Kim Jong Un Seen by the World



Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 112 (2023)

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PREFACE

Over ten years have passed since the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un started to lead the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

There is a Korean saying that even rivers and mountains change in a decade, but the country, under his leadership, has achieved really amazing developments and changes in the political, economic, military, diplomatic and all other sectors in this decade. As a result, a golden age of socialist construction has been ushered in and world-startling events took place one after another.

From the initial days of his official debut on the political arena, many politicians, experts and personages of the world closely watched and studied his political activities.

They highly praised him as an attractive man who was enjoying unqualified respect and trust of all people, an ideal leader who had made his country a powerful one in a short period and a prestigious statesman who had opened up a bright vista for the solution of the acute international and regional issues.

The Editorial Board publishes this book to show his outstanding wisdom, leadership abilities, diplomatic skills and people-oriented traits through the admiration and praise of the international community for him and the reality in the DPRK, which is unfolding a new era of miracles and changes.

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Attractive Man

When Kim Jong Un made his official appearance as the leader of his country, the world was all astir.

Kim Jong Un's era has begun in the DPRK; Kim Jong Un's era has dawned; Kim Jong Un demonstrated his leadership abilities and confidence and left a deep impression on the world with his voice full of calmness, composure and self-assurance ...



Official Debut

Attracting the Greatest Attention in the Shortest Period

Statistics collected by Google showed that news reports on Kim Jong Un by English-speaking press circles reached a total of 67 400 000, or about 230 000 an hour, in ten days after Chairman Kim Jong II's sudden death on December 17, 2011. If the data of those from non-English speaking circles is added to this figure, it will not be difficult to imagine what a great attention the international society showed to him.

When Kim Jong Un was elected vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea in late September 2010, Time, Sankei Shimbun, Yomiuri Shimbun, Kyodo News Service, Jiji Press and other major media organs of the world chose the election as one of the top ten news in 2010.

The Chinese newspaper People's Daily described Kim Jong Un as a "statesman of mystery," while CNN and Wall Street Journal ranked him among the ten persons of the year 2010 and among the notable figures of the year 2011, respectively. In 2012, too, the world's major mass media selected him as a notable figure of the year.

Time carried a photo of Kim Jong Un on the front cover of its last

issue of February 2012. The American magazine conducted an online voting of its subscribers for selecting persons who had performed outstanding exploits in the political, economic, military, cultural and other aspects of state and social life. According to the result of the voting the DPRK leader was the first of the persons of the year 2012.

The world's media manifested a keen interest in him, describing him as the youngest leader who drew the greatest international attention in the shortest period and who became the focus of the world attention as soon as his official debut.

In the Period of National Mourning

Kim Jong Un took many meticulous steps for the people during the days of mourning the death of Chairman Kim Jong II. Out of his concern about the health of the mourners visiting outdoor mourning places and keeping vigil during nights, he had many exothermic tapes and earmuffs supplied to them, stands serving hot tea and sweet water, medical service and makeshift shelters installed, and buses put on standby near the mourning places.

He even postponed the ceremony of bidding the last farewell to Chairman Kim Jong II to the afternoon so that the participants in the ceremony would not feel so cold.

The world's media, while reporting these facts, commented that such things had never been witnessed all over the world.

Political commentators and high-ranking politicians of the world

said that the DPRK leader had rallied his people into a stronger crystallization of one mind by overcoming the trial of national mourning by dint of love, and that they had identified an extraordinary politician in him.

With an Ennobling Sense of Moral Obligation

The post of supreme leader of the DPRK's ruling Party and state remained vacant for 100 days up to the national memorial service since the death of Chairman Kim Jong II.

It was because Kim Jong Un prioritized the cause of immortalization of the late leader, rather than his election to the top position of the country, with an ennobling sense of moral obligation to Kim Jong II.

At his suggestion, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK issued a special statement in January 2012 on preserving Kim Jong II in the then Kumsusan Memorial Palace in his lifetime appearance, erecting statues of him, designating February 16, Kim Jong II's birthday, as the Day of the Shining Star, putting up portraits of a beaming Chairman and building towers to his immortality across the country.

On February 3 the then Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly issued a decree on instituting the Order of Kim Jong II, Kim Jong II Prize and Kim Jong II Youth Honour Prize, and decided several days later to confer the title of Generalissimo of the DPRK on Kim Jong II.

On February 16, 2012, marking the 70th anniversary of the birth of Chairman Kim Jong II, the WPK Central Committee, the WPK Central Military Commission and the DPRK National Defence Commission, the then Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly and the DPRK Cabinet issued a joint resolution on renaming the Kumsusan Memorial Palace the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

The Fourth Conference of the WPK held on April 11, 2012 adopted a resolution on glorifying the career and immortal exploits of Kim Jong II for all eternity.

On April 13, 2012, a grand ceremony of unveiling the statues of President Kim II Sung and Chairman Kim Jong II was held in the presence of Kim Jong Un on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang, leaving a deep impression on the politicians of the world.

A Russian poet said:

The remains of Marx were buried in London and the box containing the ashes of Engels was thrown into the Strait of Dover, to the chagrin of Europeans. People of conscience felt surging anger when the renegades of revolution cremated the remains of Stalin and pulled down his statues.

The unveiling ceremony of the statues of the leaders held in Pyongyang presented a striking contrast to these lamentable facts, moving the whole world.

The Seventh Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, held in April 2013, adopted the Law of the DPRK on the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, making it a law-bound duty

to eternally preserve and glorify the palace as a grand monument to the immortality of President Kim II Sung and Chairman Kim Jong II, lay it out in a more solemn and perfect way as an undertaking involving the whole country, all the people and entire nation and defend it death-defyingly.

Kim Jong Un is possessed with ennobling moral obligation also to the forerunners of the revolution. He respects the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and war veterans as his revolutionary forerunners, bestows boundless affection and benevolence upon them and glorifies their exploits and feats for ever.

He had the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery built, and attended national conferences of war veterans, at which he made a congratulatory speech and had souvenir photos taken with the participants. Under his concern about the war veterans measures of giving preferential treatment to them throughout society were taken, and rest homes for them were newly built in various parts of the country.

The world's people have been struck with great admiration to see him making a deep bow to the war veterans from the rostrum of the conferences of war veterans which have been held in Pyongyang almost every year.

Prediction of Asia Times

In March 2012 the Hong Kong newspaper Asia Times wrote in an article, titled, *Kim Jong Un Steers the Reunification Movement*:

Kim Jong Un will surely be recorded as one of the greatest national heroes and patriots in the Korean history spanning 5 000 years. He will be revered as a peerless statesman and military strategist. He is, without doubt, a military commander with a strong spirit of independence and outstanding abilities and a very benevolent statesman. As the DPRK is led by him, a golden age will be ushered in in the country. The day will come when he accomplishes the cause of national reunification, a long-cherished desire of the Korean people, and leads a reunified Korea to eternal prosperity.

. . .

The US troops are creating the constant danger of an all-out war in the central part of Asia which is densely populated. A nuclear war may break out between the two nuclear countries—the DPRK and the US.

Unlike the previous Korean war which was confined to the Korean peninsula, the second Korean war will naturally expand into a thermonuclear war and spread over to the US mainland. The DPRK's possession of nuclear weapons compelled the US troops to move from the Demilitarized Zone to Phyongthack south of Seoul. But the Korean People's Army is capable of dealing powerful precision strikes to the new US military bases. Furthermore, Kim Jong Un will use carrot and stick skilfully, trying to catch a whale with a shrimp as the bait. It is obvious that he will induce the US to come out for negotiations for concluding a peace treaty and normalizing its relations with the DPRK.

He will steadily reinforce his armed forces with new-type missiles that can deal precision strikes to any strategic targets in the southernmost part. It will not be long before the world-class strike groups of the Korean People's Army is equipped with ICBM, which can reach the US mainland as a whole, and its transporter-erector-launcher. Americans will realize that they are not safe at all before they conclude a peace treaty with the DPRK.

When the DPRK reaches a peace treaty with the US, the Korean people and other peoples all over the world will clearly see that Kim Jong Un is the best leader and the only statesman who can represent and lead the reunified Korea.

The DPRK leader, taking the initiative in the showdown with the US, will surely achieve the reunification of Korea, the land of morning calm, where two systems coexist and the attention of the Korean nation will be focused on him.

Writing that he was also an excellent economic leader, the newspaper stressed: In 2012 the world will see how Kim Jong Un leads miraculous events; the DPRK will achieve prosperity in spite of the harsh and persistent sanctions and the hair-trigger situation in which it is technically at war with the US.

Beginning of Kim Jong Un's Era

In early 2012 the world focused its attention on the DPRK to guess which road it would take after the death of Kim Jong II, what policy it would pursue and how the newly-launched vessel of Kim Jong Un's Korea would plow its way through the waves

of history. The world could find an answer to these questions in the speech Kim Jong Un delivered at the military parade held on April 15, 2012 in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung, his first speech in public.

In the speech, he said: The permanent strategy of the Korean revolution and its final victory lie in marching straight along the road of independence and socialism, as indicated by the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il; single-hearted unity and invincible military might plus the industrial revolution in the new century together make a thriving socialist country. Then he concluded, calling upon his country to advance forward towards final victory.

Mass media of China, Russia, America, Britain, France, Japan and other countries reported his speech as breaking news, saying: Kim Jong Un made his first public speech; Kim Jong Un made his debut on the international arena with a historic speech; Kim Jong Un made a speech in a voice full of calmness, composure and self-assurance, demonstrating his leadership abilities and confidence and leaving a deep impression on the international community; Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un shook the world with the single phrase "Forward towards final victory!"; Kim Jong Un's speech was successful, in particular, he looked very refined and experienced when he concluded his speech saying "Forward towards final victory!"; Kim Jong Un's era has dawned in the DPRK; Kim Jong Un's era has begun.

New York Times described Kim Jong Un's speech as a

demonstration of the abilities of north Korea's new leadership body filled with youthful vigour. And AP reported: Contrary to various conjectures from the outside world, the north Korean leader has begun to demonstrate his leadership abilities; thrust into spotlight in the world arena, Kim Jong Un is fully convinced that he can steer his country towards the goal of building a powerful nation true to the intention of Chairman Kim Jong II.

People's Leader

Statesman Who Loves People

The international community shows keen interest in Kim Jong Un's politics of love for the people.

In an article on his mode of politics, an American think-tank wrote that Kim Jong Un always had a charismatic and tender look during his field-guidance trips and an analysis of what he put stress on showed his special interest in the people's living.

The MS travel company of Germany posted on its website an article that reads that love for the people is the starting point of all thinking and activities of Kim Jong Un and the supreme principle of his politics, and that he regards the people as the most valuable and powerful beings in the world and thinks that the leader exists for the people.

The world's media competitively broadcast Kim Jong Un

patting the students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School on the cheek during a visit to the school greeting the New Year's Day of 2012; delivering a speech at the celebration of the 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union, in which he said that he would hand down to posterity a thriving socialist country that would be the greatest in the world; drawing pictures on a sheet of paper during one of his several visits to the construction site of a pleasure ground; visiting families of workers and a teacher who moved into new houses.

In late August 2015 the Sonbong area in Rason in the northernmost part of Korea was damaged by flooding. Reporting this, the media of the world commented that the area had lost all functions as a city and there was no knowing how many years it would take to rehabilitate it.

But Kim Jong Un rose to the occasion. At his proposal the WPK convened an enlarged meeting of its Central Military Commission and discussed the rehabilitation of the area as one of the meeting's major agenda items.

A strong force of the Korean People's Army was dispatched to the rehabilitation project.

Kim Jong Un visited the project site by travelling by air, by sea and then by land and acquainted himself with how the project was going on.

Under his meticulous guidance, excellent new villages were built in the flood-hit area in a matter of 30 days.

When the rehabilitation was completed, he ensured that the flood

victims were supplied with various kinds of necessities including TV sets, clothes, sets of hard ceramicware, foods, matches and even rolls of toilet tissue.

When he visited the then Paekhak-dong in the Sonbong area in Rason again, he praised the soldier-builders for carrying out the order on completing the rehabilitation project in Rason by the Party's founding anniversary (October 10) and said: I have come here as I thought I would feel relieved only after looking round the new houses before anybody else. Today I have been very delighted on my way here.

Mirae Scientists Street built along the Taedong riverside in Pyongyang is another epitome of his affection for the people. All the items of the street including the 53-storey apartment house which resembles the orbital path of an electron are designed on a highly modern and artistic level.

After visiting the street, many foreigners are surprised to find that these excellent houses were provided to ordinary working people like scientists and educationists, and free of charge at that.

The world's media comment that it is quite natural that the Korean people so sincerely trust and follow Kim Jong Un as he is the people's leader who loves them ardently and tries all he can to put their dreams into reality.

Worth of Making the Revolution

When he looked round the newly-built Unha Scientists Street, Kim Jong Un said:

Comrades Kim II Sung and Kim Jong II directed close attention to providing good living conditions for scientists. Now another lifetime wish of theirs has been fulfilled. How delighted would they have been if they had seen this street? We are carrying on the revolution to relish such a taste.

When he heard that orphans were living happily in excellent homes and that the people were delighted to be provided with fish in plenty, he would say: It seems I am working cheerfully braving hardships to indulge myself in feeling proud of myself at such a moment, in the happiness that fills my heart. We should redouble our efforts and work harder with the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

For him the worth of waging the revolution lies, in a word, in devoted service for the people and their happy laughter.

Love is beautiful and ennobling because it is accompanied by self-sacrifice and devotion; it demands no reward. As he cherishes such love and regards hardships for the good of the people as his pleasure, Kim Jong Un is always on his field guidance trip to have structures built for them and see them feel happy.

Trustworthy Leader

It is not easy for statesmen to live up to their commitments. Before elections, they make many pledges, many of which they slight or reverse after the election campaign. This brings about such grave realities as political confusion, economic upheaval, unhealthy public sentiments and social instability in many countries.

But such things can never be witnessed in the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un puts the people forward as the foundation of the country, artists of miraculous creations and most powerful motive force of the development of history. His political ideal is the people-first principle that one must regard the people as the masters of the revolution and construction, rely on them and make devoted service for them.

For this reason, he regards the promises he makes to the people as most sacred and keeps them without fail.

Recently many structures for the people have sprung up in the DPRK. They include the apartment houses for the lecturers at Kim Chaek University of Technology built in the shape of sailing boats on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River in the central part of Pyongyang, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp on the shore of the picturesque Lake Yonphung, Wisong Scientists Residential District in a suburb of Pyongyang, hostels of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill

and baby homes, orphanages and old people's homes in Pyongyang, Wonsan and various other parts of the country. All these were built true to Kim Jong Un's promises to the people.

The following can be taken as examples.

To keep a promise he made to orphans, he visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage on the New Year's Day in 2015 directly after he delivered the new year address, and wished them a bright future.

A thunderous explosion shook the Hwasong area in Pyongyang on February 12, 2022, signifying the ground-breaking for the construction of another 10 000 flats following the previous year.

Kim Jong Un had attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the project to build 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area in 2021, too.

As he said in his speech at the ceremony, the project to build 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area in 2021 had been carried out, despite the tough conditions where the country's economic situation was harsh and difficulties were piling up. In 2022, too, the sanctions and blockades by the hostile forces persisted, and there was no sign of the global health crisis being terminated.

What, then, was the reason why the country continued to invest a huge expenditure in housing construction under such situation?

The Eighth Congress of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea held in early 2021 decided on building a total of 50 000 flats in the capital city alone during the five-year plan, i.e. 10 000 flats every year, while pushing ahead with housing construction across the country.

Kim Jong Un regards this decision as a solemn promise of the WPK and the government, and of his own to the people.

He said in his speech that if the goal of building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, which included the upcoming gigantic project in the Hwasong area, was attained with success, the WPK would have fulfilled the most important promise it had made to the people, and the housing problem for the capital's residents would have been fully solved. Then he stressed that this was why the WPK and the government were pushing ahead so forcefully with the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang every year, even though the prevailing conditions and circumstances were more challenging than ever before.

The thunderous sounds of blasting at the ground-breaking ceremonies in the Songsin and Songhwa area and in the Hwasong area can be interpreted as a reflection of his will that promises to the people would and must be fulfilled without fail.

Reporting that Kim Jong Un keeps his promises to the people without fail, the world's media described him as a trustworthy leader, an honest and transparent leader and a leader who always acts up to his words.

Yangdok Hot Spring Resort Tells

The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort in the DPRK is widely known across the world.

The water of the perennial Yangdok hot spring is very good for

promoting health and treating various diseases.

The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort tells the sincere devotion of Kim Jong Un for the people.

It was unprecedentedly hot in mid-August 2018.

One day in this hot season, Kim Jong Un visited the area. When he was looking round the hot spring site, there was a sudden shower. However, he went on to the outlets. He smiled a broad smile, visualizing a hot spring resort to be built there and dipped a hand into the water as hot as 80°C.

When he visited the construction site of the resort in October, he even sampled the hot spring water, saying that as the people would drink the water he should have a taste of it before them.

One of the many interesting sites in the resort is the outdoor eggboiling site. Boiling eggs in the spring water is very impressive. Put some eggs in a basket in the hot water, and the eggs absorbs the medicinal elements solved in the water and is half-boiled after a while. The eggs boiled in this way are very soft, savory and highly digestive.

There is a story behind how the site was arranged.

During a visit to the construction site of the resort, Kim Jong Un said to the officials accompanying him that if the spring water was as hot as 80°C, it would be possible to boil eggs in it. Then he led them to an outlet, saying that they should try to boil eggs. When the eggs were boiled, he measured the time and said that the people would like it if an egg-boiling site was arranged there.

When he visited the resort again, he suggested that closets be

installed for keeping condiments.

Another tempting site in the resort is ski slopes equipped with travellator, incline and chairlift which run to the top of the slopes.

Kim Jong Un paid close attention to ensuring their safety and convenience.

When he visited the resort prior to its completion, he rode a chairlift on a test run to confirm the safety of the facility by himself.

There are many other similar cases including the chairlift in the Masikryong Ski Resort, rotating hawk in the Rungna People's Recreation Ground, mad mouse in the Amusement Part of Kaeson Youth Park and newly-built subway train, trolley bus and tram car.

As seen above, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort can be called a crystallization of Kim Jong Un's affection and devoted service for the people.

"Long Live the People!"

On October 10, 2015, a military parade and public procession of Pyongyang citizens were held in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the WPK.

In the lead-up to the event, the West showed nervousness and uneasiness, claiming that the DPRK might display new strategic weapons in the military parade. And they predicted that in case Kim Jong Un delivered a speech, he would surely mention nukes and missiles.

But their prediction went much too astray. As the world commented it in surprise, his speech ran through with the word *people*: it started with the word and concluded with it.

Reporting on the speech, the world's media commented that he mentioned the word *people* as many as 97 times in his 25-minute speech.

In the speech he said: As I am standing in the square of victors, the venue for celebrations, which is brimming over with our people's fervent loyalty, I am so grateful to them for this venue of today which would have been unimaginable separated from them, and at this moment I am seeing the dear people with deep respect. The history of our Party is just the path travelled by our great people, its might is their might, its greatness is their greatness, and its victory is the victory achieved by them. The people are the most precious as they constitute the foundation of the country, and nothing is more sacred than their interests. As the working people exist for ever, lasting justice and victory will be ensured by the struggle for the people and together with the people. Our Party will, in the future, too, strive to add glory to the sacred history of the people-first principle. It will cherish the people's sincere loyalty to it as the greatest asset of the revolution and bring earlier everything splendid of the future by shouldering all the burdens and clearing a thorny path for the sake of our brave, resourceful and beautiful people.

He concluded the speech, saying, "Let us all make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the great people. Long live the great Korean people, united single-heartedly around the invincible party, the Workers' Party of Korea!"

The world's media extensively reported the contents of his speech under the titles, Kim Jong Un's speech that was concluded with "Long live the people!", Unstinting praise for the people, A speech brimming over with an ennobling view on the people, A solemn pledge to the people.

Loving the Future

The State Celebrates the Children's Holiday

Witnessing Kim Jong Un's field guidance everywhere in his country, the world is particularly impressed with the fact that he bestows uncommon affection on the rising generation.

It has long been said that the affection for children is most devoted and positive and it is the purest and most beautiful feeling, which can neither be invented nor forced.

Kim Jong Un attended the Joint National Meeting of the Korean Children's Union Organizations held in June 2012 in celebration of the 66th anniversary of its founding, and delivered a congratulatory speech.

In his speech he said that dear KCU members are treasures more valuable than billions of tons of gold, and represent our hope and our future, and ended the speech with his best wishes that a bright future may be with them, rising generations of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea. When his speech was over, the venue of the meeting turned into a sea of emotions. Tears were trickling down the cheeks of the teachers and children as they raised enthusiastic cheers, clapping their hands. When he was having a photo session with the delegates numbering 20 000, he moved his seat 20 times.

Reporting the event, mass media of various countries commented that the world's people saw many Korean adults welcoming their leader with their eyes filled with tears but never saw its children welcoming their leader so enthusiastically, and that there was no country in the world like the DPRK which celebrates the children's holiday with the Party's and national flags being hoisted on the streets.

Heaven of Children

Hans Andersen, a famous Danish author, described in his fairy tale *The Match Girl* the dream of a young poor girl who is desirous of living in a wonderland, which is free from cold, hunger and envy.

It looks as if the girl's dream has come true in the wonderfully renovated Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang, the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Characteristic first is the exterior of the palace, a comprehensive base of schoolchildren's after-school education; its architectural form representing the embrace of a mother and its decoration with granite and other high-end building materials evoke delight.

The group sculpture standing in front of the palace portrays children riding a horse cart full of joy. The children carrying a large golden key look like little angels descended from heaven.

The interior of the palace presents the world of a mysterious fairyland; the beautiful flowers and buds portrayed on the floor and walls of the lobby, beautiful chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and glittering gems on all sides, embossed ornaments reflecting juvenile sentiments and clear melodies giving a soft and warm feeling—all these unfold a world of wonder.

There are a science building with rooms for computer, physics and other groups, an art building with rooms for embroidery, calligraphy, *kayagum*, accordion and vocal groups and general practice hall of electronic musical instruments, and general art practice hall. All the rooms for hobby groups and practice halls are fully furnished with educational equipment and materials of a high level to conform to the characteristics of subjects, events and sectors.

The theatre is designed to host any artistic performance, and the swimming pool and gym can host even international games.

Its hostel, which is called a "children's hotel," offers accommodation to the schoolchildren from provinces.

Children develop their talents to their heart's content with the help of competent instructors in this palace.

The masters of this luxurious palace, which nobody can imagine except billionaires and the privileged, are none other than the sons and daughters of ordinary working people including shop-floor and office workers and farmers.

After looking round this palace, a foreigner said that he had dreamed a dream of being born once again and becoming a prince in this "heavenly land."

Kim Jong Un loves the children most and translates their dreams and hopes into reality.

It is Kim Jong Un's view on the younger generation and on the future, that only when children smile brightly can the whole country be filled with cheerful atmosphere, and that nothing should be spared for them.

Thanks to his noble affection, the project for renovating the palace was finished in a matter of less than one year.

After looking round the renovated palace in November 2015, Kim Jong Un expressed his great satisfaction, saying: This will be the one and only children's palace in the world in its form and content. As it has been renovated, I feel as if I had come here for the first time and I had been to a wonderland. I feel pleased to think that the children would be delighted as they would use this palace which has turned into a comprehensive base for extracurricular education.

At present, the schoolchildren's palaces, schoolchildren's halls and Children's Union camps throughout the country number more than 210.

Law Which Looks Ahead of 20 to 30 Years

In mid-June 2021 the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in Pyongyang in the presence of Kim Jong Un.

At the meeting Kim Jong Un referred to the need to formulate it as a policy of the WPK to provide the children across the country with dairy produce and other nutritious foodstuffs at state expense, and put forward detailed tasks for and ways of carrying it out.

His suggestion enjoyed absolute support and approval of the participants, and a relevant resolution was adopted.

In February 2022 the Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held, and the session adopted the Law of the DPRK on Childcare.

Looking back, already in the second half of the 1940s, the country set up many nurseries and kindergartens at large expense of the state, and thus it established a system of bringing up and educating children under public care.

The Law on the Upbringing and Education of Children, the first law for the children, was adopted in 1976, earlier than other laws including the Socialist Labour Law (1978) and the Public Health Law (1980). Thanks to this law, in the 1970s alone, the number of nurseries increased by 4.6 times and the number of children enrolled in nurseries 3.6 times what they had been in the 1960s, thus ranking

top in the world in terms of the absolute number of nurseries.

Later, the Law on the Upbringing and Education of Children was amended and supplemented several times including in 1999, 2010, 2013 and 2014.

As a subsidiary to the Law on the Upbringing and Education of Children, the newly-adopted Law on Childcare stipulates the order of production and supply of nutritious foodstuffs for children and creation of conditions for upbringing children.

The law, consisting of 61 articles in four chapters, stipulates in one article as follows:

"The State shall establish a well-regulated system of production and supply of nutritious foodstuffs for children, supply dairy produce and other nutritious foodstuffs to all the children free of charge and on a regular basis and create best conditions for childcare."

This law stipulates other issues, like using materials whose quality is guaranteed in the production of powdered milk, producing powdered milk that conform to the national standards by modernizing the production lines and equipment and developing processing techniques, strengthening social assistance to nurseries and kindergartens by designating August and September as nursery-supporting periods and March and October as school-supporting periods, properly selecting building sites for nurseries and kindergartens, and creating works of art and literature for children as suited to their psychological features. It even stipulates such issues as supplying necessary equipment, musical instruments, toys

and drinking water to nurseries and kindergartens, ensuring room temperature in their rooms, providing electricity and fuel for heating and cooking and protecting and caring children.

There would be no other country in the world, which provides all its children with nutritious foodstuffs including dairy produce free of charge.

Kim Jong Un said: If children, who were born on this land, are well fed in a good environment since young and grow up in good health, 20 to 30 years later our society will brim with so much lively vigour and animation and the national strength will be so much strengthened.

The adoption of the Law on Childcare is, indeed, a fruition of his political creed that any loss incurred in doing things for the benefit of children should not be counted as deficit and that the larger the sum of money the state pays for their interests, the brighter the future of the country will be.

Appraisal by the World People

Rodman's Impression

In late February 2013 ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman and his entourage visited Pyongyang.

As a citizen from a country which is hostile to the DPRK, Rodman was not certain about his visit to the country. But, the moment he

met Kim Jong Un his anxiety soon vanished. The DPRK's leader was utterly different from the statesmen he had ever met. He was captivated by Kim Jong Un as he received him and his entourage without any prejudice, transcending the differences in idea, political view, nationality and religious belief.

Kim Jong Un gave Rodman cigar, which was his favourite, as a gift.

Rodman was so happy that he politely asked the former to write his signature on it.

Kim Jong Un, with a bright smile on his face, wrote his signature, reading, "For our fellowship, February 28, Kim Jong Un."

A mixed match between the American basketball players and Korean players was held in the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang in the presence of Kim Jong Un. After the end of the match Rodman presented Kim Jong Un with a suit of his basketball team's uniform No. 1, out of his greatest sincerity and respect for him.

He described his impression of the DPRK's leader as follows: Kim Jong Un is a young statesman. I did not know that he would be so affable and influential. He is great, kind, modest and knowledgeable. In an instant we were all captivated by his personality.

Rodman was suddenly thrust into spotlight as the first American to have met Kim Jong Un.

After his return home, he told the journalists: Kim Jong Un is an incomparably great, unreserved and brilliant leader. The Korean people like him, to be more specific, they love him. I love him, too. Indeed, he is a respectable leader.

Comments of the World's Mass Media

On August 5, 2019, the American newspaper Hill carried an article contributed by the director of a department of the American Navy centre of studies.

The article reads in part:

Former US administrations have continuously resorted to the same approach towards north Korea, expecting a different outcome. When President Trump went to a negotiating table with President Kim Jong Un, many experts commented that something new would begin. But, Trump has maintained the policy of strategic patience as his predecessors did, and the result is no advance.

The American conservative circles should acknowledge that their maximum pressure has already failed.

North Korea is a country that determines the core interests of the US, and Kim Jong Un, supreme policy-maker in his country, is a leader who exerts an important impact on the national interests of America.

Before bringing the issue to the UN, it is necessary for the US to study whether it would have to co-exist with north Korea.

Whether it likes or not, it should co-exist with that country.

If all of us believe, as experts and intelligence agencies have

said, that Kim Jong Un would not abandon nukes, there is no other option. I think that the US should handle the present reality, not the virtual "reality," which it wishes for. It should wake up, see the current reality and make headway with a creative approach.

In relation to the speech Kim Jong Un delivered at the military parade held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, the American NK News reported as follows:

In his speech at the military parade held in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un expressed his thanks, saying that he thanked the people for their good health, without any one of them having fallen victim to the malignant virus, and he said in a tearful tone of voice that he extended the highest tribute and warm thanks to the devotion and efforts the KPA service personnel displayed in the infectious disease prevention and disaster relief fronts. The speech, which is permeated with a feeling of pride, love and respect towards his people and army, is composed of the softest and the most impressive contents.

Shock, Admiration and Praise

The following are what were posted on the network by the Chinese netizens in March 2020.

• The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the first

country which has won in the fight with the virus in the world. I offer best wishes to Kim Jong Un, outstanding leader of the Korean people, as well as to the Korean people.

- o I pay noble tribute to the great leader for his seasoned leadership and devotion for his country and benefits of his people.
- Kim Jong Un is strong, indeed. Long live Comrade Kim Jong Un! General Kim Jong Un and the Korean people are great. I respect and admire them.
- I hope that Kim Jong Un will continuously protect the only "clear land" in the world.
- The advantages of the Korean system have been fully displayed. This is why socialism is good.
 - The world should learn from the DPRK.

The following are what they posted in relation to the Emergency Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK held in July 2020.

- The DPRK leader is wise and resolute. He does his work well. Admirable.
- o It is a responsible attitude towards the people. The Party's leadership is excellent.
- The socialist system of the DPRK is advantageous. Everybody moves according to unified command. They should continuously give full play to these advantages. The great DPRK can overcome every manner of challenges. All the people should unite as one to fight to the end. The socialist state can undertake gigantic projects as it can focus its efforts.

- The audacious and resolute disposition of the DPRK deserves to be learned from by others. The epidemic prevention work is being carried on smoothly in this country. I hope that the DPRK will remain in peace. Do protect your clear land to the end! Cheer up, Korea! You will surely win.
- There is no problem in the anti-epidemic field in the DPRK. The speed of its response is very rapid, and the epidemic prevention measures are quite definite and professional. It is far better than the US in this regard. It is 1 000 times more powerful than the latter. The US must watch carefully. Trump is well advised to learn from the DPRK.

The following are what the netizens of the world posted on the Internet in regard to the report by Kim Jong Un on the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK.

- o Tribute to the DPRK, a paradigm of a dignified leader and people, a country of independence and prestige
- Kim Jong Un expressed his will to safeguard the security of his country and people and the peaceful environment of socialist construction by strengthening the national defence capability to a higher level.
- The leader who respects his country and people and brings dignity to his people, the leader whom the US and the rest of the world look up to.
- If a statesman like the DPRK leader leads my country for only one month ...
 - o Symbol of dignity, strength, audacity, sense of discipline and

organization and elaborateness. The people of the DPRK, in spite of their difficult living conditions, are enjoying a dignified life in a stable environment free from any social chaos. DPRK, may you become stronger.

- The DPRK, living on its own, not plagued by debts and not daunted by the pressure of foreign forces and not dependent on them, will surely join the front rank of big powers in the near future.
- The DPRK leader deserves respect of the world people. This is the true appearance of the DPRK.

The following are what the netizens of the world posted on the Internet in regard to the military parade held in commemoration of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

- Mega-great and wonderful night-time military parade in Pyongyang, which made the whole world startled
- The DPRK, a nuclear power and the one and only country which stands against the US!
- The leader who has made a correct judgment of what is needed and what should be done to defend the sovereignty of his country in the present world

Ideal Leader

In the past decade the DPRK achieved amazing development in socialist construction.

All the achievements are a fruition of the direct leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Kenichi Ogami, Secretary General of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, and many other figures in the political, social, economic and military circles in many countries unanimously praised Kim Jong Un as a genius of creation and construction.

Outstanding Art of Leadership

Mode of Creation

The Russian news agency Krasnaya Vesna carried an article, titled, *Kim Jong Un's Mode of Creation*.

The article reads as follows:

What is Kim Jong Un's mode of creation like in leading the building of his country into a powerful socialist one?

The first is surpassing the world standards.

All the things he has created are new, innovative and enterprising. The world-class Masikryong Ski Resort and Munsu Water Park and other architectural structures like the apartment houses for teachers at Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology, Wisong Scientists Residential District, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, Songdowon International Children's Camp and Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage not only rank top in design, building execution, content and form but also in their own characteristic features. These edifices that embody practical and artistic features as demanded by the principle of prioritizing comfort and aesthetic beauty are visual evidence of the height of civilization and creation Kim Jong Un demands.

However, the above-mentioned projects are only part of the world of creation of Kim Jong Un in his endeavour to break through the stereotyped forms and formulas, incessantly explore new things and advance to surpass the world standards.

While looking round the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, he said that the scientific research and design sectors should be well aware of the concept of architecture in the new century and intensify the work of studying how to make an effective use of renewable energy and natural energy and of introducing them.

His goal is to surpass the world standards not only in architecture but also in every field.

The second is the extraordinary speed of creation.

He guides all the construction projects to be finished at one go in the shortest time possible.

Typical example is the Masikryong Ski Resort. The workload of its construction was gigantic; according to existing formula, it would have been impossible to finish it even in ten years.

However, Kim Jong Un decided to finish the project in a short span of time.

In response to his appeal to create the Masikryong speed, the Korean people and the soldier-builders rose up as one; braving every manner of trials, they accelerated the construction project, which covers a vast area, on the principle of taking responsibility for its safety and guaranteeing its absolute quality for all eternity and ensuring the highest standard. The world was startled to see the ski resort which was completed within a short period.

The Songdowon International Children's Camp was renovated in a little more than five months, the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp was built in four months, and the Wisong Scientists Residential District was built in seven months. Literally, the appearance of the country changed day by day.

Even at this moment the Korean people are bringing about leaps and innovations.

The third is audacity and extensiveness.

Whatever we build, we should erect it as a monumental edifice of lasting significance—this is Kim Jong Un's creed of creation.

He went over 110 artist's impressions of the Munsu Water Park built on the Taedong riverside, 590 for Mirae Scientists Street, 2 000 for the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and 11 360 for the city of Samjiyon. The total cost of equipment and building materials defrayed for projects for renovating the Songdowon International Children's Camp and building the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage and apartment houses for scientists and teachers and other edifices is amazing.

Do make anything perfect if it is for the people; there is nothing to spare for the children and for the scientists and educationists; we should not begrudge investment for them—this is his "way of calculation."

His thinking and practice are not confined to some parts and units nor serve only a minority of persons.

He had the Songdowon International Children's Camp refurbished and had the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage built in keeping with the world trend; he also took measures for building all the Children's Union camps and primary and secondary schools for orphans on the same standard. Always mindful of the elderly with nobody to support them as well as parentless children, he had a fishery station set up for supplying on a regular basis fresh fishes to the old people's homes as well as baby homes, orphanages and primary and secondary schools for orphans across the country.

Having had the apartment houses for teachers at Kim Il Sung University newly built, he ensured that sailing boat-shaped apartment houses for teachers at Kim Chaek University of Technology was built, and later he saw to it that Mirae Scientists Street was built at the highest level in its surrounding area.

The scope of his creative undertaking is extensive and endless, indeed.

Unexcelled Drive

An unexcelled drive constitutes the core of Kim Jong Un's leadership abilities.

Unlimited in scope and three-dimensional-this is a major characteristic of his drive.

The rehabilitation campaign in the flood-stricken northern area of the country in 2016 is an eloquent proof of it.

At that time, it rained heavily for several days in the area, bringing about great calamities to the local people, and the damage was disastrous. At this moment, Kim Jong Un had the construction of Ryomyong Street, which was nearing completion, suspended and the People's Army units, which were enlisted in the construction,

promptly seconded to the flood-hit area. He also adopted crucial measures of mobilizing all the human, material and technical potentials of the country for the rehabilitation work.

He led the rehabilitation project so that it was turned into a gigantic course of bringing about an eye-opening change; he gave guidance to designing, building work, forming construction workforce and supplying building materials; he also took measures for supplying foodstuffs, daily necessities, medicines, firewood, cooking utensils and children's notebooks; his care even reached the problem giving lessons to the schoolchildren. Thanks to the special measure taken by him, nearly 2 000 schoolchildren in the flood-hit area left for the famous Songdowon International Children's Camp while the project was going on full steam.

Busy as he was guiding the campaign, he not only directed his efforts to improving the people's living standards and revitalizing the economic sectors but also inspected the People's Army units. In a word, he pushed ahead with the work of the political, economic and military sectors in parallel and in a three-dimensional way.

The world mass media commented: If we make a general analysis of activities Kim Jong Un has so far made, we can conclude that he is very scrupulous, capable of looking far into the distant future, grasps several sectors simultaneously while, on the basis of a correct judgment of the order of priority and importance, giving a strong push to his plans. This is only possible as he is backed by his profound thinking abilities and perfect drive which does not allow belittling any tiny part.

Foresight

In late January 2022 Kim Jong Un looked round a site in the Ryonpho area, Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, which was designated for the project of building a large-scale greenhouse farm. On February 18 he participated in the ground-breaking ceremony of the project, where he delivered a speech, took a shovel in his hand to break ground and pressed a button for blasting. Through the construction project of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm one can see that his mode of leadership is future-oriented.

It is well-known to the international community that a large-scale, modern greenhouse farm, which covers an area of 200 hectares, was built in the Jungphyong area, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, in the end of 2019.

In April 2019, when its construction was in full swing, he had a similar project in his mind. With a determination to set up a modern greenhouse farm in Ryonpho-ri, Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, which would be more gigantic than the former, he inspected the site in person.

Later on, he gave instructions related to the project several times and went over its designs.

However, the project was not launched immediately. At the time, the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm was the largest in its kind in the country. It is easier said than done to build and operate such a greenhouse farm without any deviation.

After building the greenhouse farm, the country accumulated rich experience in managing and operating it for two years. This practical experience was very beneficial for the country which had planned to build such a greenhouse farm in each province.

It is not accidental that while making a field survey of the site designated for building the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, Kim Jong Un stressed that it was necessary to further develop the greenhouse farm in its sci-tech and management aspects by referring to and reflecting all merits and demerits found in the already-built Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm in designing the new greenhouse farm.

He entrusted the project to the People's Army units which had already gained rich experience in building the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm, and took measures for selecting and training technicians and other employees and preparing vegetable seeds, farm machinery and other farming materials in parallel so that the greenhouse farm could be operated immediately in the following year after its construction.

Under his mode of leadership, the construction project of the new greenhouse farm was launched.

The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm is not only modern and the largest of its kind in the country but also the largest greenhouse farm in the world. Workload for the construction of the farm was more than two times that of the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm which had been inaugurated two years previously. The farm is furnished with more advanced technology and equipment than the former in

the supply of nutritious elements, environmental management and working process. The houses built in the farm number more than 1 000, far larger than the houses built in the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery.

In addition, it has characteristic public buildings including school, hall of culture and welfare service facilities, as well as windbreaks all around.

Through this project, Kim Jong Un created a new standard for rural construction.

It is the Party Central Committee's intention, he said, not only to build it into a large-scale vegetable farm with an annual production capacity of tens of thousands of tons, but also to make it a model farm for disseminating advanced agricultural technology, a new base for creating rural civilization of our style, and a cultured socialist farm where it is good to work and live in both in name and reality, and to push ahead with the country's overall rural development more dynamically and confidently with this farm as the standard and beacon.

In a word, it would serve as a standard for the greenhouses to be built in other provinces and for rural rejuvenation which has entered a practical stage.

Kim Jong Un created a new standard in every aspect of the project, including the speed and mode of construction.

The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm was completed in a matter of 230 days by October 10, the founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Jong Un encouraged the soldier-builders to act boldly to introduce further innovations to the existing standards and mode of construction. He also led the project to serve as an example of construction guidance.

It is his intention and leadership mode to bring about fresh turns and progresses in overall socialist construction by creating an example and generalizing it across the country as he did in the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm project.

Bringing Earlier the Spring of Prosperity

In February 2022, a thunderous explosion shook the Hwasong area in Pyongyang, signalling the ground-breaking for the construction of another 10 000 flats following the previous year.

What drew attention in the ground-breaking ceremony was a flag which was fluttering beside the platform where Kim Jong Un stood. It was the flag of the project headquarters for the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang he had personally handed over to the persons related with the project for the building 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area in the previous year after declaring the start of the project.

As he said in his speech at the ceremony, housing construction was not confined to construction itself.

As a matter of fact, this undertaking is accompanied by the work of consolidating the material and technical foundations of the construction sector in terms of both quality and quantity, to produce various kinds of building materials domestically, to raise the proportion of work done by machines, and to widely introduce advanced building methods and architectural technology.

In other words, in the course of housing construction, the construction sector is modernized on a higher level and preparations are made for dealing with larger and heavier projects.

The main point is that such progress will lead to the construction of large-scale metallurgical and chemical bases and new power production bases, reclamation of tidelands, and building projects for transforming the Komdok area, the Ryonpho area and all the rural areas of the country. In short, the project in the Hwasong area will serve as a driving force of the development of all the economic sectors including building-materials, machine-building, metallurgical, chemical and power industries and of the transformation of the country's appearance.

The sanctions and blockade by the hostile forces and other subjective and objective challenges and trials facing the DPRK today are forcing only severe winter upon its people's livelihood and economic development. But Kim Jong Un put forward the construction sector in the vanguard of the effort to put an end to this winter and bring spring earlier.

He is convinced that in the course of a fierce struggle for grand construction, vacillation and lack of ability will be overcome, courage and wisdom displayed, backwardness and stagnation eliminated, progress and innovations achieved, and the power of the state and people to shape the future increased. Herein lies the reason why the flag was fluttering beside the platform where Kim Jong Un stood.

Kim Jong Un ensured that the new construction project began in mid-February, more than a month earlier than the start of the previous year's project, though it was still winter. This was as good as a declaration of his determination before the world that he would resolutely blow up the challenges and difficulties and bring earlier the new spring of prosperity on the strength of self-reliance.

World-startling Military Parade Held at Midnight

On April 25, 2022 the DPRK presented a large and dazzling military parade celebrating the 90th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, causing a great sensation in the world.

What is worthy of particular note is the fact that the parade which looked like a grand artistic performance was born under the personal guidance of Kim Jong Un.

The country had organized scores of military parades since the first one of the Korean People's Army which was held on February 8, 1948, the day when the army was born as regular armed forces of the new Korea.

In particular, over ten military parades were held under his

guidance in the past ten years. Of these, the first-ever midnight military parade on October 10, 2022 struck the world with awe and admiration.

The world media and commentators analyzed the parade in various ways describing it as an unprecedented midnight military parade, a unique military parade and an unimagined military parade.

A commentator said that the objective of the midnight military parade was to show the courage, pluck and will of Kim Jong Un to surmount challenges by all means and to hint that the light cast by the Workers' Party of Korea was clearing the darkness.

Since then several military parades were held at midnight, each time with renewed scale, form and content, which were crowned by the one held on April 25, 2022 in celebration of the 90th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army.

Under Kim Jong Un's guidance, the military parade became the first of its kind. The honour guards carrying the flag of the DPRK came out of the column of women representing a red star when it had reached the section in front of the rostrum, and the 12 paratroopers skilfully landed in group at the speed of 50 metres a second from the altitude of 4 500 metres above Kim Il Sung Square.

Various illuminators including moving illuminators and laser projectors produced beautiful and dynamic effects like instant blackout following flooded lights, then spotlighting, rhythmic wave-style illumination and scintillation.

Unlike in previous military parades, the columns of the frontline corps, navy, air force, strategic force and special operation force marched following their respective colours and those of their sub-units.

Squadrons of fighter jets decorated with LED lights hedgehopped sending off trails of sparks over Kim Il Sung Square and performed other stunt movements flawlessly.

When guiding the preparation of the parade, Kim Jong Un suggested that it would be quite a scene if the squadrons of fighter jets lowered the altitude immediately after they passed the Tower of the Juche Idea and then fanned nosing up from the bank of the Taedong.

Another spectacular scene was the squadron of 20 fighter jets and five choppers flying over the square forming the pattern of a star, while setting off red fireworks.

The scene was so impressive that many foreign netizens who saw it contributed messages recommending that the Korean pilots be awarded the title of world champions.

Kim Jong Un paid close attention to the demonstration of the cutting-edge military hardware and gave detailed instructions on how to make the formation of the columns and even in what colour the equipment be painted so as to clearly demonstrate the true value of the absolute might of the DPRK.

The unique video presentation of the military parade was also produced under his meticulous guidance.

A Russian news agency wrote in an article titled, *How Did the DPRK Change the Mode of Publicity?*: Pyongyang presented a grand military parade in celebration of the 90th founding anniversary

of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army; columns of infantry units, tanks, gigantic ballistic missiles mounted on launchers passed the dazzlingly-illumined square and squadrons of fighter jets flew in the night sky setting off brilliant fireworks; what is important was that the country's media openly aired all these, possibly to demonstrate to the whole world that the country is more confident and has a greater might than the stars of the hit movies of the West; the parade was as effective as the breaking news of the test-fire of the ICBM *Hwasongpho-17* released by the DPRK TV channels in March; the video presentation edited with the background music of action movies gives an impression that one is seeing combatants in action movies; one may easily take the scenes for movies where the heroes handle the secret weapons with great expertise.

Golden Age of Construction

"Which City Do You Think Has These Buildings?"

Thanks to the leadership of Kim Jong Un, the DPRK is greeting a golden age of construction. Then, how does the world look at it?

The director general of the Brazilian newspaper Patria Latina wrote in an article: We have posted on our website scores of photos of the DPRK's Mirae Scientists Street, Sci-Tech Complex and Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, with the question, *Which city do you think has these buildings?*; thousands of website visitors

answered that they belonged to Hong Kong, Shanghai or Macao; nobody answered that they were the structures in the DPRK; when I posted a narration that they are buildings that had been built over the recent years in Pyongyang, the capital city of the DPRK, all browsers expressed their astonishment and admiration, saying, "It is beyond imagination," and "They are unbelievably wonderful."

The Russian newspaper Rossiskaya Gazeta wrote: Photos of Mirae Scientists Street on the Internet surfed by billions of people have become a hit; the street with unique buildings of shapes of the future is a new street of peculiar style built in Pyongyang in the times when civilization is further efflorescing; Pyongyang is changing its looks with such structures; there is a saying which goes 'seeing is believing'; if peoples of capitalist countries see and learn how the Korean people live, their governments will be overthrown the following day.

Country Changing Morning and Evening

One modern street was built every year after the completion of Changjon Street in 2012.

Unha Scientists Street and apartment houses for educators at Kim Il Sung University were built in 2013, followed by the apartment houses for educators at Kim Chaek University of Technology and Wisong Scientists Residential District the next year.

The year 2015 saw the completion of Mirae Scientists Street with

thousands of flats and 150 neighbourhood-serving amenities, whose construction had started the previous year.

In 2017 Ryomyong Street two times as big as Mirae Scientists Street in terms of the size and workload was completed in less than a year. Many projects like Masikryong Ski Resort and Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station were completed at record-breaking speeds.

Pyongyang has been building 50 000 flats since 2021 completing 10 000 every year. In this process Songhwa Street with 10 000 flats was completed in April 2022, and separately modern terraced apartment buildings for 800 households were built on the shore of the Pothong River. Now another 10 000-flat project is under way in the Hwasong area.

It is in no way accidental that the world media said that things change in the DPRK morning and evening.

All the structures are perfect and characteristic in terms of architectural beauty.

The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Ryomyong Street, terminal of Pyongyang International Airport and Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp are typical examples.

In particular, the Sci-Tech Complex in the shape of the atomic structure which symbolizes the world of science can be called a unique monumental structure.

The 53-storey apartment building in Mirae Scientists Street crowned by a 24m-high and 40t-heavy tower representing a satellite entering the orbit was registered in the list of super high-rise buildings by a world association of architecture in January 2016.

Ryomyong Street lined with high-rise buildings including 70-storey super high-rise buildings is an energy-saving and green street built with latest techniques and represents modern architecture.

Express wrote in an article: Pyongyang is by no means a city for showoff; it is a wonderful city with buildings excellent in terms of formative and artistic feature; the city is representing development, prosperity and creation.

Cultural Resorts for the People

In the DPRK many buildings were erected or renovated over the past ten years under the energetic leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Munsu Water Park

Covering a vast area of 109 000 square metres, the Munsu Water Park is like a paradise of water.

The large-scale comprehensive water park is furnished with all conditions necessary for service in all seasons including outdoor and indoor wading pools with various kinds of slides and water tanks and an indoor gymnasium.

There are various slides of different forms, colours and heights—simple ones for children, steep ones, less steep ones, long ones, short ones, ones with rubber boats and ones without any aids.

The park has dozens of wading pools: swimming pools, wave

pools, ultrasonic wave pools, etc.

There are man-made waterfalls and rocks resembling Mts Myohyang and Kumgang in the outdoor wading area. And the animal sculptures inside the tunnels under the rocks look as if they were real.

One of its nine characteristic saunas is a salt sauna; its walls are covered with 2-3kg-heavy salt rocks which contain dozens of kinds of microelements. This type of sauna helps to remove inflammation and is very efficacious for treating disorders of the nervous system and for relieving fatigue.

The yellow-soil sauna with the walls and floor covered with baked balls of yellow soil which release infrared ray and microwaves at a certain temperature is efficacious for treating obesity and inflammation.

In addition, there are also charcoal sauna, forest sauna smelling of pine resin, agate sauna, ice room and oxygen room.

The indoor stadium has volleyball, basketball and badminton courts, trampoline and wall-climbing facilities. The sports apparatuses store can provide all apparatuses necessary for various kinds of exercise.

The sculptures, waterfalls, lawns, recreation grounds, and brightly-decorated sculptures add much to the beauty of the park. The park is also equipped with catering and other service facilities.

According to a source, Kim Jong Un examined as many as 113 formation plans, so as to build it as a water park of El Dorado style.

Rungna People's Recreation Ground

There is a beautiful island named Rungna on the Taedong. Rungna Island means silk island on a crystal clear river. An excellent recreation ground was built on the island.

The water park past the entrance to the recreation ground consists of a four-track slide, diving tower, wading pools, high-water pressure bath and sandy beach. It is thrilling to see people sliding down at a fast speed from the top of the 18m-steep slide.

The basketball, volleyball and beach volleyball courts are also crowded all the time.

Situated beside the water park is the Rungna Dolphinarium patterned after a dolphin.

The two storey-auditorium with more than a thousand of convenient seats, the large electric screen, the underground auditorium, the sandy beach, the rocks, the sweet briers and the background picture of waves, and the stage for the tamers and the pool—all make visitors feel as if they were in the sea.

The dolphins jump one after another, displaying various skills to the tune of pleasant melodies amid the sounds of waves and seagulls, and the artistic swimmers communicate with them.

The sci-tech learning space of tunnel style is a school that gives the visitors broad knowledge of the marine ecological system.

When the sun begins to set, a dazzling display unfolds in the amusement park and laughter, shrieks and exclamations resound in the Mad Mouse, Sky Drop, octopus-shaped Roundabout and other facilities.

The piece de resistance is the Riding-on-Hawk which Kim Jong Un tried on the inauguration day of the recreation ground. It is said that the foreign diplomats who tried it with him that day became very famous overnight.

Central Zoo

The Central Zoo at the foot of Mt Taesong is a world-class base of cultural and emotional life and educational base.

The main entrance in the shape of tiger head and about 40 buildings including the halls for reptiles and monkeys, sheds for animals of prey, elephants, giraffes and ponies have their characteristic features.

A typical example is the hall for reptiles which looks like a tortoise with its head raised.

The animal rooms are aligned next to each other along the outside walls of the hall, and the semidesert and savannah in the centre of the building make the visitors feel as if they were in the tropical area. The route for visitors between the animal rooms and the semidesert and savannah goes to the second floor through staircase and then back to the first floor through the spiral flyover. More than a hundred machines of 30 kinds provide different temperature and humidity to each area and an air conditioner with a capacity of 100 000m³ provide fresh air.

After looking round the renovated Central Zoo, the director of the Skansen Aquarium of Sweden said: I have visited many halls for reptiles in various countries and that in the Central Zoo is the best of all; everything about it is original; I was told that the Central Zoo had been renovated in a short time under the guidance of Kim Jong Un; such a thing can be witnessed only in the DPRK which is led by Kim Jong Un and the Central Zoo is a wonderful result of his politics of ardent love for the people.

Samjiyon-Model Mountain City

The sea change in Samjiyon in the DPRK's northern province of Ryanggang shows the height of civilization the Korean people are striving to attain under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

Samjiyon is a mountain city situated in the highland of 1 300m above sea level. Before its renovation most of the houses there were one-storey buildings. But the city has undergone a sea change.

Nearly 200 buildings were pulled down and low-rise and highrise apartment houses for 4 000 households were built together with more than 380 public and industrial buildings including hospital, hall of culture, schoolchildren's palace, gymnasium, sci-tech library, bog bilberry drinks factory, bean paste and soy sauce factory and souvenir factory.

Practicality, diversity and formative art are achieved at a high level in the formation and architecture of the urban area.

Architectural structures of various forms were built to match the natural and geographical features of the northern alpine region. The dwelling houses and neighbourhood-serving amenities are harmoniously connected to realize artistic connection and compatibility among the buildings.

The road facilities, landscaping and visual aids like slogans, mottos and decorative illuminations are all at a high level.

In a word, the area has turned into a model of modern mountain city that epitomizes the ideal of the people and modern civilization.

After looking round the city, a European businessman said: I have visited many countries with developed economy and culture, but I have not seen such a wonderful mountain city as this; what is more surprising is the fact that such excellent buildings are the dwelling houses and service amenities for ordinary people.

It was Kim Jong Un who brought about such a reality. He proposed the renovation of the city and solved all the problems of construction workforce, equipment, materials and fund for the project. When the officials and builders were thinking of renovating the city for form's sake, he urged them to rebuild it completely as required by the new century and clarified matters of principle to be adhered to in the project. He visited the construction site many times—three times in 2018 and two times in 2019.

The inauguration of the city was held in December 2019 in the presence of Kim Jong Un. It is the goal of the DPRK to build all the provincial towns in the mountainous regions like Samjiyon.

Completion of Songhwa Street and Its Significance

In April 2022 Songhwa Street, the first stage of the project for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, was inaugurated in a grand style.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in January 2021 marked a historic occasion for opening a new era in achieving the comprehensive development of Korean-style socialism.

In his report to the congress Kim Jong Un put forward the general orientation of five-year plan for national economic development, that is, laying firm foundations for reenergizing the economy as a whole and improving the living standards of the people.

What he attached importance to in the work for implementing the decisions of the congress was the project for building 50 000 flats in the capital city.

He put forward the task of building 10 000 flats every year from 2021 as part of the project and instructed that the project be started from the Songsin and Songhwa area, the eastern gateway to the capital city

The construction of Songhwa Street was not decided when everything was going smoothly.

Sanctions and blockade imposed by the hostile forces and severe challenges like the global public health crisis were the main obstacles hindering the progress of the country.

Deciding on a large-scale construction project was something beyond anyone's imagination in such circumstances, in which merely maintaining the status quo was a miracle.

Building a street of 10 000 flats was a huge project several times bigger in terms of workload than Ryomyong Street which had been completed several years before. Besides, advanced architectural engineering methods like green architecture and dry-building were supposed to be introduced. And it had to be accompanied by growth in all fields of the economy including building-materials, metal, machine-building and mining industries and railway transport.

More importantly, the completion of the project at the set time would mean a breakthrough in the endeavour to implement the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea to make Pyongyang a more magnificent and beautiful city within five years.

In the final analysis, the completion of the project at the set time was an important issue which had a bearing on the progress of the DPRK which was aspiring after the comprehensive development of socialism.

Kim Jong Un regarded the project as an important political work of the first year of the implementation of the decisions of the Party congress, which was directly related to the livelihood of the Pyongyang citizens. To encourage the builders, he made an inspiring speech at the ground-breaking ceremony of the project and pressed the button of the first blasting signalling the start of the project. And he paid close attention to everything related to the project, ranging

from its artist's impressions, designs, formation of construction workforce, building work and supply of materials to builders' living.

Under his leadership Songhwa Street could be built at the eastern entrance to Pyongyang as the first entity symbolizing a new era of comprehensive development of socialism of the Korean style.

DPRK's Tomorrow Seen through the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District

The Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District, called Kyongrudong (Kyongru means jade pavilion in Korean–Tr), is an example that shows what the DPRK intends to create in Kim Jong Un's era and how.

It is a model and standard of residential district as it realized complete harmony of buildings and nature as well as organic and scientific distribution of the living space and ecological space without affecting the natural environment.

Having conceived a plan for building a characteristic residential district in the area along the shore of the Pothong, Kim Jong Un ensured that its construction was carried out in 2021 separately from the construction of 10 000 flats.

He went over 240 designs in slightly over a month, giving advice on how to highlight the features of the houses as luxurious ones and on how to diversify the distribution and forms of the buildings.

Under his guidance, the characteristics of the types and elevation

of the buildings were made conspicuous while low-rise and multi-storey buildings were harmoniously combined to form an architectural group and the interior of the houses were impeccably decorated.

A new bus line was set up for the district and the residential quarters were expanded to accommodate the shops, service and catering facilities. Alleys were made to bus stops for the convenience of the residents, landscaping in and around the residential quarters was done on a high level and the parks along the Pothong River were spruced up.

The DPRK intends to build modern residential districts like this terraced houses district throughout the country in the near future.

Its construction sector plans to change the living environment of the people completely within 20 to 30 years. In pursuance of this plan, the capital city is pushing ahead with the project for building 50 000 flats between 2021 and 2025, and the provinces are also stepping up housing construction.

In this context the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District is of great significance for the DPRK which consists mainly of mountainous areas. The appearance of the capital city and provincial towns will be fundamentally changed in the near future based on the standards, successes and experiences gained in building this district.

Although only 800 families of ordinary working people were provided with luxurious houses, it is the plan and determination of Kim Jong Un to make all the people throughout the country live in such houses in the future. This is the reason why he visited the

construction site several times and led the builders to create a new example to be used in building residential districts in sloping and mountainous areas.

The completion of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District is encouraging the Korean people in their patriotic and creative work to make their country more beautiful through their own efforts.

For the Development of the National Economy

Strategy of Developing the Economy by Dint of Self-reliance

Resolving all the problems arising in developing the economy by relying on the spirit of independence and creativity of the people and on science and technology is a principle Kim Jong Un consistently adheres to.

Reinforcing the self-supporting character and the Juche character of the economy occupies an important place in his economic strategy.

In November 2017 he visited the then Sungni Motor Complex and Kumsong Tractor Factory.

He looked round the tractors and trucks of new types made by the factories by dint of self-reliance in the face of worst trials and even seated himself over steering wheel.

Reporting his visit, the world media quoted him as saying that

the tractors of a new type the workers had made by displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance were not merely vehicles but iron horses born of the spirit of self-development for breaking the chains of blockade of the hostile forces and making a shortcut to building an economic giant.

They also commented that Kim Jong Un had been emphasizing the need to obtain at home everything needed for production since his New Year Address for 2014; in 2017 he put forward the slogan "Let us accelerate the victorious advance of socialism with the great spirit of self-reliance and self-development as the dynamic force!" and put forward self-development as the way for economic innovation by clarifying that the strength of self-reliance and self-development meant that of science and technology and that giving precedence to science and technology was a shortcut to implementing the five-year strategy.

While visiting the then Sungni Motor Complex, Kim Jong Un said that the harder the hostile forces were trying to block the ways ahead of our people, the stronger the indomitable spirit of the Korean working class is growing and the greater miracles they are creating.

During his visit to the Pyongyang Bag Factory, which was reported to be the first leg of his public on-site guidance trip in 2017, and other on-site guidance in various sectors of the national economy, he emphasized the need for the economic sectors to hold higher the banner of self-reliance and self-development.

True to his instructions, the country's economic sectors are striving to produce raw and other materials, fuels and equipment at home and to establish technical processes necessary for obtaining strategically important raw and other materials domestically.

Typical examples are the construction of the oxygen converter and oxygen blast furnace in the large-scale Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.

Having already set up fertilizer production lines based on coal gasification, the chemical industry has taken positive measures to establish the C1 chemical industry and to develop the sodium carbonate industry, which uses glauberite as the starting material, and the synthetic fibre industry.

To solve the problem of electricity, the country is proactively pushing ahead with the construction of large-scale hydroelectric power stations and with the work of using various energy sources like natural energy.

It is now manufacturing modern subway trains, trolley buses, trams, trucks, tractors and various farm machinery as well as various machine tools like CNC machines.

Another important element in Kim Jong Un's economic strategy is converting the country's economy into a knowledge economy by stepping up the work of putting it on a modern and IT footing.

Many factories in the DPRK have put their production lines on a modern footing. The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory has built an integrated system for conducting its production and management activities on a scientific basis. It has introduced automated and flow-line equipment and created a germ-free and dust-free environment for production, and most of the necessary machines are home-made ones.

Efforts are being made to bring science and technology closer to production, in the course of which universities and research institutions are turned into bases for developing and producing state-of-the-art products, and industrial enterprises are making their production and technical management processes development-and creation-oriented. The IT industry, nanotechnology and bioengineering are being created, thus giving a strong impetus to economic development.

Orienting economic development towards providing the people with a rich and civilized life is an important part of Kim Jong Un's economic strategy.

According to this strategy, the DPRK is resolving all the problems arising in developing the economy with the people's demands and interests as the yardstick.

Priority is given to the branches of the economy that are directly related to the people's living and the shops are filled with homemade goods. Fish farming and aquatic culture are developing at a fast speed, and the production of mushroom and greenhouse vegetables is increasing.

At the Eighth Congress of the WPK in January 2021, Kim Jong Un advanced a new five-year plan for national economic development and clarified that the economic strategy at the current stage was one of readjustment and reinforcement. The strategy is aimed at putting the national economy on a normal track so that it can operate smoothly without being affected by external influences, and that this will be achieved by renewing and readjusting the economic

work system and the organic relations among sectors and pushing ahead with cementing its self-supporting foundations.

In the policy speech he made at the Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on September 8, 2022, he stressed the need to push ahead dynamically with the struggle for implementing the five-year plan for national economic development and follow up on the successes at the next stage. He then said that the most important revolutionary task facing the government was, by implementing the five-year plan without fail, to consolidate the foundations for achieving the comprehensive development of socialism and to find satisfactory solutions to such pressing problems concerning the improvement of the people's living standards as those of food and consumer goods.

The international community commented: All in all, Kim Jong Un's economic strategy can be called a strategy unique to the DPRK, which is aimed at making its economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific on a high level and providing the people with an affluent and civilized life by developing science and technology in the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

Line of Giving Importance to Science and Technology and Economic Development

Many foreign mass media and experts commented that the DPRK's science and technology is developing rapidly under the

outstanding leadership of Kim Jong Un who, having put forth the line of developing science and technology, is striving to translate it.

Now the line of giving importance to science and technology is a hardcore strategy of the country.

In the speech he delivered at the parade in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in April 2012, Kim Jong Un declared that single-hearted unity and invincible military might plus the industrial revolution in the new century together make a thriving socialist country.

This declaration mirrors his firm will to develop the country's economy and build a socialist power by effecting an industrial revolution in the new century, the core of which is the cutting-edge science and technology.

At the Seventh and Eighth Party congresses and on many other occasions he put forth a series of innovative lines and policies on developing science and technology—making all the people well-versed in science and technology, updating the system for the development of science and technology, building a cutting-edge industry, expanding the scope of knowledge dissemination and giving preferential treatment to scientists.

To this end, he visited many sci-tech institutes. Among them are the Satellite Control Centre, Sci-tech Complex, State Academy of Sciences and Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute.

When he visited these units, he set goals the scientists and technicians should attain, and illuminated the ways for achieving them. When they made brilliant achievements, he was greatly satisfied and bestowed benevolence on them.

Under his energetic leadership a climate of prioritizing science and technology has been created across the country, and great achievements have been made in the development of science and technology.

Now the country's science and technology is developing at a rapid speed. With the focus on such cutting-edge fields as IT, nano, space and nuclear technologies and biological engineering, the country is establishing new research institutes and reorganizing the existing ones to ensure profitability and keep up with the world's trend.

Scientific research is being brought closer to production, and integration of science and technology with the economy is being made rapidly, making the country achieve serial production of cutting-edge products with a competitive edge in international market.

Recently it has revised the law on invention. It selects the Most Valuable Inventors of the Year on an annual basis, giving wide publicity to them, and conducts brisk exchanges of science and technology with foreign countries.

The country is intensifying online education and prodigy training and increasing state investment in education, so as to put training scientific and technological talents on a practical, comprehensive and modern footing. A well-regulated nationwide online education system has been established by connecting the sci-tech learning spaces at all universities and colleges, factories, enterprises and farms to the Sci-Tech Complex in Pyongyang.

National scientific and technological festivals, sectoral scientific and technological exhibitions, expositions, seminars and demonstrations are held on a wide scale, ensuring a prompt dissemination and exchanges of scientific and technological successes.

In the course of this, it has produced many talents who struck the international academic circles with wonder, and achieved world-amazing successes in the space, bioengineering, nano and other cutting-edge sci-tech fields.

In particular, it aims at achieving in a matter of several years the scientific research successes which took developed countries scores of years, running at full speed towards its goal of developing its science and technology in the development-oriented and innovative way, not the way of copying samples, by its own efforts and technology and taking an honourable place among the ranks of the most advanced nations in the world in the near future in overall scitech strength.

Then, what is the motive force behind this reality in the country? At the Seventh Congress of the WPK held in May 2016, Kim Jong Un said: Scientific and technological strength is a state's most important strategic resource and a powerful propellant for social development; we should achieve a new leap forward in rapidly developing the country's science and technology and usher in an era of prosperity by means of science, thus bringing about a revolutionary turn in socialist construction.

He makes sure that a climate of giving importance to science

and technology prevails in the whole of the country. In January 2018, he visited the State Academy of Sciences despite the cold weather.

While ensuring that the state never spares investment in science and technology, he continuously gives field guidance to the scientific research sector so as to build up its material and technological foundations.

He set forth the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in April 2018.

And in his policy speech in September 2022, he stressed once again that the government of the DPRK should put forward a talent strategy, a strategy of sci-tech development, as the core strategy for the comprehensive prosperity of the state, and give a powerful boost to its implementation.

Under his deep concern and great trust, the country's scientists, technicians, researchers and educators are provided with all necessary working and living conditions from the state, and are concentrating their effort on their work. That is why the country's science and technology is developing at such a rapid speed.

The world's mass media and experts commented: Thanks to Kim Jong Un's policy of attaching importance to science and technology businesses are thriving in the DPRK; in Kim Jong Un's era the country is rapidly developing its science and technology.

Ushering in a New Era of Rural Rejuvenation

The WPK convened the Fourth Plenary Meeting of its Eighth Central Committee in Pyongyang in late December 2021.

At the meeting Kim Jong Un made a report, titled, Let Us Open Up a New Great Era of Socialist Rural Development of Our Style, in which he unfolded a grand plan for rural rejuvenation in the new era.

By Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Workers

In his above-mentioned report Kim Jong Un stressed the need to raise the level of the ideological consciousness of the agricultural workers. In order to achieve rapid development of the agricultural production forces, the agricultural workers, the main component of the forces, should fully play their role as masters. Kim Jong Un said that, in order to do this, it was necessary to prepare the agricultural workers as dependable masters of the rural revolution.

The report emphasized the need to vigorously carry on the ideological revolution among the agricultural workers so as to equip them with the ideas and policies of the WPK and the fighting spirit of the peasant heroes and patriotic peasants produced in different periods.

It defined preparing agricultural workers into intelligent workers as an important requirement for making them fulfil their duties as masters of the socialist countryside and stepping up the development of rural communities in the new era.

It stressed that studying of agricultural science and technology and dissemination of advanced farming techniques should be conducted among them, so as to broaden their horizons and raise the level of their technical skills as required by the policy of making all the people well-versed in science and technology.

It also underlined the need to post many university graduates to the rural areas and further increase the technical forces of farms by relying on their pivotal role.

It mentioned the need to raise the agricultural workers' level of cultural awareness and establish a revolutionary, sound and cultured way of life in the countryside.

While keeping their villages neat and tidy, it stressed, they should conduct brisk mass cultural and artistic activities and mass sports activities, establish an ennobling and sound moral discipline and thus make the countryside overflow with laughter, optimism and tender feeling.

The state is supposed to direct major efforts to improving the level of education and medical service in the rural areas and to continue to propagate and expand the culture of the capital city, the culture of the working class and the model culture of the times, to regions and rural areas.

As part of an effort to help the rural communities fend for themselves and cement the economic foundations of farms, Kim Jong Un proclaimed a preferential measure of exempting all the debts of farms to the state.

As it was taken at a time when the country's economic work

was still under difficult conditions and when there were more important and ambitious tasks to be addressed, the decisive steps have remarkably heightened the enthusiasm of the millions of the agricultural workers and served as a reliable guarantee for the rapid development of the agricultural production forces.

Change in the Structure of Grain Production

Already, in his policy speech at the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Jong Un unfolded a plan to switch to wheat and barley farming, together with rice farming, in the future.

In order to do this, he said, it is important to take measures to expand the paddy and non-paddy areas for cultivating rice and the area of wheat and barley cultivation across the country more than double the existing area.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, he reaffirmed his plan to change the structure of grain production in the country.

In accordance with this plan, the rural communities have considerably expanded the area sown with wheat and barley since the autumn of 2021.

From 2022 onwards, the work of cultivating dry-field rice in the area where maize was planted has been pushed ahead with in the whole country.

So far the main crops of the country have been rice and maize. In particular, maize has played a major role in grain production as the area of intermediate and mountainous regions is larger than that of plains in the country's territory.

But in the future, the main crops will be replaced by rice, wheat and barley, and maize will be planted for animal feed.

This change will lead to a change in the diet of the people.

That is, the staple food of the people will be rice and wheat, not rice and maize.

Livestock Farming and Fruit and Vegetable Production

There are many pig and chicken farms in the DPRK, whose production is based on an intensive footing, but the WPK has consistently advocated the livestock farming on the principle of "grass for meat." This is because the mountainous country has favourable conditions for raising grass-eating domestic animals on an extensive scale. Therefore, the barren Sepho area was turned into a large-scale stockbreeding base and other projects have been pushed forward to raise a large number of grass-eating domestic animals.

In particular, the importance of livestock farming on the principle of "grass for meat" has been further highlighted since the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK in June 2021 adopted a decision on supplying dairy products and other nutritious foodstuffs to all the children across the country at state expense.

The country is waging a campaign to decisively increase the number of goats and cows in all rural communities and encouraging the people to raise rabbits.

The national output of milk will increase by three times in the near future as against 2021.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to put the production of fruits and vegetables on an intensive footing.

The Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm, Kosan Combined Fruit Farm and other fruit production bases have been wonderfully built, with the result that fruit production is steadily increasing.

And according to a plan to supply people with various kinds of fresh vegetables all year round, the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm and Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, which can produce vegetables in a scientific, industrial and intensive way, have been built and such a greenhouse farm will be erected in each province.

State Investment Aimed at Changing the Appearance of the Countryside

In his report to the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK Kim Jong Un set it as an important way for the rapid development of the agricultural production forces to purposefully increase state investment in the agricultural sector, irrespective of the given circumstances and conditions.

The aim of state investment in the countryside is the independent development of agriculture.

The state is systematically increasing investment in agriculture to improve and reinforce the country's irrigation system as a whole, supply sufficient amounts of fertilizers and highly effective agricultural chemicals, ensure adequate supply of modern electric power equipment and electrical machines, find new land and reclaim tidal flats.

Saying that it is an intention of the WPK Central Committee to develop the Kumsong Tractor Factory into a comprehensive one capable of producing high-horsepower tractors and various other high-performance farm machines and completely renovate the farm machine industry of the country by concentrating investment on major farm machine factories and farming machine research field, he took a special measure for its realization.

He stressed the need to focus efforts on South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province of the country.

In September 2022, 5 500 farm machines were supplied to farms in South Hwanghae Province.

The first-stage renovation project of the Kumsong Tractor Factory was completed in early November 2022.

The report at the plenary meeting set it as the most important task in socialist rural construction to turn all the rural villages across the country into rich and cultured socialist villages in the near future. To this end, it set forth the tasks of supplying cement to all cities and counties on a preferential basis, establishing a powerful Party and state guidance system and providing major building and finishing materials.

As part of the effort to usher in a great golden age of construction, the country is now waging a dynamic campaign to build modern houses in the rural areas. In building houses, importance is given to retaining originality on the principle of ensuring the excellent cultural and topographical characteristics of the given regions and the convenience and demands of their residents, and to properly combining artistic harmony and variety with the surrounding environment.

Regions have consolidated their own construction forces and designing units, and the state has set it as an important policy to supply cement and other building materials to cities and counties.

Through Trade Fair

Pyongyang hosts an international trade fair every spring and autumn. The 22nd Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair was held in May 2019, attended by more than 450 companies from the DPRK, China, Russia, Pakistan, Poland and other countries. The centrepiece of the fair was the products the DPRK made by applying advanced science and technology in various fields including metal, electronics and machine-building industries, transport, public health and light industry.

After looking round the fair, the general director of a Russian company said: At the current Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair, I have keenly felt that the economic foundations of the DPRK are fairly strong; the goods produced by companies of the DPRK are by no means inferior to those produced by foreign companies; the

trademarks are excellent and the quality of the goods is on a high level. The general manager of a company in Shanghai, China, said that the DPRK's products presented to the fair were excellent, and that he felt that the DPRK's development potential was great when he learned that the country had made them by its own efforts in the face of the sanctions by the outside forces without any help from others.

Economic experts said: The DPRK is a special country which is achieving prosperity in the spirit of self-reliance. No matter how harsh the sanctions against it are, its economy is developing day by day by dint of the spirit of overcoming obstacles and on the basis of strong potentials. Sanctions fail to check its advance; rather they contribute to cementing its spirit of independence. It has achieved many successes in the economic field by its own efforts, and this shows that it can become a completely new and powerful economic entity in the future.

As a matter of fact, the products presented to the international trade fair can be said to epitomize the national power and the level of economic development of the DPRK.

Foreign media commented that the *Unhasu*-brand cosmetics produced by the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory are gaining worldwide popularity and the DPRK's products exhibited at the 22nd Pyongyang Spring International Trade Fair drew attention of many countries for their competitive edge and quality. The general director of the Korean Care Company of Russia submitted an application for the purchase of a large quantity of *Unhasu*-brand cosmetics through

an Internet website, saying that the products were very popular among women in Russia and many other countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and in particular, demands were increasing among them for the cosmetics, whose main ingredient is Kaesong Koryo insam, a special product of Korea, for their high efficacy in skin care.

Foreigners who visited the Ryuwon Footwear Factory said that the quality of the factory's products was very high.

The DPRK has also enormous technological potentials.

In recent years, the Taedonggang Brewery, Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory, Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Sonhung Foodstuff Factory, Pyongyang Bag Factory and many other production units have received international quality certification for their products.

Such quality products are sold at shops and stalls in the country, contributing to improving the quality of the people's living.

The international trade fair that takes place in Pyongyang twice a year shows that the country's economy is competing with the world fair and square.

To lead the world with our products—this is the goal and ideal of the developers.

Through the trade fair the foreigners came to know that the DPRK is advancing towards the future while developing external economic relations with many countries and steadily conducting exchanges with the world.

Seeing Is Believing

A Russian website DPRK Today wrote that what the visitors to the DPRK say is quite contrary to what the Western media say about the country. It continued as follows:

The level of the people's civilization and way of life are quite different from what the Western media describe them to be. Pyongyang, the capital of the country, is dotted with modern pleasure grounds like the Munsu Water Park, Rungna People's Recreation Ground and other parks, restaurants, theatres and cinemas, and the citizens enjoy material and cultural life on a high level. Department stores stock large amounts of goods to satisfy the buyers' demand. The Koreans are paying special attention to creation and innovation and are fully aware that they should develop their economy by their own efforts and technology.

A Singaporean newspaper reported on its website: If the journalists had not visited the city to see everything there with their very eyes, it would have been hard to believe that Pyongyang looks so nice, it being under severe international pressure and sanctions. The economy of the country is far from collapsing, and its urban development has reached a relatively high level. The streets are lively, people talking with a smile, children playing and laughing.

The last few years have seen rapid growth of the economy and fast rate of urban construction. The new Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street are full of modern skyscrapers, both luxurious and imposing. As a sign of economic growth, the number of flourishing living quarters, shops and stalls is increasing. They sell a wide variety of daily necessities, clothes and foodstuffs. Pyongyang has also Western restaurants, bars and teas houses.

The journalists visited a pizza restaurant in the city, where they met a citizen named Ri Ji Hyang (27-year- old researcher). She said that the country had newly built water parks, parks and other cultural facilities to provide the citizens with the conditions necessary for their rest, adding that the quality of life in Pyongyang was improving with each passing day.

She continued: We do not care about the international sanctions; we lead a happy life as before. When asked about her hope, she answered: I hope for the country's reunification and prosperity, and success in and out of my work.

A 24-year-old student said: I am happy with my present life; houses are allocated with a family as a unit, and the state provides the people with education and medical treatment free of charge; I have never felt pressed by money; I play tennis at park on holidays; after graduation, I am going to be a doctor and devote myself to the country.

In an article, titled, *Chollima Running in the Snow-covered Streets in Pyongyang*, Prensa Latina news agency of Cuba introduced the modern trolley buses and tramcars produced by the country's own efforts and technology as follows: The means of public transport the citizens use every day are indigenous ones; they are fast, comfortable, make less noise and vibration, have good brakes, and

are cost-effective. The word *Chollima* inscribed on the trolley buses means a fast-running winged horse, which symbolizes the DPRK that develops by leaps and bounds.

The Russian newspaper Rossiskaya Gazeta wrote: Photos of Mirae Scientists Street on the Internet surfed by billions of people have become a hit. The street with buildings of unique shapes that aspire after the future is a new street of peculiar style built in Pyongyang in the times when civilization is further efflorescing. The capital city of the DPRK is changing its looks with such architectural structures; the Western mass media ignore all these wonderful things in this country and continue to hatch false propaganda against it.

Cementing Single-hearted Unity

Calamities and Shocking Events

In 2020 the DPRK was hit by heavy rains of long period, followed by three typhoons.

The loss was enormous—more than 16 600 houses were flooded and a lot of crop fields, infrastructures and public buildings were destroyed in the rainy season.

However, what was surprising happened after the disasters.

The first surprising thing was the victims.

It is a common thing that worry and distress are expressed among the disaster victims. But things like pessimism or despair could not be found among the victims in this country, even though they had lost their dear houses and family property in the disasters. Rather, they were full of optimism and hope as they were convinced that the WPK and the government would take care of them.

The Party and government officials helped the flood victims with all sincerity, which can hardly be found in other countries. They led the rehabilitation projects in the vanguard, sharing will and woe with the victims

In a county, the county Party committee and other county-level guidance organs gave up their offices to the victims, and their officials worked in tents until victims' new houses were built.

Another surprising thing was the fact that the rehabilitation projects were launched promptly and on a full scale, and all the state potentials were enlisted for the projects.

In an article, titled, *Nine Years Since the Outbreak of the Great East Japan Earthquake: More Than 47 000 Still Remaining Displaced*, the Japanese newspaper Tokyo Shimbun wrote: The period of restoration and deliverance set forth by the government is approaching the end, but tens of thousands of victims are still living a miserable life in places of refuge, and the death toll and number of suicides are increasing due to poor living conditions and diseases.

Similar situations are common in other developed countries.

Contrary to this, the WPK and the DPRK government promptly dispatched army units and other powerful construction forces to the disaster-stricken areas.

As part of measures for rehabilitation, they organized divisions

with 12 000 WPK members from the capital city, and transferred the construction forces deployed for major construction projects to the rehabilitation sites. The whole country was mobilized in a campaign to produce and transport the materials needed for the rehabilitation on a top priority basis.

The speed of rehabilitation was also surprising.

The soldier builders of a KPA unit completed the construction of the framework of a three-storeyed house in three days.

As a result, the rehabilitation projects were completed in a short time and victims moved to new, modern houses provided with daily necessities.

Kim Jong Un personally led the rehabilitation projects.

He went to the disaster-stricken areas several times to inquire into the situation and take necessary measures.

He sent an open letter on the spot of an afflicted area to rouse the people to the rehabilitation projects.

Having adopted measures for rehabilitation at major WPK meetings, Kim Jong Un visited several project sites, encouraging the builders. When rehabilitation of Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, North Hwanghae Province, was completed ahead of other projects, he visited the place in September 2020, and said that he was very glad to hear that the local people were pleased, adding that he wanted to see them moving to new houses as soon as possible, that he hoped they would be happy and well-off in the new houses in the new village, and that the place would be blessed with happiness.

Large Harmonious Family

Kim Jong Un's politics based on the people-first principle and boundless love for them has created a reality, in which the leader and the people are united as one and all people live in harmony forming a large family.

It is a national trait of the DPRK to help and lead one another forward and devote oneself for the sake of others.

Ennobling virtues can be seen everywhere in the country–girls and mothers adopting orphans, those donating their blood and skin for their neighbours and comrades who have been injured in accidents, young people taking warm care of the elderly without any one to support them, those rescuing drowning children or running into burning houses to rescue the dwellers and take out the household goods at the risk of their lives.

Once some coal miners, who had been trapped in a pit for several days, bored blast holes as long as they were able to move. They did not do this to survive but to contribute to producing more coal for the prosperity of the country. They believed that their colleagues would surely save them and that, therefore, it would run counter to conscience to wait without doing anything until they were rescued.

It is not because of these facts alone that the Korean people call their socialist society a great harmonious family. Make tireless efforts for the good of the people; believe in the people as in heaven; everything for the people, everything by relying on them-these are what Kim Jong Un often says.

His virtues and benevolence make people always feel warm in their hearts even in winter when everything freezes.

When he poses for photos with the people and soldiers, he poses shoulder to shoulder or arm in arm with them. When he meets children, he embraces them in his arms.

When he was leaving far-flung Jangjae and Mu islands after inspecting the KPA units there, the soldiers and the officers' family members went as far as waist-deep sea to see him off. Deeply moved, he waved back to them with hot tears in his eyes.

It was a beautiful picture of a large harmonious family which is united and overflowing with tender affection.

One can feel such warm affection more keenly in the letters between Kim Jong Un and the people, which are often carried in the newspaper Rodong Sinmun. In Janghung-ri, Yonggwang County, South Hamgyong Province, located in the eastern part of the country, there lives a naturalized Japanese woman, named Rim Kyong Sim. Her parents were Japanese. Since her father abandoned her and her mother, the two led a miserable life in Japan. Later, she came to Korea following her stepfather who was a Korean. Though she and her mother were Japanese, the WPK treated them warmly, never discriminating against them. The government provided them with a house free of charge, along with stable jobs and all other conditions for living. Rim Kyong Sim married a Korean and lived happily. But her family failed to repay the country's benevolence;

her first son was convicted of an offense against the country and received punishment by law. She broke down and writhed in agony.

But the WPK did not abandon him. Just as a mother cares more for her sick or faulty child, it educated him to make a genuine person out of him. Under its care, he could become a worker of a primary organization of the then Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League and, later, have an honour of attending the celebrations of the 60th founding anniversary of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League.

Then he became a work-team leader after finishing the correspondence course of Wonsan University of Agriculture. He worked very hard to repay the WPK's benevolence for and trust in him, in the course of which he became its member. Out of her gratitude to the Party, Rim Kyong Sim wrote a letter to Kim Jong Un.

After reading her letter, Kim Jong Un sent a reply, in which he wrote: Our Party cares more for those suffering from mental wound. It is a mother who feels more sorrowful than anybody else about her child's pain, strokes his wound and gives her blood and flesh to him without the slightest hesitation. I think a mother feels the greatest pleasure to see her child grow to be a good man and regards it as worth of her life which cannot be bartered for anything else. That is why the people call our Party their mother. I extend warm gratitude to you for invariably trusting and relying on our Party.

Busy as he is leading overall work of the country, Kim Jong Un reads every letter, be it about a happy or sad story written by a child or an elderly person, and sends a reply to it.

The DPRK is a country where the leader and the people are combined by such affection and trust.

When Covid-19 entered the territory of the country in May 2022, Kim Jong Un took every possible measure to ensure the security of the people, and even sent the household medicines his family had prepared to needy families in South Hwanghae Province.

The DPRK enforces free universal 12-year compulsory education and gives scholarship to university students. The country bears the cost for medical services including surgery and medicines and housing for the people.

Kim Jong Un regards the people as heaven and the people praise him as the sun. The people describe this relationship of the sun and heaven as an integrated whole or a large harmonious family.

Objective Reality of the DPRK

CNN and Its Covering

The DPRK is directing a major effort to making the people possess a high level of cultural attainments and creativity.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, at the suggestion of Kim Jong Un, adopted a law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education in September 2012 though the country was still suffering economic difficulties.

The universal 12-year compulsory education is a development of

the universal 11-year compulsory education, which the country had enforced until then, and a new, higher stage of general secondary education.

This is an advanced system consisting of one-year pre-school course, five-year primary school course, three-year junior middle school course and three-year senior middle school course.

One-year pre-school course gives children elementary education, whereas primary school course gives them basic knowledge of nature and society while ensuring their physical growth so that they can receive general secondary education smoothly.

The junior middle school course teaches the students basic general secondary knowledge, and the senior middle school course, while imparting full general secondary knowledge to the students, teaches them practical basic technical knowledge.

Following the year 2017, 2018 was also designated as a year of science and education, and a dynamic effort was made to wonderfully spruce up the educational conditions and environment.

As required by the policy of making all the people well-versed in science and technology, many technical colleges have been built and the system of study-while-working education and distance education system perfected, with the result that the network of all-people education established long before has been further consolidated.

Everyone studies throughout their lives and steadily improves their level of knowledge.

The free medical care system is also on an advanced level in the world. All the people receive medical treatment free of charge, and even medical treatment and recuperation at holiday camps and sanatoria and the round trip to them are covered by the state. The material and technical foundations of the public health sector are being further consolidated, making a positive contribution to promoting the people's health.

The Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and Ryugyong Dental Hospital have been built one after another. As a medical service and scientific research base specializing in preventing and treating breast diseases, the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital has modern medical equipment including multi-purpose X-ray camera and prestigious medical teams.

It is also equipped with facilities for seminars and consultations on world trends and achievements in breast tumor research. As it has a telemedicine system, it can take regular examination of all women across the country and adopt measures for early detection and prevention and treatment of their breast diseases.

Pharmaceutical and medical appliances factories and medical oxygen factories have been newly built or renovated in different parts of the country.

Kim Jong Un always pays close attention to the healthcare in the country, ranging from the expansion and strengthening of medical service system to the production of medicines, medical appliances and equipment, the training of medical workers and refresher courses for in-service doctors.

The man-centred public health system is steadily expanding and developing under his care.

The foreigners, who visit the newly-built or renovated bases for cultural and leisure activities, are struck with admiration whatever their previous understanding of the country was.

The Western media have misled the people that those in north Korea are going hungry in rags and leading a miserable life.

Those people who have only heard the Western propaganda are surprised at the reality, a striking contrast to the propaganda.

While broadcasting live the Korean people enjoying modern civilization in the latest amusements under the dazzling lighting of the renovated Kaeson Youth Park, a correspondent of the CNN, a media organ called the world's eyes and ears, said: Your eyes are not deceiving you. This is socialist north Korea.

Travelogue by Global Research Correspondent

The following is part of the travelogue by an American and a special correspondent of the Global Research to the UN.

. . .

From Beijing to Pyongyang I had a talk with a Korean on a plane of Air Koryo. Unlike the Western propaganda that Koreans are all bilious and scary, he was very kindly and interesting. During the talk, I felt that Koreans are interesting and attractive.

I visited the Okryu Children's Hospital. Built as a present to

the children by the state, it is so designed that everything in it is for children's convenience, and the whole building is conducive to medical care.

Children suffering from disease or injury receive medical treatment under the care of specially-educated doctors and nurses and with the help of cutting-edge medical apparatuses.

There are similar hospitals across the country, whose doctors can consult with their counterparts at the Okryu Children's Hospital through telemedicine.

In the front yard of the hospital there is a helipad. All medical services are provided free of charge, and all children of the country can have an access to these services.

I have never seen before a hospital that takes care of the physical and mental health of not only children but also their parents on such a high level anywhere in the world.

I once read books about the Korean women. Surprisingly, the women whom I saw in the hospital were in elegant and refined clothes.

These facts shattered the outside world's view that the Korean people are dressed in dark and monotonous colours due to starvation and deteriorated life.

As the days of my visit passed by, I realized that the DPRK had already made surprising progress in gender equality, one of the goals for sustainable development until the year 2030 set by the UN.

I also visited the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, which provides the highest level of medical service with modern facilities.

Here I had my contact lenses tested, and the result was the same with that by a prominent ophthalmologist in New York. Through this I confirmed the standards of the hospital's facilities. The hospital was crowded with patients of different ages, and its medical service was also free.

According to my guide, as the doctors and their family members are on the payroll of the state, they can devote themselves to medical service.

I paid a visit to Pyongyang Secondary School No.1. At my request I was shown the classrooms for biology, chemistry and physics. I had a talk with the students who were attending a lesson of physics, and they expressed their dream and plan of becoming physicists in the future. In the DPRK schooling is free and compulsory.

I visited the Sci-Tech Complex, too. The complex showcases the brilliant scientific successes achieved in the DPRK, ranging from space science to clean energy technology.

I looked round many exhibition halls, which show the scientific apparatuses for persons with disabilities including those with visual impairment and magic rooms that lead young visitors to the world of science, as well as the rooms that exhibit bioengineering, marine and space technologies, sci-tech formulas and the trend of agricultural development. I talked with the Korean people freely at any place, making it clear that I am an American and saying hello. The national and linguistic barriers and prejudices disappeared, and intimacy between humans overcame those artificial obstacles.

During these days, I clearly forgot the past and all that had been

infused until then, and was assimilated to the country's rich and humanitarian culture.

I walked around Mirae Scientists Street.

It is a residential district for scientists and their families, and its residents use all facilities including medical ones free of charge.

Scientists can focus on their research work without worries about their families' livelihood. This is one of the key factors of the rapid sci-tech development in the DPRK.

That day passing by a rural village on my way back to my lodgings in a suburb of Pyongyang, I witnessed an unforgettable sight; a young girl, who looked to be six or seven years old, was dancing. She seemed to be practising a dance to show her parents while waiting for their return from the field. I felt regretful for my failure to stop my car and video the cute girl dancing in a colourful skirt, adorning the emotion of the golden evening.

Experiences of Americans

The DPRK and the US are still technically at war with each other after the Korean war in the 1950s.

At this juncture, what would be the Americans' opinions on the DPRK? Of course, most of them would have negative views of it, but those who have been to the country have different views. Among them are two Americans who had been to the country for this or that reason.

Arturo Pier Martinez, who was born and grew up in El Paso, Texas, said to journalists:

During my stay in the DPRK, I realized how happy and patriotic the Korean people are. The US is letting out a string of abuses at this country, a preposterous silly talk. The Korean people are leading a happy life indeed. In the light of this, the human rights campaign against the DPRK can be called anti-socialist propaganda and a war against socialism.

While staying in Pyongyang, I visited quite wonderful places and realized more clearly how preposterous lies the US spreads against such a wonderful socialist country as the DPRK. And I was convinced that the DPRK is a most splendid country in the world that advances along the road of socialism. Everyone is happy and patriotic, firmly rallied around their leader, which made me surprised.

The country has achieved great successes, and its people enjoy a happy life. Its industry has developed rapidly. It is producing all the goods for the people by its own efforts, including trucks and locomotives. The economic difficulties it is experiencing are not something caused by its own factors; they are an outcome of the economic blockade, by the US, I think. It is a miracle that it has achieved such successes in this blockade. In a word, I was deeply moved this time.

A student of New York University said at an interview:

Looking around Pyongyang and several other places, I came to know the fact that all the most beautiful and wonderful structures are named after the word *people* and enjoyed by ordinary citizens.

To take the Grand People's Study House as an example, it is a largesized library, which all the people including workers and farmers as well as specific people, use free of charge, reading various books and learning foreign languages, music and other subjects.

The students of Kim Il Sung University are studying hard on scholarship. In addition, there is a modern e-library equipped with computers capable of gaining access to the Internet and local area network and a nice swimming pool for teachers and students.

Looking round the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, I was very surprised to learn that any talented children can bring their hopes into bloom to their heart's content under the concern of the state.

There was one thing common to the architectural structures including schools and museums that I visited; it was that their construction had been initiated by and undertaken under the guidance of the President Kim Il Sung, General Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un, President of the State Affairs, for the improvement of the people's wellbeing.

Kim Jong Un's benevolent care for the younger generation can be seen in the Okryu Children's Hospital equipped with state-of-theart medical facilities.

After witnessing elections of deputies to the local power organs, he said: The polling stations were not places where candidates were competing with one another but places where the people supported the candidates and the latter promised to serve society. Everything I have experienced in north Korea, a socialist society, will live as

the most surprising and impressive memory in my whole life. What was obvious is that I can never find in the country the "human rights issue" or "tyranny," which the Western countries claim to be existing in the country.

Saying that he saw various materials on the start of the Korean war not by the DPRK, but by the US, and on the atrocities committed by US troops during the war on his visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and Sinchon Museum, he continued: Putting a bouquet of flowers at the tomb of the massacred children, I thought that why even a word was not mentioned about such criminal acts at lessons at high schools and at other opportunities. I could understand the hostility of the Korean people towards war crimes of the US. The DPRK-US relations are getting worse because the US still rejects to admit crimes, and this constitutes an obstacle to peace.

Last, he stressed: I hope that my experience will be conveyed to many people of the world, the Americans in particular. I also insist that the US should abandon its hostile attitude towards the DPRK and make a policy switch.

Travelogue of a Frenchman

The Western mass media describe the DPRK in the East as a backward, hermetic and jingoistic country separated from modern civilization, where no lighting can be found and the people are ill-clad and hunger-stricken.

Marseille Cartti, a Frenchman, who visited the DPRK, wrote the following in his travelogue:

I had an opportunity to look round several parts of the DPRK for three days. My DPRK visit was quite an experience that reversed all the thoughts that had filled my head and my Western colleagues' and changed my outlook on life. I am going to mention a few facts, which I think may strike the readers with wonder. Pyongyang is a beautiful and clean city, perhaps the most beautiful city in the world. During the Korean war (here the Korean people call it the Fatherland Liberation War) the whole city was completely damaged by the US carpet bombing, so in 1953 when the war was just over only two buildings remained. Considering this, today's appearance of the city can be called an eye-opening miracle.

Sculptures and large public buildings as well as wide tracts of lawn were impressive. Many people could be seen relaxing themselves on the lawn. New apartment houses were springing up, and the old ones were maintained in a good state of repair. They say the night is dark in Pyongyang; there were no useless billboards glittering at night like in Western countries, but illuminations made the whole city look beautiful. The Korean people often laughed, smiled and exchanged pleasantries.

The readers may ask me if it was only for show. If all the Korean people I met faked such genuine smiles, it is unbelievable. If it was true, then it must be explained that the people walking on the streets faked happy expressions when they saw cars, carrying foreigners,

among so many cars passing fast by them.

Unlike the Western propaganda, the mode of social intercourse of the people in the DPRK was the same as the one in the "liberal" Western countries, and their personalities were also multifarious. Their likings were various, and they could freely choose what they liked. They were well-clad beyond imagination; I never saw those who were in dirty or worn-out clothes.

Unlike our thoughts affected by the Western media, men and women did not wear same clothes. I could often see women wearing elegant clothes of very bright colours such as rose pink or traditional clothes. Men usually wore full dresses with neckties, and sometimes casual clothes such as sportswear.

All the stories about the DPRK told in the Western countries are absolutely false. Reports by the Western press, which quote the information on the Internet sites that seek ulterior motives, are all nonsense and tricks to demonize this country.

What was impressive was family picnics in parks and pleasure grounds. At the peak of the picnics, men and women of all ages danced their traditional dances. Everyone was willing to join dancing as in other countries. They led foreigners by hand and tried to teach them how to dance their traditional dances.

To speak briefly, I realized that the Korean people are the most enthusiastic, honest and active ones I have ever seen. Even though they overcame imperialist colonial rule and lost one-fourth of the population during the Korean war, and now they are living in an acute situation in which war may break out any moment, they are invariably maintaining their social system. I think they are heroic, indeed.

Successes in free compulsory education including tertiary education, society with no vagrants, proud and dignified people—you should imagine these if you are to have a more perfect and comprehensive idea of this country.

We do not approach the difficult problems the country is faced with at present in relation with other problems. Then how should we approach them? The once suppressed country is now aiming at freeing itself from the rule of powers that attempt to swallow up other countries on their road of building a unipolar world.

I nearly forgot to mention nuclear weapons. Suppose the north Korean army, which has occupied the western half of the US, conducts military exercises on an annual basis on the sea off New York for carpet bombing of Manhattan and for occupying the whole territory of the US; what would the West have done?

If it were true, it would be ideal for Americans to strengthen their nuclear deterrent to cope with it. The Korean people are not war maniacs and north Korea is never a country ruled by military authorities. However, seeing perilous situations created in some countries by the manipulation of the US, they must have keenly realized the truth that the only way to keeping their country as an independent one is to follow Songun politics and possess a nuclear deterrent.

Country Different from What the West Describes It to Be

Miroslav Razanski, an MP of Serbia, contributed an article about his travel of the DPRK to the newspaper Politika.

In the travelogue, he gave an account of his impression of the military parade held in Pyongyang on February 8, 2018 in celebration the 70th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army, and continued:

Peace on the Korean peninsula is being obstructed by the US. It is none other than the US that has given rise to the present crisis on the Korean peninsula, and the DPRK's possession of nuclear weapons is an outcome of the outdated tricks of the US which created a dangerous situation and has availed itself of it. The DPRK demands that the US fundamentally remove the nuclear threat against it. From a logical point of view, any country will choose such an option if there is nuke under its nose. The DPRK maintains its stand that it will not threat anyone first but develop cordial relations with all countries that are friendly to it, and that it will continue to strengthen its nuclear armed forces that guarantee its sovereignty and security unless the US nuclear threat is put to an end.

Meanwhile, the Serbian media gave wide publicity to Razanski's interview under such titles as *Western Allegations about the DPRK*

Are All Lies and DPRK Is Different from What the West Describes It to Be.

According to them, he said: Up until a few days ago I held a mistaken view on the DPRK as I was enthralled by the systematic lies about the country by the Western media. But from the first step of my visit to the country, I witnessed completely contrary reality and felt an urge to expose the false propaganda conducted by the Western media.

As I saw them, the Korean people were neat and elegant in attire and the shops were selling in large amounts industrial goods and foodstuffs of various kinds and good quality. Pyongyang was a splendid city which could be squarely compared with other modern cities of Europe. The metro was perfect and operating on a regular basis.

In the interview, he also expressed his deep impression about the Korean people who had achieved great successes in several sectors by their own efforts even under the decades-long harsh sanctions by the hostile forces and about the country possessing powerful scientific and technological strength and economic potentials.

The director of a music institute in Indonesia said: Our visit to the DPRK was realized with our minds filled with hesitation and strain owing to the vicious US propaganda and negative influence of the press which brand the country as a "nuclear state threatening global peace," a "state violating human rights" and a "country of poverty." What moved us greatly was the fact that all the people were enjoying the benefits free of charge in all aspects such as housing, education and public health. When compared with the US propaganda that describes it as a most "criminal state" in the world, its reality clearly proved that it is a more righteous and civilized country.

The head of the Flamenco Band of Spain said that he received a deep impression during the visit to the DPRK and it was an experience that collided with his prejudice against the country head-on.

Creating a Model in War against Covid-19

How Come the DPRK Remains a Clean Land When Covid-19 Is Cutting a Wide Swath in the World?

The stirring reality created in the DPRK can be seen not only in the economic sectors such as massive-scale construction.

The wise leadership of Kim Jong Un also created a miracle in the war against Covid-19 which has plunged the world into confusion and turmoil.

When Covid-19 broke out in late 2019, Kim Jong Un saw through its danger and immediately took preemptive and comprehensive measures for blockading his own country. As a result, the DPRK could remain a virus-free area for two years and three months.

And when a serious situation was created in the country with the malignant virus entering its territory, he ensured that a strong measure of switching over to the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system was taken immediately.

On March 11, 2020 a Chinese SNS posted an article, titled, *How Come the DPRK Remains a Clean Land When Covid-19 Is Cutting a Wide Swath in the World?*

The article reads as follows:

Covid-19 is attacking the whole world, and many countries are affected by the malignant virus. According to a report by WHO, 110 000 persons have been infected with the disease across the world.

However, there is a rarely clean land though it is surrounded by major infected countries, including China and Japan, and a region, and that is the DPRK.

Compared to Japan, a country that is behaving as if it were a Buddha, and the US, a country that makes a bluff, the DPRK took absolutely strong prevention measures. Since the early days of Wuhan blockade, it paid an especially close attention, considering that this disease will develop into a pandemic.

In late January, when the whole world was yet to pay any attention to this disease, the country took immediate measures and established a state emergency epidemic prevention system with surprising foresight. It prevented Covid-19 from entering its territory by establishing epidemic prevention headquarters in the capital, provinces, cities and counties and conducting medical inspection at the border-crossing points, ports and airports across the country. It set up quarantine facilities in advance, and conducted medical

checkup for those who had been to any foreign country and early treatment for the suspected cases. What is more surprising is the fact that all those measures were taken when there were no infected cases in the country.

In the meantime, when the Western mass media were criticizing that such measures in that country were too severe, that it might incur economic loss and that it was a human rights violation, Covid-19 spread to over 60 countries in a short period, and the Western powers fell into an insurmountable pit. Looking back now, the epidemic prevention measures taken by the DPRK could be called "divine measure."

While the governments in many countries were slandering one another, the DPRK concentrated all its efforts on preventing the outbreak of Covid-19–quarantining foreigners in the country, intensifying inspection and quarantine of imports, prohibiting collective activities and extending the days of students' winter vacation, putting forward guidelines related to the epidemic prevention and public sanitation to be followed by the people when they are moving outside, and demanding their strict observance.

Its farsighted and excellent epidemic prevention measures are not aimed at being known to the world; rather, preventing the epidemic for all its people is the one and only aim.

On the basis of the research and analysis of the Covid-19 spread situation in China, it announced on February 12 as a resolution of the Supreme People's Assembly the measure of extending the 30-day lockdown period. This serious consideration and courage of

the DPRK are worthy of enjoying admiration.

Saying that, if the Covid-19 that was spreading at exponential speed enters the territory of the country, it would have a grave impact, Kim Jong Un ensured that no "exception" was allowed within the national epidemic prevention system and a strict discipline was established, whereby all sectors and units obeyed the work of epidemic prevention headquarters without any conditions attached.

The DPRK performed the strict epidemic prevention work with confidence, and the whole society, united in one mind, prevented the disease from entering the territory of the country with whatever medical and hygiene means it has.

Some mass media comment that it is natural that the DPRK can avoid large-scale infection because its external exchanges are limited due to prolonged sanctions and blockades by the international society.

I think that some people, who are prejudiced against the DPRK's outstanding judgment and excellent epidemic prevention measures, are misguided. They are viciously slandering the DPRK because the country, which they had made little of, taught the "advanced countries" and "developed countries" a lesson in the pandemic test.

It is an undeniable fact that the DPRK has no infected cases and its society is in a stable state; only its people will know the efforts their country has directed to achieve this.

. . .

Meanwhile, the international mass media and Korea specialists commented on the epidemic prevention achievements of the country as follows:

The DPRK leader has ensured that unprecedentedly powerful measures have been applied, like instructing to allow no "exceptions" and completely blockade all the routes through which Covid-19 may enter the territory of his country. These measures taken by the DPRK's leadership are the most righteous and the only solution, and it is possible only in the country's political system.

The capability of all the people of blocking the routes of spread in unity should not be slighted. Though it is surrounded by three infected areas including China and Japan, the country emerged successful in the epidemic prevention work. The international community is focusing its interest on the country's peculiar and unique experience.

Recovering Peace and Stability Rapidly

In May 2022 it was confirmed that Covid-19 had entered into its territory, and the country put into operation the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system nationwide.

The anti-epidemic emergency situation was managed in a stable way and the whole country regained peace and stability in a short period of time. How was it possible?

The main factor was the direct leadership by the WPK over

the anti-epidemic war.

On May 12, Kim Jong Un convened the Eighth Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Party Central Committee, and the meeting adopted a decision of the Political Bureau on raising the national epidemic prevention work to the highest anti-epidemic emergency level.

Then, he took a series of measures to take the initiative in the antiepidemic work in controlling and managing the spread of Covid-19. He convened consultative meetings of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on May 14 and 15, respectively, and he guided a meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on May 17 and a consultative meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on May 21. On May 29 he guided another consultative meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee to discuss the Covid-19 spread situation.

In this way, he guided six important meetings to cope with the epidemic crisis in 18 days after the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system was put in place. He visited the highly dangerous places of the anti-epidemic efforts to learn about the anti-epidemic situation and take relevant measures, and sent the household medicines his family had prepared to the needy families—all these are unprecedented examples in the world history of the anti-epidemic efforts.

He visited the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters and acquainted himself with the nationwide antiepidemic situation, and took measures for implementing the decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, firmly taking hold of the good chance of winning the anti-epidemic campaign.

On May 15, immediately after a consultative meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, he visited pharmacies in Pyongyang to acquaint himself with the supply of medicines. At that time the shop assistants had just recovered from the disease. He went up to them, learning in detail whether medicines were properly supplied and stored, whether the pharmacies turned into a 24-hour service system, what kind of medicines people demanded most now and how much they cost. He asked them to explain to him which treatment method was most efficacious and how they would answer the questions raised by fever cases. And then he instructed the officials to take strong measures related with putting to right the defects revealed in the medicine supply system and transporting of medicines.

The stable good chance of winning the anti-epidemic campaign in the country can be attributed also to the unified guidance by the state and the voluntary, concerted actions, virtues and tender feeling of the people, who kept step with the state's guidance.

After the nationwide lockdown was introduced, the people implemented in an active and responsible manner the government's measures such as disinfection and lockdown.

Nearly 3 000 combatants in the military medical sector, deployed in hundreds of pharmacies in the capital city on the special order

of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, launched into the work of transporting and supplying medicines.

The medics did not merely wait for the people in the pharmacies; they went to houses to supply them with medicines, and treated patients when necessary, instilling confidence in them.

For example, tens of millions of medicines of over 90 kinds were supplied in the capital city and all other regions of the country on May 24 alone, and the number reached over 360 million of over 430 kinds in total in early June.

Nearly 500 rapid deployment teams and rapid diagnosis and treatment teams were organized across the country for disinfection and confirmatory diagnosis of infected cases, sending them to hospitals or treating them on the spot. Over a million medical workers, teachers and students at medical schools and hygiene activists were enlisted in the treatment of patients, screening and testing and disinfection.

The virtue and tender feeling of helping and leading one another forward was a major characteristic of this anti-epidemic war.

Many people presented medicines, money and foods to needy families. Schoolchildren sent to pharmacies the medicine packets they made.

Thousands of people who had retired from the public health sector or who had been engaged in other sectors took part in the medical service voluntarily. Other volunteers took part in the work of stabilizing the people's living. At least 10 000 mobile service teams were organized across the country; over 160 vegetable,

foodstuff and daily necessities stands were installed in each district in Pyongyang alone.

What Does the Great Victory in the Anti-epidemic War in the DPRK Show?

The highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system was removed in the DPRK on August 10, 2022.

That day making a speech at the National Meeting to Review the Emergency Anti-epidemic Work, Kim Jong Un declared victory in the war to exterminate the novel coronavirus that had entered the country's territory and to defend the lives and health of the people.

World Records Seen through Numbers

As the number of fever cases jumped rapidly, on May 12 the DPRK put into operation the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system—locking down the whole country city by city, county by county and isolating work, production and living units from one another.

This intensive anti-epidemic measures were removed in 91 days. The country had registered a record of being a country free from the novel coronavirus for the longest period in the world–two years and three months; it now set another world record in controlling the spread of the virus and exterminating it.

As a matter of fact, the country stably controlled the spread of

Covid-19 before the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system was lifted. From the fifth day after putting the highest anti-epidemic emergency level in place, it reversed the nationwide spread of the disease and brought it into a containable, manageable and stable phase. This put it in a good position to win the war against the epidemic.

The daily number of fever cases, which numbered hundreds of thousands in the early days of the spread of the virus, fell to fewer than 90 000 one month later. The number then continued to decrease, and from July 29 no suspect case was reported. In other words, it could check the spread of Covid-19 and restore anti-epidemic stability in 80 days. This can be called a record in the world in containing the spread of the epidemic. In view of the fact that not a single vaccine had been administered in the country by then, it is quite surprising that only 74 people died during this period, 0.0016% of the total fever cases.

During the period more than 71 200 public health workers and over 1 148 000 hygiene activists were mobilized across the country every day to identify and treat fever cases, while thousands of former public health workers volunteered for this effort.

Contrasting Happenings

Looking back, there were various reactions among the people when the virus began to spread across the world.

The rich in the capitalist countries including the US vied with one another in taking shelters in islands on the oceans and posted the photos of their luxurious life there on the Internet, drawing criticism from other people. Others bought not only goods in heaps but also firearms for fear of possible social confusion. Many refused to wear masks, claiming about "freedom," and held gatherings that violated anti-epidemic regulations such as physical distancing. Such acts that proceeded from thinking of only oneself brought about indescribable pains and deaths.

However, all the people in socialist Korea adhered to the antiepidemic rules and regulations in response to the measures taken by the Party and government; they regarded wearing masks, washing and disinfecting hands and keeping physical distancing as mandatory, and displayed the trait of helping and leading one another forward in the anti-epidemic work.

When the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system was put in place, Kim Jong Un personally guided the work, visiting the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters and pharmacies in Pyongyang, and asked the Headquarters Committee of the WPK to send the medicines prepared by his family to the families in difficult conditions. Following his example, not only officials of the Central Committee of the WPK but also officials of Party organizations and power organs at all levels, ministries and national agencies worked with devotion for the people's lives and safety and sent money, daily necessities and foods to the needy families.

Even the ordinary also sent money, goods and foods, which they had saved, to war veterans, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and needy families.

A Clean Land Free from the Virus

On August 12 in all parts of the country, except those on the frontline and border area, the people appeared without masks. What does it mean?

First, the country is the cleanest land free from the malignant virus.

Until then, many countries would downgrade the anti-epidemic level whenever there was a sign of relaxation in the spread of Covid-19. But the DPRK did not follow suit.

Though there were no fever cases, it never felt relieved; it followed the anti-epidemic situation for more than 10 days, lifted the highest-level anti-epidemic emergency system after ensuring the safety of 200%, nay 500%, and suspended mandatory masking. It meant making public that there is no Covid-19 case in the country.

Second, the DPRK can cope with any public health crisis with confidence.

As a matter of fact, the country made it mandatory for all the people to wear masks even when the virus did not enter its territory.

Experiencing the Covid-19 crisis, it achieved great anti-epidemic victory by dint of all-people resistance and all-people alliance, superiority peculiar to the Korean-style socialism. In the course of this, it accumulated a rich experience. At present, it is consolidating the material and technical foundations of the public health sector, setting up a well-regulated epidemic prevention system, and solidifying the anti-epidemic wall so as not to allow entrance of any virus into its territory.

Even though any crisis breaks out, it can fully overcome it by its own efforts—this is the dignified image of the country, a clean area free from the malignant virus, which lifted mandatory masking.

The world admired the successful emergency anti-epidemic campaign in the country, calling it an "epoch-making puzzle" and a "legendary reality."

This campaign brought the world to know what kind of man Kim Jong Un is.

Looking 100 Years Ahead of the Country

Guaranteeing the Future by Dint of Education

In the East there is a proverb that goes that planting a tree is a plan that looks 10 years ahead and training a man is a plan that looks 100 years ahead.

It is no exaggeration that the period of 10-odd years, during which Kim Jong Un has led his country, has been for 100 years ahead of the country.

The Sixth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in Pyongyang in September 2012 drew great attention of the world as the meeting adopted a law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education.

This was one of the laws promulgated that year, when Kim Jong Un was officially elected as the leader of the country.

The point is why he gave priority to education.

The DPRK had enforced the universal 11-year compulsory education for scores of years, and its education had been on a high stage. However, it was Kim Jong Un's view that greater efforts should be directed to education in line with the requirements of the new century to confidently guarantee the future of his country. Proceeding from this view, he had unfolded his plan to increase the school education period to 12 years from 11 years.

UNESCO, after making an analysis of the correlation between the school education period in many countries and their economic growth rate, once announced its opinion that if the education period is increased by one year, the economic growth rate increases by 9%. But it is easier said than done to increase the education period. Many countries hesitate to do so as it demands a huge sum of money.

In keeping with the establishment of 12-year compulsory education system, the DPRK has compiled education programmes that meet the demands of the new education system, promoted the work of renovating the education contents, and paid attention to improving the conditions and environment for education.

In January 2018 Kim Jong Un visited the renovated Pyongyang Teachers Training College.

The college, equipped with such latest educational apparatuses as 3D image input device, 3D printer and electronic board, and sophisticated teaching tools and management and operation facilities, is a standard college. Its education is on a highly scientific, IT and modern footing.

Looking round the college, he stressed the importance of the duty the teachers training colleges assumed to make the country a land of education, a talent power, by bringing about a radical improvement in education in the new century. He continued that every province should spruce up their teachers training colleges with the one in Pyongyang as a model.

According to his instructions, many teachers training colleges across the country are now being renovated as "pedigree farms" for training teachers.

He made sure that the schools in the general education sector were renovated in line with the demands of the new century. Looking round general education units such as Changjon Primary School, primary and middle schools for orphans in Pyongyang, he said that schools should be built in a modern fashion in keeping with the pedagogical demands.

Along with this, he encouraged teachers to direct their efforts to raising their qualifications so that they could bring up their students to be competent talents who are prepared in an all-round way. He made sure that the schoolchildren's palaces and Children's Union camps in different parts of the country were also renovated to create all the conditions needed for training schoolchildren as talents possessed of theoretical and practical qualifications.

Even though the education period is increased and the educational environment and conditions are improved, the future of a country cannot be guaranteed if the mental world of its students become heterogeneous. Kim Jong Un has attended the Children's Union congresses, delivered speeches, and had photo sessions with them, sometimes spending a whole day with them.

What is noteworthy in his speeches is that the Children's Union members should carry on the bloodline of the Juche revolution by learning from the examples of their forerunners.

He always requests that all of them should become not indulgent ones, but young patriots who value all the assets their forerunners have created and tend every single tree and every single blade of grass by themselves.

Among the factories that he attached greatest importance to are those that produce school things such as textbooks, notebooks, bags and pencils. He has ensured that these factories are built by allocating a huge sum of money in the difficult conditions in order to make the schoolchildren cherish patriotism of valuing and loving the indigenous things of their country since their childhood.

He attaches so great importance to the education work that national conference for the education sector was held two times in ten years, and the problem of developing education was discussed several times in the major meetings of the WPK.

Future of the DPRK Seen in the Efforts for Making All the People Well-Versed in Science and Technology

Making all the people well-versed in science and technology

in the DPRK is aimed at preparing all the members of society as intelligent workers with the intellectual level of a university graduate and developers of science and technology.

Many countries in the world are directing big efforts to training talents, but it is limited to some people, not the broad sections of the masses. Worse still, they do not dare to equip all their people with modern science and technology.

The DPRK has created conditions and environment for making all the people well-versed in science and technology.

First, universal 12-year compulsory education has been introduced. The introduction of a high-level secondary compulsory education is an essential prerequisite for raising the general level of knowledge and cultural level of society and preparing all the people to be sci-tech talents.

A study-while-you-work system of higher education system has already been established in the country, a system that is composed of online education network of regular higher education organs and factory, farm and fishermen's colleges.

Many universities including Kim II Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology are giving online education, and the number of applicants is on the increase.

All places of the country are equipped with social education facilities. Factories and enterprises have sci-tech learning spaces, and cities and counties in provinces have bases for disseminating scientific and technological achievements. Anyone can learn the latest sci-tech achievements there.

The Sci-Tech Complex built on the Taedong River in Pyongyang plays an important role in making all the people well-versed in science and technology.

It has sector-specific halls including a basic sci-tech hall, applied sci-tech hall, earthquake experiencing hall and virtual science lab, where exhibits can be operated, controlled or felt and which are equipped with smart computers, projectors and other facilities. There can be found sci-tech diffusion rooms, reading rooms and areas for future energy and scientific games.

In this comprehensive e-library the people retrieve and read the latest sci-tech achievements made in other countries as well as those of their own country, to say nothing of the sci-tech books published in the past.

The decisive guarantee for making all the people well-versed in science and technology is the policy of attaching importance to science and technology pursued by the WPK and its General Secretary Kim Jong Un. He set the policy of attaching importance to science and technology as an important task to be consistently adhered to in the building of a powerful socialist country.

He said: We should attach importance to talents and make all the people well-versed in science and technology. A nationwide network should be established centring on the Sci-Tech Complex, a great temple of learning for all the people and a multifunctional hub of scientific and technological dissemination, so that new scientific and technological information flows from the centre to the lowest level. We should ensure that institutions, enterprises, factories and farms

build sci-tech learning spaces that are connected to the Sci-Tech Complex and that they operate the spaces effectively in order to help the working people raise their level of scientific and technological knowledge and make a positive contribution to the technological development of their respective units.

The Sci-tech Complex tells how great attention he pays to making all the people well-versed in science and technology.

Having proposed building the complex, he personally chose its site on Ssuk Island on the Taedong River, a prime site, and made public to the world that the island, which had not been well known, would be developed as an island of science. Busy as he was with looking after all the sectors of the country, he went over the complex's formation plans several times and acquainted himself with its construction frequently, solving all the problems arising in its construction.

On a cold winter day in February 2015, he visited the construction site and encouraged the workers.

Thanks to his close attention and energetic guidance, the complex was built as a world-class architectural structure in a little over one year.

On January 1, 2016, Kim Jong Un attended its inauguration ceremony and cut the ribbon, saying that the complex should be operated well so that it can make a great contribution to making all the people well-versed in science and technology.

Whenever he visits a factory or enterprise, he always looks round the sci-tech learning spaces there, stressing that the spaces should be operated effectively so that all their employees could be trained to be sci-tech talents.

To Achieve Comprehensive Development and Comprehensive Prosperity

On September 8, 2022, at the Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Kim Jong Un made a policy speech.

In the speech he reaffirmed his firm faith and will to lead his country along the road of achieving comprehensive development and comprehensive prosperity of socialism, and indicated the tasks to this end.

All the tasks are oriented to innovation and development.

It is his view that the country should advance vigorously towards higher goals looking 50, nay 100 years, ahead with confidence, not resting content with the immediately visible successes in achieving comprehensive development of socialism.

In the policy speech he said: In order to further strengthen the politico-ideological might, we should further consolidate the might of single-hearted unity—the most powerful weapon of the country—in ideology, purpose and moral obligation. We should thoroughly apply the people-first politics of the WPK in overall state affairs and step up the activities of state power to ensure that all the people take an active part in political affairs as masters of the state and society. We

should inspire them to continue to give full play to the collectivist spirit, communist virtues and the beautiful traits of our society.

This shows that he aspires after constant innovation and development in social construction.

The same is true of the sector-specific tasks related with implementing the five-year plan for national economic development.

The five-year plan aims at achieving sustained economic growth and a distinct improvement in the people's standard of living on the basis of the actual situation of economic work and practical feasibility.

He detailed the immediate tasks and long-term goals for implementing the plan, such as renovating the Cabinet's work, bringing about rural rejuvenation, developing light industry, fishery and the key industries, building houses, administering land, preventing natural disasters and attaching importance to education, science and technology and public health work.

If the five-year plan is implemented, the economic work system, relations among its sectors and their self-supporting foundations will be readjusted and reinforced, putting the country's economy as a whole on a growth track and bringing about a substantial change in solving the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people; by the end of 2025 GDP will increase by over 40 percent and the production of consumer goods by over 30 percent as compared to 2020, 50 000 flats will be built in the capital city, and the Komdok area will be built as a mountain gorge city; rural construction, which started in 2022, will progress in full steam in all

the rural villages across the country making their new appearances as befit ideal socialist villages; a large area of tideland on the west coast will be changed into crop land and the irrigation system will be rebuilt.

In the speech he also unfolded a far-reaching plan for building a tidal power station and a grand canal linking the East and West seas of the country.

All these provide a sure guarantee for the country to advance economic development and raise the people's living standards onto a higher level with confidence.

He stressed that the world would watch with keen interest how the Korean people stick to their choice of building a powerful socialist country, how the DPRK carries out its resolve, and what other amazing miracles will be worked on their land.

Model of Future Society

Many foreigners visited the DPRK, and among them is Jim, an American.

He said: The future of ideals should be found in the Juche idea, and the model of future society is north Korea. I visited the country because the ideals are valuable and I was fascinated by the orientation of social construction of the country which is achieving harmonious development centring on man. During my visit, I was convinced that the only road mankind should follow is that of

building Juche-oriented socialism.

The American had long studied futurology, exploring what the future society mankind should aspire after should be like. However, he had been disillusioned by the Western societies, which were degenerated under the influence of the vulgar material-is-almighty doctrine.

After visiting the DPRK, he was convinced that futurology, his major, can be re-invigorated.

The aim of his visit to the DPRK had been to find, as the general secretary of the World Futurology Federation, a solution to reinvigorating the world futurology which was in a crisis. His fellow scholars had told him to study the Juche idea in the DPRK if he were to develop futurology. So, though he was a US citizen, he decided to visit the DPRK. In the course of meeting many scholars and visiting many places in the country, he saw the happy people and social reality of the country.

Everything that he saw and heard about in the country was attractive.

As he had known only about its pitiableness and destruction by the war in the 1950s, he was surprised at the ideal society built on the ruins of war.

He was attracted by the truth of the Juche idea, and thought that not only the Korean people but also mankind were sharing in the benefits of the idea. In his lecture to students of Kim Il Sung University, he said: The Juche idea and the building of futurology are inseparably interrelated with each other; thanks to the Juche idea,

I could gain a compass which would be fundamental guidelines for the building of futurology.

It was the conclusion he made during his visit to the country that the Juche idea and the socialism of the DPRK, which embodied the idea, were precious assets with which he could develop futurology. All the places in the country were permeated with the sincere efforts of the working people and seethed with creation. The people were living in a large family, helping and leading one another forward.

This was unthinkable separated from the Juche idea.

After returning home, he said to the full-time officials of the World Futurology Federation and his fellow scholars that the Juche idea was a great idea giving a light to the future, and that futurology should approach all the problems in the direction indicated by this idea.

To those who were disappointed at the future of the world, he said: Don't discuss a future society without understanding north Korea; don't lose courage but gain strength, longing for that country.

Prestigious Politician

The world was excited, witnessing the situation on the Korean peninsula and the surrounding region and the events unimaginable in the past like those in the relationship between the DPRK and big powers.

Who brought about such amazing events?

Who is the peerlessly great man admired as the most seasoned international leader by all the people of the world, including the president of a country hostile towards his country?

For Peace and Security of the Korean Peninsula and the World

Bold Determination

When an end was put to the Cold War, mankind ardently hoped to live in a world free from war.

Despite their hope, peace did not come. In particular, the clouds of war were looming over the Korean peninsula, the hottest spot in the world.

A war on the peninsula was never a problem for only the people living in the limited region.

It was because the war might surely be led to a nuclear war and to a third world war, its result being catastrophic beyond imagination.

Military commentators predicted that a war on the Korean peninsula would entail four major catastrophes—economic loss of 20 trillion US\$, destruction of over 500 metropolises, death of over one billion persons and global desertification. They had already predicted that 30-50 years were needed for Europe to recover its original state after the Second World War and, if another world war or a world thermonuclear war breaks out, the world will be put on a recovery track after going through 100-200 years of a primitive stage.

Like this, military confrontation and aggravation of the situation

on the Korean peninsula might originate the worst situation which may bring about even the end of the world.

2017 was a year when confrontation between the DPRK and the hostile forces went to extremes; the hostile forces railroaded four sanctions resolutions through the UN Security Council and dispatched a large force for a nuclear war to the Korean peninsula.

The countermeasures the DPRK took were beyond imagination.

Experts predicted 40-50 percent of the probability of a military conflict on the peninsula in 2018, and some said that the probability of outbreak of a war was more than that.

In this situation, the image of Kim Jong Un making his New Year Address for 2018 startled the world.

First, he came out to the platform wearing a light grey suit on the cold day.

Later, the world mass media reported that his attire was an expression of his will to overcome the grave situation and advance toward a bright future.

His address was more surprising.

In order to create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula, he expressed a bold decision beyond imagination of the world people and relevant radical measures.

The New Year Address evoked a great sensation.

The broad sections of the international community warmly welcomed the detente on the Korean peninsula.

The hostile forces that were pursuing their political interests in the confrontation with the DPRK had no option but to support Kim Jong Un's peace-oriented decision.

Kim Jong Un also made a bold decision to hold talks with the US president in order to build a durable and lasting peace mechanism on the peninsula.

The DPRK and the US had long been hostile to each other in the political, military, economic and all other fields; the latter had attempted to stifle the former by steadily increasing its military capability in the area around the Korean peninsula.

Kim Jong Un had led his country to bring about an epochal turn in the development of its national defence capability by securing a powerful war deterrent. As a result, the country had become a country which no hostile forces dare provoke. If any forces unleashed a war against the country, they would have to see irretrievable disastrous consequences. Peace on the Korean peninsula and in the region could be ensured, but the acute military confrontation and tension had yet to be eased.

Proceeding from this and out of his invariable peace-loving will, Kim Jong Un decided to put an end to the hostile relations with the US and open up a new future with his unshakable peace-loving will.

He declared suspension of nuclear test and ICBM test-fire, and ensured that the underground nuclear test site was dismantled before the eyes of the experts and journalists from various countries of the world.

His steadfast peace-loving will aroused broad support and approval from the world, and the US could not offer any reason or pretext to deny talks with the DPRK.

During his meeting with the US Secretary of State in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un said that the DPRK-US summit would be a historic meeting that would take the first excellent step for promoting positive development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and building a good future.

He accepted the official proposal of the US president on the release of Americans detained in the DPRK for having committed hostile acts against the country, and ensured that a special pardon was granted on the order of President of the State Affairs of the DPRK to the detainees, and they were repatriated to their country.

When temporary difficulties were created in the prospect of the DPRK-US summit, Kim Jong Un expressed his commitment to the summit talks, opening up a bright prospect for the meeting.

Washington Post commented that Kim Jong Un was holding the steering wheel over the new developments on the Korean peninsula.

Acme of Seasoned Diplomacy

Thanks to Kim Jong Un's decision and will to put an end to the extremely hostile relations between the DPRK and the US, which had persisted for the longest period on the earth, and to shape a fine future of peace and security of the world in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the first DPRK-US summit was held.

On June 12, 2018, the summit was held on Sentosa Island, Singapore, the first of its kind in the history of the relationship of the two countries.

Sentosa is said to mean peace and silence.

The Sentosa Development Company decorated in a characteristic way a fortress located at the western tip of the island from June 9 to 13, hoping that the summit to be held on the island would bring peace not only to the Korean peninsula but also to the rest of the world.

In the latter half of the 1800s, Britain, which had occupied Singapore, constructed the fortress to keep watch on the vessels visiting the island; now the relics from those days are preserved in their original state, and the fortress is used as a military museum and tourist resort. The company placed a bouquet in each muzzle of the 60 cannons in the fortress and decorated their surroundings with olive twigs, symbolic of peace.

At 9:00 am, President Kim Jong Un met with President Donald Trump, and shook hands with him, and the top leaders of the two countries went to the venue of the summit, putting an end to the history of over 70 years, filled with contradiction and antagonism, and taking the first step towards detente.

There were one-on-one talks between the two leaders. It was really not that easy we have got to where we are, Kim Jong Un said, adding that we were once hostage to the past and had our eyes and ears covered by ingrained prejudice and practices. But we have braved it out and we are now here at the new starting point, he noted.

At the following enlarged talks, there was a comprehensive and in-depth discussion on the issues of establishing a new DPRK-US relationship and building a durable and lasting peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

Trump was hopeful that the summit would lead to improved bilateral relations, and attributed the current atmosphere of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond, which had been teetering on the brink of military conflict even some months ago, to the proactive peace initiatives the DPRK leader had taken from the outset of the year.

Kim Jong Un accepted on the spot the US president's request for recovering the remains of American soldiers and repatriating those already identified, and gave an instruction on taking a step to address the issue as early as possible.

Trump expressed his intention to stop the joint military exercises during the goodwill dialogue between the DPRK and the US in compliance to the DPRK leader's remarks that the US side should make a bold decision to stop the military actions that irritate and antagonize the other side for the present.

The two leaders agreed that it was important to observe the principle of taking step-by-step and simultaneous actions in the course of the effort to ensure peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The historic DPRK-US joint statement was signed. The joint statement expressed the two sides' commitment to establish new DPRK-US relations in accordance with the desire of the peoples

of the two countries for peace and prosperity, their will to make a joint effort to build a durable and lasting peace regime on the Korean peninsula, as well as their commitment to recover POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified.

As the first talks between the top leaders of the two countries achieved a brilliant success beyond the people's imagination, the world public was afire with admiration and praise.

The world mass media unanimously commented on the summit, describing it as a "surrealistic and historical event," "convulsions of nature," a "world-shaking incident" and a "summit to be contained in historical books and world history textbooks."

Trump Surprises the World

The remarks and actions Trump made after meeting Kim Jong Un for the first time startled the world.

While shaking hands with the DPRK leader at the Kapella Hotel on Sentosa Island, Trump greeted him with a "gentle and friendly handshake," instead of his usual "violent handshake."

The world public said that the 12-second handshake was recorded in history as a "short but great handshake," which pulled down the wall of 70-odd-year-long cold war, and a "handshake of the century," which surpassed the "Beijing handshake" between Mao Zedong and Nixon in 1972 and the "Reykjavik handshake"

between Gorbachev and Reagan in 1986.

After the talks were over, Trump said to the journalists: Very good, very honourable. We will achieve good development of our relations.

CNN reported that it was surprising as Trump had never used the word *honourable* after meeting any head of state.

After signing the joint statement, Trump also said that President Kim Jong Un was an outstanding and excellent negotiator with great personality, a versatile man and a man who loves his country very much.

At a press conference with foreign journalists, interviews with ABC, VOA and Fox News, six articles he tweeted on Twitter, a press conference at the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam after the summit and on several other occasions, he said: President Kim Jong Un possesses a very good character; he is a good negotiator and a very strategic man; no one but him among a hundred thousand political leaders of the world can do so at his age; I trust him very much; If I had not, I would not have signed the joint statement; I want to express gratitude to Kim Jong Un who has taken the first bold measure for a bright future; I thank him very much; I will visit Pyongyang soon and have great expectations on it; I invited him to the White House and he accepted my invitation; whatever happens in whatever form, I want to meet him in the White House; I will not hesitate to fly a long distance to have a talk with him if we can do a lot of things by having a dialogue at the worldwide table and by making joint efforts.

He had four photos taken with Kim Jong Un hung at the White House.

Trump tweeted on the Twitter an article praising Kim Jong Un as a hero.

Journey for Peace-Hanoi Summit

In the end of February 2019, eight months after the world-shaking Singapore DPRK-US summit, Kim Jong Un met Trump in Hanoi.

He said that although mistrust, misunderstanding, hostile eyes and old practices stood in their way, they walked towards each other again as they smashed and overcame them all and had finally come to Hanoi in 260 days. He added that this period had demanded much more anguish, efforts and patience than ever before.

Trump said that he was honoured and happy to meet Kim Jong Un again, and that they had very nice relations with each other

Looking back, the first-ever DPRK-US summit held in the previous year led to a dramatic improvement in the bilateral relationship that had been the worst of its kind in the world, and it rendered a great contribution to ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the region.

After the adoption of the June 12 DPRK-USA Joint Statement, Kim Jong Un took several measures, including the exchange of personal letters with Trump and the dispatch of his special envoy and a high-level delegation for rapid improvement and advance of the bilateral relations. As a result, negotiating tables were provided for the development of these relations.

The international community hoped that if the US took trustworthy measures and responded in practice to the peace-loving, proactive and preemptive efforts of the DPRK, the relations between the two countries would develop more positively and quickly.

At the DPRK-US summit in Hanoi Kim Jong Un and Trump listened to each other's views on the issues to be solved at the present stage in order to attain the common goals set forth in the Singapore joint statement and sincerely discussed the ways to this end.

Watching the Hanoi summit, personages of different social standings in different countries admired Kim Jong Un for his independent stand and pluck.

The general director of the Russian newspaper Rossiskaya Gazeta said that Kim Jong Un's outstanding diplomatic skills were drawing the attention of the world. Its editor-in-chief said that it was the victory for the DPRK that high-nosed Trump flew to Hanoi to meet Kim Jong Un.

The general secretary of the Damascus Provincial Office of Syria expressed his admiration at the political and diplomatic skills of Kim Jong Un, who is humbling the arrogant US and defending peace on the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

The world was hoping that the journey of Kim Jong Un for peace would surely bring about a good fruition.

Panmunjom Summit Draws the World Attention

The world attention was focused on Panmunjom on the Korean peninsula on the afternoon of June 30, 2019.

A DPRK-US summit meeting was held at a lightning speed in this place at the proposal of President Trump of the US.

At the meeting and talks the leaders of the two countries discussed the ways for easing tension on the Korean peninsula and improving the bilateral relations, and agreed on resuming and pushing forward productive dialogues for making a new breakthrough in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and in the bilateral relations.

The lightning DPRK-US summit at Panmunjom surprised the world

The insincere attitude of the US side at the second summit in Hanoi in February that year cast dark clouds over the improvement of the subsequent bilateral relations.

In his policy speech at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly held in April that year, Kim Jong Un said that he was not interested in the US-style dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands, and clarified his position that he would not sit face to

face with the US president until the US side found a new way of calculation.

It is quite natural that the world people were surprised to see the two leaders having a dramatic meeting in such circumstances at Panmunjom, a place symbolic of the division of Korea and the DPRK-US confrontation.

The Panmunjom summit made the international community appraise that President Kim Jong Un is a sincere and faithful man.

In his April policy speech, while criticizing the insincere attitude of the US side, he had pointed out that personal relations between himself and President Trump were not as hostile as the relations between the two countries, and they were still maintaining good relations.

This meant that, by highly appraising that Trump was the first president to have a summit with the DPRK in the American history, he showed his magnanimity of valuing his relations with the US president.

Trump had felt through two rounds of summit that the DPRK leader was a faithful and sincere man, and attracted by the latter's human charm, had exchanged personal letters with him, and requested a meeting at Panmunjom without prior preparations.

The Panmunjom summit gave an impression once again of Kim Jong Un's remarkable attraction and diplomatic skills.

Kim Jong Un led Trump to cross the demarcation line at Panmunjom and step on the north side area before the meeting.

Facing Trump across the demarcation line, Kim Jong Un said to him that the whole world was watching them and invited him to the northern part, adding that he would be the first US president to set his foot on the territory of the DPRK.

It was shocking that they shook hands with each other and posed for a photograph with the Panmun House as the background.

Boiling World's Press

Western media reported: President Kim Jong Un brought about a historic event by bringing the Panmunjom meeting to fruition; traditionally, talks between heads of state that possess nuclear weapons are impossible to be held without months of preparations; the recent meeting created a new and surprising diplomatic precedent of heads of state as it was held in a little over 30 hours after Trump's tweet on the Twitter.

Media and experts of different countries said: The recent summit was held thanks to the attractive power and proficient and charming diplomatic skills of Kim Jong Un; he demonstrated his skills by meeting heads of superpowers—China and the US—in his country in a short period of 10 days; he met heads of powers on an equal footing; Trump's entry into north Korea, as a noteworthy event, was a fruition of the attractive power and proficient and charming diplomatic skills of Kim Jong Un; he presented a bright idea of attracting to the Korean peninsula the world's attention

which had been focussed on the G20 summit sponsored by Japan; Kim Jong Un was not present at the G20 summit, but he enjoyed its greatest benefit.

DPRK's Principled Stand on Its Relations with the US

In his policy speech at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, Kim Jong Un clarified the DPRK's stand on its relations with the US.

It was that if the US hostile policy towards the DPRK became more undisguised, the DPRK would follow its act in response to it, and if the US sought to solve the problem through dialogue, the DPRK may respond when the former had a correct attitude and methodology to share it.

In the previous year the DPRK took the first step for confidence building, a key to removing the DPRK-US hostile relations, by taking crucial measures including the suspension of nuclear test and ICBM test-fire, followed by permanent dismantling of the nuclear test site in its northern area.

Kim Jong Un, together with Trump, signed the June 12 DPRK-USA Joint Statement that announced the will to write a new history of relations between the two countries, and at the talks with the latter, he ensured that the repatriation of the remains of the GIs was realized as requested by the US president. Later, he expressed

several times his honest commitment to implementing the joint statement.

However, the US response was quite different: Some politicians, misjudging that the DPRK had come to the negotiating table because of the sanctions imposed on it and calling for "maximum pressure," threw a wet blanket over the atmosphere for dialogue; the US conducted a test for simulated interception of the DPRK's intercontinental ballistic missile and resumed military exercises, which its president had committed himself to suspending, by changing their names. During the Hanoi summit it presented its unilateral demands which were unacceptable to the dialogue partner.

What the DPRK wanted was to establish, through confidence-building, a durable peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula where a volatile situation prevailed, rather than having the sanctions lifted. If the US, ignorant of what its dialogue partner was thinking, insisted on forcing its outrageous demands on the latter, it was nothing more than a foolish dream.

The DPRK will not make an iota of concession or compromise over the issues concerning the fundamental interests of its state and people. So it attached importance to the settlement of issues through dialogue and negotiations, but it was not interested in the US-style dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands.

In his policy speech Kim Jong Un said: What is obvious is that if the US sticks to its current political way of calculation, the prospects for problem solving will be bleak and very dangerous; at this crucial time, I hope that the US will make a well-advised judgment and the second hand of the clock of the DPRK-US showdown which they stopped with so much difficulty will not move again for all ages.

The international community said: An opportunity does not come easily; the US should realize that, by its way of dialogue, it would not be able to move the DPRK nor get what it wanted at all even if it sat with the latter a hundred, nay a thousand, times.

The new administration, which replaced the Trump administration, attempted to make the DPRK move as it intended while talking about the stereotyped words, but all the attempts cut no ice with the resolute and principled stand of Kim Jong Un.

In the policy speech at the Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, he clarified the principled stand of the DPRK towards the goal of the US and other hostile forces, which can never be realized.

The military drills of the Korean People's Army conducted between late September and early October and in early November 2022 can be called an official response of the DPRK to the military pressure of the US and other hostile forces that were aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula and an answer to the US hostile policy towards it.

Kim Jong Un Syndrome Shakes the World

In Singapore

Kim Jong Un has always drawn attention of the international political circles since he made his official appearance on the political arena.

Until then the world had known about him only through newspapers, Internet articles or photos.

His three days and two nights in Singapore for the DPRK-US summit was an occasion which enabled many people of the world to personally confirm with their own eyes what kind of man Kim Jong Un was.

Kim Jong Un seen by them was very informal, modest and tender.

On the night of June 11 he looked round several places of Singapore for over two hours. Feasting his eyes on the nocturnal view of the city at the observation platform of the Marina Bay Sands, he said that Singapore is as clean and beautiful as it is known, with each building characteristic, and that he would like to learn a lot from its fine knowledge and experience in various fields. When he saw in the course of the tour citizens warmly welcoming him, he waved back to them. And when the tour was over, he expressed his gratitude to the officials of the Singaporean government who accompanied him, for

having kindly guided him till late at night.

When meeting US President Trump, he showed his courtesy toward the old man by arriving at the meeting place earlier than him. During the talks he made the atmosphere harmonious with his courtesy, consideration and witty remarks.

Kim Jong Un seen by the international community was also an outstanding politician with tempered and seasoned diplomatic skills surpassing people's imagination.

Compared to Trump who used general expressions much, he made free use of very meaningful expressions. And he led the talks with prudence, saying that he could not believe in the previous US administration but everything would go smoothly with him, the current US president. He also showed his magnanimity by giving agreement there and then to the request of Trump. He made all those present there understand the necessity for establishment of a new DPRK-US relationship with his outstanding eloquence and perfect logic, and saw to it that a joint statement, which was as good as having completely changed the political landscape of the world, was announced in a few hours. He made the atmosphere comfortable by smiling now and then with composure, and during the ceremony of signing the joint statement, he signed earlier than Trump and waited for him to finish his signing.

During the meeting Trump called the DPRK leader a splendid man and a best man, raising his thumb several times.

Stories Left by the DPRK-US Summit

Rodman Sheds Tears

On the dawn of June 12, Dennis Rodman, former NBA player, arrived in Singapore.

At a press conference held before the DPRK-US summit, he said: Five years ago, I delivered to the US side Kim Jong Un's message that he wanted to talk with it, but nobody believed me. After returning from Korea, I was threatened several times, and I couldn't go back to my home.

Looking back upon those days, he was about to cry, and then said loudly in tears: This is a great day. I knew this would happen some day. I have come here to see this and now I am quite happy.

The media organs reported that Rodman, who is known as a friend of Kim Jong Un, shed tears as the historic DPRK-US summit was realized, and that the meeting between Kim Jong Un and Trump proved his assertion had been right.

Singapore Gets Share in the Benefit

Singapore enjoyed the benefits of the DPRK-US summit.

The hotels saw an unusual boom as thousands of reporters had come to cover the summit and many tourists had come to see the historic scenes. In particular, restaurants served kimchi sandwich and kimchi ice cream and shops sold several kinds of goods competitively like clothes, on which *DPRK-US Summit* was written, earning enormous profits.

Singapore's tourist agencies set President Kim Jong Un's Tour along the course, where the DPRK leader looked round the iconic Great Flower Garden and the Sky Park atop the world's renowned Marina Bay Sands building.

The Singapore Mint designed and produced commemorative coins and sold them at high prices, but had to increase their production because of the rising demands; it had to select the buyers in case of gold coins as there were so many people wanting them.

The foreign media reported that Singapore enjoyed the benefits of the DPRK-US summit through different inspirations.

Super-level Guard

During the DPRK-US summit, the security system the host country's government set up was unprecedented in intensity and density.

The interiors of the international airport, Changi, and Saint Regis Hotel were checked several times by special members equipped with the highest-level security apparatuses in the world, and police lines were set up dozens of metres away from the hotel.

Curtains were drawn on all the windows and their outside was thickly covered with plants which were taller than a normal man so that the inside of the hotel could not be seen from any of the surrounding buildings.

On June 9, a thoroughgoing security system was established in

and around the hotel; temporary checkpoints in the three access roads controlled the traffic of the passengers, and mobile CCTV was installed at every one metre.

Whenever the DPRK leader moved, the Singaporean police enlisted 35 vehicles and motorcycles including guard vehicles and an ambulance, posted both plainclothes and armed policemen on pavements and roads. The number of policemen committed numbered over five thousand, and S\$ 20 million (over 14.9 million US\$) were defrayed for the costs of ensuring security of the DPRK-US summit. When the other details were considered not to be included, one could guess that the expenditure must have been greater.

The mass media of the world reported that the Singaporean government greeted Kim Jong Un as a state guest of the highest honour; it showed a much higher level of guard than the one for its prime minister; Singapore raised the level of security for Kim Jong Un's historic visit which attracted the world attention.

In particular, they emphasized the Chinese government's goodwill, saying: The super-level guard which China placed for Kim Jong Un exerted a great impact on the world; China guarded him at the highest level by opening its territorial air for the DPRK which did not have a direct air route to Singapore, and provided the Pyongyang-Beijing-Singapore route, a relatively safe inland route instead of Pyongyang-Shanghai-Singapore route, which was hard to place guard because of a wide area of open sea; it provided him with a highest-class charter plane in the country and

organized a formation of fighters for guarding the plane carrying Kim Jong Un; this showed his definite place and prestige in the world.

Specially Minted Commemorative Coin

The US attracted the attention of the world by minting a coin commemorating the DPRK-US summit. Until then, it had minted commemorative coins on the occasion of presidential elections, Olympic Games and others. For example, in 2009 it issued a commemorative coin on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, 16th president. However, it had never issued coins commemorating summit talks.

Historically, there were several summit meetings, which changed the world history and had a great impact on the international political developments such as the Yalta Conference, Potsdam Conference, US-Russia, US-China, US-Britain and US-France summits, but no coins had been issued commemorating them.

Having named the Singapore summit as an epochal meeting surpassing any historical meetings, it issued the commemorative coins.

Inscribed at the top of the coin's head is *Peace Talks 2018*, and on the right side there is a portrait of Kim Jong Un with the DPRK's national flag as the background, and the words *Kim Jong Un, Supreme Leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea* are inscribed around the portrait.

Kim Jong Un Syndrome

The Singapore DPRK-US summit set the world afire with Kim Jong Un syndrome.

The world mass media vied with one another for reporting the activities of Kim Jong Un with his photos. Under such titles as Another Historic Event in the 21st Century and The North Korean Leader Has Risen to the International Arena as a Strategic and Skilful Leader, they reported that the DPRK leader gripped the hearts not only of the Korean nation but also of the people of the whole world, that his meticulous and determined way of execution attracted admiration of the world, and that Kim Jong Un's way of globalization started.

Posted on the Japanese websites were such praises as "Kim Jong Un is, indeed, a competent politician and the Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded to him."

The world mass media reported that Kim Jong Un showed the image of a world-class leader through the "historic scenes" during his stay of three days and two nights, from the day of his arrival in Singapore for the summit to the day of departure after concluding the "epochal meeting."

AFP reported that Kim Jong Un made a deep impression on the world during his stay in Singapore for 50-odd hours; wearing a close-buttoned suit, a symbol of the leader of a socialist country, he became a famous politician who showed his firm will to defend the socialist system, offering a clear contrast with Trump, wearing a suit and tie.

Even officials of the US administration and experts said that the words, humour and behaviour of Kim Jong Un were wonderful and perfect, demonstrating his dignity and outstanding talents, and his manner was straight and open-minded.

Russian President Putin, who is known as a strong leader in the world political circles, said at an interview with representatives of media organs that President Kim Jong Un is a politician with excellent judgment, that he is very intelligent, sophisticated and seasoned, and that he is a leader whom he wants to meet most.

Rice, former Secretary of State in Bush administration, told CNN that the north Korean leader is actually a quite wise man.

For Independence, Peace, Friendship and Unity

First Visit to China Developing the DPRK-China Friendship to a New High

To create a lasting and solid peace system on the Korean peninsula and in northeast Asia is Kim Jong Un's firm will.

When the whole world was following the rapidly-changing situation on the Korean peninsula with keen interest and making different predictions about its future developments, Kim Jong Un visited the People's Republic of China in March 2018, his first visit to a foreign country.

It was his thoroughgoing political creed to firmly defend the traditional ties provided by the leaders of the preceding generations of the two parties and two countries with a steadfast will and pure sense of obligation towards the socialist cause despite any adversity of history.

In his official speech during his visit to China, he said:

In the midst of the new situation on the Korean peninsula, which is changing as never before, we are now on a lightning visit to the People's Republic of China with a desire to remain true to the long-standing, historic traditions of great friendship and revolutionary obligation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China and to inherit and develop the bilateral relations in a wonderful way down through the generations.

That the first place of my foreign visit is the capital city of the PRC is too natural for me; it is an expression of my ennobling obligation to prize the DPRK-PRC friendship like my life itself and carry it forward.

It is the steadfast stand of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to develop onto a new high, true to the ennobling intentions of the preceding leaders, the relationship which was established through the sacred joint struggle for the cause of socialism and retained its original features even in the whirlwind of history.

His visit to China in the historic period opened up a bright prospect for the development of the DPRK-China relations and the accomplishment of the cause of global peace and prosperity.

The historic DPRK-China summit predicted that the DPRK-China relationship would become solider and develop towards progress and a brighter future.

President Xi Jinping of China said in his official speech that a deep-rooted tree stands firm and secure in the wind, and a spring welling up from the depths does not run dry.

Kim Jong Un's first visit to China was an occasion that further consolidated the friendship and solidarity between the two parties and countries and propelled them to a new high.

Special Treatment by Xi Jinping

In March 2018, President Kim Jong Un stayed in Beijing for only two days and one night, but President Xi Jinping of China met him several times; it had been unprecedented for a general secretary of the Communist Party of China to meet so many times a foreign head of state visiting his country for two days.

The Chinese officials concerned said that it was the highest expression of courtesy by Xi Jinping that he had a special luncheon in a family atmosphere with Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju at Yangyuanzhai at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse associated with the history of China-DPRK friendship.

Xi Jinping presented Kim Jong Un with a Jingtailan pottery as a gift.

A vase symbolic of wish for a long life in good health, the prosperity of a country and the happiness of a people, is said, according to the traditional practice of China, to have been presented only to an honoured or respected person.

The Western media and analysts described the changes in Chinese diplomacy in the following way:

The courtesy extended to Kim Jong Un was totally different from the official receptions accorded to the leaders of other countries. During his visit Xi Jinping and officials closest to him all appeared. This was the highest-level courtesy unprecedented in Chinese diplomacy after the appearance of Xi Jinping's leadership.

Radio Russia commented that, to analyze on the point of view of China, the hospitality accorded by China during the recent visit by the DPRK leader Kim Jong Un was the one that completely surpassed what had been accorded for an official visit.

First Political Schedule in 2019

From January 7 to 10, 2019, Kim Jong Un visited China as his first political schedule in the year.

In the previous year, while leading the creation of events worthy of world attention, he had visited China three times.

Then he visited China again in 2019, a year that marked the 70th

anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and China, indicating that this visit would accelerate the development of the traditional friendly relations between the two countries.

The world mass media emphasized this, too.

The Korean and Chinese peoples have long fought shoulder to shoulder against foreign aggressors.

The land of the two countries is permeated with the blood of many fighters, both sung and unsung, who unhesitatingly dedicated their youth and lives for the freedom, liberation and territorial integrity of their countries.

For a long period after the establishment of new societies of the people in the two countries, the parties and peoples of the two countries have closely supported and cooperated with each other in the common struggle for the socialist cause, contributing to achieving the prosperity of the countries and happiness of their peoples.

The two countries have attached great importance to their traditional friendship in the face of harsh storms of the times, and the unity and cooperation between them are growing stronger with each passing day.

During his visit to China, Kim Jong Un said: The DPRK-China friendship was forged and developed by the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and is developing more brilliantly under a special situation; the WPK and the government will as ever act in unity with the Chinese side and make fresh efforts to continuously consolidate and develop the friendly ties by inheriting

the tradition of close cooperation between the two parties and two countries; this year, too, I will continue to write a beautiful epic of the DPRK-China friendship which will be envied by the whole world and handed down to posterity by firmly joining hands with my Chinese comrades.

General Secretary Xi Jinping said: President Kim Jong Un's visit to China again at the beginning of the new year fully shows that he sets great store by the traditional China-DPRK friendship and cherishes a friendly feeling toward the Chinese people; I will join efforts with Comrade Kim Jong Un to write a new history of visits between China and the DPRK; the China-DPRK relations have already opened a new page of history and entered a new stage of development; the Chinese party and government attach great importance to the traditional bilateral ties; it is the consistent and steadfast stand of the Chinese party and government to defend, consolidate and develop the China-DPRK relations with credit.

The meeting between the top leaders of the two countries held for the fourth time in a little more than nine months demonstrated to the world their relations of comradeship of truly trusting each other supported by the deepest and firmest roots in the world and the wonderful and great unity between the two countries, which had been developed into one that would remain unchanged in the face of any storm.

Ushering in a New Era of the Development of DPRK-Russia Relations

Kim Jong Un made a historic visit to the Russian Federation in April 2019.

Having conducted rapid and proactive diplomatic activities such as a lightning visit to China as his first political schedule of the new year, the second DPRK-US summit in February and an official goodwill visit to Vietnam in March, he was paying a visit to the Russian Federation in April.

The world media described his visit to the Russian Federation as a historic occasion that demonstrated the firmness of traditional DPRK-Russia friendship, a typical example of Kim Jong Un-style diplomacy characterized by proactive and offensive diplomatic activities, and a great event that opened a new history and a new era for the development of the relations between the two countries.

His visit to Russia attracted greater attention as it was made in the crucial period of the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

In 2018, the DPRK took various practical measures such as suspending nuclear test and ICBM test-fire and repatriation of the remains of the GIs, all out of its will to build a lasting and durable peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula and achieve complete denuclearization, winning support, understanding and welcome

from the international community.

However, the US resorted desperately to sanctions against the country, while paying lip service to improving bilateral relations and creating peace.

At the second DPRK-US summit, the US side created great obstacles to peace on the Korean peninsula and the development of the regional situation, only putting forward demands and methods which the DPRK could not accept and which were quite unrealizable.

As a result, the DPRK-US relations were driven into a deadlock, and the situation surrounding the Korean peninsula reached a dangerous phase, where it might go back to its original state.

In this situation Kim Jong Un visited Russia.

Through his meeting with President Putin, he established relations of friendship with the Russian leader and further strengthened the long-standing strategic ties between the two countries.

The two leaders were unanimous that their meeting and talks were a good occasion of great significance in strategically managing the unstable situation on the Korean peninsula in the wake of the second DPRK-US summit and agreed to promote strategic communication and tactical collaboration in the course of ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

The visit was meaningful in the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Having consolidated its relations with China through several meetings and talks between the leaders of the two countries, this time it strengthened its strategic ties with Russia.

While frustrating the sanctions by dint of its spirit of self-development, the DPRK is further strengthening its strategic relations with China and Russia, two big powers that cannot be ignored in the development of the regional situation.

This meant that the US would face international criticism as it had opposed peaceful settlement of the Korean peninsula issue, running against the trend of the times in the eyes of the world.

During his visit to Russia Kim Jong Un said that peace and security on the Korean peninsula would depend entirely on the future attitude of the US, and that the DPRK would provide for every possible situation.

Media of the world said that the visit greatly contributed to developing the relations between the two countries and strengthening regional security, adding:

The recent summit once again proved that Kim Jong Un is a partner of dialogue with world powers. Everyone hopes to meet and talk with him. President Putin arrived at the venue of the talks 30 minutes before, breaking the convention, and warmly greeted Kim Jong Un. This shows that the Russian side attached considerable importance to its relations with the DPRK. The DPRK leader and President Putin exchanged warm handshakes with each other and entered the venue of the talks, each wearing a smile. After the meeting with Kim Jong Un, Putin told reporters that the DPRK leader was humorous, practical and fairly sincere. A joint document or joint declaration was not adopted at the summit, but the meeting is of greater significance than other summits.

In an interview with Channel 1 of TV Russia, Dmitri Peskov, press secretary of the Russian President, said that Kim Jong Un was well-versed in all fields and adroitly coped with all issues presented, that he had a profound knowledge and a clear stand and that he was a leader rich in experience and knowledge and a quite seasoned leader.

For the Unity of Socialist Forces

Kim Jong Un's official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in March 2019 was an event of great significance in strengthening unity of the socialist countries.

He said that it is the consistent stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK to carry on generation after generation the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the two parties forged with blood true to the intentions of the leaders of the preceding generations.

He also noted that Party- and government-level exchange of visits should be promoted vigorously and cooperation and exchanges normalized and developed onto a new higher level in all fields.

He affirmed his will to make joint efforts with the Vietnamese leadership in the sacred struggle for further consolidating and developing the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation as required by the new era and for bringing happiness and rosy future to the peoples of the two countries.

His visit demonstrated the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, which were forged at the cost of blood and consolidated in the face of all ordeals in the struggle to realize the common goal and ideals upholding the banner of socialism.

As an epochal event of great significance in invariably carrying forward and developing the DPRK-Vietnam friendship century after century and further strengthening the ties of friendship between the peoples of the two countries, the visit was etched in the annals of bilateral friendship.

The visit was particularly meaningful in that it served as an occasion for strengthening the socialist forces in the world political arena.

In his report to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in May 2016, Kim Jong Un said that socialism is the core force of independence against imperialism and a decisive factor in frustrating the imperialists' moves for aggression and war and propelling the struggle for global independence.

In fact, after the Seventh Congress of the WPK was over, he conducted energetic external activities to strengthen the unity of socialist forces.

During his several visits to China, the two parties and two countries expressed firm support to and solidarity for the common socialist cause. In particular, they expressed mutual understanding and support for the independent stand maintained by the parties and governments of the two countries in the field of foreign relations.

The traditional relationship of friendship between the two countries developed into relationship of comradeship and into relationship which would remain unshakable in any adversity.

Kim Jong Un developed the friendly and cooperative relations with Cuba onto a new high.

When Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, visited Pyongyang in November 2018, he warmly received the guest and had cordial talks with him. The two leaders highly appreciated that the great leaders of the two countries provided and developed the framework of special friendship based on the revolutionary principle, comradely obligation and socialist principles and that the history and tradition of bilateral friendship have invariably been carried forward and further developed under the new situation and environment thanks to the joint efforts of both sides. They expressed firm stand and will of the parties and governments of the two countries to further expand and strengthen the strategic and comradely bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the two countries in line with the present requirements of the new era in the future, too. They promised to keep holding hands raised under the banner of socialism and advance socialist construction in the two countries along the road of victory.

The Xinhua News Agency of China reported that, warmly welcoming Diaz-Canel, Kim Jong Un said that the visit became an occasion for demonstrating the invincibility of the traditional

fraternity, confidence, friendship and solidarity of the peoples of the two countries, and it was an expression of their support and solidarity for the just cause of the Korean people.

The world mass media reported the event under the titles, As Close as Brothers, Kim Jong Un Held His Hand High Together with the Cuban Leader's Hand in the Car, and Cuba and the DPRK Are Far Away but Are Becoming Nearer.

It is a unanimous comment of the international community that Kim Jong Un opened a broad avenue for opposing domination, subjugation and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, achieving genuine international justice and dynamically promoting the cause of global independence by strengthening the unity of the socialist countries, the core force of independence against imperialism, through his energetic external activities.

CONCLUSION

There is a saying that a great man creates history.

President Kim Jong Un, for over ten years since his first official appearance in the political arena, has created a history of great changes that no one can easily bring about.

There has been no such a great man as him, who has led his state scrupulously to the highest level in such a shortest period of history and in the face of such greatest difficulties and ordeals in history.

The world has watched every of his political activities, admiring the unprecedented events he has brought about day after day.

Everyone believes that he will usher in in his country a new era unprecedented in human history.

Kim Jong Un Seen by the World

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Translated by Jong Myong Jin and Ri Kun Hyok

Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House, DPR Korea

Issued in March Juche 112 (2023)

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