



DPRK:



**Seven Decades of
Creation and Changes**

DPRK: Seven Decades of Creation and Changes

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Introduction

The 70 years of the DPRK is a history of great struggle and victory, and great creation and changes, in which the Korean people defended the independence and dignity of the country and built up a powerful socialist country surmounting the storm of the revolution under the leadership of their great leaders and their great Party.

The DPRK has advanced along the road of victory and glory overcoming unprecedented hardships and trials in acute confrontation with the imperialist forces seeking aggression throughout the historic course from the period of laying the foundation for nation building to the present when the building of a socialist power is under way.

In the course of the arduous struggle to build a new Korea, a new society, the Koreans blazed the trail for accomplishing the cause of independence against imperialism, the socialist cause, performed miracles of history and immortal feats and gained precious experiences. Therefore, the 70-year history of the DPRK shines brilliantly and socialist Korea is exalting its prestige and might as the citadel of independence and fortress of socialism.

Contents

Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	5
Laying the foundation of independent and sovereign state	6
Building of the people's government	6
Building of regular armed forces	11
Enforcement of democratic reforms	14
Founding of the people's state, Kim Il Sung elected to the top post of DPRK	19
Defending national freedom and independence	23
Immediate counteroffensive	24
New counteroffensive after ordeals	27
Great victory in Fatherland Liberation War	31
Building socialism, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence	35
Reconstruction starts on debris	36
Brilliant victory of socialist revolution, establishment of people-centred socialist system	39
April theses—programme of socialist revolution	39
Cooperativization of agriculture	42
Socialist transformation of private trade and industry ...	46
Decisive turn in establishing Juche	49
Grand Chollima advance	53

Establishment of socialist economic management system	57
‘Rifle in one hand and hammer or sickle in the other!’ ..	60
Theses on socialist rural question	62
Turning into socialist industrial state	65
Consolidation and development of people-centred socialism, defence of socialist cause	69
Promulgation of socialist constitution, application of socialist democracy in state activities	70
Intensification of three revolutions	73
Uninterrupted leap forward in economic construction..	76
Dynamic speed campaign	76
At the speed of the 1980s!	80
In the face of persistent sanctions and blockade	83
Efflorescence of socialist culture	87
Smashing anti-socialist sophistry	89
For a new independent world	92
Defending socialism by dint of Songun, effecting a turn in socialist power building	97
Holding Kim Il Sung as eternal Sun of Juche	98
Kim Jong Il elected to the top post of DPRK	100
Administering Songun politics in all-round way.....	103
Strengthening politico-ideological position of socialism	105
Laying solid foundations for building economic giant.	107

Overcoming difficulties	107
Effecting new revolutionary upsurge	109
Turning into military power	113
For the independent reunification of Korea	115
Three Charters for National Reunification	115
June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and October 4 Declaration	120
Strengthening overseas Koreans' movement	122
Expansion of external relations	126
For all-round construction of socialist power	129
Holding Kim Jong Il as eternal leader	130
Kim Jong Un elected to the top posts of Party, state and army	132
Golden age of military buildup	134
Decisive turn in improvement of the people's livelihood and building of economic giant	137
Building of sci-tech and civilized power	139
New era of national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity, and independent reunification	142
Landmark events in achieving global peace, stability and prosperity	145
Historic visits open up a new chapter for DPRK-China friendship	145
Epoch-making meeting makes history for DPRK-US relations	147



Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Laying the foundation of independent and
sovereign state 6

Founding of the people's state,
Kim Il Sung elected to the top post of DPRK..19

Laying the foundation of independent and sovereign state

Building of the people's government

The Korean people emerged victorious in the anti-Japanese armed struggle, which was organized and staged under the wise leadership of Kim Il Sung, the Sun of the nation and legendary hero, and accomplished the historic cause of national liberation in August Juche 34(1945).

The liberation of Korea was a great historic event that brought about a radical turn in shaping the destiny of the country and people and opened up a broad avenue to the building of an independent and sovereign state.

The overall situation soon after liberation was developing favourably for the Korean revolution.

But internal and external situations were very complicated and mountains of difficulties stood in the way of an independent and sovereign state building. Korea was divided into two due to outside forces, and imperialist and reactionary forces within and without made every vicious attempt to check the struggle of the people for building a new Korea.

Kim Il Sung enlisted the patriotic enthusiasm of the liberated people and all patriotic forces to foil the manoeuvres of the imperialists and reactionaries and lay a solid foundation for an independent and sovereign state building.

After liberation the people's government inheriting the anti-Japanese tradition was established in north Korea.

The Korean revolutionaries had the rich experience of

having built the people's government during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Kim Il Sung had unfolded a plan to found a democratic people's republic in liberated Korea.

But it was impossible to establish a unified government embracing the whole of the country due to the occupation of south Korea by foreign forces and their moves to split the nation. Under the circumstances, it was needed to set up a central power organ in north Korea first and carry out a democratic revolution so as to dynamically advance the Korean revolution and consolidate the foundation for the building of a democratic, independent and sovereign state.

Therefore, efforts were made to form a provisional people's committee as a central organ of state power in north Korea.

Meetings of the people at all levels were convened and the people's committees were organized by way of electing their members.

By late November 1945, the people's committees were formed in all areas of north Korea from provinces to cities, counties, sub-counties and ri to come into operation.

By dint of the local people's committees alone, it was impossible to ensure connection between economic sectors and political, economic and cultural connection between all provinces.

Accordingly, on November 19 1945, the ten administrative bureaus of north Korea were organized as a transitional administrative organ for providing unified guidance over the activities of local power organs and realizing economic connection between all provinces.

The organizational setup, mode of activities and experience

of the sectoral administrative bureaus served as a framework and asset for establishing a central power organ.

Based on such preparations, a consultative conference was convened on February 8 1946, attended by the representatives of democratic political parties, public organizations, administrative bureaus and the people's committees in north Korea.

At the meeting, the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea was formed with the representatives of people from all walks of life including workers and peasants.

Kim Il Sung was elected chairman of the committee with the unanimous approval of the Korean people.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea was the direct successor to the people's revolutionary government, which had been established in the guerrilla zone on the shore of the Tuman River during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and the people's democratic dictatorship, which was guided by the Juche idea and which worked to realize progressive democracy.

As it exercised dictatorship over pro-Japanese elements, traitors to the nation, landlords and comprador capitalists and applied democracy to the broad masses of the people, it carried out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, established a revolutionary democratic base in north Korea and created conditions for gradual transition to the stage of socialist revolution.

The task of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution was successfully carried out in north Korea in 1946.

This meant the total elimination of the colonial and

semi-feudal characters of the socio-economic system and a fundamental change in socio-economic relations. The socialist economic form consisting of state-owned economy and cooperative economy occupied the leading position in the north Korean economy and there remained the small commodity economic form consisting of private rural economy and urban handicraft economy and the capitalist economic form which was limited to the private trade and industry in urban areas and the rich farmer economy in rural areas.

On the basis of new economic relations, the class relationship of society underwent a radical change. Landlords, comprador capitalists, pro-Japanese elements and traitors were eliminated, whereas working people became masters of the country, the leading role of the working class was enhanced and the alliance between workers and peasants was strengthened.

The completion of the democratic revolution provided conditions for the gradual switch to the socialist revolution.

The primary task in the socialist revolution was to establish a socialist government.

This task was carried out in the way of consolidating and developing the people's committee assuming a provisional character in keeping with the task of the socialist revolution.

Generally, it was recognized as an established formula to overthrow an old bourgeois government with violence and replace it with a socialist government through a socialist revolution. But in north Korea, since the people's government was established in the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal

democratic revolution and various democratic reforms were carried out by this government to provide socio-economic conditions for switching to socialism, it was unnecessary to do away with the already established government to replace it with a socialist government.

Only when a socialist government was established while preserving intact the form of the people's government, which was based on the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class and which relied on the democratic national united front, was it possible to rally patriotic democratic forces of all social standings as many as possible, keep up the revolutionary zeal of the masses of the people, which was heightened during the democratic revolution, in the stage of the socialist revolution and consolidate the achievements of the democratic revolution, thereby leading them to victory.

The most rational way to develop the people's government into a socialist government under the then circumstances was to enforce democratic elections.

Therefore, the first democratic elections were held on November 3 1946 in north Korea.

In the elections to provincial, city and county people's committees, the first of its kind in the history of the Korean people, the turnout of voters was 99.6 percent and 96 percent of them voted for candidates.

On this basis, the congress of provincial, city and county people's committees was convened in February 1947.

The congress approved all laws proclaimed by the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, adopted the national economic development plan for 1947 and established the People's Assembly of North Korea as the

supreme organ of state power of north Korea.

At the first session of the People's Assembly of North Korea held on February 21, Kim Il Sung, chairman of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, declared that the provisional committee transferred its political power to the people's assembly in line with the new requirements of the developing revolution.

There he was elected as chairman of the People's Committee of North Korea according to the unanimous will and desire of all the people.

Upon authorization by the people's assembly, he formed the People's Committee of North Korea.

The people's committee was the first socialist government established in Korea, and its major tasks were to carry on with the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution across the country and implement the task of the period of gradual transition to socialism in north Korea. It was the supreme executive organ of the people's government in north Korea.

After the establishment of the people's committee, elections to the people's committees in sub-counties, ri and dong were held.

As a result, the people's committee came to have a well-organized hierarchy from the top down to the lowest local echelon.

Building of regular armed forces

It was imperative for liberated Korea to build its own powerful army capable of defending the country and people

and the gains of the revolution in order to be a completely independent and sovereign state. A country without national army cannot claim to be such a state.

It was no easy job to build it at the time when the whole of the north turned out in the building of new society with empty hands.

It lacked military and political cadres possessed of modern military science and technology and had no industry for producing and supplying military equipment.

Moreover, some people argued that there was no need to build a regular army since security was guaranteed by the Soviet troops stationed in the north and some others “feared” that if the north and south built their own armies respectively before Korea’s reunification, the Koreans might fight with each other.

And some Soviet people staying in the country were dissatisfied with the building of regular armed forces in the north.

North Korea pressed ahead with the building of a regular revolutionary army by local efforts, while overcoming all difficulties.

It took it as a principle to build the army with the veterans who had been tempered in the flames of the anti-Japanese war as its backbone and with the sons and daughters of workers, peasants and other working people.

Competent cadres were needed everywhere immediately after liberation, but Kim Il Sung dispatched most of the war veterans to the building of the regular army, and they played a leading role in founding it.

In such efforts priority was given to training military and

political cadres.

Kim Il Sung went to then Jiul-ri in Tami Sub-county of Ryonggang County, South Phyongan Province, on November 17 Juche 34(1945) to designate the lot for the Pyongyang Institute, the first base for training military and political cadres.

Under his meticulous guidance, the institute which would contribute to building the regular armed forces was established three months after liberation.

And Central Security Officers School was established by separating the function of training military cadres from the Pyongyang Institute.

The aviation course of the institute was set up in March 1946, and Maritime Security Officers School in July 1947.

Efforts were also channelled into building the core units of the regular army and organizing the units of its services and arms.

The Security Officers Training Centre was inaugurated in early September 1946 with the main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and the military and political officers trained at the Pyongyang Institute as the hard core.

The air force and navy were also built at an early period.

The Korean Aviation Association was formed, followed by the first flying corps of Korea.

The Maritime Security Corps was organized in June 1946, laying the foundation for founding a modern naval force.

In addition, different units of arms were built such as those of artillerymen, communications men and sappers.

In that period, energetic efforts were also made to establish a munitions industry.

As he looked round the site for an ordnance factory in Phyongchon-ri, Pyongyang, early in October 1945, Kim Il Sung said that an important thing in a regular army building was to arm all the soldiers with modern weapons and military equipment and, to this end, it was necessary to establish and develop the domestic munitions industry. Consequently, the first ordnance factory of Korea was set up in June 1947 and it manufactured various weapons and military equipment.

Based on such preparations, the Korean People's Army was founded on February 8 1948.

This meant the successful accomplishment of the Juche-oriented army-building cause.

Enforcement of democratic reforms

Democratic reforms were imperative to establish a democratic system and lay solid foundations for the building of an independent and sovereign state in north Korea.

Agrarian reform was carried out before all other democratic reforms.

At the time, peasants made up nearly 80 percent of the Korean population and landlords accounting for only 4 percent of all rural households in the north possessed 58.2 percent of the total area under cultivation in the north and ruthlessly exploited peasants.

And without eliminating landlords as a class, reactionaries would have gained footholds on them and committed all manner of manoeuvres to hinder the nation-building cause of the people.

Land reform could not be carried out successfully without full preparations and only driven by subjective desire as it was a serious socio-economic reform to liquidate the feudal exploitative relationship which had been dominant in rural areas for ages.

For a successful land reform, activities were conducted to prepare peasants, who were in direct charge of it, politically and ideologically.

The struggle for the introduction of the 3:7 system of tenancy was staged in the autumn of Juche 34(1945) and the peasants who were awakened and trained through the struggle sent letters, resolutions and petitions to the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea asking it to distribute land to the tillers. On the anniversary of the March 1 Movement in 1946 more than two million peasants staged mass demonstrations in demand of land across north Korea.

Kim Il Sung dispatched cadres to all parts of north Korea to get familiar with relations of land ownership and the actual situation of farming and inspected different rural villages to meet peasants and acquaint himself with specific conditions.

In the course of this, he made an anatomical analysis of the complicated relations of feudal land ownership and worked out the articles of a land reform law one by one.

As a result, the Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea was proclaimed on March 5 1946.

Accordingly, the land of the Japanese imperialists, pro-Japanese elements and traitors to the nation as well as their irrigation facilities and farming equipment were defined as the objects of confiscation. Those who owned five hectares or more of land and rented it out, living like parasites, were defined

as landlords to be eliminated, and their land, houses, draught animals, farm implements, orchards, forests and irrigation facilities were confiscated. And all the land which was not tilled by owners but rented out was confiscated, regardless of its acreage. The land thus confiscated was distributed to farm hands and poor peasants evenly according to the size of their families and the number of labourers. And the owners of distributed land were forbidden to sell or mortgage it or rent it out and urged to give the land they did not cultivate back to the state. Steps were also taken to nationalize confiscated forests, irrigation facilities, orchards and some land that was unfavourable for tilling by peasants.

A class policy in land reform was to rely on farm hands and poor peasants, who were most interested in the reform, form an alliance with middle peasants, isolate rich farmers and hit landlords.

For the successful enforcement of the reform, the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea also saw to it that more than 11 500 rural committees were formed with farm hands and poor peasants with ri as a unit and that they undertook all affairs related to the enforcement of the law and spearheaded the struggle against landlords, pro-Japanese elements and traitors. It took the step of organizing a volunteer corps with the students of the Pyongyang Institute and over 10 000 elite members of the working class to dispatch them to farm villages and get them to help the rural committees with their work and to conduct a positive struggle for disclosing and crushing the subversive activities of landlords and other reactionaries. Meanwhile, it formed a united front with all political parties and public organizations and inspired all the

people to the efforts for a victorious land reform.

It enacted and promulgated the law on temporary measures for the reform and strengthened its function of dictatorship as the people's government to prevent landlords and other reactionaries from committing subversive activities and sabotage acts and enlisted broad masses of people in the struggle against class enemies. It took the measure of moving landlords to other areas to disperse and hamstring their forces and keep them from exerting bad influence on peasants. In addition, it put to rights the rightist deviation of shielding landlords and traitors without principle and the leftist deviation of confiscating the land of rich farmers and middle peasants.

Consequently, the agrarian reform was carried out thoroughly and successfully in less than a month. Through the reform, more than a million hectares of land were confiscated and over 981 000 hectares were distributed to over 720 000 peasant households gratis.

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea nationalized major industries in the wake of land reform.

Before liberation most of the industries of Korea were owned by the Japanese imperialists and comprador capitalists, which seriously hampered the development of the national economy. Only when major industries were nationalized, could the Koreans remove the economic footholds of the imperialists and their stooges, clear away the aftermath of colonial rule, free the working class from the yoke of colonialism and exploitation, ensure the independent development of the national economy and establish a prosperous, powerful, independent and sovereign state. And only then, could they

administer their state in conformity with their demands and stabilize and improve their livelihood as early as possible.

On August 10 1946 Chairman Kim Il Sung of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea promulgated the Law on Nationalization of Industries, Transport, Communications, Banks and So On by pushing aside the wrong assertions of some Soviet people who were opposed to the nationalization and the obstructions of factionalists infected with flunkeyism.

According to the law, 1 034 factories and enterprises making up over 90 percent of all the industries in north Korea passed into the possession of the state and all the people.

He also proclaimed the Labour Law for the Workers and Office Employees in North Korea on June 24 that year.

As a result, they were provided with all democratic freedom and rights related to labour and rest including eight-hour working, equal pay for equal labour, paid leave and social insurance.

He promulgated the Law on Sex Equality in North Korea on July 30 the same year to legally ensure that women accounting for over half the population enjoy the same rights as men in all fields of social life including the rights to vote and to be elected and rights to work and education.

In addition, the provisional people's committee enforced a series of popular policies.

Thus the solid foundations for the building of an independent and sovereign state were laid with the establishment of the people's government, the building of the regular armed forces and the enforcement of democratic reforms.

Founding of the people's state, Kim Il Sung elected to the top post of DPRK

In around September 1947, separatists got more undisguised in their moves to enforce separate elections and set up a separate government in south Korea, aggravating the crisis of Korea's territorial division and throwing a serious obstacle in the way of establishing a unified democratic provisional government of Korea.

Therefore, it was an urgent task that brooked no delay to take a drastic national salvation measure for founding an independent and democratic unified state by tiding over the crisis.

To fulfil this historic task, the People's Committee of North Korea decided to arrange a north-south joint conference.

As a result, the joint conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations of north and south Korea was held at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang on April 19 Juche 37(1948) amid great expectation and interest of the whole nation.

It was attended by 695 representatives of 56 political parties and social organizations, including those from abroad.

In his address delivered at the conference, Kim Il Sung said that unless they united to conduct a national salvation struggle at the serious time of crisis of national division, they would commit a crime unpardonable for all ages against the nation and posterity, and appealed for turning out in a nationwide struggle to frustrate the separate elections in south Korea and establish a unified government on a democratic principle, thereby reunifying the country.

The joint conference decided to resolutely oppose and reject the separate elections and solemnly declared that it would never recognize a puppet regime even if it was rigged up through the elections and that it would establish a genuine unified government on a democratic principle by the Korean people's own efforts.

The consultative meeting of leaders of political parties and public organizations of north and south Korea held in late April 1948 published a joint statement which clarified the immediate issues of withdrawing foreign troops and establishing a unified central government.

And the consultative meeting of those leaders from the south who participated in the north-south joint conference was held on Ssuk Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang early in May, and they agreed to hold north-south general elections in order to found the DPRK as a unified central government.

After the conference, all the patriotic, democratic forces in the north and south staged an energetic struggle to crush the separate elections in the south. People in the north held rallies and demonstrations against the separate elections in Pyongyang and all other parts of the north in succession to encourage the people's struggle in the south. People from all walks of life in the south also conducted various forms of vigorous struggle. Workers formed a general strike committee against the separate elections and went on general strikes in Seoul and other major cities. People rose up in armed resistance on Jeju Island and in other local areas and destroyed polling stations and the enemy's repressive apparatuses. The May 10 separate elections were virtually a failure.

Reactionaries in south Korea, however, manipulated the election results to form an unlawful parliament with pro-Japanese elements and other traitors and proceeded to cook up a puppet regime.

The People's Committee of North Korea pressed on with the work to establish a central government embracing the whole of Korea as a decisive measure to overcome the crisis of national division.

The consultative meeting of leaders of political parties and public organizations of north and south Korea, which was held in June 1948, analysed and disclosed the illegality of the south Korean "national assembly" and decided to hold Korea-wide general elections so as to found a supreme people's assembly and form a central government with representatives of north and south Korea.

Accordingly, the general elections were held successfully in August 1948.

The turnout in the elections in the north accounted for 99.97 percent of all the eligible voters and 212 deputies were elected to the Supreme People's Assembly, while 360 deputies were chosen in the south.

Drawing on the brilliant victory in the elections, the first session of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held in Pyongyang in September that year.

The Supreme People's Assembly adopted the constitution of the DPRK and elected Kim Il Sung as the premier of the DPRK Cabinet, head of state, in accordance with the unanimous will and desire of all the Korean people.

It was the greatest happiness and honour for the Korean people to acclaim as head of state Kim Il Sung who pioneered

the revolutionary cause of Juche and led the anti-Japanese war to victory to achieve the historic cause of national liberation and who was spearheading the building of a new democratic Korea.

Kim Il Sung formed the government of the DPRK and proclaimed the founding of the DPRK to the whole world on September 9 1948.

The DPRK is the only legitimate state which was established by the unanimous will of all the Koreans in the north and south, and a genuine people's state that represents the interests of working people including workers and peasants and thoroughly defends their interests and demands. Unlike the south Korean regime set up with the help of foreign forces, the DPRK government was a completely independent government established according to the will and demand of the local people and a unique government with an immensely broad socio-political foundation.

After the founding of the DPRK the struggle of the Korean people for building an independent and sovereign unified state entered a new stage.



Defending national freedom and independence

Immediate counteroffensive.....	24
New counteroffensive after ordeals.....	27
Great victory in Fatherland Liberation War....	31

Immediate counteroffensive

The Syngman Rhee puppet clique, who had escalated localized warfare year after year since 1947 as they ceaselessly committed acts of armed provocation against north Korea, finally launched an armed invasion against the DPRK on the early morning of June 25 1950 at the instigation of outside forces.

The two-year-old DPRK and the Korean people were exposed to a serious danger. They stood at the crossroads of whether to be reduced again to a colonial slave of the imperialists or to remain a free people of an independent and sovereign state.

The government took immediate measures to mobilize every effort in the victory in the war.

Premier Kim Il Sung convened an emergency meeting of the Cabinet on June 25 Juche 39(1950) and ordered the units of the Korean People's Army to frustrate the enemy's surprise invasion and launch a counteroffensive immediately. He delivered a radio address on June 26 to arouse the whole army and all the people to a victorious war.

Accordingly, the DPRK rapidly placed all work of the state on a war footing, establishing a strict wartime command system.

The DPRK Military Commission was organized on June 26 as the supreme leadership body of the state vested with all power to control and guide all affairs in the front and rear in a unified way, and the Supreme Headquarters of the Korean People's Army was set up on July 4 to control and command all armed forces.

Kim Il Sung assumed the responsibility of the chairman

of the Military Commission and the supreme commander of the KPA.

In addition, the front command and army group headquarters were organized to ensure a prompt and flexible command over military operations.

A wartime command system was established throughout the DPRK.

A state of war was declared and a wartime mobilization order was issued. The military mobilization department was set up under the Military Commission. And the people's volunteer corps organizing committee was formed as a standing organ in liberated areas in south Korea so as to uninterruptedly reinforce armed forces needed for the execution of war with patriotic young and middle-aged people in the north and south of Korea.

At the same time, the work of Party and government organs and public organizations was reorganized in line with the circumstances of the war and the national economy was placed on a war footing.

The Korean People's Army countered the enemy's surprise invasion with an immediate counteroffensive.

At the first meeting of the Military Commission on June 26 Kim Il Sung put it forward as the strategic policy for a victorious war to annihilate Syngman Rhee's army and foreign aggressor troops already in the country in a short time before huge foreign forces would be thrown into the Korean front and to completely liberate south Korea.

The KPA set the western sector of the front as the direction of main attack and staged a military operation to liberate Seoul.

Its units launched the operation early on the morning of June

28, given that a military operation at night might endanger the citizens and their property and damage historical relics and remains.

They destroyed the main force of the south Korean army and liberated Seoul at 11:30 am.

The combined units of the KPA that liberated Seoul went on with offensive operations and drove enemy troops down to the south of the 37th parallel all along the frontline.

As they failed in their attempt to occupy the DPRK at a dash, the aggressors reinforced their flying corps and fleets and threw their ground troops massively into the Korean front, and abused the name of the United Nations to knock up the “UN Forces” and bring in the mercenary troops of different countries.

The DPRK fully disclosed the vicious moves of the enemies that usurped the name of the UN, and called on all the people and KPA servicemen to wipe out the aggressors.

With burning hatred for the enemy, KPA combatants destroyed enemy troops as they advanced southwards furthering their achievements.

With the powerful backing of the artillery, they broke through the defence line along the Kum River, which enemies dubbed a “line of no retreat”, and zeroed in on Taejon and liberated the city completely on July 20.

In those days, Kim Il Sung went to the frontline on many occasions to clarify strategic and tactical issues arising in military operations and battles.

Greatly encouraged by his command, KPA combatants promoted joint operations between the infantry and the artillery and combined mountain battles, night actions, continuous strikes and bold manoeuvres by employing the

tactics taught by him to encircle and crush enemies and storm southwards. Consequently, in a little over one and half months after the outbreak of the war, they liberated over 90 percent of the southern half of Korea and more than 92 percent of the population.

The DPRK also paid close attention to providing the people in the liberated areas in the south with a new system and life.

Party and people's government organs and public organizations were restored there, while such democratic reforms as land reform were enforced.

Measures were taken to stabilize the living of residents and to protect historical and cultural heritage including the Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty amounting to nearly 1 800 volumes.

New counteroffensive after ordeals

The situation of the war made a dramatic turn in mid-September Juche 39(1950), creating a serious crisis to the DPRK.

The aggressors brought in troops from different countries including the UK, in an attempt to make up for the repeated defeats on the front and achieve their goal of occupation of the DPRK at all cost. While trying to launch the "general offensive" along the line of the Raktong River with the reinforced huge forces, they conducted the landing operation at Inchon by mobilizing an over 50 000-strong force, hundreds of warships and about 1 000 aircraft in mid-September. They attempted to isolate the KPA's front from the rear, encircle

and destroy its main force on the frontline and occupy the whole of Korea in a short period by seizing Inchon, Seoul and Wonju areas.

KPA units bravely fought against enemy troops who were incomparably superior in number and technology along the line of the Raktong River and in the Inchon-Seoul area. The combatants of the coastal battery on Wolmi Island defended the gateway to Inchon for three days until the last one fell as human bombs, dealing a big blow to the enemy troops before they landed on Inchon. Owing to the immense difference between the KPA and the enemies in force, the situation on the frontline made a sudden unfavourable turn for the KPA.

The DPRK strove to tide over the temporary crisis in the front in a positive manner.

Kim Il Sung put forward a strategic policy of delaying the enemy's advance as much as possible in order to gain time, and thus save the main force of the KPA and organize fresh reserves with which to form powerful counteroffensive forces, while organizing a planned retreat.

Given that the enemy troops were moving only along main roads, the Supreme Headquarters saw to it that KPA units made an organized retreat over mountains by employing mobile defence tactics with the combined force as a unit. It also got the units that were fighting in the Seoul area to hold in check the enemy troops by building powerful defence positions in the intermediary areas including those along the 38th parallel, so as to ensure the retreat of the main force.

KPA units built defence positions in Wonsan, Yangdok and Pyongyang areas to fight do-or-die battles and delay the enemy's advance, thereby successfully ensuring the organized retreat of the KPA main force and people from the

Raktong River line.

In the face of such difficult conditions, workers moved production facilities to safe areas to continue their production and farmers rendered sincere assistance to the KPA soldiers in every way. Scientists, technicians, persons of culture and the arts and many people in liberated southern areas crossed over rugged mountains and rivers, following the retreating KPA service members.

The aggressor troops who temporarily occupied northern areas committed nefarious atrocities everywhere as they killed innocent civilians at random. They even burnt down schools, hospitals and other cultural facilities and plundered invaluable cultural heritage of the Korean nation.

People behind the enemy lines turned out courageously in the fight against occupation forces.

People's guerrilla units were organized in different places including Hwanghae, Kangwon, South Hamgyong and South Phyongan provinces. They raided the enemy's assembly places to destroy their means of transport and combat equipment and wipe out troops. Children also formed guards to smash aggressors here and there. Lots of women put up unyielding fights against them with arms in hands.

The temporary strategic retreat was organized, while thorough preparations were made for a new counteroffensive.

Solid counterattack bases were secured in the mountains in the northern inland region and KPA units were reorganized, readjusted and reinforced to form a counterattack group and reserve units.

In the course of the strategic retreat a powerful second front was formed with KPA combined units in the enemy's rear in anticipation of the counteroffensive.

The military and political situation got favourable for the KPA in late October 1950.

At that time the Chinese Party and government dispatched to the Korean front the volunteers formed with the fine sons and daughters of the Chinese people under the banner of “Resist US aggression and aid Korea, protect our homes and defend our motherland”.

The DPRK made proactive efforts to turn the tables.

Kim Il Sung set forth a new policy of frustrating the enemy’s offensive and pushing them down to the south of the 38th parallel, while destroying enemy troops in large numbers, and regrouping and strengthening KPA forces and continually destroying and weakening the enemy forces in preparation for the final victory of the war.

Accordingly, the units of the KPA and the Chinese People’s Volunteers conducted powerful counteroffensives in the northern line along the Chongchon River in the western section of the front and the areas of Hwangcho and Pujon passes and the Orang River in the eastern section of the front between late October and early November.

Thanks to their powerful counterattack operations, enemy forces were frustrated in their attack all along the frontline and their attempt to “conclude the Korean war before Thanksgiving Day (November 23 that year)” came to a total failure. Though they were dealt a telling blow, the aggressor forces attempted a new general offensive, bragging that they would occupy north Korea before Christmas.

The KPA Supreme Headquarters saw through their weak points and bid to attack, and ordered units to smash enemy troops all along the frontline and switch to a decisive

counteroffensive in late November.

The KPA combined forces that launched a general counteroffensive encircled and annihilated enemy troops in the areas of the Chongchon River, the shores of Lake Jangjin, Chongjin and Hamhung in close cooperation, and rapidly advanced southwards. The second front forces which were occupying the vast areas of central Korea cut off the enemy's retreat and promptly took hold of the 38th parallel line, thus foiling the enemy's bid to build up midway defence and dispatch reinforcements. In the course of this, KPA troops killed, wounded and captured lots of enemies and destroyed and captured large quantities of their weapons and equipment. KPA units pursued the retreating enemy and completely liberated the enemy-held areas of the northern half of Korea by the end of December 1950, and advanced to the area south of the 38th parallel.

To make up for their defeat, the aggressors came out with a new military adventure. As a result, the war dragged on.

In the period the DPRK channelled big efforts into consolidating the rear.

It established revolutionary discipline as well as Juche in the military field. As it restored and readjusted government organs, it unleashed an all-out offensive against counterrevolutionary elements.

Thus, the rear was restored, readjusted and consolidated enough to provide against a protracted war.

Great victory in Fatherland Liberation War

In June Juche 40(1951) the front was settled roughly along the 38th parallel and the war entered a new stage. Still

harbouring the wild ambition for aggression, the aggressors reinforced their forces including the flying corps and artillery in an attempt to concentrate attack on the eastern and middle sectors of the front, break through the existing line and launch landing operations on the east and west coasts.

Kim Il Sung saw to it that active positional defence warfare was waged to cope with the military and political situation in which the war assumed a protracted character and set forth various unique tactics including tunnel warfare.

KPA combatants efficiently applied these tactics to deal heavy blows to the enemy troops.

The enemies, driven into an acute political and military crisis by repeated defeats, proposed armistice negotiations.

But as they failed to achieve their sinister aim at the negotiating table due to the KPA side's principled and resolute stand, they broke off the negotiations unilaterally and launched new military offensives.

The offensives also ended in failure thanks to the heroic struggle of KPA combatants and people in the rear.

Therefore, the enemies were compelled to return to the negotiating table in late October 1951 and accept the fair proposal of the KPA side on fixing the military demarcation line and setting up the demilitarized zone. But they threw a new obstacle in the way of negotiations, while preparing for another military adventure.

The DPRK strove to enhance the functions and role of the people's government to cope with the prolongation of the war.

Some officials of local government organs did not conduct political work on the pretext of the war, but worked in a bureaucratic style of dictating to the people, deceived their

higher echelons, driven by the desire for personal fame, and even trespassed on state property and encroached on the people's interests.

A joint meeting of people's committee chairmen and leading Party functionaries of provinces, cities and counties was convened in February 1952, which put forward the tasks of enhancing the functions and role of the people's government in keeping with wartime conditions. After the meeting, positive activities were made to implement the tasks.

At its 24th plenary meeting held in late November 1952, the Cabinet reorganized the local administrative system and division by breaking down counties into smaller ones, abolishing sub-counties and strengthening ri so that people's government organs could carry out difficult and complex tasks promptly and correctly.

In the meantime, preparations were made for postwar reconstruction.

Already in December 1950 Kim Il Sung put forth the policy of making preparations for postwar reconstruction in anticipation of victory in the war.

Therefore, machine-building industrial bases were built in Huichon, Kusong, Tokchon and elsewhere, and preparations were made for the reconstruction of key industries and light industry and the destroyed cities and countryside including Pyongyang, the socialist transformation of the rural economy and grand nature-harnessing projects.

The soldiers who had been receiving higher education before the outbreak of the war were recalled from the frontline to their universities to continue their study, and sufficient conditions were provided for scientists to continue

with their research.

The KPA mounted three rounds of powerful attacks on the enemies between mid-May and late July in 1953 to destroy lots of enemy troops and liberate the vast areas covering over 340 square kilometres.

As they were driven into a tight corner and could find no way out, the enemies had no other choice than to fall to their knees before the Korean people and sign the armistice agreement on July 27 1953.

Thus, the three-year Fatherland Liberation War ended in the DPRK's victory.

That night, there was a firework display in Pyongyang in celebration of the triumph.

The victorious Fatherland Liberation War was of great historical importance.

As it won the war the DPRK could defend its freedom and independence, national sovereignty and the gains of the revolution with honour and demonstrate its invincible might, the solidity of its state and social system and the confidence in victory and indomitable fighting spirit of its people.

As they underwent trying ordeals of the war, the service members and people rallied more firmly behind the government, thereby remarkably strengthening the driving force of the revolution with the KPA as the core.

And as they triumphed in the war, they could prevent another world war scheme of the enemy and war calamities to save humankind, firmly defend the Eastern post of socialism and reliably safeguard global peace and security.



Building socialism, independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in defence

Reconstruction starts on debris.....	36
Brilliant victory of socialist revolution, establishment of people-centred socialist system..	39
Decisive turn in establishing Juche.....	49
Grand Chollima advance.....	53
Establishment of socialist economic management system.....	57
‘Rifle in one hand and hammer or sickle in the other!’	60
Theses on socialist rural question	62
Turning into socialist industrial state.....	65

Reconstruction starts on debris

The revolutionary spirit of the Korean people was sky-high after they defeated the imperialist allied forces in the fierce Fatherland Liberation War. Actually, they had been filled with the determination to carry out postwar reconstruction in the face of any difficulties. Just after the war, however, they were at a loss to know from where and how to start.

Though the guns fell silent, the country's situation remained tense and too many obstacles and hardships stood in the way of the postwar reconstruction.

The aggressors dropped an average of 18 bombs per square kilometre of north Korea during the three-year war. In particular, Pyongyang was hit by over 428 000 bombs which were equivalent to more than one per capita. They destroyed and reduced to ashes everything—streets, rural villages, factories, schools, hospitals, theatres, cinema houses and historical relics and remains.

The enemy bragged that Koreans would be unable to rise up again in a hundred years, while foreign friends sympathizing with the DPRK expressed apprehension about its future as they witnessed the devastating war consequences.

The Korean people were in dire straits. Food, clothes and everything were in short supply. The reconstruction was important, but the food and clothing problems were also a pressing issue.

The DPRK government was convinced that the people could create a new life on the debris without fail although war damage was so huge and circumstances were so difficult.

The DPRK decided to carry on postwar reconstruction

in three stages, given that it was impossible to reconstruct all sectors at the same time due to the devastation of the national economy. The first stage envisaged preparations for the reconstruction of the overall economy for six months or a year, the second stage was geared to implementing the Three-Year Plan and restoring all economic sectors to their prewar levels, and the third stage was to carry out the Five-Year Plan and lay foundations for socialist industrialization.

And it set it as the basic line of economic construction to rehabilitate and develop heavy industry on a preferential basis while developing light industry and agriculture in parallel.

Accordingly, detailed measures were taken for postwar reconstruction.

People from all walks of life were encouraged to turn out in reconstruction with high patriotic enthusiasm, the economic system was restructured to meet the requirements of the postwar situation and the Korean People's Army was mobilized in reconstruction.

When the postwar reconstruction started, the anti-Party factionalists steeped in flunkeyism and dogmatism opposed the basic line of economic construction, saying too much stress was put on the building of heavy industry in disregard of the people's privation and food would not come out of machines.

Great-power chauvinists of a foreign country were arrogant enough to say that the DPRK should import daily necessities of the people with their aid, questioning with what it would ensure the preferential growth of heavy industry and how to develop light industry and agriculture in parallel on the

debris.

Foiling their obstructive moves, the DPRK government put spurs to the reconstruction as it held fast to the basic line of economic construction.

As a result, the tasks in the stage of preparations for the reconstruction were successfully carried out in a matter of five months, and the DPRK was able to set about implementing the three-year national economic plan in Juche 43(1954).

The main tasks during the Three-Year Plan were to rehabilitate and develop the economy ruined by the war and to restore all economic sectors to their prewar levels.

To this end, the government concentrated on improving guidance over and management of the economy. Economic sectoral meetings and several rounds of Cabinet plenary meetings were convened to advance specific tasks and ways for the implementation of the economic plan.

Attaching primary importance to setting up powerful heavy industry bases with the machine-building industry as the core, the DPRK appropriately combined the reconstruction and enlargement of the existing heavy industry factories with the building of new ones and concentrated on the building of a heavy industry that could better serve the development of light industry and agriculture, not confined to its own growth.

It laid the foundations of light industry by rapidly restoring large light industry factories and building foodstuff processing and consumer goods factories, and directed efforts to restoring and developing the devastated rural economy.

It pushed the construction of dwelling houses to stabilize the people's living and took positive measures to stabilize and

improve the living of working people who were separated from their fellows during the war, people in the newly-liberated areas, families of fallen soldiers, victims of enemy atrocities and servicemen, war sufferers and impoverished farmers. Wages of workers and office employees were raised markedly and commodity prices lowered on several occasions and goods supply improved.

As a result, heavy and light industries and the rural economy were rehabilitated and developed and the people's living was put on the track of stabilization in a short time after the war, the colonial lopsidedness of industry was gradually overcome, and the Three-Year Plan could be pushed successfully.

Brilliant victory of socialist revolution, establishment of people-centred socialist system

April theses—programme of socialist revolution

In the wake of the fulfilment of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution after liberation, the DPRK switched over to the socialist revolution.

But it did not put up the socialist slogan to the fore in the postwar days in consideration of the preparedness of the people, but made preparations for the socialist revolution as it partially transformed the relations of production along socialist lines.

After the war, the Korean people demanded the collective economy out of their vital need. And enough revolutionary forces were in place for buckling down to the socialist

revolution.

The socialist revolution and construction in the DPRK were unprecedented struggle to resolve lots of theoretical and practical issues, which arose afresh for their peculiarities, by local efforts from the standpoint of Juche. In order to carry them out in Korean way, a Korean-style programme of socialist revolution was needed.

Kim Il Sung formulated the programme, so as to imbue the people with confidence in socialism and speed up the socialist revolution and construction in earnest.

However, Choe Chang Ik, Pak Chang Ok and other factionalists and big-power worshippers argued against the starting of the socialist revolution, describing it as “premature”.

Dismissing their wrong argument, he went on with completing the theses on socialist revolution by reflecting the people’s aspirations and the specific conditions of the country.

Modern revisionists and big-power chauvinists viciously interfered with the preparation of the theses. They questioned their necessity in the DPRK, arguing that European countries were carrying on the socialist revolution with no theses. Their inward thoughts were that theses could only be advanced by such big countries as the Soviet Union which initiated a socialist revolution earlier than others, not by such a small country like the DPRK which just started a socialist revolution.

At the time Kim Il Sung brushed aside their argument, saying that there was no need for them to say right or wrong about the theses as the Koreans decided to publish the theses

needed for the Korean revolution.

In April Juche 44(1955) he published *Every Effort for the Country's Reunification and Independence and for Socialist Construction in the Northern Half of Korea*, which he devised and completed based on the staunch independent stand.

The theses clarified the character and tasks of the Korean revolution on the basis of the original elucidation of correlations between the national revolution and the regional revolution.

They referred to the need for the north to further advance the revolution and switch to the socialist revolution in order to achieve the nationwide victory of the revolution.

They set it as the key task of the Five-Year Plan to establish the undivided sway of socialist relations of production in town and countryside by transforming the small commodity and capitalist economic forms and to lay the foundations of socialist industrialization by developing the productivity of the country.

They underlined the need to educate the masses of the people in socialist ideology, train new cultural and technical personnel, implement the basic line of economic construction and build up the armed forces in order to successfully lay the foundations of socialism.

The April theses were, indeed, a great programme of Juche-oriented socialist revolution and construction which solemnly declared the revolutionary stand of the DPRK government and people to advance by holding aloft the banner of Korean-style socialism as they resolutely smash the obstructive moves of modern revisionists, great-power chauvinists, worshippers of big powers and dogmatists.

The Korean people dynamically accelerated the socialist revolution and construction as indicated by the theses full of confidence in victory and optimism.

Cooperativization of agriculture

The DPRK set agricultural cooperativization as a primary task in accelerating the socialist revolution in earnest after the war.

Until then, it was an accepted idea that agriculture could be cooperativized only after the socialist industrialization is accomplished. The concept was based on the existing theories and experiences of foreign countries.

From such a point of view, it was unthinkable to cooperativize agriculture in the DPRK after the war since everything was reduced to ashes.

But the DPRK saw the condition for realizing agricultural cooperativization quite differently. It found an essential prerequisite for agricultural cooperativization not in whether the rural economy is equipped with modern technology, but in whether the cooperativization arises as a vital need of farmers and whether the internal forces to undertake it are available.

Agricultural cooperativization presented itself as a pressing issue soon after the war.

Given that rural areas were devastated due to the three-year war and there was a lack of manpower, farm tools and draught oxen, it was impossible for previous individual farming to rapidly increase agricultural output, alleviate food shortage and improve the livelihoods of farmers.

Meanwhile, there were revolutionary forces capable of undertaking agricultural cooperativization.

Farmers were awakened politically and ideologically and tempered revolutionarily through a new Korea building and the war, and realized the advantage of cooperative farming in the course of working by forming labour-aid and ox-sharing teams.

Kim Il Sung put forward the policy of carrying out the socialist transformation of the economic form of agriculture, prior to the technical reconstruction of the rural economy in August Juche 42(1953).

Guiding principles in the agricultural cooperativization movement were also set forth.

The voluntary principle was maintained in the formation of agricultural cooperatives.

The class policy was set as to firmly rely on poor peasants, strengthening the alliance with the middle peasants and restricting and gradually remoulding the rich farmers, in consideration of the balance of forces between classes in the rural community of the country.

Steps were taken to intensify the guidance and assistance of the Party and state to the movement.

At the time, a number of people found fault with the policy of agricultural cooperativization. Great-power chauvinists and their followers including factionalists and big-power worshippers argued that it was impossible for the DPRK with its industries destroyed to cooperativize its rural economy, claiming that even European countries with developed industries were still unable to push agricultural cooperativization in an all-round way.

But the policy of agricultural cooperativization was the actual demand of the country. It was not the only correct way to realize it after carrying out industrialization.

The government stepped up the transformation of rural economy along socialist lines while smashing all manner of their sophistry.

An experimental stage was set and three to four cooperatives were formed on an experimental basis in each county with the poor peasants and rural core elements in the countryside who actively supported cooperativization.

In consideration of peasants' different ideological preparedness and economic conditions, three forms of agricultural cooperatives were defined and, accordingly, they selected one of them according to their wishes and demands.

The agricultural cooperatives, which were formed on an experimental basis, displayed their superiority from the first year of their formation.

Their per-unit grain output was 10 to 50 percent more than that of private farming and their members' cash income was 2 to 7 times more than that of private farmers in the cooperative economy in 1954.

The agricultural cooperativization movement entered the stage of mass movement in 1955.

The DPRK channelled big efforts into making the mass movement go ahead without deviation.

As it sorted out in time the undesirable practices of some farmers, it timely foiled the sabotage and subversive moves of class enemies who were opposed to the movement.

And while concentrating on consolidating agricultural

cooperatives qualitatively, it provided guidance to the cooperatives.

As a result, the movement proceeded smoothly and at a fast pace and 80.9 percent of all the rural households joined the cooperatives at the close of 1956.

Therefore, it came to enter the stage of completion in 1957.

Those who remained outside the cooperatives were mainly well-to-do farmers, those engaging in both trade and farming in the suburbs, peasants widely dispersed in mountainous areas and those in newly-liberated areas.

The DPRK took a measure to admit all of them into the cooperatives in consideration of their specific conditions.

It ensured that suburban farmers who were also engaged in private trade joined the agricultural cooperatives or production-marketing cooperatives according to their wishes. For those in mountainous areas, it made sure that workteams were organized rationally to suit geographical conditions and their houses were concentrated in certain areas so that they could join the cooperatives. It saw to it that ideological education and object-based education were conducted for those in newly-liberated areas so that they could understand the advantages of the cooperative economy and join any forms of cooperatives to their liking. It took measures to strictly control wealthy farmers lest they disturbed cooperativization, and to admit into the cooperatives those who intended to quit exploitation and work diligently.

Consequently, agricultural cooperativization was rounded off in the DPRK in August 1958.

It merged agricultural cooperatives with *ri* as a unit to

expand their scale in the wake of the completion of the transformation of the rural economy along socialist lines.

The successful cooperativization eradicated the source of exploitation and oppression in the countryside and turned farmers into socialist agricultural workers.

Socialist transformation of private trade and industry

Concurrently with agricultural cooperativization, the DPRK pushed on a full scale the socialist transformation of handicrafts, which had been carried on on a partial scale since Korea's liberation.

Korea's handicraft economy which had weak economic foundations before the war was severely damaged and fragmented during the war. Therefore, it was impossible to improve the living standards of handicraftsmen unless the cooperative economy was organized after the war. And under such circumstances handicraftsmen were eager for cooperativization.

Given the situation, the DPRK widely organized producers' cooperatives with handicraftsmen and speeded up the socialist transformation of them. It also intensified material, technical and financial assistance for newly organized cooperatives to consolidate and develop them.

As a result, the socialist transformation of handicrafts was pressed on after the war and almost completed by Juche 45(1956).

Meanwhile, the socialist transformation of capitalist trade and industry was carried on in an original way.

As the DPRK had already confiscated and nationalized the

property of foreign imperialists and comprador capitalists in the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, the capitalist property that still remained after the war was only the possessions of native capitalists. And the war destroyed them to reduce a lot of private tradesmen and manufacturers to a status no better than that of handicraftsmen. They would be unable to restore their economy and improve their living unless they pooled their means of production, manpower and funds with the assistance of the state.

The capitalist traders and manufacturers recognized the correctness of the government's policy of cooperativization and fully accepted and supported it. Therefore, there was no need to expropriate their property and eliminate them, though they were exploiting class from the working-class viewpoint. Moreover, the non-comprador capitalists in the DPRK played an important part in a new Korea building after liberation and took part in the struggle for victory in the war, and most of the tradesmen and manufacturers were running businesses while personally taking part in productive labour.

In view of such a specific reality Kim Il Sung set forth a policy of transforming the capitalist tradesmen and industrialists along socialist lines without confiscating them.

In transforming them on socialist lines, the government ensured that the voluntary principle was strictly maintained, they were admitted into different forms of cooperatives according to their will and all of them were transformed into socialist workers by closely combining the transformation of economic forms with the reforming of men.

To this end, it made sure that private entrepreneurs joined the producers' cooperatives they liked according to the type of business. It saw to it that the cooperatives consisting of handicraftsmen were built up before gradually admitting the businessmen into them and a semi-socialist form was widely applied according to their level of consciousness and the cooperatives' economic conditions. It also ensured that the producers' cooperatives gradually paid for the equipment bought in by the entrepreneurs with jointly accumulated money so that their possessions could be converted into socialist property while causing no loss to them.

Considering that the tradesmen were not accustomed to labour, cooperatives specializing in marketing were formed first to gradually develop them into the ones conducting both production and marketing and finally into the producers' cooperatives mainly dealing with production.

The government took measures to provide them with equipment, raw materials and funds and lower taxes and ensured that their managerial personnel were properly selected and posted and a strict system and order were established.

In the period, it trusted the cooperative members who had been tradesmen and manufacturers as lasting companions of the revolution, not temporary ones, and led them to enjoy a fulfilling life.

Under the wise leadership of the government, the socialist transformation of handicrafts and capitalist trade and industry was carried out comparatively smoothly in a matter of 4-5 years, concurrently with agricultural cooperativization. Thus the socialist revolution emerged victorious in the DPRK.

The victorious socialist revolution in the DPRK led to the establishment of a most advanced socialist system, free from exploitation and oppression, which the Korean people had long desired and for which so many patriots had sacrificed themselves.

Decisive turn in establishing Juche

Establishing Juche means considering all the problems arising in the revolution and construction independently and solving them in conformity with the specific conditions of one's country and in the interests of one's people.

The main obstacle to establishing Juche was flunkeyism and dogmatism.

Worshippers of big powers and dogmatists in Korea had long tried to do everything at the dictates of big countries while being subservient to the developed countries.

Flunkeyism and dogmatism reached extremes after the Korean war, and got intolerably harmful.

To establish Juche at the time was a matter of urgency also for holding fast to revolutionary principles against modern revisionism that emerged in the world's socialist movement.

Kim Il Sung put forward a policy of establishing Juche in Juche 44(1955).

The DPRK brought to the fore the issue of ridding of flunkeyism and dogmatism and thoroughly establishing Juche in all fields and strove to this end.

It paid primary attention to establishing Juche in ideological work.

Measures were taken to imbue officials and other working people with the Juche idea.

Books explaining the Juche idea, its embodiment—the lines and policies of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the government—and revolutionary traditions were published in large numbers, the state central liberation struggle museum was built splendidly, and the study of revolutionary traditions was intensified. Information and publicity work was conducted centring on Korean things and its form and method were generally improved to suit the emotion and taste of the Korean people.

At the same time, an intensive ideological campaign was conducted among officials and other working people against all manner of anti-Party and reactionary ideological tendencies including flunkeyism, dogmatism, revisionism and factionalism.

At the time, the work to thoroughly establish Juche in ideological work was carried on in close combination with the struggle to prevent the infiltration of modern revisionism.

As the DPRK had anticipated as it launched a resolute campaign to establish Juche, revisionists and great-power chauvinists slandered its efforts to eliminate flunkeyism and dogmatism and establish Juche, describing them as “anti-Soviet” and “nationalism”, and persisted in dictating their revisionist policies.

To cope with their moves, it waged a dynamic struggle to disclose the reactionary nature of revisionism and defend the purity of the Juche idea.

The dynamic struggle to establish Juche in the ideological field resulted in a radical turn in the content and form of

ideological work and the ideological life and way of thinking of the people.

While giving definite precedence to establishing Juche in the ideological field, the DPRK held fast to the principle of independence in politics, bolstered up self-sufficiency in the economy and implemented the line of self-reliance in defence.

It got rid of the sycophantic tendencies to succumb to the pressure of great-power chauvinists and revisionists and to study other's face, drew up lines and policies in accordance with the aspirations and demands of the Korean people and carried them out by local efforts.

As it held fast to the principle of independence in politics, it worked to ensure self-sufficiency in the economy.

Revisionists were opposed to the DPRK pursuing a self-supporting economy and forced it to join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

The CMEA was an economic cooperation organization established in January 1949 by the Soviet Union and other East European countries to cope with the imperialists' economic blockade by concerted efforts. Revisionists, however, schemed to reduce it to a tool for holding other countries in economic bondage from the mid-1950s.

The DPRK saw through the economic yoke concealed under the signboard of the CMEA and resolutely rejected the economic interference of modern revisionists.

If the DPRK had joined the CMEA, it would have been unable to build an independent national economy, shackled by foreign countries as a component part of the "integrated economy" and thus reduced to a tool in the hands of big

countries.

It flatly rejected the demand of modern revisionists for accession to it asserting that it fully conformed with the international principle for the DPRK to build socialism properly by its own efforts without joining the CMEA, and firmly maintained the line of building an independent national economy without acceding to the council.

The DPRK also stuck to the principle of self-reliance in defence.

In those days, revisionists urged the DPRK to sign the Warsaw Pact in a bid to keep it from advancing along the road of self-reliance in defence.

The Warsaw Pact was a treaty signed by the Soviet Union and East European socialist countries in May 1955 to defend peace and security in Europe and the gains of socialism, given that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was set up in Western Europe and the danger of another world war was being created. The pact, however, was reduced to a tool for militarily subordinating socialist countries contrary to its initial mission and duty, in the wake of emergence of Khrushchev revisionism.

The DPRK maintained the principle of self-reliance in defence with the firm belief that without powerful self-defence capacities, it can neither defend the sovereign rights of the country and people nor achieve national independence and prosperity.

Therefore, the DPRK could develop into a powerful socialist country that nobody could dare to provoke, a country which maintained independence in politics and the principles of complete equality and mutual respect in foreign relations,

backed up by a self-supporting national economy and self-defence capabilities.

Grand Chollima advance

The DPRK completed the three-year national economic plan in two years and eight months and buckled down to the Five-Year Plan (1957-1961) for the development of the national economy in Juche 46(1957).

The Five-Year Plan envisaged the completion of the task of building the foundations for socialism and the change of the country from an agricultural state to a socialist industrial-agricultural state.

A high rate of production growth had to be attained to successfully carry out the plan. But there was a mountain of obstacles in the way ahead. Although the plan required huge investment and high technologies, everything was in short supply, especially equipment, materials, manpower and fund. The DPRK was still backward in technology and the people's living was not yet improved. It could not look forward to foreign aid. In addition, the situation within and without was very tense and complex due to ever-growing "anti-communist" plots by the imperialists and international reactionaries, the "march north" row of the Syngman Rhee puppet clique, the pressure and interference by great-power chauvinists, and the moves of anti-Party and counter-revolutionary factionalists who sneaked in the Party.

It was a serious issue decisive of the destiny of the Korean revolution to surmount the difficulties.

A plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee took

place in December 1956 to discuss the economic plan for 1957, the first year of the Five-Year Plan.

At the meeting, Kim Il Sung advanced a revolutionary policy of bringing about a fresh upswing in socialist economic construction with the firm belief that when the revolutionary zeal of the people was summoned up, the highly set national economic plan could be fulfilled successfully.

The meeting set the tasks of increasing the total industrial output value in 1957 by 21 percent more than the previous year and producing goods worth 4-5 billion won, 5 000-10 000 tons of steel materials and 50 000 tons of grains in addition to the plan by eliminating passivism and conservatism.

After the meeting Kim Il Sung visited the then Kangson Steel Works and called on the workers to hold up the torch of collective innovation drive.

In response to the call, they made a great innovation in steel production.

They performed a miracle of producing 120 000 tons of billets at the blooming mill with a rated capacity of 60 000 tons. This meant that the flames of revolutionary leap forward were kindled in Kangson, and it came to be known as a historic place where the grand Chollima advance started.

The DPRK led all the people to wage the movement dynamically.

The working people across the DPRK brought about a revolutionary upswing in all domains of socialist construction under the slogan “Let us advance at the speed of Chollima!”

In the course of brisk innovation drive, the industrial production plan for 1957 was overfulfilled by 17 percent and

the industrial production increased by 44 percent as against the previous year, while the grain production target was hit at 112 percent.

This was how a revolutionary upswing was effected in socialist construction in the country and, in the course of this, the Chollima movement started.

The Chollima movement was an all-people movement to do away with all old things and create new ones in all spheres of the economy, culture, ideology and morality and speed up socialist construction at a fastest pace by giving full play to the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative talents of working people.

Afterwards, the DPRK furthered the revolutionary upswing in socialist construction to step up the efforts to finish the laying of foundations for socialist industrialization.

In September 1958, Kim Il Sung advanced such slogans as “Iron and machines are the kings of industry!” and “Make every effort to expand the irrigated land by one million hectares!” as well as the goals of rapidly developing metal and machine-building industries and almost completing agricultural irrigation in the near future.

Particular emphasis was put on developing metal and machine-building industries.

Workers and technicians in the metal industry sector built blast furnaces with the capacity of 300 000-400 000 tons in less than a year, and produced a great deal of iron and steel badly needed in different economic sectors.

Machine builders manufactured Chollima tractor in some 30 days and a Sungni-58 lorry in 40 days in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. They also made an 8-metre turning

lathe, 3 000-ton press, Chollima excavator, Ragwon-1 large water pump and Pulgunbyol 58 bulldozer one after another.

Through the let-one-machine-tool-make-another movement, over 13 000 machine tools were produced in a year above the plan.

The proactive efforts to expand the area under irrigation resulted in a 377 000-hectare increase in irrigated areas in a matter of half a year and the successive completion of Kiyang and other large-scale irrigation projects.

The flames of the revolutionary upswing also flared up in other economic sectors.

The industrial output value rose by 40 percent in 1958 over the previous year and by 53 percent in 1959 as against 1958.

In the course of this, the Chollima movement developed into the Chollima workteam movement.

The torch of the movement was lit at the then Kangson Steel Works in 1959 under the slogan “One for all and all for one!”

The extent of the movement gradually expanded beyond workteams to workshops and factories and to all domains of the economy and culture.

As socialist construction made rapid progress and the Chollima workteam movement gained momentum, the foundations for socialist industrialization was finally laid solidly.

Establishment of socialist economic management system

With the completion of socialist transformation of relations of production in urban and rural areas and the fulfilment of the task of laying the foundations of socialism, an advanced socialist economic form came to hold undivided sway over the DPRK. As a result, the masses who became the true masters of socialist economy showed immense revolutionary enthusiasm and the economic law of socialism came to operate in all economic sectors. At the same time, the economy grew in scale and improved in technical equipment, with the sectoral internal structures being diversified and their relations becoming closer and complex.

Despite the new circumstances, economic guidance and management was still in a rut.

The requirement of such new historic situation could be met only when industry, agriculture and all other economic sectors established a new guidance and management system in an all-round way in accordance with the intrinsic demand of socialist society.

But it was not an easy job to establish and complete a new socialist economic management system. This was a complex and difficult revolutionary task to radically innovate the outdated system and method of work that had been rooted deep in old traditions and order which had been established through a long historical process.

Establishing an economic management system to suit the intrinsic demand of socialism was a burning issue in all countries that were building socialism at the time, but it

remained unsettled theoretically and practically. Worse still, Right and Left deviations were revealed, causing a series of grave consequences.

Proceeding from the Juche idea, the DPRK resolved this difficult issue arising in revolutionary practice in an original way by generalizing a wealth of practical experience it obtained through socialist construction.

It found key to socialist economic management in raising the ideological consciousness of working people and making them voluntarily take part in production and management, and decided to set up a work system that can thoroughly apply the revolutionary mass line as required by the Chongsanri spirit and method in the management of economy.

Close attention was paid to establishing a new socialist economic management system in the industrial sector.

In Juche 50 (1961), the Tae'an work system was set up as a new industrial management system in place of the previous director's one-man management system.

It consists of a system of collective guidance for factory Party committee, a system of their unified and intensive guidance for production, a system of material supply by the higher echelons to the lower ones, and a regular supply service system that ensures the life of producer masses in a responsible manner.

The Tae'an work system is, in essence, the application of the revolutionary mass line based on the Juche idea to economic management.

The superiority of this system is that factories and enterprises conduct all their management activities under the collective guidance of their respective Party committees

and fulfil their economic tasks by giving priority to political work, the work with the producer masses that the higher echelons are responsible for helping their subordinate units and provide unified and intensive guidance over production and that the economy is managed and run in a scientific and rational way.

The DPRK also established a new agricultural guidance system geared to guiding the socialist rural economy by an industrial method.

It took the function of guidance over the rural economy away from the county people's committee and set up a county cooperative farm management committee (the then county agricultural cooperatives management committee), a specialized organ of agricultural guidance. It made sure that agro-technicians and state-run enterprises in the service of agriculture were concentrated on the management committee and that the committee performed the functions of directing cooperative farms and rendering material and technical assistance to the rural economy.

While pushing the work to organize the cooperative farm management committees in cities and counties throughout the country, it formed the rural economy committee in each province and reorganized the Ministry of Agriculture into the Agricultural Commission to intensify scientific and technological guidance over the rural economy, with the result that a well-regulated socialist agricultural guidance system was set up from the centre down to counties.

The new agricultural guidance system, with the county cooperative farm management committee as the pivot, was a most superior socialist agricultural guidance system which

made it possible to direct agriculture not in an administrative way but by an industrial method, ensure the organic ties between all-people ownership and cooperative property and strengthen state guidance and assistance for the cooperative economy in every way.

In the period the DPRK established a scientific economic planning system in conformity with the intrinsic nature of the socialist economy.

A Cabinet decision on reorganizing the economic planning system was adopted in 1964.

The introduction of the unified and detailed planning led to a radical turn in planning and brought the socialist economic management system near to completion.

The establishment of economic management system with the Tae'an work system as the core was a landmark event which paved a new way for socialist economic management.

‘Rifle in one hand and hammer
or sickle in the other!’

Entering the 1960s, the situation within and without got very tense.

After the Caribbean crisis occurred in October 1962, the Korean peninsula situation teetered on the brink of war.

Kim Il Sung set forth a new strategic policy of simultaneously carrying on economic construction and defence building in December Juche 51(1962) to cope with the prevailing situation.

He put forward militant slogan “Rifle in one hand and hammer or sickle in the other!”

The DPRK called on all the people to turn out in the implementation of the new strategic policy.

Dynamic efforts were made to build up the self-defence capabilities.

Defence buildup was an important requirement in implementing the strategic policy. It was crucial for reliably defending the national sovereignty from the enemy's invasion and carrying on socialist construction successfully. Putting much efforts into defence buildup would definitely restrain the development of the national economy and the improvement of the people's livelihood. But the Korean service personnel and people could not abandon national sovereignty and the fundamental interests of the revolution even though it would be a heavy burden on them.

Primary attention was paid to developing the KPA, core force in defence capabilities, into a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces.

The torch of the red flag company movement flared up as a mass ideological transformation campaign among the service members under the slogan of "One for all and all for one!"

The KPA units intensified military training and fortified military positions. The modernization of its military equipment was also pushed ahead, with the result that the DPRK's defence industry which started from the production of submachine gun developed into an independent one capable of producing various sophisticated weapons and combat equipment on its own.

Attention was also paid to arming all the people and fortifying the whole country.

The Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards were built up and military training was intensified, while defence installations were built up across the country and anti-aircraft and coastal defences were strengthened.

The rear was consolidated and the munitions industry developed. Sufficient materials were held in reserve and factories made preparations for going on with production even in wartime. All the economic sectors got themselves ready for military service in case of war.

With the development of the KPA into a-match-for-a-hundred armed forces and the establishment of the all-people, nationwide defence system with the KPA as the pivot, the country's self-defence capabilities became able to frustrate any military provocation of the enemy at every step and impregably defend the security of socialist Korea and the gains of the revolution.

Theses on socialist rural question

The DPRK paid close attention to finding a correct solution to the rural question in socialist society even under the difficult and complex circumstances of promoting economic construction and defence buildup in parallel.

Resolving rural question under socialism was a matter even the preceding revolutionary theories failed to settle and a pressing issue that should be tackled afresh at the time when socialist construction came to the fore.

Given there were no preceding theories and experiences, some socialist countries fell into Left and Right deviations in

the management of the rural economy and their agricultural production fell into stagnation.

Taking advantage of this, the imperialists employed every mean trick to slander the socialist rural economic system.

At this juncture, an opportunist tendency to abandon the socialist cooperative economy appeared in some socialist countries.

To illuminate a correct solution to the socialist rural question was a serious problem related to the destiny of the cause of socialism.

In order to resolve the issue of the times, Kim Il Sung deepened research into it based on the Juche principle as he made an in-depth analysis of the actual situation of the countryside of the DPRK and the successes and experiences it gained in rural construction.

On this basis, he made public Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country on February 25 Juche 53(1964).

The theses shed light on the essence of the rural question after the establishment of the socialist system. This rural question was to abolish the backwardness of the countryside left over by the exploiter society as early as possible and gradually eliminate the distinctions between towns and countryside and between the working class and peasantry.

The theses also expounded the basic principles for the solution of the socialist rural question, the main contents of the revolution to be carried on in the countryside after the establishment of the socialist system, the basic way of eliminating the distinctions between towns and countryside, and the direction for organically combining all-people property with cooperative one.

They set it as the basic tasks for the building of the socialist countryside to carry out the three revolutions and promote the support of the working class to the rural community and state assistance to cooperative farms, and clarified the ways to fulfil them.

As they explained the conditions required of the unit and base which would give unified guidance to the countryside, they said that in the DPRK county is the regional unit and centre to give comprehensive guidance to rural work and other overall work within that area.

After the publication of the theses, a vigorous campaign was launched for their implementation.

Primary attention was paid to strengthening the countryside politically and ideologically.

To this end, rural Party organizations were built up, their functions and role enhanced and the ideological revolution intensified among peasants, so that revolutionary transformation and assimilation to the working class could be promoted among peasants.

Great efforts were also made to strengthen the countryside materially and technically and improve the cultural and technical standards of farmers.

The Third Session of the Third Supreme People's Assembly adopted in March 1964 a law on consolidating the economic foundations of cooperative farms and improving the livelihood of farmers in order to completely abolish agricultural tax in kind year by year from 1964 to 1966, undertake capital construction and building of cultural and welfare facilities and dwelling houses on farms at state expense, and supply them with major equipment and machinery free of charge.

As technological revolution was stepped up in rural areas the irrigation system capable of overcoming drought and flood damage was established, electricity was supplied to all rural villages and farms were provided with tractors, other farm machinery, chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals. And the cultural revolution in the countryside improved the farmers' general standards of learning and technical and cultural levels.

The sub-workteam management system was instituted in May 1965 to be introduced into all cooperative farms across the country.

Counties were built up properly and their role enhanced to successfully settle all problems arising in socialist rural construction.

The dynamic struggle to implement the theses brought about a radical turn in the building of the countryside and opened up a bright prospect for the successful settlement of the socialist rural question.

Turning into socialist industrial state

Based on the foundations of socialist industrialization during the Five-Year Plan, the DPRK waged a dynamic struggle to complete the industrialization in the period of the First Seven-Year Plan.

In the first half of the First Seven-Year Plan, efforts were focused on readjusting and reinforcing heavy industry.

Regarding the machine-building industry as the main link in the whole chain of the efforts, the DPRK buckled down to bolstering up machine plants including the then

Huichon Machine Tool Factory and the Kusong Machine Tool Factory.

While giving priority to boosting the machine-building industry, it also pushed the strengthening of other branches of heavy industry with the backing of the machine-building industry.

As a result, the structure of heavy industry improved markedly and its production capacity increased drastically in the period.

Endeavours were also made to build up light industry bases, speed up the electrification of railways and develop science and technology.

And big efforts were channelled into radically improving the people's living standards.

The production of daily necessities was boosted and great changes were brought about in developing fruit culture, animal husbandry and fishing industry.

Particular attention was paid to improving the livelihood of people in mountainous areas. Therefore, those which had been regarded as unfit for human habitation turned into the places good to live in with developed local industry and rural economy.

In the latter half of the 1960s when the brisk campaign to complete socialist industrialization was being conducted, the situation at home and abroad got very complex and tense owing to the aggression moves of foreign forces and the counter-revolutionary schemes of the anti-Party revisionist elements. Therefore, it was imperative for all fields to make fresh leaps forward and innovations in order to carry out the uphill task of socialist industrialization while pressing ahead

with the buildup of defence capabilities.

The Second Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea in October Juche 55(1966) decided to reorganize the overall work of socialist construction and boost defence upbuilding in line with the requirements of the prevailing situation, and to extend the First Seven-Year Plan by three years.

The DPRK aroused all the people to the struggle for effecting a new revolutionary upswing in their efforts to carry out the policy of promoting economic construction and defence upbuilding in parallel.

Primary attention was directed to ideologically preparing the working people, thereby heightening their political awareness, shattering passivism, conservatism and mysticism about technology, and bringing about fresh leaps forward and innovations in all fields.

Labour administration saw improvement, alleviating the shortage of manpower and labour further boosting productivity.

In the process of effecting a revolutionary upsurge, young people played the part of vanguard and shock brigade, and the Chollima workteam movement developed in depth.

The National Youth Meeting for General Mobilization was held in mid-April 1968, which inspired hot-blooded and brave young people to be the forerunners in all domains of economic construction and defence upbuilding. And the Second National Meeting of the Vanguarders in the Chollima Workteam Movement took place in May the same year with an eye to further promoting the movement and increasing the number of factories, cooperative farms and schools honoured with the title of Chollima, as well as the ranks of

Chollima riders.

The government appealed for fulfilling the First Seven-Year Plan to mark the Fifth WPK Congress slated for the autumn of 1970.

In response to the call, people in all economic sectors worked hard to make miraculous achievements.

The workers of the then Kangson Steel Works created the Kangson speed, a new Chollima speed, as they doubled steel production in 1970 as against the same period of the year before, while all factories and enterprises increased industrial output by 31 percent by October 1970 over the previous year. More than 1 760 local industry factories were built and the production of various consumer goods was sharply boosted in a little over half a year. The work manner of the Chongsanri people was generalized in the agricultural sector to bring about a new revolutionary upswing in all branches of agriculture, animal husbandry, fruit farming and sericulture.

In the flames of the great upsurge, the Seven-Year Plan was carried out successfully and the historic task of industrialization accomplished.

The DPRK people thus fulfilled the difficult and complex task of industrialization in only 14 years in the face of all manner of hardships, though it had taken for capitalist countries a century or even centuries.

Consequently, the DPRK developed from a socialist industrial-agricultural state to a socialist industrial country.



Consolidation and development of people-centred socialism, defence of socialist cause

Promulgation of socialist constitution, application of socialist democracy in state activities	70
Intensification of three revolutions.....	73
Uninterrupted leap forward in economic construction.....	76
Efflorescence of socialist culture.....	87
Smashing anti-socialist sophistry.....	89
For a new independent world.....	92

Promulgation of socialist constitution, application of socialist democracy in state activities

To victoriously advance the cause of socialism, it was imperative for the DPRK to further consolidate the state and social system by law.

To this end, the government enacted and promulgated a socialist constitution.

The DPRK adopted its first constitution in Juche 37(1948) as a legalization of the achievements made in the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, and the constitution fully performed its mission. And since a socialist system was established and socialist construction was in full swing early in the 1970s, the reality demanded it enact a new constitution, the socialist constitution.

President Kim Il Sung drafted the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK, which was adopted on December 27 Juche 61(1972) at the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

The socialist constitution not only legalized the achievements made in the past but also comprehensively defined all principles in the fields of politics, the economy and culture of socialist society. It also newly defined the rights and duties of citizens and the formation, duties and principles of activities of state organs.

The new socialist constitution was a most popular one for workers, farmers, soldiers and intellectuals and a most revolutionary one which served as a powerful weapon

with which to thoroughly defend and strictly bring into reality the Juche idea and lines and policies of the state, its embodiment. Unlike the existing ones which briefly dealt with the political, economic and cultural life in the general provisions or preamble while putting main emphasis on the system of state organs, it was an original constitution which detailed all the principles to be observed in the fields of political, economic and cultural life, thereby providing a legal guarantee for making ideological, technological and cultural revolutions.

The promulgation of the socialist constitution was of epoch-making significance in further enhancing the functions and role of the state and consolidating the people-centred socialist system of the Korean style.

Kim Il Sung was elected president of the DPRK according to the unanimous will and desire of all the Korean people at the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

The government newly enacted various sectoral laws and revised rules and regulations in a comprehensive way on the basis of the socialist constitution and intensified education in law observance and legal control among the working people.

This made it possible to further consolidate the state and social system legally and, on the basis of it, step up the revolutionary cause of Juche dynamically.

It was important to strengthen the people's power in order to victoriously advance the cause of socialism.

The government directed a great deal of energies to strictly applying socialist democracy in state activities.

The government attached primary importance to encouraging the working masses to take active part in the work of the people's government and constantly enhancing their role in state and political activities. It ensured that power organs at all levels were grouped with good representatives of workers, farmers, soldiers and intellectuals and people's government bodies improved their work system and methods so as to provide people with full conditions to actively join the work of the people's government.

It also saw that they constantly educated and awakened the working masses to encourage them to actively participate in state and political activities with a high degree of consciousness and enthusiasm as masters of the state power, believed in their strength and rallied broad segments of people, and fully enlisted their revolutionary zeal and creative wisdom.

The government made every effort to substantially provide the working masses with democratic freedom and rights and a happy life by pushing ahead with the building of the socialist economy and culture.

In particular, it ensured that the people's government bodies strictly adhered to their working class character and maintained the class line and, on the basis of it, properly applied socialist democracy, given the modern revisionists made crafty tricks to reject the working class character of the socialist government and weaken the dictatorial functions against the hostile elements on the pretext of providing "democracy".

As a result, the DPRK government was strengthened and

developed into a genuine people's government and a strong socialist government which struck roots deep into the broad segments of people and had a solid socio-political base.

Intensification of three revolutions

For the victorious advance of the socialist cause, it was necessary to push ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—more actively.

At the time, however, shortcomings were revealed in carrying out the three revolutions. Many units failed to press on with the ideological and cultural revolutions. Some factories paid little heed to the technological revolution and tried to increase production by bringing some of the rural labour force and adding them to their workforce. So they failed to boost production, only laying obstacles to agricultural production.

The actual situation showed that with their level, capacity, knowledge and experience the officials at the time were unable to properly guide economic construction, which expanded in scope and which required modern science and technology, and to advance the three revolutions successfully. To carry out the three revolutions it was necessary to bring guidance down to the grass-roots level to help them fulfil their responsibility and role.

Guidance teams comprising selected officials and university students were organized and sent to light industry factories in Pyongyang and Sariwon in the autumn of 1972.

The activities of the guidance teams clearly showed that

it was right and proper to mobilize officials and students of a new generation in the efforts to carry out the three revolutions.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the policy of conducting a three-revolution team movement in February 1973 and took measures to dispatch three-revolution teams to major industrial establishments and cooperative farms.

The teams were comprised of officials from Party, state and economic organs and working people's organizations, scientific and technical personnel and university students prepared in both politico-ideological and scientific and technological terms.

The number of team members were fixed to suit the conditions of the objects of guidance and team members were sent to units according to their ability, technical levels and specialities.

Similar teams were also sent to the education sector in December 1973.

In the course of the three-revolution team movement a new method of guidance was established to push the three revolutions successfully.

In order to promote the three revolutions dynamically the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement, a new higher form of mass movement which was the development of the Chollima workteam movement, was staged under the slogan "Let us meet the requirements of Juche in ideology, technology and culture!"

The demand of the slogan was to embody in an all-round way the requirements of the Juche idea in the revolutionary

struggle for transforming ideology, technology and culture and to make all officials and other working people take an attitude befitting the masters in the struggle and maximize their role as such.

The Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement was initiated in November 1975.

Accordingly, the then Komdok Mine and the Chongsan Cooperative Farm raised the first torch of the movement in early December the same year.

In a little over a month the flames of the movement spread to all sectors of industry, agriculture, communications and transport, science, education and public health and it rapidly developed into an all-people mass movement embracing all parts of society.

Media outlets featured the news about the oath-taking meetings held across the country in hearty response to the calls of the workers of the Komdok Mine and the farmers of Chongsan-ri every day as part of a publicity blitz. Militant and appealing slogans and posters were put up and intensive motivational work for increased production was carried out throughout the country. The whole country seethed with activities like a crucible. Wide publicity was given to the units and labour innovators that were exemplary in the movement, and they were held in public esteem and honoured with commendations.

The Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement turned into an affair of the public and became more organized and developed onto a higher level.

Uninterrupted leap forward in economic construction

Dynamic speed campaign

Entering the 1970s, the DPRK began to carry out the Six-Year Plan.

The basic task of the plan was to cement the material and technical foundations of socialism and free the working people from heavy labour in all sectors of the national economy by consolidating and developing the successes made in industrialization and advancing the technological revolution to a new, higher stage.

However, the enemies, who were plunged into severe economic difficulties and political turmoil due to the raw material and fuel crisis sweeping the capitalist world at the time, resorted to craftier and more wicked double-dealing tactics, ceaselessly directing the spearhead of aggression to Asia. In particular, they were hell-bent on igniting the fuse of another war of aggression in Korea.

South Korea reinforced its troops and military hardware in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line on a large scale and incessantly committed acts of military provocation against the DPRK, extremely aggravating the situation.

Judging from the prevailing situation, the DPRK government deemed it necessary to bring about an upsurge in socialist economic construction by mobilizing all people and build up national strength in every way while making full preparations to repulse any attack of the enemy at a

stroke by consolidating its revolutionary base rock solid.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the programme of grand socialist construction in February Juche 63(1974), which called on the entire Party and all the people to turn out to fulfil the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule and attain the high goals of socialist economic construction in the near future.

Grand socialist construction was an economic construction campaign which was mounted on an unprecedentedly vast scale in the country's history of socialist construction. Therefore, an appropriate form and principle of developing work were needed in order to step it up.

Kim Jong Il advanced the policy of staging the speed campaign in order to expedite the construction at the highest rate.

The basic requirement of the speed campaign is to push ahead with all undertakings at the top speed by mobilizing all forces while ensuring their top quality.

Later, the grand socialist construction campaign was staged dynamically under the banner of the speed campaign.

To successfully carry out the national economic plan for 1974, the first year of grand socialist construction, was of vital significance in fulfilling the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule before the 30th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Therefore, a 70-day campaign was launched in October that year on all fronts of socialist construction.

The government found the key to victory in the campaign in ideological motivation of people and ensured that an

intensive ideological campaign was mounted, backed up by careful organization and guidance of work. As a result, the campaign was carried out successfully, the national economic plan for 1974 was overfulfilled and a bright prospect was opened for hitting the targets of the Six-Year Plan.

In the period the Juche farming method was created and widely applied to practice.

It was President Kim Il Sung who created the method. It is a method to do farming scientifically and technologically to suit the climate and natural conditions of the country and biological features of crops, and to put agricultural production on a highly intensive basis by dint of modern science and technology.

Intensive training courses on the farming method and other information activities were vigorously conducted to diffuse the method among leading officials and other working people in the agricultural sector.

Breeding and seed gathering bases were solidly built, the principle of sowing the right crop on the right soil and in the right season was maintained and a scientific manuring system was established.

They resulted in marked achievements in grand socialist construction and the fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan.

The plan was carried out one year and four months ahead of schedule in the total industrial output value and the target of grain production was hit two years ahead.

Later, the government announced the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984) for the development of the national economy.

The major task of the plan was to solidify the socialist economic foundations and improve the people's living standards a level higher by stepping up the campaign to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern and science-based.

To successfully carry out the new long-term plan, the slogan "Let us display more of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance!" was put forth.

And a 100-day campaign was launched in late May 1978 to make a breakthrough in fulfilling the plan by the 30th anniversary of the DPRK, and in the course of this notable progress was made in carrying out the main tasks of the plan.

In the latter half of the 1970s when the people were out for the fulfilment of the Second Seven-Year Plan, the situation at home and abroad required that Juche was established more firmly than ever before in all fields of the revolution and construction.

Kim Jong Il advanced the slogan "Let us live our own way!"

The DPRK made sure that all officials and working people armed themselves firmly with the Juche idea and carried through the state policies unconditionally. At the same time it encouraged all sectors and units to push ahead with the production and construction by their own efforts, resources and technology by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

With the thorough application of the slogan into practice, decisive progress was made in carrying out the Second Seven-

Year Plan to put the national economy on a Juche, modern and scientific basis and the socialist economic foundations were further consolidated.

At the speed of the 1980s!

In order to fulfil the Second Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule and hit the new long-term targets of socialist economic construction it was needed to bring about a fresh revolutionary upswing in all sectors of socialist construction by speeding up the advance.

The DPRK government enlisted the masses of the people in the efforts to create the speed of the 1980s.

It called for bringing about a new great upsurge in socialist economic construction as they had effected a revolutionary upswing with the December 1956 Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee as a turning point.

In July 1982 workers of the then Kim Chaek Iron Works launched into the campaign to create the speed of the 1980s, and Party members and other working people in all economic sectors and units actively responded to their call.

This campaign was dynamically carried on in the DPRK in the spirit displayed during the great Chollima upswing.

The National Conference of Young Activists and the Conference of the Front-runners in the Chollima Movement were held and an information and publicity offensive was made energetically to arouse the masses of the people to the creation of the speed.

A model of the speed was created in the construction of Ore

Dressing Plant No. 3 of the then Komdok General Mining Enterprise.

According to an ambitious plan, the construction project was pushed in a three-dimensional way and completed in a matter of a year, thereby setting an example of the campaign to create the speed of the 1980s.

And vigorous efforts were made to expand the campaign to all economic sectors.

The campaign for creating the speed of the 1980s fully demonstrated its vitality in the course of building the West Sea Barrage.

It was a world-class barrage construction project to build a dam across 8 kilometres of rough sea, several locks and dozens of sluices on the dam.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of the Korean People's Army soldiers and other builders, the West Sea Barrage was built in a short period of five years.

Endeavours were also made to develop machine-building industry, with the result that a 10 000-ton press and a large oxygen plant were made.

With the campaign for creating the speed of the 1980s gaining momentum, the Second Seven-Year Plan was fulfilled and the country's economy grew a level higher.

The government set 1985 and 1986 as a period of adjustment, and in the period it consolidated the achievements made in fulfilling the plan and made preparations for attaining higher goals of socialist economic construction.

It put forward the objectives of the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993) at the First Session of the Eighth Supreme

People's Assembly in December 1986.

The basic task of the plan was to solidly build the material and technical foundations for the complete victory of socialism by continuously pushing the undertaking to put the national economy on a Juche, modern and scientific basis.

However, the DPRK faced a multitude of difficulties in its efforts to carry out the new long-term plan. The imperialists made desperate attempts to ban the transfer of latest science and technologies and export of important strategic materials in order to stifle the DPRK economically. And the revisionists and reformists put economic pressure on the DPRK for the reason that it did not follow their revisionist policy as they took the path of capitalism and abandoned the internationalist principle. Under the circumstances international cooperation was too much to hope for.

The DPRK government set forth the militant slogan "Let us reach the ambitious goals of the Third Seven-Year Plan ahead of schedule by displaying a higher degree of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude!" to deal with the prevailing situation within and without.

It encouraged all the people to carry out the new long-term plan through a meeting for general mobilization to carry out the plan ahead of schedule in July 1987.

A 200-day campaign was launched to mark the 40th anniversary of the DPRK in 1988.

The government appealed to the people to mount another 200-day campaign at the National Meeting of Heroes.

Through the two 200-day campaigns breakthroughs were made for the successful fulfilment of the Third Seven-Year

Plan.

The government also channelled big efforts into radically improving the people's living standards, holding it as one of the major tasks of socialist economic construction in the 1980s.

It saw to it that grain output was increased rapidly, scientific fishing methods widely employed, fish processing bases expanded and offshore culture promoted.

Light industry factories were upgraded and production was put on normal footing in order to increase the kinds of consumer goods and improve their quality. At the same time the August 3 consumer goods production movement was conducted as an all-people campaign to rapidly increase the output and kinds of consumer goods.

After the construction of Changgwang Street, modern residential streets were built in succession, including Munsu, Chollima (second-stage) and Kwangbok streets. Many houses were also built in local areas.

In the face of persistent sanctions and blockade

The collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and East European countries and the disruption of the world socialist market had enormous impact on socialist economic construction in the DPRK. Long- and short-term trade agreements with those countries got tangled, their implementation was almost suspended and economic cooperation was in the doldrums.

In the meantime the imperialist allied forces viciously

resorted to economic sanctions and blockade to isolate and stifle the DPRK which was advancing under the banner of socialism.

To cope with the prevailing situation and economic difficulties the DPRK took measures in January Juche 79 (1990) to improve the economic structure in the direction of further enhancing economic independence so as to ensure self-sufficiency under whatever circumstances by modulating the speed of economic growth envisaged in the Third Seven-Year Plan and reducing the scale of economy.

It saw the acceleration of the economic construction for the rapid improvement of the people's livelihood as an important matter for fully exhibiting the advantages of socialism.

It concentrated efforts on the development of light industry and agriculture and construction of houses while ensuring the already built foundations of the self-supporting heavy industry proved their worth.

Steps were taken to cut some of investment in the heavy industry sector, direct it to light industry and put production at light industry factories on normal footing.

The National Conference of Light Industry was held in June 1990 with an eye to bringing about a radical turn in light industry.

To alleviate water shortage was set as one of the important tasks facing agriculture and an 800km waterway was laid in the west coastal areas in a short time to further perfect the country's irrigation system. The level of mechanization and chemical application in the rural economy was further improved, a campaign was conducted to carpet fields with

humus soil by involving all the people and the Juche farming method was strictly applied to increase grain yields.

As the housing development was dynamically pushed, modern houses for hundreds of thousands of families were built in urban and rural areas across the country including 50 000 flats in Pyongyang in celebration of the 80th birthday of President Kim Il Sung.

The Third Seven-Year Plan was successfully carried out amid the nationwide drive to press on with socialist economic construction.

In December 1993 President Kim Il Sung laid down a revolutionary economic strategy.

The strategy set three years between 1994 and 1996 as a period of adjustment. It was aimed at pursuing agriculture-first, light industry-first and trade-first policies, giving definite precedence to the development of coal and electric power industries and rail transport, the vanguard sectors of the national economy, over all other sectors while continuously developing the metallurgical industry. It was, in essence, a strategy for developing agriculture and light industry and thereby improving the people's living standards remarkably.

The DPRK waged the struggle to carry out the strategy under the slogan "Let us speed up the general advance of socialism in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude!"

Tangible achievements were made in the efforts to implement the strategy.

Big efforts were also channelled into rapidly developing

science and technology.

Steps were taken to increase state investment in scientific research, provide better conditions for research and establish a social habit of holding scientists and technicians in high esteem as part of the efforts to lift the country's level of science and technology up to the world's advanced level in the near future.

Close attention was also paid to satisfying the ever-growing cultural needs of the people.

Feature film "The Nation and Destiny" (Parts 1-7) was produced as a masterpiece in the early 1990s.

The DPRK showed deep concern to inheriting and developing national cultural heritage. The excavation and rebuilding of relics and remains were pushed to demonstrate the 5 000-year history and culture of the Korean nation.

Historical heritage sites were wonderfully reconstructed including the mausoleums of King Tongmyong, founder of Koguryo Kingdom, and King Wang Kon, founder of Koryo Kingdom. In particular, the founding father of the nation was discovered to prove the eternity and homogeneity of the Korean nation and the Mausoleum of King Tangun was rebuilt majestically as befits that of the founder king of the nation.

As great achievements were made in all sectors of socialist construction, the advantages of people-centred socialism were brought into full play in all aspects of social life.

Efflorescence of socialist culture

The DPRK government directed great efforts to boosting socialist culture in the period.

Particular attention was paid to developing education.

It had already enforced the compulsory primary education system in Juche 45 (1956) and compulsory secondary education in 1958. From 1967 the universal 9-year compulsory technical education was in force, an advanced education system closely combining general education with basic technical education, and education with productive labour.

On this basis the government fully enforced the universal 11-year compulsory education from 1975. In late April 1976 it adopted the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children to legally consolidate the system of bringing up children at state and public expense. At the same time it widely expanded the network of institutions of higher learning to increase the ranks of technicians and specialists to a million in the period of the Six-Year Plan.

President Kim Il Sung published the Theses on Socialist Education on September 5 1977.

The theses defined politico-ideological, scientific and technological and sports education as the main contents of socialist education and specified scientific and revolutionary education methods in line with the purpose and mission of socialist education.

Attention was also paid to the development of science and

technology.

Vigorous activities of the then February 17 shock brigade of scientists and the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade brought about a drastic turn in the development of the country's science and technology and in carrying out the technological revolution.

Dynamic efforts were made to develop the Juche-oriented art onto a higher stage.

Lots of popular films were produced including "The Land in Flames", "Mt Paektu", "Star of Korea" and "The Sun of the Nation".

In the wake of the creation of revolutionary opera "The Sea of Blood", "The Flower Girl", "Tell O Forest", "True Daughter of the Party" and "Song of Mt Kumgang" were produced one after another, which are known as the "five revolutionary operas" in the DPRK.

A drastic improvement was also brought about in the dramatic art, resulting in the production of revolutionary drama "The Mountain Shrine" in August 1978, which was followed by dramas "Blood at an International Conference", "A Letter from a Daughter", "Three Pretenders" and "Celebrations".

Innovations were also made in the production of novels, music, dance and others.

The government specified tasks to develop public health with main emphasis put on Juche-oriented medicine in April 1974 in order to improve public health. Positive steps were taken to thoroughly implement the policy of preventive medicine, bring about a turn in medical service and rapidly

develop medical science and technology in line with the world trend. The Public Health Law of the DPRK was passed at the Fourth Session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly in April 1980 so as to legally consolidate the country's health system and achievements made in public health service.

It also channelled efforts into the development of sports.

Drastic measures were taken to carry out the policy of making sports mass-based. The principle of displaying ideological firmness, speed, fighting spirit and technical skills in games was maintained in the professional and defence sports, a Juche-oriented tactical system was established and sports were put on a more scientific basis.

Smashing anti-socialist sophistry

Socialism was confronted with the vicious challenges of the imperialists and reactionaries between the late 1980s and the early 1990s.

The imperialists persistently attempted to disintegrate the socialist countries from within and bring them back to capitalism.

Meanwhile, the renegades of socialism in some socialist countries distorted or denied the socialist ideal as they pursued the restoration of capitalism. As a result, a tragic event occurred: socialism collapsed and capitalism revived in the former Soviet Union and East European countries.

The imperialists and reactionaries referred to the incident as the "end of socialism" and modern social democrats justified their betrayal, arguing that socialism was a wrong ideal.

It was important to clarify the advantages and invincibility of socialism in order to defend and advance socialism under the prevailing situation.

The DPRK elucidated the advantages and invincibility of socialism.

Juche-oriented socialism of the DPRK winning victory after victory was the role model of socialism and symbol of its final victory.

Korean-style socialism is, in a word, people-centred socialism embodying the Juche idea. In this genuine people's society the masses of the people are true masters and everything serves them.

That is why it is invincible and ever-victorious with eternal viability and unshaken by any external influence.

The advantages of Korean socialism find their expression in the happy and worthwhile life of the people.

It was also needed to find the causes of collapse of socialism in some countries and draw lessons from it in order to champion the socialist cause.

Therefore, the DPRK correctly clarified them.

Socialism collapsed there mainly because those countries failed to understand the essence of socialism with the people, the driving force of history, at the centre and, accordingly, they did not make it a major task to build up the driving force and enhance its role in building socialism.

Another cause was that they failed to see the qualitative difference between socialism and capitalism, consistently maintain the fundamental principle of socialism and bolster up international solidarity based on independence in the

relationship between their political parties.

This tragic incident taught a serious lesson that the socialist cause would advance along the road of victory only when the driving force of the revolution is steadily built up and the socialist principle is maintained in any circumstances with a firm confidence in socialism and correct guiding ideology and comradely unity and cooperation are intensified on the basis of independence, but if not, the cause would suffer setbacks and frustration.

The DPRK carried out an intensive ideological and theoretical campaign to smash the reactionary sophistry viciously slandering socialism.

At the time the enemies of socialism denounced it as “totalitarian”, “barracks-like” and “administrative and commanding” and distorted the facts, as if socialism suffered setback because of such nature.

The DPRK made clear that calling socialism, under which the people are masters of everything, “totalitarianism” is a preposterous lie which identifies the most progressive idea reflecting the demands of the people with the reactionary idea of fascist rulers and that denouncing socialism as “barracks-like” is also absurd and pernicious propaganda that turns black into white, as it reverses the most advanced socialist society, which enables the people to enjoy an independent and creative life to the full, and capitalist society, where the working people are the slaves of capital. At the same time it laid bare the absurdity of branding socialism as “administrative and commanding”. The renegades of socialism directed the spearhead of their attack to democratic

centralism on the pretext of opposing the “administrative and commanding” method, but it is an important principle in the activities of a socialist state. Those who created a chaotic situation while emasculating centralism under the signboard of “democracy” destroyed socialism, and they were now openly moving towards bourgeois dictatorship.

The DPRK’s elucidation of matters of principle for defending the socialist cause provided guidelines to be followed in foiling the anti-socialist schemes of the imperialists and reactionaries and winning victory in the campaign to defend socialism.

For a new independent world

In the 1970s and 1980s the imperialists and dominationists got more vicious in their attempts to check the advance of the world’s progressives towards independence against all manner of domination and subjugation.

President Kim Il Sung put forward the policy of making the world independent as required by the prevailing situation.

He set it as the common fighting goal of the world people to defend independence and put forward the slogan, “The people of the world who advocate independence, unite!”

Adopting independence, friendship and peace as the main ideal of its foreign policy, the DPRK government put great efforts into promoting unity among the anti-imperialist independent forces.

It gave priority to achieving unity and cohesion between socialist countries.

It established the principle to be maintained in overcoming disagreements between socialist countries and achieving their unity. On this basis it conducted proactive diplomatic activities to boost unity and friendly and cooperative relations between them.

It also constantly strived to bolster up unity of socialist nations and communist and workers' parties as it set the unity as a priority.

Its delegations visited China, the former Soviet Union and other socialist countries on many occasions to make clear its principled stand to achieve unity and cohesion with socialist countries and steadily maintain socialist principles.

It also held it as an important policy in external activities to boost unity and cooperation with non-aligned and developing countries.

The DPRK officially expressed its stand to join the Non-Aligned Movement in May Juche 63(1974) and became its full member in August the following year.

After joining the movement the DPRK conducted positive activities to ensure that the movement strictly maintained the ideal and principle of independence against imperialism and achieved unity and cohesion.

When the NAM suffered a serious setback due to the partitionist moves of the imperialist and dominationist forces, it worked hard to save the movement and develop it on the right track.

In order to achieve unity and cohesion of the NAM, it called on all member nations to defend the unique tradition and characters of the movement and firmly maintain

independence, without being lured by the “aid” from foreign dominationist forces or duped by their divisive and partitionist schemes. It ensured that disputes were always settled through negotiations out of the desire for unity and a comprehensive united front was formed on the principle of noninterference and rejection of privileged position to counter the aggression and interference of dominationist forces with the strategy of unity. It also appealed to other members to strive to establish a new international economic order and oppose and combat privileges and high-handedness of big powers in international political relations.

As a result, the moves of the imperialist and dominationist forces to divide and disintegrate the NAM sustained a heavy blow and the movement could develop in line with the independent aspirations and demand of the world people.

The Symposium of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries on Increasing Food and Agricultural Production took place in August 1981 in Pyongyang, followed by the First Conference of Ministers of Education and Culture of Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries in September 1983 and the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of Non-aligned Countries on South-South Cooperation in June 1987.

The DPRK also intensified exchanges with non-aligned and other developing countries and offered assistance to them in their efforts to build a new society.

It dispatched delegations and experts to many countries to render sincere help to their economic and cultural construction and medical service. Paying particular attention

to agricultural cooperation, it helped them build agricultural institutes and experiment stations and carry out irrigation projects, thereby greatly contributing to laying material and technical foundations of the rural economy and solving food and agricultural problems.

It was important in stepping up global independence to frustrate the moves of the imperialists towards aggression and war and defend global peace and security.

As it paid close heed to establishing nuclear-free and peace zones in the Korean peninsula, Northeast Asia and other different parts of the world, the DPRK published a joint declaration on the establishment of such a zone in Northeast Asia with the Socialist Party of Japan in March 1981 and hosted the Pyongyang International Conference for Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula in September 1986.

It also hosted international meetings, festivals and other events for anti-imperialism, independence, peace and friendship.

The World Conference of Journalists against Imperialism and for Friendship and Peace was successfully held in Pyongyang in July 1983.

Attaching great significance to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Pyongyang, the DPRK ensured that the festival strictly maintained anti-imperialist solidarity, peace and friendship which was the basic ideal.

The festival was held in July 1989 on the largest scale in its history, drawing delegates from youth and students organizations in 180 countries and 64 international and

regional organizations, and hundreds of guests of honour from 90 countries.

The first ever WFYS in Asia was an important occasion in further strengthening international solidarity with the Korean revolution and unity of anti-imperialist independent forces.



Defending socialism by dint of Songun, effecting a turn in socialist power building

Holding Kim Il Sung as eternal Sun of Juche.....	98
Kim Jong Il elected to the top post of DPRK...	100
Administering Songun politics in all-round way.	103
Strengthening politico-ideological position of socialism.....	105
Laying solid foundations for building economic giant.....	107
Turning into military power.....	113
For the independent reunification of Korea.....	115
Strengthening overseas Koreans' movement.....	122
Expansion of external relations.....	126

Holding Kim Il Sung as eternal Sun of Juche

President Kim Il Sung passed away on July 8 Juche 83(1994) as the country was making a steady advance overcoming a host of difficulties and trials.

At noon the following day, the Central Committee and the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, and the National Defence Commission, the Central People's Committee and the Administrative Council of the DPRK announced a joint proclamation to make public his death.

The whole country was grief-stricken over his passing.

During a 10-odd-day period of national mourning, a constant stream of people from all walks of life including service personnel visited his bier in the Kumsusan Assembly Hall and the statues of the President on Mansu Hill and in other places up and down the country.

On July 19, two million Pyongyang citizens turned out to bid a final farewell to their beloved leader, with similar events taking place in local areas at the same time. The next day, a national memorial service was held at Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square.

Events were also held worldwide to mourn his death.

During the mourning period, messages of condolence and wreaths came from heads of state and government of 166 countries, political party leaders, public figures and different organizations including international organizations and memorial events were held in over a hundred countries. More than 700 publications in over 120 countries carried features in honour of the President while over 200 media

outlets splashed his achievements as many as 2 200 times.

The world political circles kept a close eye on the DPRK, wondering what line it would pursue.

It was under these circumstances that Kim Jong Il set forth the slogans “The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung will always be with us”, “Let us hold the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in high esteem for all ages!” and “Let us arm ourselves more firmly with the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung!”—in reflection of the will of the Korean service personnel and people to revere the President forever with the pure hearts and to inherit and accomplish his revolutionary cause.

The government directed all activities to the undertaking to hold him in high esteem as the eternal Sun of Juche.

It ensured that the Kumsusan Assembly Hall, his official residence, was remodelled into a memorial palace to house his embalmed body.

Foreign visitors admired the palace, saying that nowhere else in the world could they find such a sacred place that is associated with the unanimous mind of mankind.

The DPRK declared Kim Il Sung as its eternal president and called the socialist constitution Kim Il Sung’s Constitution in order to add eternal glory to his nation-building ideas and achievements.

On July 8 1997, the WPK Central Committee and Central Military Commission and the DPRK National Defence Commission, Central People’s Committee and Administrative Council adopted decision “On adding eternal brilliance to the revolutionary career and immortal exploits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung”, declaring that they instituted

the Juche era with 1912—the year when the President was born—as the first year and designated his birthday of April 15 as the Day of the Sun.

The institution of the Juche era and the designation of the Day of the Sun have made sure the President's revolutionary career and exploits go on forever along with the history of the country.

Kim Jong Il elected to the top post of DPRK

After the demise of President Kim Il Sung all the service personnel and people were unanimous in their desire and will to hold Kim Jong Il at the helm of the country.

With outstanding acumen and seasoned leadership, he performed so great exploits for the country and people for decades that he enjoyed immense popularity, and public enthusiasm to hold him at the top post of the country was unbridled.

He took the zeal of the whole Party, entire army and all the people as the greatest trust in and expectation for him, but did not hold with his accession.

Out of a pure moral obligation, he did not accept the recommendations for taking office for as long as three years, but he was only devoted to inheriting the President's cause.

He fortified the political and ideological position to bring the President's cause to brilliant completion, further strengthened the People's Army, the pillar and main force of the Korean revolution, and led the whole Party, the entire army and all the people through the Arduous March under the banner of Songun.

In this period his personality traits as an outstanding leader and experienced statesman were fully demonstrated, earning him absolute trust of the service personnel and people and getting them more eager to hold him at the top post of the state.

The DPRK directed great efforts into providing a legal guarantee and setting up a system of state machinery for administering Songun politics while keeping an eye on the undertaking to hold Kim Il Sung as its eternal president.

The socialist constitution was revised and supplemented in the direction of establishing a state mechanism centred on the National Defence Commission.

On May 21 Juche 87(1998), the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly announced a decision on holding an election of deputies to the SPA.

This caused tremendous excitement across the country, with appeals flooding to the central election committee from lots of people who wanted Kim Jong Il to represent their constituencies.

On July 26 the election of deputies to the 10th Supreme People's Assembly took place at all polling stations throughout the country.

The election proceeded successfully in each constituency.

All the eyes of the world were on Pyongyang on September 5 when the First Session of the 10th SPA was held.

The session deliberated on and approved the revised and supplemented constitution by consensus. In the chapter of state organ the new constitution defined that the "National Defence Commission is the highest military leadership body of state power and the organ of overall administration

of national defence” and promoted the legal status of the NDC by empowering it to direct the whole armed forces and guide national defence including the munitions industry as a whole. And it also supplemented the authority of the NDC Chairman in order to strengthen his guidance over national defence, the most important issue in state politics and a lifeline to the revolution and the nation. This meant that the DPRK’s socialist constitution was perfected as a constitution based on the policy of giving priority to national defence and that the system of state organ turned into a powerful one guaranteeing Songun politics by law.

The first session of the 10th SPA solemnly declared that Kim Jong Il was elected Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission in accordance with the unanimous will and desire of all the people and service members.

The NDC chairmanship was the top post of the country that was responsible for commanding and directing all the political, military and economic forces to protect the state system of the socialist country as well as its people and for organizing and leading the undertaking to build up national defence capabilities and national power as a whole. It was a sacred duty representing the honour of the country and the dignity of the nation.

The reelection of Kim Jong Il as the NDC Chairman and the provision of the institutional and legal guarantees of Songun politics were a source of great honour, pride and happiness of the Korean people and service personnel and a megaevent for the country and nation.

This made it possible for the DPRK to carry on Kim Il Sung’s nation-building cause generation after

generation and safeguard and exalt its dignity and sovereignty on the strength of Songun.

Administering Songun politics in all-round way

In the mid-1990s, when the country was in mourning for Kim Il Sung, the DPRK was forced to experience unprecedentedly harsh trials.

The imperialist allied forces launched an across-the-board campaign against the DPRK, claiming that it would fall down in a few years. Due to their ever-growing political and military provocation, pressure and war moves, clouds of nuclear war heavily hung on the Korean peninsula, creating a touch-and-go situation. Their heinous economic sanctions and embargo wreaked havoc on the DPRK's economy, leaving it in a severe economic crisis. Years of natural disasters exacerbated food scarcity and the very existence of every family and every person of the country was exposed to grave threat.

The international environment and the rapidly changing situation necessitated adopting Songun politics in an all-round way, a politics the DPRK had administered since the late 1960s.

In order to steer the revolution through challenges, the DPRK put forward the People's Army as the main force of the revolution and the pillar of the country.

This was aimed at building up the revolutionary army politically and ideologically, preparing it as the reliable defender of the socialist country and making it play a pivotal and pacesetter's role in advancing the socialist cause as a

whole.

On January 1 Juche 84(1995) Kim Jong Il inspected an army unit widely known as “dwarf pine post”, signalling the full-scale administration of Songun politics at a higher level.

The DPRK made sure that the People’s Army played a role as the main force and shock brigade in implementing the cause of socialism.

In January 1996 he set forth slogan “Let the whole army be today’s Seventh Regiment that defends the leadership of the revolution unto death!” before the People’s Army, and initiated the Movement for Winning the Title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment as a higher level of mass movement.

Major construction projects like the Anbyon Youth Power Station project were assigned to the People’s Army, while its units were dispatched to the key fronts of socialist construction.

In June an unyielding fighting spirit displayed by the soldier builders in carrying out the power station project was designated as a revolutionary soldier spirit.

This spirit is an ennobling revolutionary spirit of the People’s Army mainly consisting in the spirit of dedicating their youth and lives to their leader, the spirit of carrying out the tasks assigned by him without fail and the spirit of sacrificing themselves heroically.

The whole Party and society were encouraged to learn after the spirit. Visits to the sites of construction undertaken by the People’s Army including the Anbyon Youth Power Station were organized intensively while a publicity campaign was conducted to bring home the revolutionary soldier spirit to

the people by dint of media, art and literature, and other means and methods.

The DPRK clarified in February the following year that Songun politics was its main political mode and an all-mighty treasure sword with which to lead the Korean revolution to victory.

Strengthening politico-ideological position of socialism

Great efforts were channelled into strengthening the socialist political and ideological position in order to uphold and add brilliance to socialism.

At the time the reactionaries' ideological offensive reached new heights. They used means fair and foul to make the Korean people lose heart in the face of difficulties, while building up psychological warfare to disarm them ideologically.

With a keen insight into the importance of the ideology and theory in defending the socialist ideological position, Kim Jong Il published such works as *Socialism Is a Science, Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism* and *On Preserving the Juche Character and National Character of the Revolution and Construction*.

In the works he profoundly demonstrated the scientific accuracy, truthfulness, invincibility and vitality of socialism, and dealt a blow to the reactionary sophism of the imperialists and their lackeys who tried to put the collapse of socialism down to its ideal and system themselves.

An energetic ideological education campaign was launched

to arm the people with socialism.

It focused on making all the people aware that the cause of socialism is sure to win as long as they are led by the great leader.

In January Juche 85(1996) Kim Jong Il told senior officials of the Party Central Committee that “Let us live not merely for today but for tomorrow” was his view of life and that it is the faith and guts of revolutionaries to believe no one can beat those who are ready to die.

A particular attention was paid to getting all Party members and working people to live and work in the spirit of the Arduous March displayed during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The spirit is a firm revolutionary, indomitable spirit with which the anti-Japanese fighters defended the lifeline of the Korean revolution and brought about a turn in it under the leadership of Kim Il Sung in the grimmest days.

Energetic efforts were made to educate all officials, Party members and working people in the spirit of the Arduous March so that they could learn after and apply in their work and life the revolutionary fighters’ spirit of defending the leader at the cost of their lives, overcoming difficulties, cultivating revolutionary optimism and displaying self-reliance.

The DPRK embodied the spirit of army-people unity to make all members of society elites and further strengthen single-minded unity.

Army-people unity means the unity of ideas and work styles between the service personnel and people based on the revolutionary soldier spirit, which constitutes the root of

society.

The People's Army played a leading role in achieving army-people unity, giving impetus to the mass movement to implement the idea of army-people unity.

The DPRK made sure that high vigilance was kept and resolute countermeasures were taken against the enemy's moves to undermine its politico-ideological position and single-hearted unity.

Intensive campaigns were waged to foil the ideological and cultural infiltration and psychological warfare and to get rid of non-socialist practices that weaken, if not hurt, single-hearted unity.

Laying solid foundations for building economic giant

Overcoming difficulties

In the late 1990s the Korean people were compelled to set off on the Arduous March, the toughest ever challenge in the history of nations and mankind as well.

The imperialist reactionaries hell-bent on isolating and stifling the DPRK ratcheted up sanctions and blockade. Worse still, the consecutive natural disasters made the country's economic outlook gloomier, with people struggling with food shortage.

Numerous industrial establishments stopped operating. People had to have a hard time. The enemy spread the rumour about the DPRK's collapse.

Its destiny hinged on how it could overcome such economic difficulties.

The People's Army played a pivotal role in breaking through the economic hardships.

The government set the agriculture, power, coal and metal industries as the main thrusts in shoring up the overall economy and assigned the army with the task of making a breakthrough in them.

In different economic sectors service personnel set the pace in supporting Songun politics, greatly inspiring working people to endeavour to bring the Arduous March and forced march to a victorious conclusion.

In the course of this soldiers and people restored many industrial establishments and put production on normal track, straightening economic work one after another.

Jagang Province set the pace for the whole country in finishing the Arduous March successfully.

The mountainous province was more difficult and unfavourable than other provinces in various respects. Any example set by the province would be more influential and appealing.

The DPRK ensured that the province took the lead in making a breakthrough in the Arduous March.

Holding aloft the revolutionary slogan of faith "Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!" the provincial people forced their way through the heartrending sacrifices as they lived on substitute foods.

They built or reinforced small and medium-sized power stations to build vast generating capacity. They also ran factories by resolving the problems of raw and other

materials and did farming diligently to ease food shortage. All were out to refurbish industrial establishments, streets and villages in a cultured manner. By doing so, they created the Kanggye spirit.

The entire population was encouraged to learn after the spirit.

As every sector and unit pulsed with the Kanggye spirit, the Korean people rose above the hard times of the Arduous March.

The Songjin Steel Complex was the first to hold up the torch of a new revolutionary upswing.

Many other factories and enterprises followed suit to register a radical boost in production, thereby laying foundations for reenergizing metal, machine-building and other key industries.

A revolution was effected in potato farming and double-cropping centring on a cereal-to-cereal farming was introduced. And new foundations were laid to develop animal husbandry and sericulture on a large scale.

A remarkable turn was brought about in land administration. Notably, tourist attractions like Ryongmun Cavern and Mts Kuwol, Jongbang and Chilbo were developed splendidly.

Undaunted by the trying ordeals of the Arduous March and forced march, the Korean people redoubled their efforts to provide a springboard to a thriving nation.

Effecting new revolutionary upsurge

The DPRK set Juche 88(1999) as a year of general offensive to signal turning point in the building of a powerful socialist

nation.

On New Year's Day *Rodong Sinmun*, *Joson Inmingun* and *Chongnyon Jonwi*, leading newspapers in the DPRK, published a joint editorial to set forth such a slogan as "Let us glorify this year as a year of great turn in building a great, prosperous and powerful nation!" as well as tasks and ways to build up the socialist economy.

National meetings were held one after another, including the conferences of active farmers, scientists and technicians and exemplary officials of the then Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League primary organizations to inspire all the officials and other people to work harder to build a powerful socialist nation.

The WPK Central Committee sent militant slogans to all Party members, service personnel and people around the country in late July 2000 in the run-up to the 55th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, which was followed by an intensive motivation campaign in this regard.

The Conference of Heroes in the Songun Era in September 2003 called on the service personnel and people to arm themselves with the Songun idea and give full play to the revolutionary soldier spirit to perform new heroic feats in the building of a powerful socialist nation.

The officials and employees of the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex displayed an indomitable fighting spirit in producing latest machinery, setting an example for the rest of the working population in the new century. All the people strove to speed up the building of a thriving nation following the torch lit at Ranam.

Power plants were built one after another including the

second-stage Anbyon Youth Power Station, Thaechon Power Station Units 5 and 3, Kumjingang Power Station and lots of small and medium-sized power stations. Kangwon Province led the way in land realignment projects with its experience applied across the country. As a result, the farm fields that had still contained the feudal land structure were transformed into farmland as befits the land of socialist Korea. Many industrial establishments in metal, machine-building and railway sectors returned to normal operation and production in other sectors began to pick up.

The DPRK inspired all the people to effect a new revolutionary upsurge.

In December 2008, Kim Jong Il visited the Chollima Steel Complex in Kangson and he called on the steel workers to stoke up the flames of another revolutionary upsurge in the same spirit and mettle as they displayed in the period of the great Chollima advance.

Out of a do-or-die spirit to take the lead in the new revolutionary drive, the Kangson workers sent a letter to their fellow workers around the country appealing them to turn out with one mind and intention to make radical innovations.

In response, the whole country seethed with enthusiasm for the new drive.

A 150-day campaign was launched, followed by another 100-day campaign amid the nationwide efforts to effect an upswing.

The successful completion of the two campaigns resulted in the overfulfilment of production plans and further consolidation of single-minded unity.

During the campaigns, great leaps forward were made in the four vanguard sectors as well as heavy industry as a whole, further cementing the country's economic foundations.

The DPRK set the construction site of the Huichon Power Station as the forefront in the drive to build a powerful socialist nation.

Soldier builders worked the miracle of finishing the huge project which was believed to take over ten years in a matter of three years by displaying the fighting spirit of "At a go".

The DPRK also initiated an industrial revolution in the new century to notch up notable successes in the building of an economic giant.

The Huichon General Machine-tool Factory was upgraded into the Huichon Ryonha General Machine Factory as the parental producer of CNC machines.

Ryonha's pioneering spirit and style of creation that took a leap forward in the production of CNC machines brought a wave of CNC application all across the economic sectors including machine, metal, power and coal industries and rail transport.

The DPRK made sure that people of South Hamgyong Province led the final offensive to build an economic giant.

They resumed the normal production of vinalon at the February 8 Vinalon Complex, and completed the lignite gasification project for producing Juche fertilizer at the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex. The Songun Foundry and the Songun Compressor Factory were added to the Ryongsong Machine Complex, and a production boom took place at the Taehung Youth Hero Mine and the Tanchon Magnesia Factory.

Turning into military power

The situation was still tense in the new century due to the imperialists' moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK.

The DPRK continued to strive to build up the People's Army to cope with the prevailing situation.

With the main emphasis put on education in the spirit of defending the leadership of the revolution unto death as human bullets and bombs and the Songun idea, service personnel were inculcated with loyalty to the great leaders, revolutionary traditions, class consciousness, socialist patriotism and faith, and encouraged to emulate heroes Ri Su Bok, Kim Kwang Chol and Kil Yong Jo.

The whole army bubbled with enthusiasm for training.

Intense training helped commanding staff and officers drastically improve their military qualifications and commanding ability so that they could properly perform their duties under any hard, complex circumstances in modern warfare.

Different services and arms carried out live-fire manoeuvres under the guidance of Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il.

At the time great efforts were directed into strengthening companies—a task of vital importance in building up the entire army.

All military political work concentrated on company buildup, and high-ranking officers made it a rule to go down to companies and help them on a regular basis.

At the conference of the KPA company commanders in February Juche 88(1999) the participants listened to a

recorded speech President Kim Il Sung made in October 1973 *Let Us Strengthen the Companies of the People's Army*. And there was a meeting of exemplary secretaries of primary youth league organizations of the KPA in October 2002.

The DPRK ensured that the People's Army played a pivotal, pacesetter's role in the great campaign to build a powerful socialist nation.

The People's Army made breakthroughs and performed miracles and innovations ceaselessly on every front of socialist power building. It also took the lead in establishing a cultured way of life as appropriate to a socialist power, and the excellent soldier culture were generalized across society.

The DPRK also made sure that a climate of prioritizing military affairs was established all across society.

The national service system came into force in 2003 according to the order issued by the WPK Central Military Commission in May 2002.

In November 2002 the national conference of the activists in assisting the army was convened to fire a nationwide zeal for assisting the army.

In order to arm all the people the DPRK strengthened militias and ensured that they intensified training and maintained full combat readiness. And it also stepped up the efforts to fortify the whole country.

In September 2002, Kim Jong Il put forward a line of economic construction in the Songun era on seeking a preferential development of the defence industry while promoting light industry and agriculture simultaneously.

Given that the danger of war was constantly looming

large due to the imperialists' vicious moves, the DPRK had no other choice than to develop the defence industry on a preferential basis in order to protect national sovereignty and dignity.

In February 2003, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the then DPRK National Defence Commission adopted a joint decision "On thoroughly implementing the Party line on developing the defence industry preferentially".

As a result, a fresh turn was brought about in the defence industry.

For the independent reunification of Korea

Three Charters for National Reunification

Entering the 1970s, the south Korean authorities were compelled to come up with the signboard of "peace" and "negotiations", ostensibly though, in an attempt to get out of the ruling crisis caused by the massive anti-fascist democratic resistance.

In line with the rapidly-changing situation, the DPRK government announced in August Juche 60(1971) that it was willing to contact at any time the ruling Democratic Republican Party and other south Korean political parties, public organizations and personages.

Therefore, the inter-Korean high-level political talks were held in Pyongyang in early May the following year—for the first time in history.

President Kim Il Sung met on May 3 with the south Korean

representative to the talks and elucidated the three principles of national reunification.

The three principles of independence, great national unity and peaceful reunification were an appropriate reunification programme that is consistent with the essential character of the reunification issue and the independent demand and vital interests of the Korean people.

On July 4, a joint statement enshrining the three principles was published.

According to the joint statement, the north and the south agreed on the three principles.

On the first day of the publication, however, the south Korean authorities, describing it as “unreliable paper”, persisted in relying on outside forces and seeking confrontation with the north and national division. In October 1972 they adopted the so-called “Yushin system” and ratcheted up the crackdown on the patriotic, democratic forces. They also released a “special statement”—a move geared to the simultaneous entry of the north and the south into the UN—which meant an open pursuit of perpetuation of the country’s division.

In response, Kim Il Sung made public a five-point policy for national reunification in June 1973 and made strenuous efforts to implement it.

He set forth a proposal for founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo (DFRK) in October 1980.

The proposal required the north and the south to reunify themselves by forming a unified national government in which both sides participate on equal standing on the basis of recognizing and tolerating each other’s ideology and system and by forming a federal republic in which both sides

enforce local autonomy with equal authority and duty under the unified government.

The DPRK dynamically pushed the efforts to translate the DFRK proposal into reality.

In September 1984, when heavy floods hit south Korea, the DPRK took a measure to send relief materials to the fellow countrymen in the stricken areas.

Accordingly, it sent to south Korea as many as 250 000 bushels of rice, 100 000 metric tons of cement, 500 000 metres of cloth and a large amount of medicines.

By the 1990s the Koreans' desire to achieve reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation grew more than ever before.

The DPRK exerted great efforts to form a nationwide united front.

Representatives of reunification movement organizations at home and abroad and personages from all walks of life gathered at the northern portion of Panmunjom on August 15 1990 to hold the first Pan-National Rally for Peace and Reunification of the Country.

In November delegates of the north, south and overseas sides met in Germany's Berlin to hold working-level talks, at which the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification (Pomminryon) was formed.

The Pan-National Alliance of Youth and Students for Korea's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) was born at Panmunjom in August 1992.

The formation of Pomminryon and Pomchonghangnyon paved the way for promoting three-party solidarity and alliance and pushing the reunification movement in an

organized way.

Amid the growing signs of national reconciliation and unity, it was important for the north and the south to take substantial steps to remove military confrontation and ensure peace.

At the DPRK's initiative, inter-Korean high-level talks were held from September 1990.

At the fifth round of talks in December the following year both sides adopted the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South. And they proceeded to agree on the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula after three rounds of contacts between their representatives.

The agreement and joint declaration were made public and came into force at the sixth north-south high-level talks in Pyongyang in 1992.

In 1993, however, the thawing situation turned back to tension owing to the anti-DPRK moves by separatists within and without.

The Korean nation stood at a crossroads of whether to confront each other and fall victim to big powers' thermonuclear war or to achieve national unity to protect its dignity and open up the path to reunification.

Kim Il Sung unveiled the 10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country at the 5th session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly in April 1993.

The programme set it as the ultimate goal of great national unity to found a pan-national unified state, independent, peaceful and neutral, and described patriotism and the

spirit of national independence as the ideological basis of the unity and the promotion of co-existence, co-prosperity and common interests and the subordination of everything to the cause of national reunification as the fundamental principle of the unity. And the practical ways to achieve the unity specified by the programme are to put an end to all political disputes; to build trust and unite; to join hands on the road of reunification irrespective of ideals and principles; to protect all wealth of individuals and organizations and encourage their use for the promotion of the unity; to build up understanding, trust and unity among the fellow countrymen through contact, exchange visit and dialogue; to strengthen solidarity among Koreans for the sake of reunification; and to honour those who have contributed to the unity and the reunification cause.

The programme won the full support of the Koreans at home and abroad and the world's progressives as well.

The DPRK pushed for a turn in the efforts for national reunification under the banner of the programme.

In October 1993 a working-level contact was made to exchange top-level special envoys between the north and the south and in June the following year there was a deputy premier-level preliminary contact at Panmunjom to discuss the inter-Korean summit talks. At the contact both sides adopted an agreement on opening the summit talks in Pyongyang from July 25 to 27.

Kim Il Sung examined a document related to the summit before putting his signature to it on July 7 1994. This document came to be the last instruction he gave on national reunification.

Kim Jong Il formulated the three principles of national reunification, the 10-point programme of the overall national unity and the proposal for founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo as the Three Charters for National Reunification and made proactive efforts to implement them.

June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and October 4 Declaration

Under the full gaze of all the Koreans, the top leaders of the north and the south met in Pyongyang in June Juche 89(2000) for the first time after the country's division in 1945.

Chairman Kim Jong Il went to the airport to receive south Korean president Kim Dae Jung with a warm fraternal feeling.

At the one-on-one talks on June 14, he suggested adopting a kind of declaration that would bring hope for reunification and optimism about the future to the 70 million countrymen, given the first-ever inter-Korean summit meeting. He brought up important issues facing reunification, such as seeking of an independent reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation and the ways to realize it, repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners, exchange of visiting groups of separated families and relatives and inter-Korean dialogue.

Through serious talks, the historic North-South Joint Declaration was adopted and published on June 15.

According to the inter-Korean declaration, the north and the south are to address the reunification issue independently

by joining efforts of the Korean people as the masters of the issue, to recognize the low-level federation system proposed by the north and the commonwealth system by the south have something in common and work toward reunification in this direction, to resolve pending humanitarian issues at an early date, such as the exchange of visiting groups of separated families and relatives and the repatriation of unconverted long-term prisoners, to seek a balanced development of the national economy through economic cooperation and to bolster cooperation and exchange in social, cultural, sports, public health, environment and other fields so as to build up confidence in each other. Both sides also agreed to hold dialogue between authorities at an early date in order to translate the agreed provisions into reality.

The June 15 Joint Declaration consistent with the by-the-Korean-nation-itself idea is a road map for improving inter-Korean relations and guidelines for reunification.

The summit meeting, the first of its kind in 55 years of Korea's division, and the adoption of the joint declaration were a landmark event that brought about a turning point in the effort to accomplish the cause of national reunification.

After the summit meeting and talks the DPRK pressed ahead with the implementation of the joint declaration.

The period between the publication of the joint declaration and June 2007 saw a boom of talks and contacts between the north and the south, including dozens of rounds of ministerial talks.

Cooperation and exchange also proceeded apace.

In October 2007 another round of inter-Korean summit talks was held in Pyongyang, with the Declaration for the

Development of North-South Relations, Peace and Prosperity adopted on October 4.

The declaration demonstrating to the world again the Korean people's will to reunify their country is an action programme that specifies the concrete goal and tasks of bolstering up inter-Korean relations and bringing peace and prosperity to the nation by joining national efforts.

The second inter-Korean summit and the October 4 Declaration marked a milestone in developing north-south relations and achieving peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula, further enhanced the atmosphere of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation and opened up bright prospects for reunification.

Strengthening overseas Koreans' movement

The DPRK paid particular attention to developing overseas Koreans' movement, especially the movement of Koreans in Japan.

The issue of overseas Koreans dates back to Japan's invasion of Korea and its military rule that caused a massive displacement of the locals.

Koreans in Japan had long struggled against Japanese persecution, maltreatment and deprivation of rights. Their struggle gained momentum after Korea's liberation and the DPRK's foundation, and eventually led to the inauguration of the United Democratic Front of Koreans in Japan in January Juche 40(1951).

In its infancy the organization suffered setbacks due to the fundamental error in its line pursued by its leadership

controlled by great-power worshippers and national nihilists.

In early December 1952, Kim Il Sung put forward a Juche-oriented policy which called on compatriots to work for their nation and the revolution of their country, indicating the way for developing the movement of Koreans in Japan into an independent national patriotic movement under the banner of Juche.

On May 25 1955, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) was inaugurated as the DPRK's overseas citizens' organization.

With the formation of Chongryon the compatriots could have their genuine organization representing and championing their national rights and interests.

Chongryon worked to protect compatriots' democratic national rights, support the socialist homeland in every way and contribute to national reunification. And it also focused on promoting friendship and solidarity with the progressive peoples around the world.

The DPRK paid much heed to education of the children of the compatriots, regarding it not as a simple education but as a patriotic undertaking, a revolutionary task, to defend the homeland and restore national identity.

Despite economic hardships, the DPRK sent much teaching aid and stipend to the compatriots every year since 1957.

The teaching aid and stipend for the Korean children in Japan became a fixed item of expenditure in the state budget, an unprecedented event in the history of finance.

The DPRK made strenuous efforts to realize the repatriation of compatriots from Japan.

The repatriation issue was first raised in 1954 when the DPRK was still engaged in postwar reconstruction. For economic difficulties it could not afford to take in the compatriots.

Therefore, the DPRK urged Japan to provide them with job opportunities and stable living conditions so that they would not be subjected to discrimination and persecution.

The completion of postwar reconstruction and the establishment of the basis of socialism provided the DPRK with economic foundation to some extent and allowed it to buckle down to bringing compatriots back home.

In August 1959 the DPRK and Japan concluded an agreement in India's Calcutta on the repatriation of Koreans in Japan.

Accordingly, a ship left Japan's Niigata in December with the first batch of repatriates aboard and arrived at Chongjin in the DPRK.

World media described the event as an "exodus from capitalism to socialism".

By the mid-1990s the Japanese reactionaries tried harder to undermine Chongryon as part of their anti-DPRK manoeuvres.

Meanwhile, as generational shift took place in the movement of the compatriots, the third and fourth generations emerged as major players and businesspeople held a large proportion of the Korean community.

The reality required Chongryon to build itself up and develop the compatriots' movement onto a higher stage.

The DPRK illuminated the tasks and ways to bring about a turn in the movement.

The main tasks of Chongryon and the movement were to protect the compatriots' democratic national rights and interests, to defend the socialist homeland and contribute to its prosperity, to work harder for Korea's reunification and to conduct external information and other activities in line with the DPRK's ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

Chongryon took note of training new generations to take over the baton of its patriotic movement.

As it focused on the education of the third and fourth generations, it helped them cultivate the Korean-nation-first spirit so as to preserve the national identity. It also trained them to cultivate noble outlook on life and uphold and carry on the achievements the first generation had made through the arduous struggle.

The Association of Korean Young Men of Commerce in Japan was formed in September 1995 to rally young Korean businesspeople, and the Federation of Korean Religionists in Japan was organized in November as an umbrella group of believers.

Chongryon consolidated its ranks organizationally and ideologically to cope with the enemy's manoeuvres and stepped up the compatriots' movement.

As a result, an increasing number of compatriots took an active part in the patriotic movement, striving to push it in a novel way, and Chongryon raised its profile as a dignified overseas organization of DPRK citizens.

Compatriots in other countries also endeavoured to set up similar organizations.

The Federation of Korean Nationals in China evolved into the General Association of Koreans in China in 1998.

The United Confederation of Koreans in Russia's Far East was formed in 1997 as a wing of the International United Confederation of Koreans.

With the advancement of the compatriots' movement, Chongryon and other overseas Koreans' organizations flexed their muscles and many compatriots turned out for the national patriotic movement full of pride of being Koreans.

Expansion of external relations

In the 2000s the DPRK developed the ties of friendship and cooperation with all the countries around the world that respected its sovereignty and were friendly to it.

Kim Jong Il conducted energetic external activities to cement friendship between the DPRK and China.

He visited the Chinese embassy in Pyongyang in March 2000, March 2007 and March 2008 to leave an indelible mark on the history of bilateral relations. He toured China in May 2000, January 2001, April 2004, January 2006, May and August 2010, and May and August 2011 to bolster up the ties.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Jiang Zemin paid an official visit to the DPRK in September 2001, President Hu Jintao in October 2005 and Premier Wen Jiabao in October 2009.

A turn was also brought about in the development of relations with Russia.

Kim Jong Il exchanged wide-ranging views on bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern with Russian President Putin on his visit to Pyongyang in July 2000, and signed the DPRK-Russia Joint Declaration.

He paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from July to August 2001 and held rounds of talks with Putin, before signing the DPRK-Russia Moscow Declaration.

He visited the Russian Far East in August 2002 and the Siberian and Far Eastern regions in August 2011.

The Japanese rulers, who had successively remained hostile towards the DPRK, were compelled to make a policy switch in the new century.

The ninth round of DPRK-Japan inter-governmental talks resumed in Pyongyang in April 2000, eight years after last talks, followed by two more rounds.

Japan's prime minister paid a visit to Pyongyang in September 2002.

Chairman Kim Jong Il met and talked with him.

At the talks both sides shared the understanding that it serves their fundamental interests and greatly contributes to regional peace and stability to address the bitter past and pending bilateral issues and to establish productive relations in politics, the economy and culture.

Through the resultant DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration, the Japanese side modestly admitted the historical fact that Japan caused huge untold damage and sufferings to the Korean people during its colonial rule, and expressed its sincere remorse and apology for that. Both sides also agreed to observe international law, refrain from committing any acts of threatening each other's security and work together to maintain and promote peace and security in Northeast Asia.

The Japanese prime minister visited the DPRK again in May 2004 to reaffirm that it was very important to implement

the Pyongyang Declaration faithfully and that the declaration constituted the basis for improving bilateral relations.

The DPRK also intensified diplomatic activities with West European countries.

As a result, it forged diplomatic ties with Italy for the first time in West European countries in January 2000 and then with Britain, the Netherlands, Turkey, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Luxemburg and Greece.

It established diplomatic relations with the European Union on May 14 2001 when its top-level delegation visited Pyongyang.

Later, it formed diplomatic relations with Canada and Brazil.

The DPRK paid close attention to developing the friendly and cooperative ties with countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa, thereby enhancing its international prestige.



For all-round construction of socialist power

Holding Kim Jong Il as eternal leader.....	130
Kim Jong Un elected to the top posts of Party, state and army.....	132
Golden age of military buildup.....	134
Decisive turn in improvement of the people's livelihood and building of economic giant.....	137
Building of sci-tech and civilized power.....	139
New era of national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity, and independent reunification.....	142
Landmark events in achieving global peace, stability and prosperity.....	145

Holding Kim Jong Il as eternal leader

Chairman Kim Jong Il passed away on his on-site inspection tour on December 17 Juche 100(2011) due to intense mental and physical strain.

The whole country was overwhelmed by the deepest sorrow when the sad news about his death was broadcast at 12:00 noon on December 19.

In the ten-odd days of mourning period, a total of over 260 million service members, working people, students and schoolchildren mourned him in heartbreaking grief.

A solemn ceremony of bidding the last farewell was held in Pyongyang on December 28 amid the wails of grief of millions of citizens and service personnel who lined the 40-kilometre route in snow. A national memorial service was held in Pyongyang the following day with similar meetings taking place in all provinces, cities and counties.

Overseas and south Koreans also expressed deep condolences over the passing of the Chairman.

Over 190 countries, the United Nations and other international organizations extended their heartfelt condolences, flying their flags at half-mast and holding a variety of memorial events, while foreign party, state and government leaders visited the DPRK missions as a show of their deepest sympathy.

Over 3 000 messages of condolence came from heads of party, state and government of some 120 countries, political and public organizations and figures, high-ranking military officers, business celebrities and representatives of Juche idea study groups and friendship and solidarity organizations. Lots

of party, state and government leaders and political parties, institutions, organizations and personages sent more than 4 100 wreaths and baskets of flowers to the bier of the DPRK leader and at his large portraits in squares and foreign-based DPRK missions as a show of their reverence for him. During the mourning period, at least 10 000 media outlets in some 150 countries and regions splashed the news of his passing.

The DPRK put forth slogans “The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il will always be with us” and “The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are immortal” in reflection of the faith and will of all the service personnel and people to hold him in high esteem for all ages and realize his desire for building a thriving country without fail.

The Kumsusan Memorial Palace was revamped into the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to preserve the Chairman in his lifetime appearance and shine the palace as the eternal sanctuary of the Sun.

In February 2012, the Central Committee and Central Military Commission of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the National Defence Commission and the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK adopted a joint resolution on conferring the title of the DPRK generalissimo on him.

The WPK Fourth Conference and the Fifth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People’s Assembly in April the same year held him as the eternal leader of the revolution, the eternal general secretary of the WPK and the eternal chairman of the DPRK NDC.

The DPRK erected the Chairman's statue and hanged the large portrait bearing his beaming image in all parts of the country including on Mansu Hill and at the Mansudae Art Studio, set his birthday of February 16 as the Day of the Shining Star and instituted the Order of Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Il Prize, Kim Jong Il Youth Honour Prize and Kim Jong Il Children Honour Prize.

The cause of immortalizing the leader was accomplished in a short time, with the Chairman lying in state at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and held in high esteem as the eternal leader of the WPK and the people, thereby making it possible to add eternal brilliance to his revolutionary career and immortal exploits.

Kim Jong Un elected to the top posts of Party, state and army

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, who is possessed of distinguished personality traits as a great man, outstanding leadership ability and immeasurably noble moral virtue, had enjoyed immense respect and trust of the service personnel and people as he accompanied Kim Jong Il on the road of revolutionary leadership since his early years.

In his lifetime Kim Jong Il gave the crucial instructions that the revolutionary cause of Juche should be carried forward and accomplished under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

And it was the unanimous will and desire of all the service members and other people of the DPRK to hold him to the

top posts of the Party, state and army.

The Korean people were already attracted by his personality traits at the time when he was elected vice-chairman of the WPK Central Military Commission and held in high esteem as the only heir to Chairman Kim Jong Il at the Third Conference of the WPK, and keenly realized that he is a peerlessly great man and the Sun of the nation who is identical with the Chairman in terms of ideology, faith, mode of leadership and personality while carrying on the revolution under his guidance after the great leader passed away.

The Korean service personnel and people saw the image of the great Sun in him and came to entrust their destiny to him when the country was in mourning, and earnestly wished to uphold him at the top posts of the Party, state and army.

This desire of the Koreans was fulfilled with the full support of all the service members and people and in a high degree of stable political situation.

Kim Jong Un was appointed as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee in December Juche100(2011).

He was elected first secretary of the WPK at its Fourth Conference in April 2012.

And the Fifth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly on April 13 2012 elected him first chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission.

In July, the WPK Central Committee and Central Military Commission and the National Defence Commission and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK adopted a joint decision on conferring the title of the DPRK

Marshal on him.

The Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in May 2016 elected him as WPK chairman.

The WPK Rules amended at the congress define that the top post of the WPK is its chairmanship and its chairman is its supreme leader who represents it and leads the whole Party.

The Congress elected Kim Jong Un as chairman of the WPK in reflection of the fervent desire of all Party members, service personnel and other people.

He was also elected as chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK at the Fourth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly in June.

The meeting amended and supplemented the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK, renamed the National Defence Commission the State Affairs Commission, stipulated that the top leader of the DPRK is chairman of the State Affairs Commission, and elected Kim Jong Un to the top post by mirroring the unanimous will of all the service members and people of the country.

The election was a landmark in consolidating and developing the DPRK into the country of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il forever, demonstrating national dignity and strength to the world, and carrying forward and accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche which was started on Mt Paektu.

Golden age of military buildup

The DPRK ushered in a golden age of military buildup on

the onward march in the new century of the Juche era.

It strived to strengthen the Korean People's Army into invincible and elite revolutionary armed forces.

Primary efforts were channelled into building it up as an army of the Supreme Commander which remains boundlessly faithful to his leadership and throws in its lot with him.

The KPA conducted political work in a progressive manner to establish the Supreme Commander's revolutionary command system and a revolutionary military climate across the army.

Under the slogan of "Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the great Comrade Kim Jong Un!" it pushed ideological education proactively to make all the service members absolutely trust and follow the Supreme Commander and defend him unto death as human rifles, bullets and bombs. It also established a revolutionary climate of faithfully supporting his leadership in the van and devotedly carrying out his orders and instructions without any deviation.

The dynamic struggle to thoroughly establish his unified command system enabled the KPA to further develop into the main force of the revolution which fully assumes the features as the army of the Supreme Commander and which firmly guarantees his leadership with arms.

And it turned into an army of genuine comrades-in-arms who share their destiny with the Supreme Commander.

He set it as an iron rule in his command of the army to share weal and woe with soldiers in the frontline trench and risked his life to go wherever his soldiers are.

He continued inspection tour of army units uninterruptedly irrespective of time and unfavourable weather conditions in order to build up the army, and lots of heartwarming stories were woven on his journey—the rough sea route leading to islet-defending units in the hottest spot, the roads leading to frontline posts at Panmunjom and Kkachil Peak and rugged way over Chol Pass and Mt Osong.

Various KPA meetings—the first conference of pilots, the fourth conference of company commanders and political instructors, the third conference of battalion commanders and political instructors and the meeting of information officers—served as important occasions for encouraging all officers and men to steadily carry on the priceless tradition of the O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment established during the anti-Japanese war.

The KPA also intensified military training to build up its combat capability in every way and bring about a turn in perfecting its combat preparedness, thereby getting itself fully ready to be mobilized for combat at any time.

On his continuous inspection tours of army units the Supreme Commander acquainted himself with the implementation of the behests of Chairman Kim Jong Il and fired service members with zeal for training, saying war is not fought with prior notice.

As a result, a revolutionary turn was effected in combat drill and completion of combat readiness.

Military exercises of all kinds were staged in an atmosphere of real war, including the general tactical and combined coordination drills of services, arms, corps and firepower

units, and the marksmen movement was conducted in an energetic way.

Military drills were improved in form, content and method in line with the requirements and aspects of developing modern warfare and special features of the combat duty of each unit, and Juche-based art of war, mode of combat action and order of battle were updated to turn all servicemen into combatants of matchless valour.

At the same time, the great army-people unity was cemented rock solid and the defence industry was put on a Juche, modern and scientific basis at a high level to further upgrade the KPA's military hardware.

Decisive turn in improvement of the people's livelihood and building of economic giant

The DPRK is striving to bring about a turning point in improving the people's living standards and building an economic giant.

Kim Jong Il, in his lifetime, made sure that all affairs were subordinated to the country's economic growth and the improvement of the people's livelihood and built a solid groundwork for enriching their living and shoring up the national economy as early as possible.

It is the firm determination of the DPRK to ensure that all its people, the best people in the world who have faithfully supported the Workers' Party of Korea overcoming a multitude of difficulties, enjoy a happy life to their heart's content without tightening their belt any longer by making

the priceless assets the Chairman had provided with great efforts prove their worth.

All efforts are being concentrated on improving the people's livelihood.

Agriculture and light industry have been set as the main thrust of economic construction and all energies directed to solving the problem of their living.

Cereals farming, animal husbandry and fishery have been pushed as the pivot to resolve the food problem drastically.

Efforts are channelled into crop farming as well as animal husbandry, fruit growing and the production of vegetables and mushroom. At the same time attention is paid to boosting production in the fishery sector and making fish farms across the country prove effective.

Measures have also been taken to sharply increase production in light industry to properly ease the shortage of consumer goods.

A dynamic drive has been waged in light industry factories to put production on normal track and improve the quality of products, while great endeavours have been made to boost local industry. The National Conference of Light Industry in March Juche 102(2013), in particular, marked a turning point in improving the people's living standards.

Proper attention has been paid to solving urgent problems arising in the people's living such as the shortages of houses, drinking water and fuel and lots of modern facilities for cultural and leisure activities have sprung up.

A dynamic campaign is going on to build an economic giant.

The DPRK focused on rapidly shoring up the vanguard sectors of the national economy, the basic industries, and bringing about an upsurge in production in all economic sectors. It stoked up the flames of an industrial revolution in the new century to spur all people to strive to build a power of knowledge economy. It also brought about a revolutionary turn in land administration to turn the country into a good place to live in.

Meanwhile, it ushered in a golden age of construction.

Primary attention was paid to rapidly developing architectural design, fresh innovations were made in construction and a radical turn was brought about in the production of building materials.

In the efforts to usher in the golden age of construction, all people turned out in construction, building world-class cultural and leisure activity centres one after another in a short time, such as the Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Ryugyong Health Complex, People's Open-air Ice Rink, Munsu Water Park, Mirim Riding Club and Masikryong Ski Resort, as well as Unha Scientists Street, Wisong Scientists Residential District, Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street.

Building of sci-tech and civilized power

The DPRK is also struggling to build a sci-tech and civilized power.

It has directed a great deal of energies to attaining the ambitious goal of turning the country into a sci-tech power

in line with the requirements of the present time, the age of knowledge economy.

A campaign was conducted to bring about a new turn in research into space science and satellite launch.

The successful launch of Kwangmyongsong 4, an earth observation satellite, in February Juche 105(2016) eloquently proved that the country's satellite delivery and rocket control technologies have reached a very high level.

Scientists and technicians exerted themselves to raise the country's general level of science and technology up to the world level through the campaign to break through the cutting edge.

In the course of this they succeeded in ensuring the domestic production of diamond crown and developed a biopesticide, an advanced biotechnology product, and established its production technology. They have worked to develop core, basic technology and cutting-edge technology like information technology, nanotechnology and bioengineering.

National and public attention has been paid to science and technology.

The climates of giving priority to science and technology and studying latest science and technology have been established all across society, state investment in sci-tech research has increased and particular attention has been paid to providing scientists and technicians with better conditions for research.

It is the firm determination of the DPRK to develop into a civilized socialist power and lead world civilization in all aspects.

It has brought about a revolutionary turn in all fields of culture to this end.

It has increased investment in education to modernize it and drastically raised the level of secondary general education and university education so as to train more world-class scientific and technical personnel who will undertake the building of a powerful socialist country.

It has also developed public health, art and literature and sports comprehensively to suit the features of a socialist power in order to make people create and enjoy a noble socialist civilization and the whole country brim with joy and optimism.

Notable achievements have been made in all fields of cultural construction.

A national programme for making all people well-versed in science and technology is now well underway.

The universal 12-year compulsory education, which embodies the ennobling views on the country, younger generations and future, is now in force, showcasing the true features of the advantageous socialist education system in the DPRK.

The Moranbong Band is leading the general onward march, raising the profile of the developing Juche-oriented arts. The whole of the DPRK including Pyongyang and the Mt Paektu area were gripped by the revolutionary and popular music pieces reflecting the spirit of Juche Korea which dashes forward full of youthful vigour.

People on the ongoing general march are greatly inspired by such masterpieces of the times as songs *Ode to Motherland*,

Voice of My Heart, Song of Good Hauls in the Sea, A Sea of Apple Trees at the Foot of Chol Pass, Song of Pride of the Guards Units and Victory Generation after Generation.

Sports have been developed as a national and all-people affair according to the plan for building a sports power, raising a wave of enthusiasm for sports all across the country. Trustworthy sportspeople won many gold medals in international sporting events and flew the national flag high in the sky, bringing great joy to the people at home.

New era of national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity, and independent reunification

Inter-Korean relations which had advanced along the road of peaceful reunification under the banner of the June 15 2000 North-South Joint Declaration took a U-turn towards confrontation and war due to the vicious anti-DPRK moves of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad who persisted in sanctions and pressure rackets and frantic war provocation.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address in Juche 107(2018) put forward a policy of thawing the frozen north-south relationship.

The new policy embraced the issues of easing the acute military tension between the north and the south and creating a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula above all, establishing a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification and raising the banner of national independence higher than ever before and fulfilling the responsibility and

role the authorities of both sides have assumed for the times and the nation. The peace initiative gripped the hearts of all compatriots as it embodied his burning love for the nation, his staunch will to reunify the country and his wise plan to achieve peace and reunification.

In particular, he won the thunderous applause at home and abroad as he said that the DPRK was willing to take necessary measures including the dispatch of its delegation to the Winter Olympic Games to be held in south Korea and proposed arranging a meeting between the authorities of the north and the south to this end as soon as possible, adding that since we are the compatriots of the same blood as south Koreans, it is natural for us to share their pleasure over the auspicious event and help them.

The south Korean authorities, other politicians, the media and people from all other walks of life hailed the initiative as it illuminated the path to national concord and independent reunification.

The DPRK took a series of practical steps to implement the policy of effecting a drastic turn in inter-Korean relations.

As a result, north-south high-level talks were held in the southern area of Panmunjom on January 9 amid great expectation and interest of the public at home and abroad. The talks discussed the issues of improving inter-Korean relations in conformity with the common aspirations of the fellow countrymen for national unity and reunification, including the northern delegation's participation in the 23rd Winter Olympic Games and the Paralympics, and adopted a joint press release.

Accordingly, the DPRK dispatched to Phyongchang of south Korea a high-level delegation, art troupe, delegation of the northern Olympic committee, contingent of sportspeople, cheer squad, Taekwon-Do exhibition group and press corps.

The Koreans' desire for reunification ran higher with the Winter Olympics as a momentum.

Therefore, the DPRK invited south Korean personages and performing artists to give performance in Pyongyang in order to usher in a heyday in national concord and reunification movement by boosting inter-Korean relations.

Thanks to the far-reaching plan and bold decision of the DPRK to put an end to the era of division and confrontation and write a new chapter of peace and reunification in history, high-level talks for an inter-Korean summit meeting were held at the Panmun House in the northern area of Panmunjom in March, and practical measures were taken to that end.

On April 27 Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, met with south Korean President Moon Jae In at the House of Peace in the southern portion of Panmunjom.

At the talks they had candid and open-hearted exchange of opinions on issues of mutual concern including inter-Korean relations, maintenance of peace and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

They reached a consensus of views on all agenda items and adopted the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Thanks to the historic Panmunjom summit meeting and talks and the April 27 declaration, the reunification clock

which had stopped for 11 years restarted ticking and a new history of independent reunification, peace and prosperity began.

Kim Jong Un held the fourth inter-Korean summit with President Moon Jae In on May 26 at the Thongil House in the northern area of Panmunjom.

At the talks they had an in-depth exchange of opinions on the issues that should be settled to rapidly implement the declaration adopted at the third summit, denuclearize the Korean peninsula and achieve regional peace, stability and prosperity and those facing the north and south at present, and for the successful opening of the DPRK-US summit as well.

At the summit, the leaders of the north and south of Korea heard each other's opinions and had candid discussions about the crucial pending issues freely without ceremony, and it marked another historic occasion that opened a new chapter in the development of inter-Korean relations.

Landmark events in achieving global peace, stability and prosperity

Historic visits open up a new chapter for
DPRK-China friendship

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, paid an unofficial visit to China in March Juche 107(2018) at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

It was a historic event of great significance in adding lustre

to the long-standing DPRK-China friendship and creditably carrying on the bilateral ties generation after generation.

His lightning visit under the new, rapidly-changing situation on the Korean peninsula manifested how much the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government value the friendly ties with China.

The Chinese Party and state leaders warmly welcomed and accorded cordial hospitality to the Chairman who set out on the first historic China tour as he regarded it as a noble duty to treasure and inherit the bilateral friendship generation after generation.

Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping had an in-depth exchange of opinions on important issues including the development of bilateral friendship and the management of the Korean peninsula situation.

The visit brought home to both sides the preciousness of the amity once again and paved the way for boosting it onto a higher stage in line with the requirements of the new period.

The Chairman visited China for the second time in May.

He held talks with the Chinese President in Dalian of Liaoning Province, China.

At the talks they informed each other of their own assessments and views on the trend of the situation of the Korean peninsula which was drawing the focus of world attention and of the political and economic circumstances of their countries, and exchanged views in order to better promote the bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation and explore the ways to settle important matters of common concern.

Kim Jong Un paid the third visit to China in June.

At the talks Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Xi Jinping informed each other of the results, assessments of and views and stands on the DPRK-US summit meeting which was held successfully amid the unusual interest and expectation of the international community. They also had a useful exchange of opinions on a series of issues of common concern including the prospect of Korean peninsula denuclearization and shared the common understanding of all matters discussed.

At the following one-on-one talk they exchanged views on the current situation and urgent international issues and discussed matters of further increasing strategic and tactical cooperation between the two Parties and two countries under the new situation.

The Chairman's three rounds of China tour in less than three months marked important occasions in honouring and successfully carrying on the excellent traditions of DPRK-China summit the leaders of the older generations of the two countries had established and in vigorously advancing the bilateral friendship, the strategic choice of the two Parties and the two countries, in line with the requirements of the new period.

Epoch-making meeting makes history for
DPRK-US relations

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, held a summit meeting and talks with US President Donald J. Trump on June 12 Juche 107(2018) on

Sentosa Island, Singapore, for the first time in the history of the two countries.

The first-ever summit between the DPRK and the US in the current century was held thanks to the firm determination of their leaders to put an end to the extremely hostile bilateral relations, the most acute in intensity and the longest in time on the globe, and to share a new future in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and for global peace and security.

The leaders of the two countries took the first step towards rapprochement and sat at the negotiating table for the first time in over 70 years of antagonism and discord after the division of the Korean peninsula.

At 9:00 a.m. local time they met and had the first handshake.

At the one-on-one talks the two leaders had a frank exchange of opinions on practical issues of great significance in ending decades-long hostile relations between the two countries and bringing peace and stability to the Korean peninsula.

At the enlarged talks that followed both sides had comprehensive and in-depth discussions about the issues on establishing a new bilateral relationship and establishing a mechanism for ensuring lasting and durable peace on the peninsula.

The two leaders came to the common understanding that it is important to uphold the principle of simultaneous actions at each stage in the process of achieving peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and denuclearizing it.

At a luncheon given after the talks both sides exchanged

views on promoting communication, contact and exchange of visit in order to consolidate the achievements of the talks and bolster up bilateral relations.

Kim Jong Un and Trump signed the joint statement of the historic Singapore summit.

They expressed their hope and conviction that the two countries, which had lived in enmity, distrust and hatred towards each other, would let bygones be bygones and dynamically advance towards a glorious, proud future that is mutually beneficial and usher in another new era, an age of DPRK-US cooperation.

The DPRK-US summit in Singapore which was held successfully amid enthusiastic support and welcome from the whole world was a mega-event of paramount significance in reinforcing the historic trend towards reconciliation, peace, stability and prosperity that has come to the Korean peninsula and the region and in bringing about a radical turn in the relationship between the long-time foes as required by the developing times.

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All the service personnel and people in the DPRK, through the struggle in the new century of the Juche era, fully demonstrated to the world that the leadership of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, is the lifeblood of the Korean revolution and no force on earth can check the grand march of the DPRK advancing towards final

victory holding aloft the flag bearing the images of their great leaders.

They will build a thriving socialist power of Juche on this land without fail and win final victory under his leadership.

DPRK: SEVEN DECADES OF CREATION AND CHANGES

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The 70 years of the DPRK is a history of great struggle and victory, and great creation and changes, in which the Korean people defended the independence and dignity of the country and built up a powerful socialist country surmounting the storm of the revolution under the leadership of their great leaders and their great Party.



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