization for development. Instead of making the countries of Africa depend on their people and resources for the development, imperialist countries use globalization as a means to penetrate African economies for imperialist exploitation. Foreign aid and investments from capitalist countries have not developed the countries of Africa, but they have deepened and extended poverty among the popular masses in Africa. This is because capitalist aid is imperialist means to enrich the capitalist donor countries instead of the recipient countries of Africa. Using globalization, capitalist countries of Western Europe and the United States of America withhold or increase foreign aid and foreign investments as a means of influencing economic policies of the countries of Africa in directions which favour them.

Globalization operates across independent sovereign states in Africa and uses the African states to protect the interests of the imperialist investors. The independent countries of Africa have to keep law and order and administer justice, fight corruption and ensure good governance and good infrastructure.

Some political leaders and some elites in Africa think that foreign aid and foreign investments from capitalist countries of Western Europe and the United States of America are solutions to poverty and problems of underdevelopment in those countries of Africa. Hence, they decide to sell the national commanding heights of the national economy as a condition to attract foreign investments. The same thing applies to privatization of the public economic pillars of the national economy.

Some countries of Africa have sold or privatized the commanding heights or pillars of the national economy to capitalist foreign investors and these decisions have intensified poverty and underdevelopment because of the exploitation by foreign capitalist investors. There is no hope for those countries of Africa to overcome poverty under such capitalist globalization conditions as are favourable to neo-colonial exploitation in those countries of Africa. Countries of Africa have to unite and struggle against neo-colonial exploitation and underdevelopment which is caused by globalization.

Only the idea of independence can make countries of Africa self-reliant by guiding their struggle against neo-colonialism.

It is wrong for some African leaders to implement the policies which are dictated by capitalist donor countries and capitalist institutions as the conditionalities for getting foreign aid and foreign capitalist investments. This is not appropriate to the development of the countries of Africa. The greatest danger that threatens the development of the countries of Africa is the absence of an idea of independence, which can be a guide for the genuine development of the countries of Africa. The idea of independence can give a conscious sense of the political direction and lead the African governments and African leaders to rational choice of genuine development.

Under the Japanese imperialist domination and ruthless oppression and exploitation, President Kim Il Sung creatively developed the Juche idea, the man-centered philosophical thought. With the Juche idea as a guideline, President Kim Il Sung guided the anti-Japanese struggle and in the 1950s the struggle against the US imperialists' attempt to recolonize Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is an independent country which is strong in politics, the economy, military and is strong in the face of the US military threats and sanctions. The masses of the DPRK are united by the Juche idea and their political leadership.

That the idea of independence plays a big role in the social order and development means that it makes the people seek to establish common attitudes and purpose for the country. The idea of independence provides various institutions with the criteria to which they should channel their efforts. The idea of independence determines the division of labor and working relations the institutions have to adopt in order to maximize their benefits. The idea of independence determines the nature of the economy and social development and the distribution of wealth in a country.

Lack of a clear idea of independence is the cause of the inability of the countries of Africa, which cannot wage struggles successfully against neo-colonial exploitation in Africa. Because of the lack of an ideological consciousness of independence and genuine commitment, some African political leaders and bureaucrats cannot be relied upon by the masses of the people in some countries of Africa because they have no courage to refuse to accept foreign capitalist aid and foreign capitalist investments. Absence of an ideological consciousness of independence makes some African leaders prefer to imitate Western culture and accept foreign capitalist aid and capitalist investments from Western Europe and the United States

of America for the development in some countries of Africa.

Countries of Africa should learn from the Juche idea

The Juche idea was authored by President Kim Il Sung. The Juche idea is a man–centred philosophical thought. The Juche idea provides an ideology which has succeeded in the revolution, construction, liberation, national independence, sovereignty and social, economic, political, cultural and military development and made the DPRK a self-reliant country.

The people-centred ideology is necessary to achieve advances in the revolution and construction and the overall development in the countries of Africa. The problem in some countries of Africa is that some ruling political leaders and some bureaucrats do not seriously consider and accept the power of the idea of independence for the revolution and construction. Some African political leaders and corrupt bureaucrats think and believe that foreign capitalist aid and foreign capitalist investments from capitalist countries of Western Europe and the United States of America can bring the development in the countries of Africa. Such leaders accept and implement the policies and the conditionalities from the capitalist countries and the capitalist institutions in order to be given foreign aid, foreign investments and foreign capitalist support to develop those countries of Africa. Countries of Africa are exploited and dominated by the capitalist countries and their Trans-national corporations and Financial Institutions in neo-colonial exploitation and domination.

The Juche idea is directly related to national construction and development in the countries of Africa. President Kim Il Sung wrote "In a nutshell, the idea of Juche means that the masters of the revolution and the work of construction are the popular masses and that they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction."

This means the masses of the people in countries of Africa are responsible for their own destiny and they should have the capacity to shape their own destiny in the countries of Africa.

The essence of the development in the countries of Africa means it is the development of the people of Africa by the people and for the people of Africa. We have to depend on the masses of the people of Africa and go among the masses and mobilize them to action and frustrate the attempts of the imperialists and neo-colonial reactionaries and defend the national independence and construction and overcome all obstacles and difficulties which will be encountered. The masses of the people of Africa should rise in a struggle and shape their

destiny with the consciousness that they are the masters of the revolution and construction in those countries of Africa.

Learning from the Juche idea, the masses of the people in Africa should carry the revolution and construction in the countries of Africa as masters. The African people must adopt an independent and creative stand to solve by themselves the problems which they encounter in the revolutionary struggle and construction in the conditions of those countries of Africa. This implies adopting a development path of independence. This means to hold a consistent position in tackling everything in conformity to the circumstances, in the interests of liberation in the countries of Africa.

Conclusion

People studying the Juche idea should understand and accept that without the idea of independence, which reflects the wishes, hopes, aspirations and expectations of the popular masses, the political independence of every country cannot bring meaningful development in every country.

Countries of Africa need political education to mobilize the masses of the people, the political leaders and bureaucrats for the genuine unity in the struggle against neo-colonial exploitation and achieve national development in those countries of Africa. Without political education to create the ideological consciousness of independence and awareness, the masses of the people cannot unite and struggle against neo-colonial exploitation and build a new society and make the national development in those countries of Africa.

The struggle against neo-colonialism in the countries of Africa cannot succeed without a uniting and inspiring ideology. In the countries of Africa, the liberation desire is to struggle against neo-colonial exploitation, domination, oppression by imperialism. It is necessary to awaken the masses and organize them to achieve liberation in those countries of Africa.

The Juche idea represents the desire of the masses for independence. The Juche idea is the man-centred revolutionary ideology and world outlook to bring independence to the masses of the people. The struggle against neo-colonialism in the countries of Africa should be geared to the struggle against neo-colonialism and imperialism in those countries of Africa under the banner of the Juche idea.

Speech

Juche Idea Is Guiding Ideology Illuminating Future of Mankind

Lohekele Kalonda Andre

Secretary General of African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea, National president, Working Citizens' Association of the DR of the Congo



Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear participants,

The Juche Africa deems it as a pleasure to participate in this international seminar on the Juche idea on the occasion of the 112th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung. We have a fortune of meeting again in this beautiful country, the pioneer of practical liberation of the people for freedom and independence after the Covid-19 pandemic. Our meeting makes the torch of Juche flare up more fiercely in our minds and the solidarity between the people who love peace and progress stronger.

We think of with deep emotion H.E. Marshal Kim Jong Un, the full-fledged successor to the great cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. I extend warm gratitude to the KASS for having invited us to this international seminar on the Juche idea, and at the same time, I express my firm resolution to the IIJI to work harder to disseminate the Juche idea in Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear participants,

The theme of our international seminar "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind"

is a completely realistic one in view of the current main purpose of the nations in the world.

For scores of years, the world has been divided by the world capitalist forces moving to maintain the unipolar world based on exploiting and oppressing the people of the non-aligned countries on one side and the progressive ones making efforts for independence and justice against dictatorship, genuine human independence on the other side. The brilliant Juche idea that was created by Kim Il Sung, applied by Kim Jong Il in all fields of state life and is now being brilliantly realized in the DPRK by Kim Jong Un has played a decisive role in overwhelming oppression and exploitation.

The DPRK has become a country that is on the side of the people who love peace, progress and dignity.

That is why, on the occasion of the 112th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, the Juche Africa expresses respects to him, along with General Secretary Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un. It is because the Juche idea is the only way that enables us to build a more humane future for mankind by realizing genuine independence, broad justice and solidarity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear participants,

The theme of this seminar is of practical significance for the African continent. Since their political independence, the African people have never abandoned the struggle to build a harmoniously developed country which is suited to their lawful aspiration and their political, economic and cultural values.

Though some patriotic leaders were removed after colonization and cunning neo-colonialism, the African countries stand against imperialism in the fields of politics, the economy and social culture more daringly. The young people in Africa have a more profound consciousness of the need of real independence. Neo-colonialism and international imperialism in some countries get weaker and suffer a setback before the young people who love freedom, dignity and self-determination. On the other hand, the political leaders boldly challenge their past dominators and make efforts to realize foreign exchanges with other African people who can communicate in the respect of mutual interests, thanks to the efforts of the African people by themselves. It is important to achieve real independence gradually. To this end, it is necessary for the leaders in Africa to strengthen firm relations between them and their people. The African leaders should regard them as "The People Are God", a consistent motto

of the DPRK leaders.

However, the firm relations of blood kinship can be efficient only when the people's lawful aspiration is reflected in programs of the governments in African countries and the national wealth is distributed correctly to all of them.

Justice in the distribution should be intensified not only in the internal affairs of each country to train its people who love peace and progress but in the international relations. Not only the UN but also the international juristic body of a regional organization level, sometimes becomes a target of criticism. The capitalist globalization constantly violates them in accordance with its interests. So, this theme of justice is absolutely necessary. It enables each country in Africa to further strengthen social cohesion, getting rid of poverty and enlisting better the people's creativity to the state building for progress and wellbeing of everyone. From the point of an international view, correct enforcement of the international laws enables to cultivate a sense of dignity and mutual respect among the people in each country, to complement creativity and help with one another and to propel the active solidarity between them.

Accordingly, all the people will make efficient contributions to defending the independence in politics, the economy, and social culture and promoting social justice at home and building a future of mankind on an international scale. The Juche idea and the domestic and foreign stand of the DPRK become a model that should be learned after by us, the African people, and it is necessary for us to do so while giving consideration to our realities and environment.

In this respect, the African Regional Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea has many



A view of a workshop on the Juche idea held in Kinshasa (in February, 2023)

things to do. By taking advantages of our young people's active participation and some of our leaders' increasing understanding, it is necessary not only to double efforts in the study, dissemination and application of the Juche idea, but also to make more Juche idea researchers affiliate themselves with the decision-making bodies of a national, local and provincial level in the election period of each country. We cannot be content with an education in the Juche idea in the mere cultural, literary or philosophical circles. We should make it a process of remolding the people who participate in liberating and building their countries, and we should not separate the study from the practice in this work of patriotism. It is necessary to remold our people into true makers of history with the brilliant Juche idea.

Receiving the brilliant Juche idea is a constant work to be done through history, and accordingly, we should always give consideration to generational change so that there can appear no fissure among the Juche idea researchers in the DR of the Congo. We advise all national committees in the African region to achieve a proficient combination of the young people and the old ones in forming them for the sake of a harmonious succession.

We want young intellectuals in Africa to visit the KASS so as to receive education in the Juche idea, prepare and defend their theses for the doctorate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear participants,

Concluding my speech, I inform you that Mr. Gaston OTETE MBOYO, the Juche Patriarch of the DR of the Congo, passed away in Kinshasa on March 9, 2024. I propose to pay a minute silence in memory of the exploits performed by him in my country.

Thank you.

Mr. Gaston OTETE MBOYO visited the DPRK twice, in 2000 and 2012, and climbed Mt Paektu. He initiated me to learn from the Juche idea in 1998.

Long live the brilliant Juche idea!

Speech

Russia Making Efforts for Sovereignty and Independence of Mankind, Future of Justice

Alexander Vorontsov

Head of Department, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences

As it is well known, the issues of realizing independence and equality of sovereign states and securing justice in the international arena have always been placed in the centre of the Juche idea.

It is the main principles of the Juche idea that the problems arising in one's country should be solved by relying on the strength and wisdom of one's nation and that the sovereignty and genuine independence of all countries and people should be safeguarded.

These principles are now applied in the progressive people's struggle to establish a multipolar international system. At present, Russia stands in the van of the struggle.

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said the followings a month ago. "The international balance (we all see it) is literally changing before our eyes in favour of the majority in the world. Position of new development centres is elevated in several regions of southern and eastern parts of the world. Sovereign states and regional organizations belong to these centres. They reject the remnants of the colonial era and aspire after genuine independence. They firmly defend their national interests and value dearer the identity of their history and civilization. They desire to observe fully the principles of the UN Charter and lead an international life in connection with them. Among them, precedence is given to the principle of independent

equality of the states."

However, this movement of justice is faced with persistent resistance by the West.

The Russian analyzing organs made a conclusion that disturbances of the earth's crust and change of the times are occurring in the present world. The organs clarified the lawfulness that the multipolar world began to form 500 years after the domination of the forces which we call the "Western Group". Domination of these forces was a many-sided one that includes the ruthless exploitation over the people and territories of other countries. During those 500 years the US and its allies created a model of globalization that enabled them to remain "No.1" in the economy, military, culture and politics and the like. They thought that they would continue to make use of the model in maintaining their domination.

However, new centres which made economic growth and had financial and political influences began to emerge in this process. The process is being made dynamically while distinctively changing the balance of forces in the direction unfavourable to the West.

In order to check the developing situation and suppress other ideology, our Western "colleagues" decided to adhere to all principles of globalization they had "sold" evenly to all of us for decades. All these became the victim of "international orders based on 'rules". These "rules" have never been published nor told by anybody. The rules are applied in a specific moment of the modern history, according to the need of the West.

Such phenomenon is evidently expressed particularly in different conflicts ignited by the West. All are to maintain the influence and hegemony of the West. We saw the internal interferences, sanctions imposed upon all principles of fair competition, regime changes and direct military interventions being made in the countries like Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

The West, who has controlled all processes on the earth for 500 years, is now resisting very tenaciously. In order not to allow transition to multi-polarization, the West goes against the natural and objective trend of history, attempts to maintain the disappearing world domination and resorts to every means to suppress the countries who do not accept their practices of hegemony, but adhere to the principle of equality stipulated in the UN Charter.

The West attempts to hold an unchallenged domination over the world. The attempt was chosen first by Washington, but it is now encountered with numerous obstacles. Russia is one of the obstacles. Russia expressed its will not to allow any infringement upon the interests of Russia that is a big power and one of the centres of world civilization. The stronger stand Russia maintained to defend its characteristics and interests, the more intensive the US

hostility against it became. Washington instigated a conflict over Ukraine while enforcing the policy of recklessly expanding the NATO bloc, filled with anti-Russia sentiments, into the former Soviet regions.

The frantic reaction of the West (which is suited to colonization) on the consolidation of Russia's position, particularly on its special military operation facilitated the formation of the multipolar world. One of such examples is that many countries chose their national currency in mutual trade as they predicted that the current disintegration experienced by the "Western Group" might allow any of them to be beaten by illegitimate "sanction club" at any moment. This promotes the emergence of many things like the establishing of inter-bank cooperation organization which is outside the West control, the building of a new international transport route and the forming of domestic chain production and selling, thereby ensuring solid economic development of the countries who value their dignity.

In this context, the Russian politicians put a special stress on the following new phenomenon. In the international arena a special attention is paid to the stand of the countries who have already fallen prey to the West and the close mutual cooperation among them. It is obvious that the efficient cooperation between the Russian Federation and the DPRK is considered in such a situation. A multipolar world is being built by relying on the international organizations of new forms based on the principle of equality. Such organizations



A view of an event for friendship exchanges taking place for the delegates from the world during their stay in Pyongyang

are not few. Russia makes active cooperation with such other regional organizations as the African Union and the Community of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries and the Islamic Cooperation Organization. These enormous organizations that represent one whole geographical region take a bigger share in settling the problems in their regions.

The BRICS is not an organization, but an alliance. It is a symbol of the majority countries in the world. It is their aspiration to jointly make proposals in consideration of their mutual interests on an equal footing. It is a future "umbrella" of all semi-regional and regional processes. The countries of Eurasia, Africa, Latin America and Arab world are now included in the alliance. It will include more countries in the future.

Unlike the European Union who sends the Hungarian prime minister Orban Viktor out to "drink coffee" when the time comes to discuss the issue of Ukraine, the West does not have any organizations with fair rules in the sense of equality and true agreement. A club discipline is applied within the NATO. Perhaps someday the West will understand that it cannot stop such processes and the aspiration for genuine justice determines the enhanced independent consciousness of the world majority countries, that is, the southern and eastern parts of the world.

In March 2024 Russian president Vladimir Putin clarified the essence of the world change with which Moscow makes efforts for its realization and the reason why the majority of the world have a bigger interest in Russia. He said: "The main reason is that so-called a billion people of gold were parasitic on the other nations for 500 years through the centuries. They tore the miserable African people into pieces and exploited the Latin American and Asian countries. No one forgets their deeds. I think that there is a problem not in the leaders in those countries (though it is very important, too) but in the ordinary people as they just feel what happened in their minds.

They relate our struggle for independence and genuine sovereignty to their aspiration for their sovereignty and independent development. The aspiration is getting stronger because the Western elites' desire to maintain the wrong settlement of international issues at present is growing bigger. The Western countries have been accustomed to fill their stomach and make money with human flesh for several centuries. However, they must know that the ball of vampires is coming to an end."

I am convinced that this seminar will make big contributions to seeking a more appropriate solution for independence of mankind and future of justice.

Speech

Let Us Build New World of Independence and Justice with Unity and Cooperation



Ri Jong Hwa

Researcher at the Korean Association of Social Scientists

Respected deputy director-general and secretary general of the IIJI,

Respected delegates of the Juche idea study groups from the world,

I am pleased to meet you, the researchers of the Juche idea, on this warm April day in spring when all flowers are in bloom.

This meeting is impressive as we are here in Pyongyang, the symbol of independence and justice and a place where we will debate on our bright future, the matter of our common concern.

Today I am going to speak about unity and cooperation of all countries and nations necessary for the building of a new world of independence and justice.

Independence and justice have been the desire, aspiration and banner which mankind has longed for.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said:

"The aspiration and desire of mankind to lead an independent life free from all sorts of domination and subordination is growing stronger, and no force can check the trend of history towards independence and justice."

A new independent and just world is the one that is free from domination and intervention, aggression and war and that ensures sovereignty and equal rights of all countries



Pyongyang, the capital of flowers, transforming under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un

and nations.

For a long time the progressive people have unhesitatingly shed much blood and sweat and even sacrificed their precious lives to build a new independent and just world.

Substantial victories and achievements have been made in this course, but the building of a new independent and just world still remains our ideal, goal and future.

A new independent and just world is not provided of its own accord for those who wait for it and want it.

It is a valuable outcome which can be achieved only through our united efforts and our concerted and courageous struggle.

In order to build a new independent and just world, all countries and nations should maintain independence.

Independence is the life and dignity of a country and nation and the symbol of an independent sovereign state.

The countries and nations aspiring after independence and justice should oppose and reject foreign intervention and domination and shape their destiny independently.

Since each country has different historical conditions, national characteristics and tasks, it is essential to establish Juche and maintain independence in the revolution and construction.

Only when independence is adhered to, can the genuine dignity of the nation and the happy future of its younger generation be guaranteed. It is the truth proved by history that independence is the only way for a nation to live and for a country to be prosperous.

Independence is also a basis for firm unity and sincere cooperation with other countries

and nations.

Different countries and nations have different characteristics, but all of them are equal and independent. Truthful unity and cooperation between them are the relations of mutual support and cooperation between the countries and nations aspiring after independence. The relations can be developed into truly voluntary and solid ones only when they respect others' independence.

Unity and cooperation of the countries and nations based on independence can only be a solid unity and powerful cooperation that enables them to build a bright future of mankind.

All countries and nations should resolutely reject all forms of foreign intervention with the independent stand and refrain from following others blindly or acting as their agents. They should also respect sovereignty of others and refrain from interfering in others' internal affairs.

As for the progressive character of a country, criterion of progress is independence, and a country which maintains independence is progressive one. Since all the progressive countries oppose domination and subjugation and aspire after independence, they can unite and cooperate firmly on the basis of independence, their common desire.

All the progressive countries should sincerely unite and cooperate with each other selflessly and make peculiar contributions to the common prosperity and international justice.

In order to build a new independent and just world, all countries and nations should smash the imperialists' moves of division and alienation and unite and cooperate.

Imperialism and dominationism are a root cause of global discord.

The imperialists and dominationists are afraid that the world people will be firmly united and follow the road of independence.

They regard the strategy of division and alienation, along with the power strategy, as a major weapon to realize their world supremacy.

The imperialists are cunningly instigating non-aligned and developing countries to settle disputes in a military method, while disguising themselves as a "mediator" and meddling in their affairs to make a mess of them.

Due to cunning manoeuvres of the imperialists and dominationists, independence of many developing countries and their national dignity are now being trampled upon and wars and disputes are caused ceaselessly in many regions.

In particular, the US ignited the sectarian strives taking advantage of the Iraqi war, and accordingly disturbances of "Arab Spring" swept over the Arab countries, resulting in

the emergence of a ghost Islamic state and turning the whole Middle East into a quagmire.

The Palestinian people are now suffering tragedy of bloodshed due to the US-patronized Israeli attack.

We should never regard this as someone else's affair, but should be vigilant against the manoeuvres of the US and other imperialists to divide and alienate us.

The US-led imperialists and dominationists are the common enemy of the world progressives who are fighting for independence and justice and the main object which they should fight against with united efforts transcending ideas, religious belief, nations and races.

We should not be antagonistic and hostile to each other, being cheated by their cunning moves to divide and alienate us, but unite and cooperate with each other for the dignity of our countries and nations and the future of the coming generations.

Imperialist countries are proud of their "mightiness", but they are only a handful. Nonaligned and developing countries occupy the overwhelming majority on this planet. If they unite into one, they can possibly fight down the imperialists who are mad with aggression and war and hasten the building of a new independent world.

In order to build a new independent and just world, we should consolidate our unity by building up our strength without any illusions about imperialists.

Employing all sorts of despicable methods such as "aid", "cooperation" and "exchange", imperialists and dominationists create illusions about them to make other countries incompetent. And then, they have the countries under their control, admonish them and even call for their political system change. The imperialists create illusions about them in order to establish a hegemonic order on this planet by Americanizing and Westernizing many countries.

The imperialist nature to swallow up other countries has not changed.

It is proved by the US secretary of state Blinken who said at the Munich Security Conference that if you are not at the table in the international system, you are going to be on the menu. His words caused criticism among the international community.

This phrase of Yankee means that the strong eat the weak at the table and the latter should be foods on the menu of the former. It tells that the international order pursued by the US is based on the law of the jungle.

Chinese newspaper Global Times commented that Washington is now officially speaking about the diplomatic rhetoric so-called "world order based on rules", but it serves as a tool

for compelling, controlling and blaming its opponents and a means of concealing the US attempt for hegemony.

It is necessary not to have any illusions about the US and other imperialists, but to understand their true colours correctly.

It is a bitter lesson taught by the 20th century and two decades of the 21st century that if we have illusions about imperialists, we will fall into their tricks of destroying us one by one and eventually go to ruin.

Independence and justice do not come of their own accord. They can be realized only when the anti-imperialist independent countries become strong.

If one is not strong, one cannot express his will on the international arena, but becomes a plaything of the strong nor defend national independence and international justice no matter how honest and just one may be.

The world progressive countries which value independence and justice should work hard to build up their strength on the principle of self-reliance and self-development.

History eloquently proves that socialist countries, non-aligned countries and developing ones can defend their sovereignty and dignity and build a new world of justice only when they dispel illusions about imperialism, build up their strength and make them stronger through unity and cooperation.

Our country, the DPRK, is small in territory and population, but it has developed itself into a powerful country of independence and justice and now becomes a country admired by mankind aspiring for a new independent and just world.

Thanks to the wise leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, the DPRK could have paved a broad avenue for the building of a powerful country, even in the worst adversities and have the strength capable of putting an end to tyranny of imperialism by dint of independence.

If the progressive countries and nations advance forward step by step, overcoming difficulties by dint of unity based on independence, tyranny and arbitrariness of imperialism will be removed and a beautiful future, a new world, in which the ideal and the dream of mankind comes true, will be built for us.

Let us all unite more firmly under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence and advance vigorously towards a new world of independence and justice.

Thank you.

Lecture

Kim Jong Un's Revolutionary Ideology



Kim Chang Gyong
Chief, Ideo-theoretical Section,
Korean Association of Social Scientists

I once again warmly welcome you, who participate in the international seminar of the Juche idea on "Independence, Justice and Future of Mankind".

Today I would like to give you explanations of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology is, in essence, the people-first principle with the devoted service for the people as its core, and the integrated system of idea, theory and method. In other words, it is run through with the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for the people's sake, and it is the integrated system of idea, theory and method to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche with sure by dint of the people-first principles.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said.

"The people-first principle is my political ideal, and my politics is, from beginning to end, aimed at making our people prosperous."

Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology that carried forward the revolutionary ideas of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and developed them in depth as required by the revolutionary practice in the new era. It is run through with the people-first principle in its contents and forms, the system of idea, theory and method in its composition.

Kim Jong Un formulated the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the people-first principle, true to noble will of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who, regarding

"The people are God" as their motto, turned the revolution itself into the love for and trust in the people and devoted their all to the good of the people through their lives. Through his foresightedness, original philosophical inquiry and tireless literary work, he developed in depth the people-first principle with new principles and contents, thus successfully applying them in ideas, theories and the methods of guiding the masses.

Then, I explain the two systems of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

1. Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology is the people-first principle with the devoted service for the people as its core.

Contents of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology are run through with the people-first principle.

The people-first principle is a political ideal that makes it possible to regard the popular masses as masters of the revolution and construction, rely on them and make selfless, devoted efforts for their sake.

In his New Year Address for 2013, Kim Jong Un advanced a slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" at the 4th Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers' Party of Korea, he clarified that it is the Party's firm determination to respect the people and devote everything to them as it holds President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in high esteem.

In his New Year Address for 2017, Kim Jong Un swore to become a true servant loyal to his people and faithfully support them with a pure conscience, adding that he feels a surge of anxiety about what he should do to hold in greater reverence the people, the best in the world.

This reflects Kim Jong Un's steadfast will to make the overall Party and state activities run through with the devoted service for the people and to respect them and devote everything to them as he holds the President and the Chairman in high esteem.

The people-first principle is a political ideal that enables a socialist ruling party and state to regard the people as masters of the revolution and construction in their activities.

Regarding the people as masters of the revolution and construction means that a socialist ruling party and state subordinate their activities to absolutely defending their dignity, rights and interests and training them into powerful beings, the powerful forces, thus making them hold the position of direct performers of the revolution and construction and fulfill their responsibility and role as such.

The people-first principle enables a socialist ruling party and state to firmly guarantee the people's position and rights as masters of the revolution and construction by subordinating all the Party and state activities to the defending of their dignity, rights and interests.

Proceeding from the stand that no one is more precious than the people, a basis of the country, and nothing is more sacred than their interests, the principle demands that all problems are solved in keeping with their interests.

Biggest importance is given to urgent, vital needs of the people in adopting and implementing lines and policies of the Party and state, and priority is given to everything popular in overall social life. It is the requirement of the people-first principle that politics, military affairs and the economy are needed for the good of the people and the people-oriented culture and morality should be encouraged.

The people-first principle requires to firmly maintain the principle of anti-imperialist independence in the Party and state activities.

At present, the imperialists' moves of aggression and interference against sovereign states become undisguised, and many countries yield to the pressure of big powers sacrificing their people's interests. This tells us that the dignity of a state is immediately that of its people and national rights and interests are precisely those of the people.

In recent years, the US and its vassal forces have staged joint military exercises by mobilizing huge armed forces, including nuclear strategic assets while openly exposing their attempt to stifle the DPRK. Owing to their vicious anti-DPRK hostile policy and reckless military manoeuvres, the situation on the Korean peninsula is nearing a critical point of outbreak of a nuclear war, and the world is concerned about such an incontrollable situation.

But their manoeuvres ended in failure by the unyielding offensive spirit of the WPK and the resolute, super-powerful and overwhelming military actions of the DPRK armed forces. The DPRK's position has been raised onto the highest level, and its people fully demonstrate their dignity and glory as the people of a powerful country. This is a clear proof of the validity and invincibility of the principle of anti-imperialist independence and the principle of defending national interests and raising national prestige advocated by the people-first principle.

The people-first principle also enables a socialist ruling party and state to gear all their activities to training its people into powerful beings, the powerful forces, thus making them maintain the stand of the masters of the revolution and construction and fulfill their responsibility and role as such.

The people-first principle clarified that the single-hearted unity, a harmonious whole of the Party and the people with the leader as a centre is the eternal mainstay of the Juche revolution and the most powerful national strength. It also extensively indicates practical ways of applying the ideology-first theory and the revolutionary philosophy of single-hearted unity in the Party and state activities.

The WPK trained the weaker nation, stained and divided by flunkeyism and dogmatism, into the one that is united with single mind behind the leader and strong in self-respect, and this is the biggest exploit that the WPK, whose political ideal is the people-first principle, achieved in leading the revolution for nearly 80 years.

The WPK has always given precedence to awakening and uniting the people, and as a result, it could defend socialism and lead the Korean revolution to victory without any vacillations even in the rapidly changing vortex of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The people-first principle requires to steadily enhance the function of the state as the organizer of their creative ability and activities and hold fast to prioritizing education and science as the core policy of the Party and state and establish prioritizing education and science as a national and public practice.

Upholding the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!", the WPK enforces the universal 12-year compulsory education, hastens the modernizing of educational bodies and the building of all-people study bases and makes educationists and scientists privileged to live in modern streets and flats even though the economic conditions are not good enough. This is a brilliant application of the people-first principle whose requirement is to train them into powerful beings, the powerful forces, who shoulder a great cause of prosperity based on self-reliance.

The people-first principle is also a political ideal that enables a socialist ruling party and state to solve all problems by relying on the people.

Solving all problems by relying on the people means that a socialist ruling party and state solve all problems arising in the political activities by believing in them and by enlisting their inexhaustible strength and wisdom.

The people-first principle enables a socialist ruling party and state to share bitters and sweets with the people while believing in them to achieve victory and prosperity.

The people's will and desire are a criterion for the Party and state to judge the correctness of their lines and policies. The people know realities better than others and have rich

experiences.

The principle makes it an absolute criterion to meet their will and desire and an invariable principle to provide them with living conveniences in mapping out the lines and policies of the Party and state. It is the requirements of the principle to have a frank discussion of the state affairs with the people and seek for plans by going among them and to map out and execute lines and policies by collecting their views.

Regarding the people as its only supporters, advisers and assistants in the whole period of leading the revolution, the WPK visited them before others, listened to their humble opinions and gained inexhaustible strength from their sincerity whenever it decided its path and faced grave situation. Upholding the slogan "Let the whole Party go among the masses!", the Party always went among the people and shared bitters and sweets with them to pave the road to victory and prosperity. This is the leadership method and tactics peculiar to the WPK whose political ideal is the people-first principle.

The DPRK people absolutely support and faithfully carry out all lines and policies of the Party and the state as they firmly believe that the latter express their desire and demand and their destiny and future hinge on the implementation of the lines and policies.

The people-first principle also enables a socialist ruling party and state to consistently maintain the principle of giving precedence to political work and enlist the people's mental strength and creativity to solve all problems.

The WPK's is the history of the ideological campaign through which it has turned the crises, that decide victory or defeat, advance and retreat of the revolution, into the periods of great upsurge by giving the fullest play to the people's mental strength.

Based on the WPK's history and tradition of ideological campaign, the principle clarifies that victorious revolution is guaranteed by applying the ideological theory of Juche and giving the fullest play to the people's indomitable mental strength and patriotic enthusiasm.

The principle clarifies that the surging mental strength of the popular masses creates miracles and a fundamental secret of creating miracles lies in their minds and that even an egg, when charged with ideology, can break a rock and even a rifle, when charged with ideology, is mightier than a thermonuclear weapon.

In the whole period of leading the revolution, the WPK has found the motive force of developing the revolution from the people's mind and, whenever trials were piled up and weighty revolutionary tasks should be carried out, informed them of the then situation, its intentions and the tasks for their implementation and conducted political activities among them timely and dynamically.

History of people's revolutionary struggle for independence has found no revolutions but the Korean revolution that traversed such a difficult, complicated and untrodden path as two times of revolutionary wars against the most outrageous US and Japanese imperialisms, two stages of social revolution and socialist construction made in acute showdown with the hostile forces and the struggle for defending the country and building it into a powerful one while braving manifold difficulties caused by the collapse of socialism in many countries and the natural disasters.

They were a series of hardships and trials which would have collapsed other countries more than ten times.

The WPK could lead the Korean revolution only along the road of victory and glory, even in such grave circumstances as it advanced the revolution and construction by enlisting the people's mental strength and creativity and the people supported with loyalty the cause of socialism.

The people-first principle is also a political ideal that enables a socialist ruling party and state to make selfless, devoted efforts for the people's sake.

Making selfless, devoted efforts for the people's sake is boundless love and devotion for the people that makes it possible to consider it as the most important affair to realize their demand and interests and spare nothing for them.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivered a historic speech "Making Selfless, Devoted Efforts for the Good of the People Is the Mode of Existence and Source of Invincible Might of the Workers' Party of Korea" at a military parade held on October 10, 2015 to celebrate the WPK's 70th founding anniversary.

Kim Jong Un finished his speech with an ardent appeal "Let us all make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of our great people!."

His appeal reflects his noble intention to regard the people as the most precious being in the world, spare nothing for their happiness and subordinate everything to their wellbeing.

The people-first principle considers it as the primary mission, the most important affair of a socialist ruling party and state to take care of the people's destiny and life with full responsibility.

At the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of C. C. of the WPK held in February

2015, Kim Jong Un stressed that the officials who share the same intention and fate with the Party Central Committee should make the Party's view on the people their creed and soul and regard it as the rule of their work and life to give top and absolute priority to their interests and conveniences and make selfless, devoted efforts for their sake.

Principle of activities of a socialist ruling party and state, advocated by the people-first principle, is that they should invariably enforce, expand and strengthen the popular policies while giving top and absolute priority to interests and conveniences of the people, and that there can be no concession or risk in the issues related to their health, lives and safety and that nothing should be spared for healing their sufferings while being closer to the people at the time when the latter are in difficulties.

The WPK puts forward the settlement of food and clothing problems as the most important policy, the construction of flats as the primary policy tasks and the anti-epidemic work for defending the people's lives and health as the foremost state affair and effectively executes them. It is not because the DPRK has good conditions or enough funds.

Because the WPK sets the people-first principle as its political ideal, it regards the issues wanted and desired by the people, the issues that they feel anxiety as the important matters and channels all-state efforts into solving them and even releases strategic reserve supplies.

The people-first principle enables a socialist ruling party and state to translate their ideal into reality as soon as possible and struggle purposefully for eternal prosperity and happiness of their posterities.

Putting it forward as the highest ideal to make the DPRK people most dignified and happiest ones in the world, the people-first principle requires to plan all work to be a far-reaching one and carry them out so as to provide eternal guarantee to prosperity and development of the state and happiness of all generations while taking care of the people's present living.

The idea of holding fast to the revolutionary line of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence as an invariable guiding principle, the idea of strengthening and developing a socialist ruling party into a promising party, the idea of giving importance to young people, the idea of training future revolutionaries, etc. are the strategic lines which guarantee the future of the cause of Juche.

The idea on comprehensive development of socialism, the programme of rural revolution in a new era, the policy of afforestation and water conservancy, the childcare policy and other

ideas and policies are scientific, realistic and innovative, practical programmes suited to both immediate vital needs of the DPRK people and long-range requirements for prosperity and development of the state and happiness of their posterities.

Maintaining it as an invariable revolutionary policy and a basis of its struggle to build up military capabilities whose pivot is the nuclear armed forces and holding fast to the line of self-reliance, the WPK covers the road of fortitude, invariably enforces popular policies and channels efforts into science and education. This is entirely to build up powerful national strength no matter how hard and difficult it may be and thus translate the people's ideal and desire into reality at a possibly immediate date and make them enjoy benefits and happiness through generations.

The Core of the people-first principle is devoted service to people's wellbeing.

This implies that devoted service for the people's wellbeing is the fundamental idea that is representative of the people-first principle and runs through its whole content.

Making devoted service to the people's wellbeing is a political ideal of taking responsible care of their life and livelihood in the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for their sake. In other words, it is the noblest ideal to make the DPRK people lead the happiest life in the world, a guideline of practice and a criterion of action to take responsible care of the people's life and livelihood and serve the people unconditionally and a noble view of life that regards it as an aim and a big glory of life to make selfless, devoted efforts for their sake.

Making devoted service for the people's wellbeing is an essential content of the peoplefirst principle.

World politics history does not know the term "making devoted service for the people's wellbeing." Making devoted service to the people's wellbeing, which was formulated for the first time in the history of human thought and world politics, is a political ideal representative of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology and a byword that symbolizes the glorious Kim Jong Un's era.

2. The revolutionary ideology of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is an integrated system of idea, theory and method.

The essence of revolutionary ideology is also defined by its political ideal and structural system. Structural system is an index characterizing the relations of profundity and many-sidedness, scope of the content and relations of revolutionary ideology, whereas the political

ideal is an index characterizing the essential content of revolutionary ideology.

Accordingly, in order to make the revolutionary ideology be a perfect idea and theory, a scientific, political doctrine representing and guiding the times, it should form an integrated system, including all theoretical fields required by the revolutionary practice in relevant times while running through with the political ideal coinciding with the fundamental goal of revolution in its overall contents.

Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology has an integrated system of the revolutionary philosophy, fundamentals of revolution and the methods of leadership in component.

The revolutionary philosophy is the most important component of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

Along with the Juche philosophy, the revolutionary philosophy is a philosophical idea that explains the theoretical basis of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

The revolutionary philosophy raises philosophical questions that serve as a basis in applying the people-first principle thoroughly in the Party and state activities and overall social life and in consolidating the single-hearted unity, a harmonious whole of the Party and the people with the leader as a centre and gives answers to them in a unique way.

The first decade of great Kim Jong Un's Korea shines as the period in which the WPK put it forward as the highest ideal to make the DPRK people the most dignified and happiest ones in the world and brought all they desired into reality.

The Party and state maintained consistently the principle of giving top and absolute priority to the people's interests, and in this course, there ushered in the period of the great golden age of construction to provide the people with places for a happy life, thus building modern and new streets, mountainous modern cities and new mountain gorge cities.



A view of Songhwa Street, Pyongyang

Songhwa Street and Pothonggang terraced residential district were completed in April 2022 and an inauguration ceremony of the first-stage 10,000 flats in the Hwasong area held in April 2023. Construction of 50,000 flats in the capital is being pushed ahead so that over 10,000 households move to new streets every year. Such reality inspires the people across the country with optimism in the future when they will lead a more cultured and happier life.

Over 20,000 flats were built in the Komdok area in the last 4 years and tens of thousands of modern and distinctive rural houses were built throughout the country last year.

Even in the face of trials, school uniforms and things and dairy products are supplied to all the students and children across the country on a normal basis.

A harmonious whole, a single-hearted unity of the Party and people rallied firmly behind the leader inevitably guarantees victorious advance of the cause of socialism of the DPRK style.

The DPRK people were not exhausted nor divided in the hostile forces' constant threats, harsh natural disasters and in the face of unprecedented serious public health crisis ever since the founding of the country, but became stronger and united more firmly to bring about a consistent leap forward in the building of a powerful socialist country by dint of the single-hearted unity.

A foreign newspaper noted: "The steel-strong single-hearted unity achieved with Leader Kim Jong Un as a centre adds brilliance to the name of the country 'the Democratic People's Republic of Korea' by dint of unprecedented might and miracles. The unity between Leader Kim Jong Un, who safeguards sovereignty and dignity of the country, safety and destiny of the nation, and the people who have turned out in defence of him is the driving force that has turned the DPRK into an invincible super power."

The revolutionary philosophy also clarifies the guiding principles to be constantly adhered to by a socialist ruling party and state in hastening the building of socialism and communism along the invariable orbit of independence, self-sufficiency and self-defence.

Fundamentals of revolution are another component of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

Fundamentals of revolution indicate the strategic lines and practical programmes for building a communist society, an ideal society of the people under the banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, holding high President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il forever.

Fundamentals of revolution clarify the issues arising in strengthening and developing a

socialist ruling party into a promising party and the issues in steadily enhancing the function and role of the state.

Fundamentals of revolution also clarify the issues arising in firmly maintaining supremacy of the revolutionary armed forces in contrast with the reactionary ones.

New line of simultaneously carrying on the economic construction and upbuilding of the nuclear forces, the policy of the state nuclear forces and the line of increasing nuclear forces provided practical guarantee that enables the DPRK people and their posterities to lead happy and comfortable living in a dignified, powerful country without knowing the horrors of war by putting an end forever to the era when the US imperialists threatened the DPRK with nukes.

Thanks to the correct decision, "do-or-die" will and energetic leadership of the WPK, the DPRK accomplished the cause of building the national nuclear forces in November 2017. Rapid successes have been made in strengthening the nuclear forces both in quality and quantity and modernizing means of their delivery and thus the DPRK has possessed diverse and powerful nuclear treasured swords capable of attacking and annihilating at will any enemy on the globe.

Recently, numerous Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza area owing to the Israeli indiscriminate and inhuman military actions. Many bloody tragedies were caused in the world during the last decade.

However, the DPRK could lead a happy life to their heart's contents in peaceful circumstances in the last decade without knowing any wars and their posterity can lead such life in the world nuclear power, thanks to the powerful nuclear forces. At present, the DPRK demonstrates its dignity as a world nuclear power and a military power, and renders



A view of the district of terraced housing along the River Pothonggan

big contributions to safeguarding world peace and security.

Fundamentals of revolution also clarify the issues arising in hastening the economic and cultural construction.

In addition, fundamentals of revolution put forward strategic lines and fighting policies to expand and develop foreign relations and realizing the cause of global independence under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship.

The methods of leadership are the other important component of Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

The methods of leadership clarified by Kim Jong Un indicate the policies for establishing on a new high phase the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee.

The methods of leadership also clarify the guiding principles of enlightening, encouraging and refreshing the overall society and developing the noble virtues and feelings into a national custom by actively applying the traditional leadership method of the WPK and the working method created in a new era.

The methods of leadership comprehensively clarify the theoretical and practical issues arising in leading the masses such as establishing an innovative spirit and attitude of working among officials, enhancing their capabilities of practice and cultivating their political and moral traits of making devoted service for their sake.

+ * *

I have so far explained that Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology is run through with the people-first principle in its contents and forms the system of idea, theory and method in its composition.

As they are led by Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology, the WPK and the DPRK people advance with confidence towards socialism and communism, firmly holding the helm of the revolutionary cause of Juche in present eventful and ever-changing world.

Eternal victory and glory are in store for the WPK and the DPRK people who advance along the path indicated by Kim Jong Un's revolutionary ideology.

Thank you.

Juche Idea Promoting Era of Independence



Ramon Jimenez Lopez

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In the world point of view, we are living in the period of the transition from a unipolar model based on neoliberal globalization to a multipolar model, where more and more peoples have come to decide to carve out their own destiny in conformity with the particular conditions of their own history, their own peculiar characteristics, their geographical situation and their ancestral cultures, although there are people who have been suffering temporary setbacks as in Argentina or in Peru.

On the other hand, the war in Ukraine and all kinds of consequent sanctions on Russia are demonstrating that the Western powers, which during the neoliberal period had imposed their hegemony on almost the entire planet, could not make their calculations work no longer.

A Geo-strategic, Geo-economic, Geo-financial, Geo-military and geopolitical reconfiguration is taking place.

In this environment a very deep ideological-conceptual struggle is developing, the neoliberal paradigms are dying and the yearnings for independence and sovereignty are emerging strongly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. And in this context, the Juche idea as part of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism can help the peoples guide their impetuous transformation and revolution, as it respects the specific conditions and peculiarities of each country and its own people.

In this regard, it is important to deepen the study and dissemination of

Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, and, in particular, stimulate the struggle for independence that is strengthened with one's own effort.

It is also important to do with the analysis and study of the three revolutions, that is to say that the three revolutions, ideological, cultural and technological-scientific should be put on the agenda.

The ideological revolution must be developed because precisely in these moments of transition, the ideological-conceptual struggles on a worldwide scale take on relevant aspects. It is because under the circumstances that most of the mass media are manipulating the news and ideologically influencing millions of human beings, exalting individualism, selfishness, racism and even fascism, we must spread the best of the human being as its three great attributes like independence, creativity and consciousness, and others including collectivity, love for the humankind, love for the homeland and love for nature.

About an understanding that man is a social being and that the history of humanity is the history of the struggle of the popular masses to achieve their full independence (with respect to internal oppressors and external oppressors and the forces of nature), why did President Kim Il Sung point it out so many times that could not be counted?

About the cultural or political-cultural revolution, it is necessary because the peoples have to energetically combat the monocultural position based on the values of the so-called Western culture that they wanted to impose on all the peoples of the world, regardless that the latter have rich Millenary traditions, but by subordinating the diverse and varied cultural expressions to money and their corruption.

About the technical-scientific revolution, it works as follows: when it is applied to material production, it will multiply the productive forces and make it possible to break the idea that the population grows in a geometric progression, whereas the production in an arithmetic progression, such an idea that justifies the need to reduce the population by war, famine, birth control or induced epidemics.

The three revolutions are an invaluable contribution arising from the practical experience of the DPRK, but at this time of transition they are a beacon that lights the path of humanity.

This new era of independence and multipolarity that is being built worldwide is the era of Juche because more and more countries and peoples are taking their own destiny into their own hands and are not subordinated themselves to the designs of the Western imperialist countries (above all the US-Britain binomial) with their own peculiarities. In

Latin America: Mexico, with the project of the fourth transformation; Venezuela, building its own style of socialism of the 21st century; Cuba, building socialism in its own style; Bolivia as a pluri-cultural Republic; Honduras, restoring the wounds of the coup against the then President Celaya; Nicaragua, guided by the Sandinista principles; Brazil, with its own peculiar characteristics.

In Africa, more and more countries and peoples are being liberated from the colonial or socio-colonial bondage of the imperialist countries, including Niger, Upper Volta lately.

Asia is undoubtedly a continent where, currently, the greatest struggle and consolidation of independence and national sovereignties are taking place under its historical conditions and scientific technological development of these countries. Science and technology in Asian countries developed in the military production sector as well as in the service, the industry production sector and the agricultural sector. Among them, there are Russia, China, and India as the first three founders of the BRICS, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, several Arab countries. However, the DPRK is outstanding among them all.

The DPRK is an example of how the great leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il made decisions to maintain the construction of socialism despite the disappearance of the USSR, the disintegration of the socialist bloc and the threat of the incessant military intervention.

Kim Jong Un has made a bold qualitative leap in strengthening and consolidating socialism and defending the country with the triumph of the Songun politics over imperialist provocations.

Marshal Kim Jong Un, since assuming the responsibility of leading the DPRK, set himself the task of simultaneously advancing the people's welfare policies and the building of nuclear armed forces and achieved these goals. And then in his policy speech entitled "On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People" (on January 15, 2024) at the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, by setting new tasks, he announced as follows:

"In the course of organizing and guiding the activities of all units and inhabitants, they should always pay attention to strengthening the single-hearted unity and encouraging and developing the people's patriotic spirit and strictly preserve the socialist character of our society and thoroughly guarantee the smooth function of the state through principled control and management."

The importance in firmly developing and strengthening Korean-style socialism lies in

showing the whole world that socialism is a way of existence for humanity based on high moral and spiritual values and that it brings about the greatest welfare and happiness of the people through the monolithic unity of the leader, the party and the masses in an effort to put an end to the illusion of the end of history and the end of socialism actively propagated by the spokesmen of the imperialist powers after the collapse of the USSR.

Marshal Kim Jong Un also said:

"I am going to make our Party keep hold on the construction of modern regional industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy task, across the country within ten years.

"In addition to the line for rural prosperity, I am going to call this policy of our Party to develop onto a higher stage the basic material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country at the earliest date possible by pushing forward with the regional industrial development 'regional development 20×10 policy', and push ahead with its implementation."

I believe that these objectives will contribute to the regional self-management, as they aim to gradually eliminate the differences between the city and the countryside, and to apply science and technology more intensively to the productive process in order to gradually free men and women from hard work and let them devote more time to art and culture. Consequently, they will allow the multifaceted development of human beings and will constitute a qualitative leap in the development and consolidation of Korean-style socialism guided by the Juche idea.

Importance of Socialist Education in Juche Korea



Harish Chander Gupta

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Education is the backbone of any society or of a nation. It is the foundation on which individuals and communities build their future. Education can transform lives and create opportunities for people to lead a just and ethical livelihood. A just and ethical livelihood means people have access to resources and opportunities that enable them to live a life of dignity. Education builds the capacity to adapt to a changing environment. Without education no country or nation can achieve social progress, prosperity and cannot provide a bright future for its people. It is only the education by which one becomes a fit and proper person to be admitted in a civilised society.

During the long 40 years of occupation of Korea by the Japanese imperialists, education was totally neglected, obviously to keep the Koreans in the darkness and ignorance and obliterate their national education. Looking at the actual state of education at the time of Korean liberation on 15th August, 1945, there were only a few middle schools in each province and most of the children at school age were denied access to school education.

Also the tuition fee in these limited schools was so high that the children from the rich class only could afford. Therefore, school education was available only to a very privileged children of the society. Higher education in the fields like science and technology, engineering, medical, information and technology, etc., was unthinkable.

At the time of the liberation, according to one estimate, about 2.3 million adults were illiterate in Korea. Therefore, to provide education to all the eligible children and to provide education to adults were huge tasks before the liberated Korea. Therefore, post liberation education in Korea had to start from a scratch. From the first day of building a new society, great efforts were put into education aiming at providing the rising generation access to school and training the native talents while freeing the adults from illiteracy and getting them enlightened. Therefore, after the country's liberation, the prime task facing the Korean people, in establishing a progressive education system was to create a people-oriented, democratic education system.

President Kim Il Sung said that "we should eliminate the remnants of the colonial enslavement education system of the Japanese imperialism and create a people oriented, democratic education adding that we must not remain indifferent to education, putting it off or not undertaking it."

From over more than 75 years since liberation up to now, phased universal compulsory education has been introduced in the DPRK so that all the members of the society could reach at the school level, become graduates and post graduates and receive specialised education and training in different fields.

Under the wise leadership of the WPK and the DPRK Government a reliable socialist education system has now been established and education system is further developed in keeping with the requirements of the developing realities of the modern times.

With the establishment of a reliable socialist education system and with the once for all abolishment of the colonial enslavement education system, a sure guarantee has now been provided to all the Korean people to realise their ages old desire for learning and to receive education in conformity with the modern times. A socialist education system proves the realities in the DPRK in which people are regarded as masters of everything and everything serves the people. The education, in the DPRK is regarded as the foremost thing, which is directly connected to make the people into most powerful beings.

The socialist education in the DPRK is thoroughly guided by the Juche idea which was authored by the respected President Kim Il Sung, the founder of the socialist Korea. The Juche idea which is the man-centred idea advocates that all policies of the party and the Government should be directed toward the welfare of the masses.

The Eastern European socialist countries, including the Soviet Union failed in the socialist

revolution because they deviated from the socialist fundamental principle of giving priority to the interests of the masses. The DPRK is proud of its advanced socialist education system which is an undertaking to teach all the people to be independent and creative social beings.

In order to carry out socialist education satisfactorily, according to President Kim Il Sung, it is necessary to adhere to the following principles:

- (1) First, party loyalty and the working-class loyalty should be embodied in education.
- (2) Secondly, Education should be combined with revolutionary practice.
- (3) Thirdly, Juche ideology must be established in education.
- (4) Fourthly, the socialist state should take the responsibility for organising and conducting education.

In the DPRK, from the beginning of the revolution and construction, the WPK and the Government have paid close attention to education and mapped out and put into practice a sound educational policy and have put a lot of work into education.

Marshall Kim Jong Un sincerely adheres to the above mentioned four principles, to satisfactorily carry out the socialist education system in the DPRK.

To develop a sound and balanced modern socialist education system in the DPRK, policies have been framed and necessary steps have been taken by the WPK and the Government to promote primary and secondary school education, specialised higher university and college education, political and ideological education so on and so forth.



A view of an Iindian National Seminar on the Juche Idea (New Delhi in April, 2023)

It is commendable that in the DPRK, at present 12 years compulsory free education system has been established. Large number of primary and secondary schools have been opened in all the provinces where all the children are privileged to study until the age of 17 years. In these schools, students are taught to gain a wide range of knowledge of nature and society and for building sound foundations for learning modern science and technology.

Emphasis in these schools is also being laid on providing the students with a general knowledge of elementary sciences such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and the rudiments of engineering. Such education at school level lays solid foundation for them to choose the fields for higher education in universities, colleges and institutions imparting specialised education in the fields of medicine, engineering, information and technology.

The Korea was totally backward in every field of the economy, particularly in the field of education at the time of its liberation from the Japanese colonial rule. Immediately after liberation priority was given by the Party and the Government to develop an education system in the country. Not only the primary and secondary schools were built to provide free education to all the children, but also steps were taken to build universities and colleges in the country to provide higher education.

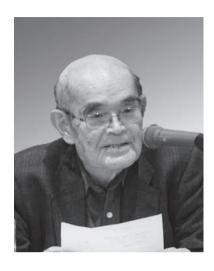
The first university which was established was Kim Il Sung university, and its opening ceremony was held on September 15, 1946. President Kim Il Sung was himself present at the opening ceremony. Simultaneously, a few other colleges were also established. Now it is heartening to see that a large number of colleges, universities and institutes are working in the DPRK which are imparting higher education and specialised education. Every province has colleges and institutes which are imparting education in the fields like medical science, engineering, science, information and technology, agriculture, law, natural science and so many other fields.

It is praiseworthy that despite of the financial crunch, which is because of the economic sanctions, a high standard of education has been achieved in the Juche Korea. Under the able and dynamic guidance of General Secretary Kim Jong Un, the WPK is further developing education, keeping in mind the developing realities and requirements of the present-day world.

It will not be out of place here to say that education which is being guided by the Juche idea has played a very significant role in the overall development of the DPRK.

(A lecture given at a Regular Study meeting of the IIJI in Tokyo, in January 2023)

How to Build Independent and Peaceful World



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1. On the "Inter-Korean Reunification"

1) The Reality That Two Opposing States Exist Together

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, stated the followings at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (on January 4, 2024):

"The general conclusion our Party has reached in reviewing the long-standing relations between the DPRK and the ROK is that the reunification cannot be realized anytime soon with those in the ROK who have set it as their national policy of 'unification by absorption' and 'unification of regimes' in sharp contradiction to our line of national reunification based on one nation, one state and two regimes."

Since then, based on this DPRK's policy, inter-Korean exchange organizations on the DPRK side, such as the "North Side Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration," the "North Side Headquarters of the Pan-national Union for Fatherland Reunification," and the "Ethnic Reconciliation Council," were dissolved. They were followed by the dissolution of the "Overseas Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration" by March this year, which had involved the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) and the Union for Democracy and Reunification (by ROK national living in Japan). Several websites for exchanges between the DPRK and the ROK,

such as "We Are the Same Nation," have been inaccessible since January this year as well.

In addition, the northern section of the Gyeongui Line, the railroad connecting the DPRK and the ROK, which had been a symbol of reunification, was cut off, and the arch-shaped "Three Charters for the Reunification of the Fatherland" monument at the southern entrance to Pyongyang, built by General Secretary Kim Jong Il in 2001, was ordered to be removed.

The Korean Central News Agency on April 2, 2024 reported a meeting conducted by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland. The meeting stressed:

"The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the DPRK government have declared those of the ROK concerned, who for 80 years had continued to regard the WPK and the DPRK government as their 'main enemy' and pursued only their policy of 'collapse of the other government' and 'unification by absorption' in collusion with outside forces. Then they condemned those clan of the ROK, while saying that the latter is not at all their partner for reconciliation and reunification, pointing out the ROK as the most hostile nation, the former's constant main enemy or a thoroughly other nation. This is a new statement of the WPK and the DPRK government toward inter-Korean relationship and their policy of reunification."

"The meeting also reached a consensus that there is no need for the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland that had been regarded as the all-national reunification front organization by then, to exist anymore in the reality that the inter-Korean relationship has become completely entrenched as relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more. Accordingly, the meeting decided to officially dismantle the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland."

This disassembling means that the preceding organizations and movements in support of the reunification of the DPRK and the ROK, which had been organized and active in Japan and other countries, accordingly would have lost their practical meaning. The key movement from now on will be only to interact with the DPRK—to officially recognize the DPRK as a nation in reality, to conduct exchanges, and to deepen mutual understanding and respect in this direction.

2) Response of ROK Yoon Administration, U.S., and Japan:

Building an Asian Version of NATO

On the other hand, the Yoon Suk Yeol administration of the ROK has conducted a major joint military exercise involving the U.S., ROK, and Japan. During the period of March 4 to March 14, 2024, they conducted a joint military exercise on a large scale called "Freedom Shield", being extended over land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace, which was conducted not only by the ROK military, but also by the U.S. military, with the participation of the armed forces of 12 countries that used to be members of the "United Nations Command (UNC or UN Command)" during the Korean War, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, France, and the Philippines, under the command of the U.S. military.

The Kishida administration of Japan visited the U.S. in April this year and held a summit meeting with President Biden, and also held President Marcos of the Philippines in their arms, planning to form a political, economic, and a military encirclement network against China, the DPRK, and Russia. In other words, Japan and the U.S. are planning to build an Asian version of the NATO system through the revival of a zombie-like "UN Command", with an aim at forming an encirclement against China and Russia that have been strengthening their ties with the DPRK.

2. Neoliberalism and War

Now, I would like to refer to the world situation in the 21st century in which Soviet "socialism" and Eastern European "socialism" collapsed, and then neoliberalism has conquered the world.

Neoliberalism has been introduced not only by the U.S., Europe, and Japan, but also by Russia and China, and then a great global competitive war is being played out. In the midst of this global development of neoliberalism, wars are actually being fought in Ukraine and Gaza, and the threat of war has arisen in Taiwan and the Korean Peninsula. Neoliberalism is an ideology and policy that promotes the free development of global market competition among the capitals of the world, although it appears to have nothing to do with wars that mobilize armed forces. In spite of this, why does the crisis of war occur?

1) Imperialism and War

In his article "Imperialism" (1917), Lenin considered capitalism in the period from the 1900s onward to World War I as the capitalism on the "imperialist stage", and clarified its characteristics, especially the inevitability of imperialist war.

According to the Lenin's theory of "Imperialism," the followings were clarified:

The capital that is dominant on the "imperialist stage" is finance capital Note 1, which is the capital that combines "industrial monopoly capital" and "banking capital" through the holding of shares; through the domination of this finance monopoly, monopoly profits are acquired under the domination as such, whereas domestically, small and medium-sized enterprises and agriculture sector that were formed, have been plundered by the monopoly, and its profits become excess funds.

Excess funds formed under this monopoly is exported (invested) abroad, and as this investment realizes monopolistic profits, the country of being invested is controlled as a colony, and the acquisition and control of the colonies by countries controlled by the finance monopoly leads to wars for colonials capture—imperialist wars.

2) Inter-regimes conflicts

In Russia, where domestic contradictions deepened as a result of its participation in the imperialist war, a revolution took place under the leadership of Lenin, giving birth to the proletarian dictatorship or Soviet "socialism" Note 2. On the other hand, the capitalist countries were hit by the Great Depression in 1929, creating a crisis in the regimes. Under this crisis, fascist regimes in Germany, Italy, and Japan were formed on the one hand, and social welfare regimes in the U.S., U.K., and France on the other. However, the fascist regimes of Germany, Italy and Japan, focused on military expansion as well as state spending to maintain their regimes, and rapidly strengthened their moves to form external power blocs, which triggered World War II.

Under this war and crises in regimes, socialist regimes were established one after another in the DPRK, Cuba, China, and Vietnam under the leadership of their respective socialist parties. The world entered a new era based on the inter-regimes conflicts of capitalism versus

Note 1: It is important to capture the nature of pseudo-capital (stock certificates and corporate bonds).

Note 2: The actual socialism was triggered in the backward capitalist countries.

socialism.

However, from the 1970s onward, amid intensifying market competition among countries, crisis in the U.S. dollar—the dismantling of the dollar system—and the dollar crisis began, and stagflation broke out, mainly in capitalist countries. Stagflation triggered a crisis in which the economy could not recover with the expansion of fiscal spending and inflationary policies to maintain the capitalist system.

It is said that the only way to overcome this stagflation in a capitalist society is through the rationalization of reduction—in the end, this only way leads to thoroughly accelerate neoliberalism that reduces employment and promotes wage reductions.

However, the rationalization of reduction goes to the employment compression, which will reduce domestic demand and constrain the expansion of corporate accumulation. Thus, firms run to expand external demand. Exporting capital is expanded, and then more state aid to capitals is provided in this direction. This will increase external capital inflows and rises in wages aimed at securing and expanding export markets. This necessitates an expansion of fiscal spending. Export expansion will be supported by loans backed by fiscal funds, under which competition for markets among the major capitalist countries will intensify.

3) Neoliberalism and New Blocs

China has strengthened the export competitiveness of its industrial enterprises and entered the world market through its reform and open-door policies on the one hand. On the other hand, in response to the One Belt, One Road initiative of China, the major capitalist countries are also forming economic blocs in order to secure their markets. The finance capital that dominates U.S., European, and Japanese capitalism is leveraging the expansion of fund lending to form different economic blocs.

The U.S., which has lost competitiveness in the steel, machinery, and military industries in Germany and Japan, seeks to maintain and expand the global market by focusing exclusively on the military sector using advanced cutting-edge technology. The U.S. sells weapons to NATO members and Japan. To this end, by staging a real rivalry with China and Russia, the U.S. is deliberately creating a crisis of military power, including nuclear weapons in the DPRK and that of Korean integration.

The Kishida administration of Japan, following the agenda of the U.S. government, has embarked on a NATO-like (2% of its GDP) expansion of military spending by publicizing

the propaganda of a threat of war and the expansion of military strength, including the nuclear weapons of China, the DPRK in particular. This Kishida administration's massive military expansion with an attempt to build up Japan's capability for attacking enemy bases was agreed to at the Japan-U.S. summit on April 10, 2024. Under this policy of Japan with its debts more than twice the size of its GDP, totally non-productive military expenditures are on the increase, while the social welfare expenditures are being cut down, which leads to further impoverishment of the lives of the people, including workers.

3. The Path to Establishing Anti-imperialism, Independence, and Peace

Above all, we need to be a critique against the concept of the contemporary confrontation between the U.S. and China as well as the perception of the conflict as capitalism versus authoritarianism. It is necessary for us to have our own understanding. For instance, in capitalist view of current Russia and the current system of China, it should be impossible to regard current Russia and the system of China as "socialism." Then, it seems only possible to interpret Russia and China as authoritarianism. However, this is not a term that describes a characteristic of a nation. So, it is requested how to understand those countries and those regimes such as China, Russia, the DPRK and Cuba.

I should say that the DPRK and Cuba must be clearly viewed as socialist states, socialist regimes. China has not abandoned its socialist orientation. As General Secretary Xi Jinping of China has made clear, their goal is the realization of a Chinese-style socialist state. The DPRK clearly recognizes the workers and peasants as the masters of the society and as the driving force that support the society. Truly, this is their recognition of the DPRK as socialist Korea. The DPRK positions not only workers and peasants but also those who are the bearers of learning, art, and culture, as masters of the society.

What is the basis of socialism? I should say that it is indispensable to establish a concept of labour, that is, what sort of labour is essential for human beings to support and develop their human lives; and it is indispensable to form and develop a society on the basis of the clear understanding of labour that not only supports the material lives of the people, but also supports their spiritual lives and develops them.

Socialism is realized with each nation as a unit. Only within a state that determines and enforces socialist social norms as laws in the reality, can the popular masses, including

workers, become the driving force of the society.

Armed forces are not necessary if there is no threat of capitalist and imperialist aggression of destroying socialism. People do not need a power that oppresses them. People do not need armed forces when there is no threat of external hostile forces to themselves. Socialism will develop under the peaceful relations between people and people, between nations and nations.

Let us spread our conviction that the DPRK's armed forces are truly those to counter the threat of aggression by imperialism headed by the U.S., class armed forces so to speak, and that when the threat of aggression against the DPRK is eliminated, there will be no need for this country to have them, and that the DPRK is seeking to establish peace on the basis of mutually respecting independence of each nation.

For us, the Japanese people, it is our goal to form a Japanese state like socialism based on the organizational strength of the Japanese working people.

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