

Five-year plan for construction of capital city decided by Eighth Congress of WPK enters its final stage

Groundbreaking ceremony for fourth-stage project to build 10 000 flats in Hwasong area takes place with splendour



KCNA

Construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, decided by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea to turn Pyongyang into a wonderful world-class city, in which the people-first principle is thoroughly applied, in the

new era of comprehensive development towards the supreme ideal of civilization and prosperity, has entered its final stage.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un personally planned to have 50 000 flats built in the capital city, a project to be specially recorded in the sacred history of development of the Party and the state,

and set it as the most important task and cherished desire to be realized without fail. And since he declared the first meaningful groundbreaking for implementing the project, he has ceaselessly given brilliant guidance at the grand construction sites to usher in a new heyday of Pyongyang, in which ideal streets of the people to be

proud of in the eyes of the world are built every year.

The final-stage struggle of the five-year plan for the monumental construction of the capital city is the most important undertaking of creation in this year for

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perfectly fulfilling the pledge, which our Party made before the people and has discharged without an inch of deflection. It is also an honourable revolutionary undertaking to inject greater vitality into the all-people general advance towards the 80th founding anniversary of the Party and the Ninth Congress of the Party.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the fourth-stage project to build 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area took place with splendour on the afternoon of February 16.

The venue of the ceremony was filled with the great pride and enthusiasm for working new miracles of all the builders of the capital city, who had built modern large architectural groups in the suburbs of the city over the past four years and glorified the great Kim Jong Un's era with brilliant legendary tales of construction for tremendous change, holding high the flag of the construction headquarters of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang given by the Party Central Committee.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

Present there were Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, and other senior Party, government and military officials, officials of the Cabinet, armed forces organs, ministries, national

agencies and Pyongyang and military and civilian builders.

When Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the groundbreaking ceremony, all the participants raised enthusiastic cheers, looking up to the outstanding statesman and benevolent leader of the people, who is steadily ushering in a golden age of rejuvenation and an era of comprehensive prosperity on this land where all the people's well-being and socialist civilization are coming into full bloom, by bringing about epochal victories and grand transformations unprecedented in history with his great state building idea of believing in the people as in Heaven and extraordinary leadership.

Kim Jong Un made a speech on the occasion of the groundbreaking.

Explaining the significance of holding another groundbreaking ceremony for the new year's project to build 10 000 flats, just as we did without fail over the past four years, he extended warm thanks and militant greetings to all the builders who are taking a vigorous step forward to attain more ambitious goals with the dignity and pride in having performed brilliant exploits in the worthwhile construction work.

After clarifying the great role of construction in the course of our struggle to move from a revolution to a more gigantic one and from a stage of development

to a higher level of transformation, he declared his intention to have the capital city construction continued until all conditions are provided for its citizens to lead a civilized and happy life without any inconvenience, and introduced an immediate construction plan for expanding the capital city.

Expressing belief that the fourth-stage construction project in the Hwasong area will surely bear good fruit and thus make the area more famous not only as a cradle of the happy and civilized life of the people but as a land of history, which tells new miraculous tales of indomitable socialist Korea, he ardently called for turning out more courageously in the great struggle for the great appearance and eternal prosperity of our capital city, for the civilization of our state and for the happy life of our people.

All the builders broke into enthusiastic cheers with boundless reverence for Kim Jong Un, who is warmly inspiring them with great trust so that they can perform eye-opening feats once again in this year's struggle for successfully concluding the tasks decided by the Party congress.

The venue of the groundbreaking ceremony was filled with the ardent enthusiasm of the builders of the capital city to uphold the cherished desire of our Party with miracles of creation, bearing

deep in mind Kim Jong Un's instructions that the Hwasong area is the epitome that intensively shows the spirit peculiar to the Workers' Party of Korea that wages the revolution uninterruptedly and the onward march of our state that advances towards the future with a great ambition.

Kim Jong Un pressed the button for blasting to herald the start of the project for building 10 000 flats at the fourth stage in the Hwasong area.

Fireworks were set off one after another to declare the start of a new advance as the loud sound of blasting shook the sky and the land.

Expressing expectation that all the military and civilian builders will as ever demonstrate the honour of our times and our generation and steadily carry forward the glorious history of the people-first architecture, he warmly acknowledged their cheers for a long time.

All the participants made a firm pledge to successfully build a new flourishing living space of socialist civilization in the Hwasong area where a greater happiness of the people will be in full bloom and to turn our great Pyongyang into an ideal city to be envied by the world and into the capital city of the most dignified and prosperous power by implementing Kim Jong Un's far-reaching plan for the capital city construction with devoted practice.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un's speech at groundbreaking ceremony for fourth-stage project to build 10 000 flats in Hwasong Area

Comrades,

Today we are holding another groundbreaking ceremony for the new year's project to build 10 000 flats, just as we have done without fail over the past four years.

With the 10 000 flats to be built this year, the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, which has progressed full steam ahead since the Party congress, will enter the final phase.

At this significant moment, when we are to launch into the fourth-stage housing construction in the Hwasong area, I am reminded of how strenuously we have worked over the whole course of the past four years to achieve amazing exploits and hasten the schedule

for transformations. I also recall with deep emotion the loud cheers that rang out year after year to celebrate the completion of the new streets for the people.

Thanks to your ennobling spirit and devotion to the capital city construction, Pyongyang has turned into a more splendid city as we wished. Its dignified and vibrant looks instil great confidence and courage in the people across the country as they are greeting a period of massive transformations.

This is precisely a proud record of the times and a high appreciation of the immortal exploits and glorious feats you have achieved through a stubborn and vigorous struggle to honour our Party's cherished desires with miracles of creation.

As we can see in reality, the yearly construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang has been promoted most steadily during the eighth term of the Party Central Committee.

In this period, despite the persistent difficult conditions facing our state, the economic sectors have built up their capacities, the overall national economy has definitely entered a phase of sustained growth, and new records have been set up in various aspects of state affairs thanks to the outstanding successes unprecedented in the history of the Republic.

Let me cite a few examples. In the period of the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Party Congress, the electric power industry has maintained a remarkable trend towards increased production while steadily expanding its scope of upturn; cement production has attained a record high; and the agricultural sector has also entered a trajectory that is secure enough to keep a high and stable level of grain production.

In particular, housing construction in Pyongyang has become the most stable and rapidly growing sector, with the perfect and unconditional fulfilment every year of the ambitious plans that, in consideration of the long-term requirements, were added to the goals decided on by the Party congress. In 2024 the growth rate in this



sector reached a striking level of 391% as against 2020.

The construction projects that have progressed country-wide over the past four years, particularly the yearly construction of 10 000 flats in the capital city, have made a record of great transformations, a record so outstanding that the phrase groundbreaking accompanied by inauguration has come into common use. This can be called the greatest of successes that we can be proud of before the world.

I said this in Ragwon County two days ago.

To be frank, these days I am really tired and busy attending inauguration and groundbreaking ceremonies that have been scheduled one after another. We are facing such moments of drastic change.

This is a fact that clearly proves how many goals we have advanced and are striving to achieve for the prosperity and transformation of the country.

Amid this strenuous struggle our belief in our own strength has become firmer, and we have fostered an indomitable fighting spirit and self-confidence to advance our cause.

The belief in our own strength and self-confidence—this is the most important of all, a spiritual asset that is more precious than our wealth in physical form.

Availing myself of this significant opportunity to launch a new struggle for the development of the capital city construction onto a higher plane, I extend warm thanks and militant greetings to all the builders who are taking a vigorous step forward to attain more ambitious goals with the dignity and pride in having performed brilliant exploits in the worthwhile construction work.

I also express my heartfelt thanks to the officials and workers in the relevant sectors for having raised the fierce flames of a leap forward and increased production to provide a guarantee for the implementation of our Party's construction policy and inject vigour into it.

Comrades,

Now construction has become a major realm of our struggle, and it is expanding its position at the centre of the times.

We are engaged in the struggle to move from a revolution to a more gigantic one and from a stage of development to a higher level of transformation. In the course of this struggle, construction is gaining an extraordinary significance and power.

Construction is precisely investment in, and pioneering of, the future.

The revolution in construction is the essential prerequisite for our Party's development strategy for bringing about epochal changes on this land, and the

implementation of all important policies of the Party and the state is, without exception, accompanied by construction, regardless of sectors, units and regions.

It can be said that the historic cause for comprehensive rejuvenation of our state and improvement of the people's well-being begins with construction, moves ahead with construction and comes to accomplishment with successful construction.

It would be no exaggeration to say that construction, among others, intuitively expresses our politics, helps us get nearer to attainment of our ideals of civilization and prosperity, and rapidly increases the wealth of our country.

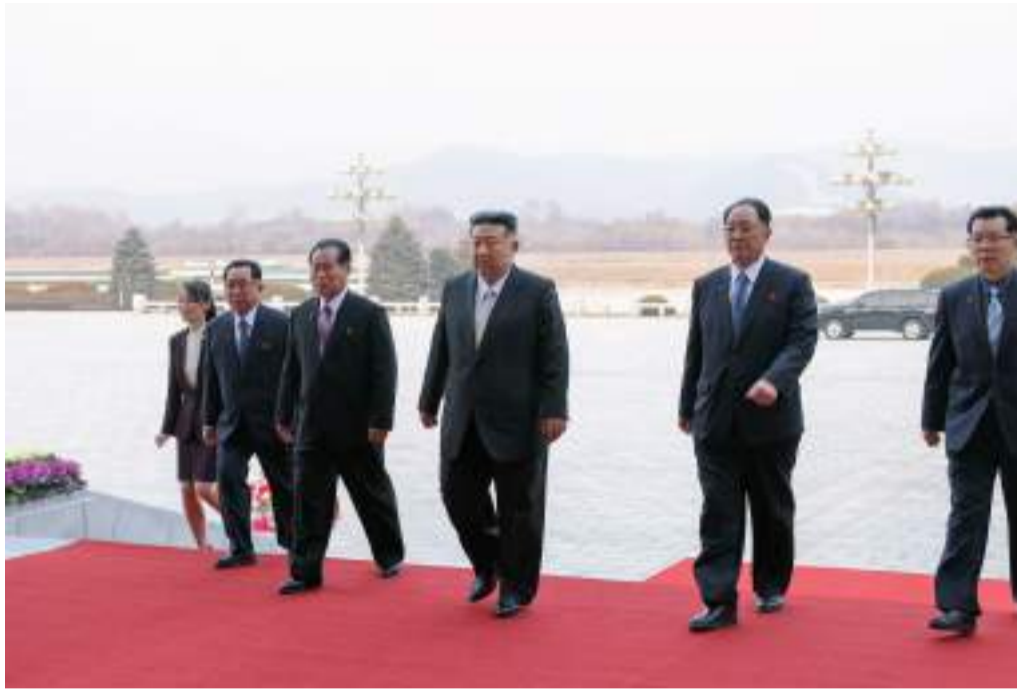
Construction not only plays the role of a powerful weapon for steady advance and development of our state, but also exerts, as an ensemble of the national strength, a leading, powerful influence on the efforts to transform the economy, science, technology, culture and all other fields.

The obvious signs of our country improving its appearance and the rapid succession of remarkable changes in different fields of state and social life, never seen in the history of our nation building, are directly associated with the miraculous development our architecture has achieved amid the flames of a new revolution in construction.

With the extensive construction projects now underway across the country, the trend of irreversible change and upturn is becoming more and more dominant, and our cause is gaining greater momentum for its dynamic advance.

When construction consists in the main front that is decisive of the advance of our revolution, the main factor in its successful implementation can be said to be how we understand and confirm once again the purpose and character of our construction struggle.

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun on Day of Shining Star



KCNA

All the people across the DPRK significantly greeting the greatest and auspicious February holiday of the nation with the pride and honour of ushering in a gigantic era of prosperity, in which the whole country changes under the guidance of the great Workers' Party of Korea, are paying the highest tribute to Chairman Kim Jong Il, the sacred image of socialist Korea and great sage of the revolution.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 16, the Day of the Shining Star.

He was accompanied by Pak Jong Chon and Ri Hi Yong, secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK, No Kwang Chol, minister of National Defence of the DPRK, Kim Jae Ryong, department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, and Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director

of the Central Committee of the WPK.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where the eternal leaders of our Party, state and people are preserved in their lifetime appearance, was wrapped in a solemn atmosphere.

A flower basket in the name of Kim Jong Un was laid before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Un, together with leading cadres accompanying him, paid high tribute to the statues of the President and

the Chairman.

At the hall where Kim Jong Il lies in state, Kim Jong Un paid homage to him praying for his immortality in the humblest reverence for him.

He expressed his solemn will to devote himself to the sacred struggle for the eternal prosperity of the country, the security of the people and the promotion of their well-being, always remaining faithful to the revolutionary ideas and cause of the President and the Chairman.

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The groundbreaking ceremony we are having at the moment serves as a meaningful occasion for refreshing our understanding of what is the true aim our Party and state pursue in dynamically pushing ahead with the gigantic construction projects with such great efforts, and how the dynamic advance of our struggle and our own style of change and development is being achieved.

This housing construction site in the Hwasong area is vivid proof of the people-first politics and a clear symbol of our cause that is making a more vigorous advance and higher leap forward day by day towards the goal of a powerful country.

This can be said to be the core and character of the grand construction campaign that will stir the Hwasong area.

The fourth-stage project in the Hwasong area will include various modern amenities as well as 10 000 flats.

To build the Hwasong area into a model administrative district in Pyongyang, where everything needed for the life of the residents is well furnished—this is the idea I have put forward and maintained since the beginning of this whole project.

Therefore, I have ensured that the master plan and designs for construction in the Hwasong area were worked out through greater effort, with a concept different from that of previous street formations, and that the construction itself has also been conducted to this end.

It is true that the amenities to be built this year in this area are functional buildings which are large in scale and demand high technical requirements. To build them together with 10 000 flats is by no means an easy task.

But this plan is linked with the people's demands, and so we must put it into reality without fail and we will do it.

This is our Party's consistent principle of struggle.

If the Hwasong area with new wonderful flats is furnished with these immaculate amenities, it will be turned into a model urban-block formation, a beautiful and magnificent place where the formative artistic beauty and advanced civilization are in good harmony.

Comrades,

Housing construction in Pyongyang should continue until the Party's plan is turned into reality to provide its citizens with perfect conditions for leading a civilized and happy life without any inconvenience.

Today, availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to outline some of our Party's policy-oriented plans for the capital city construction.

We plan to implement with serious intent the policy of extending streets of Pyongyang towards Kangdong as the second stage after winding up the construction in the Hwasong area.

As major scientific research institutes, technical colleges and military academies are to be built in Taesong District, we are going to have tens of thousands of modern flats built in the area between the Hwasong area and Songmun-dong in Samsok District.

This will form another wonderful scientific, cultural and dwelling area in Pyongyang.

In addition, we will transform such culturally backward metropolitan areas and suburbs as Tungme-dong in Songyo District, Wolhyang-dong in Moranbong District and Hadang-dong in Hyongjesan District, thereby eliminating and renovating all the elements unbecoming of the appearance of the capital city in its overall formation.

These initiatives will be reported to the Party congress and handed over as a major task of the next-term Party Central Committee.

Comrades,

The fourth-stage project in the Hwasong area, which our Party has courageously shouldered for our most

precious people, is the crystallization of the unyielding offensive spirit of us, revolutionaries, who are faithful to our unchangeable mission, and the whole area of construction here is the epitome that intensively shows the spirit peculiar to the Workers' Party of Korea that wages the revolution uninterruptedly and the onward march of our state that advances towards the future with a great ambition.

The enthusiasm for creation and vigorous fighting spirit to be displayed in the Hwasong area will redouble the unrivalled strength and courage at the construction sites across the country and further boost the advance of our state.

Although this project is large in scale, I am convinced that it will surely bear good fruit thanks to the strong drive and practical abilities of the commanding personnel and the confidence and soaring morale of all the builders.

The Hwasong area will soon become more famous not only as a cradle of the happy and civilized life of the people but as a land of history, which tells new miraculous tales of indomitable socialist Korea.

Elite capital city builders, a source of pride for our Party,

The 80th founding anniversary of our glorious Party and its Ninth Congress that will be specially recorded in history will witness the immortal exploits to be performed by you, who are boundlessly loyal to the Party's ideas and cause.

Our capital city should be most beautiful and greatest in the world.

For the great appearance and eternal prosperity of our capital city,

For the civilization of our state and for the happy life of our people,

Let us turn out more courageously in the great struggle.

Long live Pyongyang, the great capital city of our motherland—our beloved, proud, dignified and glorious city!

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends greetings to chairman of Chongryon Central Standing Committee

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greeting to Ho Jong Man, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), on February 22.

The message said:

The respected Comrade Ho Jong Man, I extend warm congratulations on behalf of our state and all the people to you, Comrade Chairman, greeting your 90th birthday on the shining long road of love for the country and nation.

And I extend warm greetings to your

wife Yun Yong Ja, who has so far supported and encouraged you with her pure mind and taken pains more than anyone else.

In every February when I am filled with intense yearning for General Kim Jong Il, I feel deeper longing to see you, Comrade Chairman, whom the General valued and loved most.

You, Comrade Ho Jong Man, are a precious veteran of our revolution who has devoted heart and soul to the development of Chongryon with absolute loyalty to your leader and homeland for 70 years, true to the patriotic pledge you made in the days of forming Chongryon, and a standard-bearer of patriotism and pioneer of struggle who has fluttered the glorious

flag of our Republic in the vanguard of the Juche-oriented movement of Koreans in Japan.

Thanks to the patriotic predecessors like you, Comrade Chairman, who have firmly defended and preserved Chongryon, part of the Republic, with transparent loyalty and strong faith in the harsh circumstances of capitalist Japan, Chongryon could develop into an iconic organization to be eternally etched in the history of the world overseas compatriots' movement and into a renowned overseas compatriots' organization enjoying the absolute support and love of the compatriots.

The heroic life and distinguished feats of you, Comrade Chairman, that shine like

a jewel in the history of the movement of Koreans in Japan proud with loyalty and patriotism will be recorded long in the history of the Korean revolution along with the powerful homeland.

I hope that you, Comrade Ho Jong Man, a witness to the Juche-oriented movement of Koreans in Japan and representative of the founding generation of Chongryon, would enjoy a long life in good health for the rosy future of Chongryon and for the prosperity of the compatriots' community and get all the glory along with the prosperous motherland.

I pay heartfelt tribute to the noble life of an ardent patriot and loyalist and genuine overseas revolutionary.

Nation celebrates Kim Jong Il's 83rd birth anniversary

Senior Party and government officials visit Kumsusan Palace of Sun



Senior Party and government officials of the DPRK visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 16, the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

KCNA

Senior Party and government officials of the DPRK visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on February 16, the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

They included Pak Thae

Song, Jo Yong Won and Choe Ryong Hae, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other senior Party and government officials, officials of the Party Central Committee, leading officials of ministries and

national agencies and officials of armed forces organs.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, eternal leaders of the WPK and the Korean people, are preserved in their lifetime appearance, was wrapped in a solemn

atmosphere.

Flower baskets in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK were laid before the statues

of the great leaders.

The visitors paid high tribute to the great leaders at the statues.

At the halls where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il lie in state, the participants paid homage to them in humblest reverence.

All of them renewed

their firm pledge to glorify forever the new period of comprehensive development of the state by remaining faithful to the ideas and leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and fulfilling their important duties entrusted by the Party and the people.

Film show week opens to mark February holiday

KCNA

A week-long film show opened on the occasion of the auspicious February

holiday, the greatest national holiday.

Shine, Jong Il Peak and other documentary films featuring the immortal revolutionary exploits of

Chairman Kim Jong Il will be screened at cinemas and halls of culture in Pyongyang and other areas.

Feature films *Days and Nights of Confrontation*, a

sequel to *One Day and One Night*, *People of Jagang Province* (Parts 1 and 2), *Sunrays* (Parts 1 and 2), and *Pilot Kil Yong Jo* will also be shown.

An opening ceremony took place at the Pyongyang International Cinema House on February 10.

Jong Yong Nam, director-general of the National

Administration of Motion Picture Industry, delivered an opening address.

A week of film show also opened in all provinces on the same day.

Nation celebrates Kim Jong Il's 83rd birth anniversary

Floral tribute paid to great leaders

KCNA

Officials, service personnel, working people, students and schoolchildren visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il throughout the DPRK to lay baskets of flowers and bouquets to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

Flower baskets were placed at the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in the name of the organs of the Workers' Party of Korea,

the government and the armed forces, ministries, national agencies, the units of the KPA and the Public Security Forces, factories and universities.

The visitors made a bow at the statues.

Floral tributes were also paid at their statues in different parts of Pyongyang including Kim Il Sung University in the name of KPA and PSF units, institutions and enterprises.

KPA service personnel, working people, students and schoolchildren in local areas across the country also paid their respect to the peerlessly great men at their statues in localities.

Officials and working people visit the statues of the great leaders in Kangwon Province to pay floral tribute to them.



February holiday celebrations climax with gala evening of youth and students, fireworks display



Youth and students in Pyongyang have an evening gala at Kim Il Sung Square on the evening of February 16.

KCNA

Pyongyang had an evening gala at Kim Il Sung Square on the evening of February 16. The evening gala began with the song "Let's Sing of General Dear to People". With the event getting livelier with the passage of time, beautiful fireworks exploded in the nocturnal sky over the venue, adding to the festive mood.

Art performance given

KCNA

An art performance was given at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang on February 16 to celebrate the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Among the audience were Choe Ryong

Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme

People's Assembly, officials of the WPK Central Committee, meritorious persons of socialist patriotism in Pyongyang, officials and creators in the field of the arts and members of the congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan on a visit to the socialist homeland.



An art performance is given at the Mansudae Art Theatre in Pyongyang on February 16 to celebrate the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Nation celebrates Kim Jong Il's 83rd birth anniversary

Joint national meeting of KCU organizations held

KCNA

A joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations took place in Pyongyang on February 16, the 83rd birth anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Jong Il.

Attending it were students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School, representatives of the KCU organizations in all provinces, schoolchildren in Pyongyang and pupils to be admitted into the KCU.

Present at invitation were Choe Tong Myong, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Sun, department director of the WPK Central Committee, officials of the youth league, persons of merit and labour innovators in Pyongyang.

Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, made a report.

The reporter noted that Generalissimo Kim Jong Il



A joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations takes place in Pyongyang on February 16, the 83rd birth anniversary of the great leader Generalissimo Kim Jong Il.



clearly indicated the road ahead of the KCU in each period and at each stage of the revolution and

construction and took a measure to build palaces and camps for children in the best places of the

country.

An admission ceremony of the KCU took place at the meeting.

The pupils, who joined the KCU, made the first greetings of the KCU, responding to the slogan

"Let us be always ready for socialist country!" Then congratulatory speeches were made.

Celebration meetings

KCNA

Agricultural workers and members of the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea met at the Hall of Culture of the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm on February 13 to celebrate the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Present there were Kim Jong Sun, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials concerned, officials of the UAWK and agricultural workers.

Han Jong Hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the UAWK, made a report to be followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said that thanks to February 16, birthday

of the peerlessly great man, the DPRK people could be blessed with illustrious leaders and brilliant commanders generation after generation.

Women's union officials and members met at the Hall of Women on February 14 to celebrate the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Jon Hyang Sun, chairwoman of the SWUK Central Committee, made a report at the meeting to be followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said that the birth of Chairman Kim Jong Il was a historic event promising the great fortune of the nation and the rosy future of Korea and that the great fortune of significant February brought the powerful DPRK.

Women's union officials and members hold dance party

KCNA

A dance party of women's union officials and members took place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph on February 16 to celebrate the 83rd birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Dancing merrily, the participants paid the highest tribute to Kim Jong Il.

A dance party of women's union officials and members takes place at the plaza of the Arch of Triumph on February 16.



Artistic information teams, art groups give performances

KCNA

The central youth artistic information team gave a performance "We will carry on the march started from Mt Paektu" at the Central Youth Hall on February 13 in celebration of the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Among the audience were Han Kwang Ho, deputy department

director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, other youth league officials and youth and students in Pyongyang.

A performance "We will fulfil the fatherly General's desire for building a powerful nation" was given by the workers' artistic

information group of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang on February 13.

Among the audience were Min Sung Chol, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak In Chol, chairman of the GFTUK

Central Committee, trade union officials, workers and trade union members.

Performances of art groups of ministries and national agencies were staged at the People's Palace of Culture and other places.

A performance was given on February 14 by art group members of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang.

Oratorical meeting

KCNA

An oratorical meeting took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on February 13 in celebration of the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Present there were Ju Chang Il, department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Jon Kyong Chol, deputy department director of the WPK

Central Committee, Sung Jong Gyu, minister of Culture, and officials and working people in Pyongyang.

At the oratorical meeting, the speakers highly praised the noble revolutionary career of Kim Jong Il.

They said that the future of the DPRK is rosy as it is led by General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

They called for demonstrating to the whole world the mightiness of great Kim Jong Un's Korea.

Honour prizes awarded to exemplary youths and schoolchildren

KCNA

Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize and Kim Jong Il Children Honour Prize were awarded to exemplary primary (sub-primary) youth league

committees, officials and members of the youth league and members of the Korean Children's Union on the occasion of the greatest and auspicious February holiday of the nation, the birth anniversary of

Chairman Kim Jong Il. According to decrees of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize was conferred on 17 primary (sub-primary) youth league committees and 17

youth league officials and members.

Kim Jong Il Children Honour Prize went to 104 KCU members.

An awarding ceremony took place at the Youth League Hall on February 13.

Our Classroom Literary Prize conferred on schoolchildren

KCNA

Our Classroom Literary Prize was awarded to schoolchildren on the occasion of February holiday, the greatest national holiday.

An awarding ceremony took place at the youth league hall on

February 11.

Our Classroom Literary Prize was conferred on more than 600 schoolchildren who have achieved successes in creating literary works while bringing into full bloom their talents under the benefits of the most advantageous socialist educational system.

Nation celebrates Kim Jong Il's 83rd birth anniversary

February holiday celebrated across the country

KCNA
All the people in the DPRK celebrated with splendour the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the greatest national

holiday. The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their

lifetime appearance, and their statues and the mosaics depicting the peerlessly great men across the country were visited by many people. Working people, youth and students

in Pyongyang and the provinces visited photo exhibition halls to recollect the noble revolutionary career of the Chairman. There were art performances celebrating the holiday in Pyongyang. Colourful art performances were given in South Phyongan, North Hwanghae, Jagang, Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces, Nampho Municipality and other regions. Public catering establishments across the country were crowded with visitors.

All the people of the country joyfully celebrate the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.



Winter camping begins at Jangjasan Children's Camp

KCNA
The first-term winter camping began at the Jangjasan Children's Camp on the occasion of the significant February holiday.

There took place a meeting for starting the camping on February 16.

Present there were Sin Chang

Gil, chairman of the Jagang Provincial People's Committee, Jon Yong Jae, secretary of the provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Song Il, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, officials concerned and officials and teaching staff of the camp and campers.

A meeting for starting the camping is held at the Jangjasan Children's Camp on February 16.



KCNA report on successfully completing first year's task for implementing Regional Development 20x10 Policy set forth by WPK Central Committee

The Korean Central News Agency on February 12 released a report on the successful completion of the first year's task for implementing the Regional Development 20x10 Policy set forth by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

According to the report, the service personnel, officials and working people across the country took a great step of the first advance in implementing the Regional Development 20x10 Policy of the Party and successfully built modern regional-industry factories in conformity with the regional characteristics of 20 cities and counties and a new model base of offshore farming as structures commensurate with the idea, national power and the level of civilization of our times.

At the first workshop of chief secretaries of city and county Party committees, the respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un clarified the plan for opening up a new period of regional development, formulated the policy orientation and set forth a great revolutionary strategy for completely transforming regional-industry factories on the basis of verifying the possibility of development of the material and cultural life of all cities and counties across the country.

The Regional Development 20x10 Policy advanced at the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly on January 15 2024 is a great transformative line and a gigantic revolution which General Secretary Kim Jong Un chose in time and on which he made a crucial decision to eliminate the centuries-old backwardness of regions, realize the long-cherished desire of regional people and bring about a turn in the realm of the people's understanding.

The 19th Enlarged Meeting

of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK solemnly declared the measures and policies for thoroughly implementing the most revolutionary, popular and original Regional Development 20x10 Policy, which fully embodies the respected General Secretary's fervent spirit of faithfully serving the people and resolute will of a great revolutionary.

Kim Jong Un energetically led the first year's advance for implementing the regional development policy by making a continuous journey of devotion and efforts.

He made the field guidance tour of Kimhwa County again early on the morning of one February day in 2024, and made sure that the architectural style and modernization level of regional-industry factories to be newly built were set higher and specified the principled requirements to be observed in construction and

important tasks.

He attended the groundbreaking ceremony of regional-industry factories in Songchon County, personally awarded the regiment flags to the 124th regiments of the Korean People's Army newly formed for the implementation of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy and declared to the world the start of a gigantic regional development revolution. It was a significant event which gave renewed confidence in the bright future to the ranks of the general advance opening up a new era of national rejuvenation dynamically, united on the strength of patriotism.

Under his energetic guidance, the city of Sinpho of South Hamgyong Province was set as a model unit of offshore farming and the issue of wonderfully building the Sinpho City Offshore Farm into a new model offshore farming base was adopted

as a Party decision at the Tenth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

At the consultative meeting on the work for regional development, in the important speech he made on the DPRK anniversary and on other occasions, he indicated a new policy orientation on accelerating the historic cause of regional rejuvenation by adding three essential projects including public health establishments, general service facilities and grain management stations to the construction of regional-industry factories.

The Korean People's Army, the most reliable defender of the state and the devoted implementer of the Party policies, stood in the vanguard of another grand construction campaign for opening up a new phase of regional development along with the implementation of the programme for rural revolution.

The soldier-builders dispatched to Songchon County, holding high the glorious regiment flag conferred by the Party Central Committee as the banner of advance, made the first breakthrough in attaining the long-term goal.

Despite difficulties caused by the northern geographical and climatic conditions from the start, the soldier-builders dispatched to Usi, Tongsin, Kyongsong, Orang and Kim Hyong Jik counties continued the excavation even in cold mud and laid the foundations of regional-industry factories by introducing advanced construction methods.

True to the noble intention of the Party Central Committee to ensure the highest quality in the construction of regional-industry factories, a new change was brought about in

Second-stage upgrading project completed at Kumsong Tractor Factory

KCNA

A ceremony took place at the Kumsong Tractor Factory on February 15 to inaugurate the second-stage upgrading project.

Present there were Pak Thae Song, premier of the Cabinet, Kim Tok Hun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Yang Sung Ho, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Ri Jae Nam, chief secretary of the Nampho Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials of the city and the factory, its employees, officials in the relevant field, officials who contributed to the upgrading project and soldier-builders.

Pak Thae Song made an



inaugural address.

He said that the upgrading project of the Kumsong Tractor Factory, which was successfully completed in accordance with the grand strategy for the development

of the machine-building industry set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Party, was an epoch-making fruit produced in implementing the first-stage tasks assigned to the farm machine industry

sector by the Party Central Committee, and definite progress assuring the bright future of rural development which would be further accelerated along with the rapid development of the

Juche-oriented industry.

Saying that the work would be organized and conducted purposefully and in a planned manner to generalize to the vehicle industry and the machine-building industry

as a whole the excellent technologies and experience and mode of modernization created in the factory and further develop them, he called for continuously redoubling efforts to bring about a substantial change in realizing the mechanization of agriculture and rural rejuvenation and bring earlier the rosy future of the comprehensively developed country this year greeting the 80th anniversary of the founding of the glorious WPK.

Then Ri Kye Bong, manager of the Kumsong Tractor Factory, made a speech.

After the inauguration ceremony, the participants looked round several places of the factory.



A ceremony takes place at the Kumsong Tractor Factory on February 15 to inaugurate the second-stage upgrading project.

FROM PAGE 8

the viewpoint of officials and builders on the construction and a habit of giving priority to quality was thoroughly established throughout the construction sites.

By thoroughly applying the Party's policy on afforestation, the soldier-builders radically changed the appearance around the factories by planting more than 15 000 trees including zelkova, ginkgo, apricot and persimmon trees, flowering shrubs and ground-cover plants.

Remaining faithful to the order of the Party Central Committee with single mind and loyalty, service personnel of the Korean People's Army pushed ahead with the construction of the modern Sinpho City Offshore Farm, a new model of offshore farming.

Many servicepersons of the KPA units at all levels carried out difficult and labour-consuming work at the construction sites of regional-industry factories during their citation furlough. Servicepersons' families encouraged the builders through distinctive frontline-

style motivation activities and sincere supply service and devoted their sincerity to them as their mothers and sisters would do.

Under the slogan "Let us help the people!" the KPA officers and men launched a mass movement to find and do good things for the people though they were busy with the construction projects.

The first fruits of the regional rejuvenation were produced as the people's wealth thanks to the patriotic devotion of the officers and men of the 124th regiments of the KPA who have achieved miraculous successes and created legendary tales of construction.

In the first year for the implementation of the regional development policy of the Party, valuable experience and great assets were provided in laying the material and technical foundations for the self-supporting and sustainable development of the regions.

In parallel with the construction work, the manufacturing and assembling of the equipment for furnishing the regional-industry factories with a complete set of various

kinds of comprehensive and modern equipment were stepped up as planned.

The workers of industrial establishments in metal, chemical, electric power, construction and building materials industries, forestry and other sectors of the national economy also brought about an upswing in production at their workplaces, and the rail and land and marine transport sectors meticulously organized and commanded transport to ensure the transport of materials to the construction sites.

The February 17 shock brigades of scientists and technicians were formed to dynamically push forward with the successful implementation of the regional development policy of the WPK by dint of science and technology and excellently played the role of the advance group of science and technology and the vanguard of mass technical innovation movement.

The Ministry of Regional Industry, the Ministry of Labour and other relevant ministries, national agencies and every province worked out detailed plans for training

skilled workers at modernly-built regional-industry factories and carried them out steadily, making it possible to train a large number of skilled workers who would play a big part in putting production on a normal footing.

The work for creating their own solid raw material bases and revitalizing their operation was conducted in all the cities and counties as the Party committees' work, producing good results.

The State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Grain Administration, the Ministry of Chemical Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry and others and provinces, cities and counties secured and supplied various kinds of raw materials so that the regional-industry factories could use them until they fully lay their foundations of production.

Officials and workers of the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Construction and Building-Materials Industry and the machine-building and chemical industrial sectors in the Hamhung area gave precedence to the supply of raw materials and waged the mass technical innovation movement to fully produce

equipment and materials needed for the operation of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm.

The relevant sector of the KPA and the Taesong Trading Guidance Bureau built and donated a new-type mother-ship and scores of ships for aquaculture and submarine boats, making a great contribution to laying the material and technical foundations of the farm.

Many officials, working people, young people and women's union members volunteered to work at regional-industry factories and raw materials bases and their ranks are on the steady increase.

A wave of jubilation and excitement swept the whole country day by day thanks to the inaugurations of regional-industry factories in Songchon County and the Sinpho City Offshore Farm, which significantly decorated the end of the last year, and those of regional-industry factories across the country, which opened up a brilliant prelude to the year of 2025.

The struggle in the past one year which confidently opened up the stage of full-scale fulfilment of the

WPK's cherished desire was a gigantic drive for creation to be specially recorded in the history, which strengthened the conviction of all the people that everything the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un decides and plans would always turn into excellent entities and instilled into them the boundless confidence and optimism that the great historic cause of comprehensive development can be surely accomplished when they fully display the self-supporting spiritual strength, upholding single-mindedly the Party's plan and leadership.

All the officials, working people and officers and men of the Korean People's Army are dynamically advancing toward higher goals with loyalty and patriotic desire to glorify this significant year marking the 80th founding anniversary of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea with fresh successes of regional rejuvenation under the outstanding and seasoned leadership of the great Party Central Committee which leads to victory the epochal changes of national prosperity, the report stressed.

2024 SHINES AS A YEAR OF NEW CHANGE

2024, a year of efflorescence of advanced civilization

Unprecedented successes were achieved in education, science, public health, art and literature, sports and other fields of culture in the DPRK.

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

In 2024, unprecedented successes were achieved in education, science, public health, art and literature, sports and other fields of culture in the DPRK.

Last year, Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, led the work to make attaching importance to education a national trait peculiar to the country.

Practical measures were taken to modify the educational structure of the country to give advanced education and improve the teaching contents and methods more rationally. Reserve educators were trained in a far-sighted way and the socialist policies for students were consistently implemented.

As a result, more than 340 schools, 780 branch schools and 150 kindergartens were newly

built and renovated on the model level, 2 000-odd more multi-functional classrooms of medium or higher level were built than planned and 180 branch schools were linked to the data communication network across the country, making it possible to raise the quality of education a level higher.

In particular, the respected General Secretary took special measures in August last year to bring all the students in the flood-hit areas to Pyongyang for their schooling, saying that the issue of upbringing, edification and education of children and students is the number one state affair which cannot be given up whatever happened. He visited the temporary classrooms built at the April 25 Hostel to learn about the preparations for education of the students from the flood-stricken areas and made untiring efforts for it. His noble outlook on the rising

generations implanted in the officials again what attitude and stand they should take to address the issues of education of students and provision of their educational conditions.

Last year the advanced culture of the capital city spread to the rural communities.

More than 210 neighbourhood units were honoured with the title of model neighbourhood unit in socialist cultured way of life in the rural areas across the country amid the nationwide campaign for sprucing up the fairyland villages newly built under the care of the Party as cultured earthly paradises. The exhibitions of products and sci-tech exhibitions of different sectors including the advanced sci-tech and products exhibition-2024, the DPRK-Russia IT products exhibition-2024 and the national youth sci-tech achievements exhibition were important occasions

for broadening the horizon of producers and technicians and sharing advanced sci-tech successes and experience and at the same time for actively promoting the development of science and technology of the country.

The model public health facilities in the new era were wonderfully built last year.

The General Secretary set it as an undertaking for realizing the long-cherished desire to splendidly build advanced public health facilities and took revolutionary measures to carry it out. As a result, many standard pharmacies have been built across the country. Projects were undertaken to improve the quality of medical service and consolidate the material and technical foundations for it, medical treatment methods of practical significance in carrying out research projects for advanced medical science were developed and

pharmaceutical factories stepped up the production of medicines and the development of preventive medicines. Telemedicine and outreach medical service activities were conducted vigorously to make sure the socialist public health policies would benefit the people more substantially.

Revolutionary film "72 Hours" was screened, positively encouraging the people who turned out in their advance of last year. And "Days and Nights of Confrontation", a sequel to the feature film "One Day and One Night", was also produced as a masterpiece.

Songs truthfully reflecting the deep reverence of all people for the General Secretary and their love for the country, like "Dear Father" and "Song about the Motherland", were created and staged at art performances held on different occasions last year, adding to their pride in

holding the great leader in high esteem, self-confidence and patriotism.

Last year, DPRK sportspersons won over 20 winner's trophies and more than 360 medals including 210-odd golds at major international games including the 2024 Asian Table-Tennis Championships, the 10th Asian Taekwon-Do Championships and the 2024 IWF World Cup, creating a "Korean myth" that shook the world sports circles.

In particular, DPRK women's football teams lifted winner's trophies in the 2024 FIFA U-20 and U-17 women's World Cup finals, with the result that its U-20 women's football team became one of the three powers that won the World Cup three times in the history of the tournament and the U-17 women's football team, the first three-time winner of the World Cup.



Many educational institutions are inaugurated including the general experimental education hall at Kim Chaek University of Technology (left) and Hamhung Choe Hui Suk Teachers Training College (right).



Visitors look round the venues of the national youth sci-tech achievements exhibition and advanced sci-tech and products exhibition-2024.

Standard pharmacies are built and pharmaceutical factories produce a large quantity of medicines.



DPRK players win many international sports events to bring honour to the country.



"Dear Father", "Song about the Motherland" and other famous songs of the times are created and put on the stage(left).

All children are fed dairy products every day

By Ri Sang Il PT

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in June 2021 set it as a policy to supply all children across the country with dairy products and other nutritional foods at the state's expense. Some months later, the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Childcare was adopted.

Since then all children throughout the country have been supplied with tasty and nutritious dairy products every day.

When the vans loaded with dairy products went to every part of the country, including remote mountain villages, the people were deeply moved by the policy of the Party which takes warm care of the rising generation when the country is still under difficult economic situation.

Once, a couple living in a mine entrusted their child to their relative far away from their village as they had to

go on a business trip. Yet, the van ran at night to bring a share to the child.

Dairy products have been supplied even to children under medical treatment in hospital.

Ri Kyong Ok, resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 30,

Osan-dong, Jongju, North Phyongan Province, said: My son received medical treatment in the Okryu Children's Hospital in June. During his stay in the hospital he was fed dairy products every day. Looking at his conditions improved, I was

filled with gratitude for the enormous benefits provided by the Party.

On the day when her son was leaving the hospital, she was supplied milk powder for him to take during returning home.

In the course of supplying

dairy products, the nursery and kindergarten teachers prepared notebooks for children in their charge.

They record on the books the daily amount and date of supply of milk powder for each child, and their signature to prove the daily

supply.

In case a child is absent, they visit the child's home to supply milk and sign on the book.

It is said that Kim Hye Jong, a nurse of Ryomyong Nursery, has several notebooks.



Dairy products are supplied to children across the country every day. RODONG SINMUN



Homes of happy children

By Han Jong Ho PT

The Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage located on the picturesque Taedong riverside are the homes of happiness where the dreams of orphaned children are fulfilled.

On his visit to the completed childcare facilities in October 2014, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said that as the children came to be provided with the best homes, he was very pleased as if he plucked a star in the sky and earnestly requested their nurses and teachers to enhance their responsibility and role in bringing them up well.

The happy laughter of children continues to resound at the children's homes provided with splendid

conditions for the upbringing and education of them.

The comprehensive storehouse reminds viewers of a department store for children as it is packed with all kinds of supplies for the growth and living of the children, ranging from warm quilts and blankets to clothes, shoes, meat, fish, fruits, honey, confectionery and other foods.

Choe Jong Sil, directress of the Pyongyang Baby Home, said that materials were supplied for the children on a regular basis even in the period of top emergency anti-epidemic campaign which was conducted to cope with the worldwide malignant virus.

Every wardrobe, shoe chest and bookcase of children are filled with seasonal clothes, underwear, pretty shoes, "Mindulle" notebooks

and other excellent school things and nutritious foods are served at every meal.

True to the intention of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un, who said that heroes and PhDs should be produced from among the orphaned children, nurses and teachers devote their wisdom and passion to the education and edification of the children.

Thanks to the policy of love for younger generations of the Workers' Party of Korea, which pours more love on children at the time of hardship and advances persistently toward the future of communism on the strength of love, the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* sung by children continues to ring out from the childcare facilities in Pyongyang.



Orphans grow happily at the Pyongyang Baby Home and Pyongyang Orphanage. PAK KWANG HUN/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

'Our kindergarten is the best'

By Pang Un Ju PT

Children of the Kaeson Kindergarten in Moranbong District affiliated to Pyongyang Teachers Training College say their kindergarten is the best.

There are various kinds of amusement apparatuses in the playground which is covered with rubber pads and artificial turf lest children may be hurt, and the interior of the kindergarten is reminiscent of the fairy-tale world.

"Every morning my grandson pesters me to take him to the kindergarten. Vexed by him, I brought him here so early this morning. My grandson always says that he likes studying in the kindergarten best," said Ro Phyeong Un's grandmother.

The head of the kindergarten boasted that none of her kindergarten children were either distracted from lessons or bored.

Excellent educational conditions and environment, amusing intelligent games and educational methods suited to their minds make children enjoy studying and arouse their curiosity.

The kindergarten teachers apply various

methods to bring into full bloom the individuality and aptitudes of children while giving basic education essential to them.

They insist that it is important to make children themselves get fun in learning.

So they furnished the education rooms for children to play freely and study and

the story.

According to teacher Kim Jong Im, the method was very effective in improving the children's ability for mental calculation.

Choe Chon U in lower class No.5 became familiar with the numbers in the course of training to note all the beats of percussion, his favourite instrument, so he did well



Children of the kindergarten play with intelligence-promoting toys. WON TONG CHOL/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

learn skills conveniently, and laid out all spaces in the kindergarten, including the yard, corridors and ceilings, to meet the children's juvenile minds and educational requirements.

Children in higher class No.1 sat around their teacher, listening to an interesting fairy story and solving the problems of mental calculation with numbers in

addition and subtraction within the numerical range of 10.

One child made robots with intelligence-promoting toys and a little girl skillfully embroidered pictures of different shapes.

The children are so immersed in going to kindergarten every day that they say, "Our kindergarten is very nice."

WPK's policies are science and victory

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The policies of the Workers' Party of Korea are science and victory.

This is not a rhetorical expression, but is practice and reality proved by history and represents a rosier future of the Korean people.

The WPK has led the Koreans along the road of victory for nearly 80 years, from the period of building a new Korea to that of comprehensive development of socialism.

The policies set forth by the Party in every period and stage of the developing revolution served as a milestone leading the people to victory.

The Korean people built an independent state and army from scratch following the milestone and reached today while winning the war started by the ferocious imperialists and frustrating their moves to provoke a new war and isolate and stifle the DPRK.

Whenever they confronted with the time of ordeal

In the whole period since its founding, the WPK has incorporated the independent will and demands of the masses of the people in its policies with their demands as the sole criterion and thoroughly implemented them.

replete with unprecedented challenges and difficulties, the policies put forward by the WPK enabled them to produce gigantic changes and victories.

Then how could the WPK lead the Korean people to victory without a single mistake or deviation for nearly eight decades.

The Party has a simple yet clear criterion—the demand of the people.

It is right when the people welcome and like it, but wrong when they dislike and reject it.

In the whole period since its founding, the WPK has incorporated the independent will and demands of the

masses of the people in its policies with their demands as the sole criterion and thoroughly implemented them.

The WPK established the people-centred socialist system and built the most powerful revolutionary armed forces in reflection of their desire to have their independent and genuine state, army, land and factories and their will never to live as slaves of imperialism again. Today it is waging a gigantic construction campaign on a nationwide scale in order to realize the centuries-old desire of the people to live happily in good health, and has built structures as real

entities in succession.

The policies of the WPK which makes selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, regarding them as Heaven, have won the absolute support of people.

Herein lies the secret of success of the Party which has made a vigorous advance for nearly 80 years recording the world's longest history of ruling without slightest mistake or deviation in its line.

Today, the Party is waging a gigantic struggle for bringing happy laughter to the people regarding it as the image of socialism.

There is no assured proof like a success.

The joy of successive completion of houses and regional-industry factories, which have risen as entities, is being led to the joy of groundbreaking ceremonies. The Korean people regard this reality as the victory of the Party's policies as a success.

That is why they sing that "The policy of the Workers' Party for the people is excellent".

Education top-priority state affair



Ryang Chol Nam,
department director of the
Ministry of Education

Education of the rising generation is an important undertaking which decides the future of the country.

Many countries in the world are now developing education competitively, attaching great importance to it. They know that though they rank high now, they will inevitably lag behind others tomorrow if they neglect education even a little.

It is the will of the Workers' Party of Korea to build the DPRK into a country which attaches the greatest importance to education and is the most advanced in education in the world.

In our country the universal 12-year compulsory education is enforced free of charge and projects are dynamically pushed forward to improve the educational environment and conditions

with state investment.

In particular, the state takes full responsibility for providing all students across the country with school uniforms, shoes, bags and other school things. This socialist policy is now in force as the most important Party and state affair.

Last year, an emergency system was set in motion to bring up and give education to all children and students in the flood-hit areas in a safe and convenient environment at state expense by bringing them to Pyongyang.

The development of the country's education has been high on the agendas of the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee discussing the overall Party and state affairs.

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, which set forth

the fighting tasks for this year, also specified tasks for putting the country's educational foundation on a new high level in the shortest possible time.

The meeting set an ambitious goal of forging ahead with the reconstruction and modernization of schools, which takes the largest part in consolidating the educational foundation, as a state affair without delay and completely changing the looks of all schools across the country within the coming ten years, and discussed and decided on the measures to attain it.

Tough are the challenges and difficulties we face and uphill are the tasks to be fulfilled. But it is very important to adopt education as the number one and top-priority state affair and bring up the coming generations healthily.

US nuclear stick can never work in Asia-Pacific region: KCNA commentary

The US, which recently received hundreds of millions of US dollars from Australia according to the AUKUS nuclear submarine agreement, showed its moves to provide Virginia-class nuclear submarines to Australia.

This is not just a simple money deal but a full-scale operation of another nuclear alliance with the US as the principal axis. It is a dangerous attempt to further deteriorate the unstable political and military environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

As everybody knows, the US, obsessed with the ambition for establishing hegemony, set it as its main goal to contain and encircle nuclear states in the Asia-Pacific region and has been keen on the moves to organize the nuclear alliance for its attainment.

It organized a confrontational entity AUKUS, the Anglo-Saxon nuclear submarine alliance, under the pretext of the so-called "tripartite security cooperation" while bringing down the international nuclear non-proliferation system. This is a link in the whole chain of such moves.

The fact that the special security agreement was signed between the three parties to share the latest military technologies including nuclear submarine technology after the birth of AUKUS clearly proves the dangerous nature of the military bloc.

Against this backdrop, the present US administration is actively pushing ahead with the provision of nuclear submarines to Australia.

Such moves of the US gravely threatening regional peace and stability are becoming a matter of serious concern.

The US already cooked up the "nuclear operation guidelines" with the puppet ROK and promised that nuclear weapons are included in the "offer of extended deterrence" to Japan. Like this, it has turned the US-Japan-ROK tripartite military cooperation system into a thorough nuclear alliance.

Now, there is a threatening entity called the US-Japan-ROK tripartite nuclear alliance. Under such situation, if another nuclear alliance has its own structure perfectly, the US will get a multilayer nuclear encirclement ring against its "enemies" in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is quite clear at which the US, regarding the DPRK and other nuclear states in the region as a "stumbling block" to the establishment of its hegemony and taking great pains to remove it, would take the aim of those aggressive military blocs' simultaneous attack.

The US should ponder over the consequences to be entailed by such military adventurist act aimed at bringing nuclear clouds to the Asia-Pacific region at any cost.

The US nuclear stick can never work in the Asia-Pacific region.

Can nuclear states in the region remain a passive onlooker to the US' reckless moves?

BYWORD

Educational power

Education is regarded as the primary state affair in the DPRK.

In recent years, the education sector has brought about a radical turn in education while transforming the educational structure

of the country and significantly improving the contents and methods of education.

Many educational institutions across the country are undergoing facelifts amid the growing public interest in education.

The people of the DPRK are making contributions to education and actively taking part in the work for supporting schools on the occasion of the school-support month.

The slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint

of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" is cherished as the creed of life in the minds of the Korean people who are eager to glorify the country as an educational power and a power of talents.

Contact us

Address: Sochan-dong, Soong District, Pyongyang
Tel: 850-2-18111(8456)
Email: fph@star-co.net.kp
Fax: 850-2-3814598

URL: www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp



Press statement on essential requirement for boosting self-defence capability

KCNA

The chief of the Policy Office of the Ministry of National Defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on February 15 the press statement entitled "The DPRK's bolstering of its capabilities for self-defence is an essential requirement for deterring enemies' various ever-increasing provocation attempts and ensuring the security of the state".

The commander of the US Northern Command recently said that the DPRK has secured the capability to strike the whole of North America with nukes, adding that the DPRK's ICBM force is posing a threat to the security of the US mainland and its missile defense system, it said, and continued:

The US is bringing a serious threat to the security environment of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world while seeking reckless arms buildup and radical modernization of nuclear force. Therefore, its claim about the "threat" from the DPRK is a brigandish sophism like a guilty party filing the suit first and turning black into white.

The strategic armed forces of the DPRK are the ones for defence to guarantee the security of the state and the strategic balance of the region. The US describing this as a "threat" only proves that it is hostile to the DPRK.

We express serious concern over the US military's confrontational behaviour to mould public opinion about the non-existent "threat" from the DPRK and justify the adventurous military ambition to gain supremacy in strength in the region under this pretext.

The current US administration

is advocating the establishment of an attack-oriented missile defense system aimed at preemptive attack on other countries and weaponization of outer space under the pretext of defending its mainland. Timed to coincide with this, the commander of the US Northern Command is talking about the "threat" from the DPRK. This clearly shows what its real purpose is.

Shortly ago, a US nuclear submarine openly entered the region of the Korean peninsula, interested persons of the US Space Force conspired with the Japanese and ROK military gangsters to share information for detecting the ballistic missiles of the DPRK and conduct joint exercises in space and the US and ROK militaries are planning to enforce the large-scale war drill Freedom Shield in March. All these facts provide a good reason for the DPRK's bolstering of its corresponding defence capabilities to cope with the escalating military threat by enemy states.

If the US is really concerned about the security of its mainland, the only way to remove it is to completely abandon its military threat and hostile policy against independent and sovereign states.

Saying that it is the just right of self-defence of a sovereign state to steadily improve its self-defence capability, the statement stressed:

The armed forces of the DPRK will as ever fully deter and control all kinds of challenges and threats from its enemy states by dint of powerful self-defence capability and faithfully carry out their mission for reliably defending peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

Spokesman for DPRK FM: Hostile countries to face decisive counteraction

KCNA

A spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on February 18 released a press statement "The anachronistic and futile attempt to challenge the inviolable sovereignty and the prestige of the DPRK will entail self-destructive results".

It said the US revealed once again its sinister intention to put extreme political and military pressure on the DPRK in collusion with its vassal states, while viciously taking issue with the DPRK's just exercise of independent right with the international security conference held in Munich of Germany as an occasion.

The US secretary of State held a confab with the diplomatic authorities of Japan and the ROK on February 15 to fabricate and make public a "joint statement" full of groundless mud-slinging and provocative rhetoric against the DPRK, talking about the "complete denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea", it noted, and continued:

The Foreign Ministry of the DPRK expresses serious concern over the adventurist and foolish acts of the US, Japan and the ROK inciting collective confrontation and conflict on the Korean peninsula and in the region and strongly warns that any provocation and threat of the hostile countries will face an overwhelming and decisive counteraction.

The US is pursuing an outdated and absurd plan of "denuclearization". As for the shortsighted "goal" of the US, it is no more than the height of stupidity that arouses the astonishment of the world people like the case

where ignorant primitives ask the moderns to return to their society.

The US is not yet awakened from the failed old dream of the "denuclearization" that dims in the memory of the present time. It is the official stand of the DPRK government that it is not worth consideration to counter the stand of the US escaping from reality and we condemn and reject the US action in the most resolute tone.

The US will have to think itself first what consequences the futile attempt of the imperialist forces to unilaterally hurt the security of the DPRK in disregard of the origin of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and the cause of its existence over the past three decades has led to today.

Explicitly speaking once again, as long as the US' and its vassal forces' hostile threat exists, the DPRK's nukes are means for defending peace and sovereignty and a means for legitimate self-defence entrusted by the Constitution of the state.

The more desperately the US resorts to ineffective means of pressure against the DPRK, failing to face up to the reality, the more persistently the DPRK will take new opportunities for the upward coordination of its strategic force and hold far more favourable position in the landscape of crash between the DPRK and the US.

The DPRK will as ever consistently adhere to the new line of bolstering up the nuclear force clarified by the head of state and thoroughly deter the US and its vassal forces from posing threat and blackmail encroaching upon the sovereignty and security interests of the state by making use of all political and military tools in its possession and perfectly attain its strategic goal.

Briefly

Russia

FM rejects Japan's demand for peace treaty conclusion

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova rejected Japan's demand for talks for concluding a peace treaty in a press conference on February 14.

Demanding that the Japanese authorities admit the whole result of the Second World War, she said that the result has been fixed in the UN Charter and that the southern Kurils are an inseparable part of Russia according to the charter.

China

Australia censured for its infringement on sovereignty

A spokesman for the Chinese Defence Ministry on February 14 decried Australia's infringement on the sovereignty of its country.

As to the fact that the Australian Defence Ministry blamed a Chinese military plane for endangering the country's military plane and its crew in the air above the waters of the South China Sea, he said that Australia is making false propaganda like the thief crying "Stop thief!" after deliberately perpetrating a provocative act of violating the sovereignty of his country.

It was completely logical, legal and reasonable for China to have driven away the Australian military plane which had intruded into the other's home and it constitutes legal defence of national sovereignty and security, he stressed.

Iran

FM rejects G7's baseless accusation

A spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry rejected the groundless criticism from the G7 against the country on February 16.

The G7 has recently blamed Tehran for causing instability in the region while finding fault with the country over its nuclear activities and policy of bolstering up defence capabilities. In this regard, the spokesman said that it is the moves of the Group of Seven states to render weapons and financial aid to Israel and their military and political interference in West Asia that create substantial instability in the region.

In order to restore regional security and stability, the West should abandon its pointless policy of interference, he said.

War expenditure

Global military expenditure increases

The global military expenditure last year increased US\$220 billion more than the previous year to reach US\$2 460 billion, the British International Institute for Strategic Studies said shortly ago.

The military expenditure of the United States ranked first in the world as usual.

This shows that the US remains unchanged in its ambition to dominate the world by dint of military strength.

Real purpose behind 'Korean education act'

By Choe Song Jun PT

Education is an important undertaking for training people to be powerful and social beings.

However, one country used this important undertaking decisive of the rise and fall of nations as a means of its colonial rule.

It is none other than Japan.

After occupying Korea by force of arms in the past century, the Japanese imperialists fabricated and promulgated the "Korean education act" four times and forced colonial slave education.

The proclamation and enforcement of the act by the Japanese imperialists was geared to stamping out the national character of the Korean people and enslaving them.

Having established an educational system based on

national discrimination from the early days of their occupation of Korea and tried to make Koreans less intellectual than Japanese, the imperialists proclaimed the second "Korean education act" in February 1922 under the signboard of "civil government" in order to calm down the anti-Japanese sentiments of the Korean people.

The Japanese imperialists stipulated in the act that the education of Koreans should be conducted in the same way as those of Japanese, which turned out to be a complete lie.

The absolute majority of the Korean workers and peasants still found it hard to have their children receive school education. This is proved by the fact that only 10.2 percent of Korean school-age children were admitted to primary schools in 1922. The situation of secondary education was not different.

According to conservative data published by the government-general in Korea in 1929, the number of Korean students was much smaller than that of Japanese students in Korea.

The Japanese imperialists, who forced the Korean students to "love the Japanese state," stipulated in the first "Korean education act" published in 1911 that the Japanese language should be "disseminated" to Korean students, while the second act stipulated that Japanese should be "acquired" or "mastered".

They also forcibly introduced textbooks permeated with militarism and banned the education of the Korean language, history and geography at primary schools.

The Japanese imperialists greatly reduced the number of private schools and village schools that were giving national education.

Between 1921 and 1931 alone, the number of private schools decreased from 24 193 to 9 208, and the overwhelming majority of Korean children had to give up their dream of learning and became illiterate.

Afterwards, the Japanese imperialists repeatedly revised, promulgated and enforced the "Korean education act", thus intensifying the colonial slave education and impeding the development and advance of the Korean nation.

The Korean people will never forget the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists who imposed the idea of servile submission on children and tried to deprive the nation of its culture, tradition and language and make Korea their permanent colony, and will settle accounts with them without fail.



By Ri Song Sim

Phungsan dog is a famous dog indigenous to the DPRK.

The special dog breed originated in Kim Hyong Gwon County (formerly

Phungsan County) in Ryanggang Province. Native to the DPRK, it embodies the spirit of the Korean nation.

Phungsan dog is very clever and usually gentle in temperament. It is faithful to

its master who keeps it, but very fierce to its opponents. Though small in size as compared with Western dogs, it is very swift and persistent and fights against any beasts to the last without flinching.

Many tales are told about Phungsan dogs that did righteous jobs for their masters.

Phungsan dog was registered as national living monument No. 368 in April 1956. In 2014, it was

designated as the national dog representing the country and nation and, in 2022, the Phungsan dog culture was registered as national intangible cultural heritage element No. 120.

In the DPRK, Phungsan

dog keeps its pure breed and preserves its distinctive features amid the love of the people, while various social activities are briskly conducted for the protection and proliferation of purebred Phungsan dog.

Factory buzzes with sporting activities

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 is well-known for both growth in production and vigorous mass sports activities.

The factory is fully equipped with sports facilities.

If you sit in the stand of the football ground covered with artificial turf, you can have a full view of the volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, each of which is flawless in every aspect.

According to Han Kwang Il, chairman of the primary committee of the factory of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea who is in charge of mass sports activities, volleyball, tennis and other courts have been built in several places of the factory compound covering a wide area.

At lunch and other leisure times, these courts are crowded with people

all at once. The “leading players” in matches between workshops and workteams are the employees who have once joined extracurricular sports groups at schools and schoolchildren’s palaces in their childhood. Sports games are played almost every day with them as key players, which serves as a course for all employees to acquire more than one sports technique.

As a result, excellent playing scenes putting professionals to shame are seen in the sports games of the factory held on the occasion of holidays or major anniversaries.

The factory employees fully displayed the sports techniques they had acquired in ordinary days at the Sports Contest of Workers in Major Industrial Sectors-2024 held on May Day last year.

“We, employees of the factory, took part in football and several events of amusement games of

the contest on behalf of workers in the machine-building industry sector last year and many spectators enthusiastically cheered us,” said Kim In Chol, a worker of the insulation workshop, proudly.

The Munmyong Health Complex of the factory well known to the whole country also plays an important part

in promoting mass sports activities of the factory.

The complex equipped with a dining hall and welfare service amenities has also a swimming pool, physical fitness room and a table-tennis room. Han Hye Song, a caretaker, once won the table-tennis singles of the national mass sports contest and all the employees of

the factory are very good at swimming.

According to Han, amateurs play games in groups every month in the table-tennis room of the Munmyong Health Complex, and their level is considerably high.

After finishing their day’s work, the employees of the factory visit the health complex to build up their

physical strength as they play games.

“As they strive to practise their sports techniques, the employees enhance the confidence that nothing is impossible if they are determined and make efforts, and it leads to increased production and technical innovations,” said Chairman Han Kwang Il.



Employees run in a race and play basketball game at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326. WON TONG CHOL/THE PYONGYANG TIMES

