

Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un guides consultative meeting for regional development project



KCNA

The noble sense of mission, far-reaching ideals and stubborn practical abilities of the Workers' Party of Korea, which regards it as its main duty to orient everything in its revolutionary guidance

to absolutely defending the people's rights and interests and steadily develop in depth the policy for their well-being, strongly promote the comprehensive prosperity and development of our state, unfolding in succession the blueprints of transformation most desired and

welcomed by the people.

At a time when the modern rural housing construction is in full swing to remove the countryside's centuries-old backwardness on a nationwide scale and a ten-year revolution was launched in real earnest to rebuild the regional economy

on a completely new and advanced basis under the WPK's grand regional development strategy, the Party Central Committee made another crucial decision and entered into making preparations

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for adopting an eventful policy-oriented decision on carrying out the historic task of successfully and simultaneously building advanced public health facilities, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain management facilities in cities and counties across the country.

On August 31, General Secretary Kim Jong Un convened and guided a consultative meeting for regional development project as part of the preparations for adopting as Party policy a new important decision to hasten the epochal development and comprehensive rejuvenation of regions.

Present at the meeting were Presidium members Kim Tok Hun and Jo Yong Won and other relevant members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, chief secretaries of the provincial Party committees, commanding officers of the services and corps of the Korean People's Army which dispatched their units to the regional construction in different areas, and officials in the design sector.

After making a deep analysis of the significance and importance of the construction of public health facilities, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain management facilities in cities and counties, which is a more essential requirement in accelerating the development of the Korean revolution and the historic cause of regional rejuvenation at present, Kim Jong Un said:

To thoroughly implement the Party's regional development strategy is not merely a businesslike undertaking for building some factories and structures but an important political undertaking to implant the truthfulness and invincibility of the socialist cause deep in the people and ensure the steady succession to the socialist cause by giving full play to the advantages of our state system, whose ideal is the people-first principle.

In recent years the Party set forth a policy on building light-industry factories in regions to develop cities and counties, regional bases, in a substantial, material and planned way and has pushed ahead with its implementation in every way, but this is not enough to provide the regional people across the country with a material and cultural life that would improve in a

sustained way.

The newly-added three-point construction task is in full accord with the regional construction policy of our Party, its policy of prioritizing science and technology and its people-oriented policies and is essential for implementing the state construction programme aimed at achieving a balanced and simultaneous development of the whole country. Accordingly, it is an urgent task at present to carry it into practice. Now is the best time to start implementing this important revolutionary work as KPA units have been deployed in every province, city and county and a nationwide materials supply and command system established in a well-regulated way to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

The Party's policy for regional development in the new era should not be confined to the construction of light-industry factories but should be a comprehensive policy dealing with public health, science and education. Only then can it make a genuine contribution to the improvement of regional people's material and cultural life and radically improve the efficiency of regional development.

After clarifying all the principles to be adhered to in building advanced city and county hospitals, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain management facilities, he continued:

It is my first and foremost cherished desire to have city and county hospitals built, which will greatly contribute to improving the regional public health situation, which is relatively inferior, and protecting the lives and security of the regional people and promoting their health. It would be a good idea to add the construction of modern public health facilities to the Regional Development 20x10 Policy and complete their construction in the set year without fail for the people in different regions however difficult and challenging it may be, and this will be regarded as the first task entrusted to the Party and the government by the Korean revolution and the times.

Construction of sci-tech dissemination bases, too, should be conducted in a big way and completed wonderfully to provide the working people from all

walks of life in regions with all conditions for contributing to the development of the state on the strength of technology and knowledge. And comprehensive and integrated grain-processing facilities should be built to further improve the people's diet.

It is important for the provincial, city and county Party committees and people's committees to find out their definite shares of work, including making preparations for the operation of the facilities that are under construction, and launch effective work for their realization, more deeply mindful that they are responsible for the implementation of the regional development policy.

The consultative meeting, on the basis of an in-depth study of the key issues that would guarantee the feasibility of the three-point construction essential for regional rejuvenation, discussed such detailed practical measures as reinforcing the KPA units at all levels involved in regional construction and establishing a central system of policy-oriented guidance over the construction sector.

Noting that these gigantic undertakings launched by the WPK are important matters based on a scientific calculation and it is the requirement of the Party Central Committee that they should be carried out on the highest level so that the regional people can enjoy substantial benefits from them even after 100 years, Kim Jong Un expressed belief that the heavier burden our Party, government and army shoulder, the faster the new era of regional transformation will come and the further the welfare of the people across the country will be promoted.

Great years are being witnessed, when a grand cause of regional transformation, viewed only as an ideal for nearly 80 years, is to be realized during the ten-year revolution, he said, calling upon all officials to do their work in a responsible manner with firm confidence and a strong will to surely bring about a new appearance, in which the whole country will be changed and a radical turn will take place in the life of the regional people as required by the Party's policy of regional development.

And he affirmed:

The historic cause of regional rejuvenation is a revolutionary undertaking to be proud of even though it demands much effort. When new edifices symbolic of the people's happiness and regional development appear in 20 cities and counties every year and the whole country seethes with songs of sea changes, we will feel more proud of the dynamic stride which we have taken today with readiness for courageous struggle and fortitude.

His instructions, which have clearly stressed our sacred and just cause of supporting the people as heaven and indicated the ways for comprehensively and rapidly developing the whole country as befitting the status and position of a powerful country while firmly maintaining the view and mode of development of our style, redoubled the noble sense of mission and spirit of exertion of all the participants in the meeting.

The new orientation of struggle, which is of great significance in accelerating the historic cause of regional rejuvenation, is a responsible option and worthwhile revolutionary work of the WPK that regards it as its revolutionary trait and supreme desire to courageously shoulder all the burdens for realizing the people's cherished wishes and bringing about the future full of happiness.

All the participants raised enthusiastic cheers, extending the highest tribute to Kim Jong Un who is dynamically ushering in a new era of socialist civilization and prosperity, arousing all our service personnel and people to the grand struggle with his ardent spirit of serving the country and people and with his sacred stride for the most staunch and active pioneering.

The consultative meeting, held under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, serves as a political occasion of weighty significance in providing a practical guarantee for the expanded and deepened regional development policy of the WPK. The grand ideals and strong might of self-reliance of the WPK for translating the people's dreams and wishes into brilliant reality are bringing about a series of remarkable changes and eye-opening efflorescence in a three-dimensional way in all aspects of socialist construction with an eye to a rosy future.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at regional-industry factories under construction in Hamju County

He clarifies the principled issues to be adhered to in the construction



KCNA

On August 31, Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at regional-industry factories under construction in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, together with members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee,

chief secretaries of the provincial Party committees and commanding officers at different levels of the Korean People's Army who assume heavy responsibilities for the implementation of the Party's grand regional development strategy, and clarified the principled issues to be adhered to in the construction.

After being briefed on the progress made in the construction, he praised the labour feats of soldier-builders for

their endeavour to successfully carry out the sacred revolutionary work while confidently making the first breakthrough in attaining the long-term goal for the regional development.

Going round the construction sites, he expressed his pleasure over the fact that the quality of construction is being ensured on a high level.

He said that the industrial facilities to be built in 20 cities and counties across the

country in the first year of the regional-industry revolution are entities directly showing the Korean-style civilization and development and the epitome of our conscience and ideal, redoubled efforts and fighting spirit, adding that any slightest defect should not be allowed in such edifices which would remain forever as the wealth of the people.

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As I have always emphasized, what is basic in construction is to ensure quality and any practice of neglecting quality, inclined to speed, is a harmful act that hinders the Party's policy on regional construction, even if it is slight, he said, adding that such a firm understanding should prevail in the whole of construction.

It is important to enhance the role of skilled workers in order to raise the hot wind of improving quality in the construction sector, but a prerequisite is to modernize and standardize all construction equipment ranging from heavy machines to various kinds of tools of builders, he stressed. He said that practical measures would be taken to decisively increase the proportion of mechanization in regional construction.

Stressing the need to further encourage and expand the habit of evaluating the projects in strict conformity with the quality indices among the army units involved in the construction, construction control organs and other relevant sectors, he clarified the guidelines for thoroughly ensuring the quality of structures in keeping with the requirements of design and construction.

He expressed his view on the comprehensive principles to be maintained in designing industrial facilities, saying that the design sector should develop

faster than other sectors at a time when the scope of construction is being steadily widened and the overall struggle for regional construction is intensified in full swing.

After looking round the construction sites, he had a talk with the leading officials accompanying him.

Saying that success in implementing the Party's policies entirely depends on the leading officials, he pointed out a series of deviations that should be overcome without fail in the working method and style of the leading officials who should become an engine at every worksite of the revolution for comprehensive national rejuvenation.

Analyzing the practices revealed among officials of failing to give substantial and practical guidance for lack of detailed study of the present Party's policies and the understanding of the Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetics and the importance and characteristics of the relevant construction projects and to rid themselves of the sightseeing-style and stylish-manner guidance method of chanting groundless slogans which are not suited to the mind and age of the masses, he stressed that when they are well versed in the Party's policies and establish the leading and active attitude and viewpoint in their implementation, even one field guidance would be a realistic and necessary one, a political

guidance to the subordinates.

He also referred to the aimless competition which has not been eradicated in the construction sector.

Noting that when a competition is organized in the construction sector, it should be a sure propellant to the cultural efflorescence of socialism, and a competition with the main stress on speed hindering the qualitative development of creation and construction has nothing to do with the mass movements in our era of making a revolution, he said that the army units which have assumed the historic mission of the regional development should actively organize and conduct various competitions to improve radically skills of their officers and soldiers and practical and meaningful mass movements to train skilled workers, improve quality and create landscape.

Saying that the WPK has entrusted the huge and sacred historic process of bringing about regional changes by dint of self-reliance to the KPA, believing in its loyalty and fighting efficiency, he clarified the tasks for giving full play to its might in the honourable gigantic construction campaign.

He said that in order to become a matured vanguard in all aspects, it is important for the KPA to conduct in a positive and fresh way the ideological education instilling into the service

personnel the consciousness that they are the creator of material wealth for the people and pioneer of a new era of civilization. He called on the KPA to always share joy and sorrow with the local people as befitting the army of the people, fully display the beautiful traits of unity between the army and the people and briskly conduct the mass movement to do even one more thing good for them, thus further glorifying the image of the revolutionary army and enhancing its distinguished prestige.

All the servicepersons who are performing brilliant feats in the vanguard of struggle for implementing the intermediate- and long-term tasks set forth by the Party are the most precious revolutionary soldiers, he said, calling upon the leading officials of the Party and the government and commanding officers of the military to make every possible effort to provide soldier-builders with better working conditions and hygienic and cultured living conditions.

The commanding officers of the KPA units at all levels and the leading officials of the Party and the government hardened their firm will to powerfully wage the drive for carrying out the Party's decision thoroughly and perfectly with the most faithful service to the people and good results, bearing deep in mind the instructions of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sends greetings to Vietnamese President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea, sent a congratulatory message to To Lam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on September 2.

The message said:

I extend congratulations to you and the Vietnamese party, government and people on the occasion of the 79th founding anniversary of the Socialist Republic of

Vietnam.

I wish the Vietnamese people greater success in their struggle to build a prosperous and civilized socialist state under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Farmers move into new houses in different farm villages

KCNA

New modern houses have been built at Kuthan and Yaksan farms in Songhwa County of South Hwanghae Province.

A ceremony for moving into the new houses took place, attended by Kim Chol Min, secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, So Hak Song, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, and officials and builders in the county and working people at the Kuthan and Yaksan farms.

Amid a cheerful dance party, officials congratulated the owners of new houses and shared joy with them.

New houses have been built at the Toksong Apple Farm, a

well-known fruit producer in the east coastal area.

A ceremony for moving into those houses took place on the spot amid the excitement and joy of the farmers and inhabitants of the farm.

Present there were Kim Yong Hak, secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Se Il, vice-chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, officials and builders in Toksong County and agricultural workers who would move into the new houses.

A congratulatory speech was made at the meeting and licences for the use of houses were handed over amid the loud applause of

the participants.

The excitement and joy of farmers and inhabitants and happy looks of the frolicking children added to the festive mood of the new villages.

Modern houses have been built at the Rimphyong Farm in Yodok County, South Hamgyong Province.

Present at a ceremony for moving into new houses were Kim Yong Hak, secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Song Gyu, vice-chairman of the provincial people's committee, and officials, builders and agricultural workers in Yodok County.

After the meeting, farmers began to move into new houses amid a cheerful dance party and officials visited

new houses to congratulate their owners.

New modern houses for hundreds of families have appeared at the Songjang Farm in Janggang County of Jagang Province.

Present at a ceremony for moving into the new houses were Jon Yong Sop, secretary of the Jagang Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jin Su, vice-chairman of the Jagang Provincial People's Committee, officials of Janggang County and agricultural workers who would move into the new houses.

A congratulatory address was made there. Then licences for using the houses were handed over amid the loud applause of the participants.

Revolutionary school students stage motivation campaign in flood-hit areas

KCNA

Students of Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools launched a vigorous motivation campaign in areas of recovery from flood damage.

Students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School gave fresh strength and encouragement to the builders through their dynamic artistic performances.

The performance began with chorus "Dear Father". Through such numbers as a medley of songs "Cheers of the People" and poem and song "His Humanity", it impressively represented the great efforts and warm

love of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un who left immortal traces for the people in the dangerous flood-hit areas.

Students of Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School, too, gave performances in different places.

The performers called on the builders, officials and people to bring about world-startling miracles without fail in the recovery campaign.

The cheerful and dynamic songs sung by the proud reserves who inherited the lifeblood of the Juche revolution made the areas advancing towards a fresh victory seethe with the enthusiasm for loyalty, repayment, feats and miracles.

Reception given to congratulate winners of Asian Taekwon-Do Championships

KCNA

The DPRK Cabinet hosted a reception at the Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang on September 1 in congratulation of players and coaches who won gold medals at the 10th Asian Taekwon-Do Championships.

Present there were Vice-Premier Kim Myong Hun, Kim Myong Gun, chairman of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee, officials

concerned and Taekwon-Do players and coaches.

The vice-premier made congratulatory remarks at the reception.

He warmly congratulated all the Taekwon-Do players and coaches who demonstrated the dignity and honour of the DPRK with gold medals in the 10th Asian Taekwon-Do Championships and gave great encouragement to the people of the country.

He called on all players and coaches to intensify their training, bearing in mind the great pride and honour of being sportspersons of Juche Korea, and thus fly the national flag higher at all international events.

Kim Ryu Gyong in a reply speech expressed her determination to live up to the trust and expectation of the country and its people with better results at international events.

NEWS IN BRIEF

KCNA

547th triplets born at Pyongyang Maternity Hospital

The 547th triplets (a boy and two girls) were born at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and left it on August 31.

The mother of triplets is Jong Un Hui living in neighbourhood unit No. 186 of the township of Phyongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, and their father Ho Chung Song is a worker of the Phyongsan Wild Fruit Processing Station under the foreign trade management bureau of North Hwanghae Province.

Jong Un Hui was diagnosed as a triplet pregnant mother and sent to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital in March and got the best medical service. She gave easy birth to her triplets with the medical help of doctors and nurses at the hospital.

The triplets weighed 2.03kg, 1.62kg and 2.11kg at birth and more than 4kg each at the time of their discharge.

The triplets and their parents leaving the hospital in good health with gifts like silver-decorated knife and gold rings were warmly seen off by doctors and nurses.

Workers, trade union members meet meritorious persons

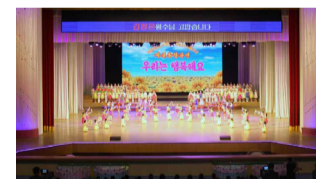
Workers and trade union members met with meritorious persons of socialist patriotism at the Central Hall of Workers in Pyongyang on September 3 to mark the 76th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

Attending the meeting were Pak In Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, trade union officials and workers and trade union members in Pyongyang.

The meeting started with women's chorus "Let's Love Our Country", amid the warm applause for the meritorious persons.

The meritorious persons said that the embrace of the Workers' Party of Korea, which put forward them, making their deeds known to the whole country, though they just fulfilled their duty for society and the collective as citizens, is the great one bringing all of them up into ardent patriots and that of benevolent love taking warm care of our people.

Kindergarteners give performance



A performance "We are happy" was given by kindergarteners from across the country at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on September 2.

Among the audience were Vice-Premier Jon Sung Guk, Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Choe Tong Myong, Minister of Education Kim Sung Du, officials of ministries and national agencies, education officials in Pyongyang and teachers, women's union members and parents of kindergarteners.

The performers represented the happy looks of the children growing up to be pillars of the future under the socialist system which puts forward them as the king of the country.

In various numbers, they impressively sang of the loving care shown by the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un who gives prominence to the children while bringing them boundless happiness.

Also put on the stage were numbers dealing with the joy and optimism of kindergarteners.

National prize contest over rural housing construction held

A national prize contest aimed at actively developing construction equipment and building materials needed for rural housing construction took place in the DPRK from February to August under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

The contest was held on the theme of "Let us build farmhouses with modern means and domestic raw and other materials". It brought together officials, scientists, technicians and builders from the sectors and units related to rural construction and those who desired to take part in the contest. More than 160 valuable technical innovations and inventions were presented to it.

Machinery and equipment devised by the building-materials workteam of the Sungho County Construction Company and other units were appreciated as they were helpful to saving a lot of manpower and materials, efficient in working performance and of great practical significance.

Congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan arrives in Pyongyang

KCNA

A congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating the 76th anniversary of the DPRK headed by Ko Tok U, chairman of the headquarters in Tokyo of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, arrived in Pyongyang on September 5.

It was greeted at Pyongyang International Airport by Kim Ho Chol, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, Hong Kyong Sik, director of the Overseas Koreans' Affairs Administration, and officials concerned.

They visited the statues of President Kim Il Sung and

Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang on September 5 to pay homage to them.

They laid bouquets before the statues of President and the Chairman

who formed the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan and made immortal contributions to the development of the movement of Koreans in Japan.



A congratulatory group of Koreans in Japan for celebrating the 76th anniversary of the DPRK arrives in Pyongyang on September 5.

Country of the people

All the policies of the DPRK have been consistent with service for the people since its foundation.

By Hwang Jong Ryol *PT*

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded on September 9 1948.

Since then, the DPRK has demonstrated its dignity to the world as the country of the people over the long period of over 70 years.

President Kim Il Sung, founder of the DPRK, put forward the working people as the masters of the revolution and construction for the first time in history and built a people-centred state in which everything of the society serves them.

Over the past several decades, the DPRK has provided all people with political freedom and equal rights as the masters of the state, irrespective of sex, occupation, property status, knowledge, political view and religious belief, and taken responsible care of their life.

Ordinary smelters, farmers,

weavers, miners, coal miners, scientists and other working people are elected as deputies to the provincial, city and county people's assemblies under the great concern of the whole country, and are taking part in the political affairs for the development of the state with full position.

All the policies of the DPRK have been consistent with service for the people since its foundation.

The DPRK has drawn up its policies by going among the masses, lending an ear to their voices and comprehensively expressing their will and demand, thus enjoying absolute support from the people.

They include free medical care, free education, construction of dwelling houses of the people by state investment and supply of school uniforms, shoes and school things at the state expense.

In the course of over 70 years when the people's desires were fulfilled one after another, the country was faced with trials and

ordeals many times.

But as it regarded the people as the basis of the country and the most precious being in the world, the DPRK firmly defended and steadily implemented the people-first political ideal in good or hard times.

Thanks to the loving care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who invariably maintains the popular character and original features of the DPRK, today, all children of nurseries and kindergartens across the country are growing up healthily while being supplied with dairy products and nutritious foods on a regular basis. And modern dwelling houses in Songhwa, Hwasong, Rimhung and Jonwi streets and the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District have sprung up as the cradles for the people's happiness to add pleasure to the people.

The Korean people are visualizing their bright future to be more prosperous in the reality of

the DPRK which is making rapid development along with the ever-changing socialist countryside.

In late July, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited an aircraft base, where a rescue operation was conducted, by driving a car through the dangerous road flooded with water for the flood victims, who had suffered damage due to an unexpected flood, in Sinuiju City and Uiju County of North Phyongan Province. He personally commanded the rescue and evacuation operations, looked round damaged areas and took steps to look after the flood victims with paternal affection. Seeing the General Secretary with their own eyes, the Korean people strengthened their belief that they would be able to entrust their destiny and future to his embrace.

The DPRK, the people's country which was built by the people's will and brings into full bloom all their dreams and happiness, will be everlasting.

Revolutionary anecdote

In days of devoted service for the good of people

Most important policy

One day in December 2014, General Secretary Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory and learnt about its production and business activities as he looked round different places of the factory.

After a while, he said that to produce and supply children's foodstuffs is the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea that should be implemented preferentially without fail, and that there are many Party policies, of which it is the most important one to ensure the production of children's foodstuffs before anything else.

Chairman Kim Jong Il saw that the factory continued production uninterruptedly by supplying raw materials to it continuously even in the period of the Arduous March, a hard time for the Korean people, and took a benevolent measure for the supply of raw materials, with the result that all institutions of learning rang with happy laughter of the children, he recalled with deep emotion.

Then he said that though the country is faced with many problems, nothing is more important than to produce and supply children's foodstuffs, stressing that he would make no concessions on the production of children's foodstuffs.

Most pleased

One day in November 2017, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un inspected the newly-built Sunchon Catfish Farm.

In the feed processing ground, he looked round the production facilities made by technicians and workers in South Phyongan Province with satisfaction and asked a farm official about the capacities of those facilities.

After hearing his answer, he expressed great satisfaction and said that he was most pleased to see domestically made facilities. He heard most of the facilities installed at the farm were made by factories and enterprises in the province by their own efforts, he said, adding that we must make not only raw and other materials but also all facilities with our own efforts and technologies and that self-reliance and self-sufficiency were the best.

Our way to live

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory one day in December 2018.

At that time, he dropped in at the products exhibition room and saw women's fur leather shoes. Underlining the need to domestically produce raw and other materials, he said that the industry dependent on others is an industry which would go bankrupt without them.

Self-reliance and self-development are the only way for us to live and we must live by our own effort even if others do not give us, he said, stressing the need to develop the national economy on the principle of strengthening its independence.

Along with history of the DPRK

By Ko Kwang Yon *PT*

Whether a society serves the people or not is determined by what policies a country adopts and how they are enforced.

In other words, policies are an epitome showing the nature of a country.

Going deep into life of people

Many people in the DPRK find it hard to answer the question "What kinds of popular policies are now in force in the DPRK?" in detail, because they have been introduced for so long and they are connected so closely.

Many state policies, such as the social insurance and security, temporary subsidy, maternity allowance and district doctor systems as well as free medical care, free education and provision of houses to the people gratis at the state expense, help the people lead a plentiful life with no inconvenience.

Such policies continue to increase day by day and be updated in accordance with the growing demands of the people.

Invariable

The popular policies of the DPRK have been enforced in both favourable and unfavourable conditions and environment and they have increased, not diminished, even in hard times.

In the new century of the Juche era, lots of important events, big and small, have taken place in the country.

Among them was such a great upheaval as the worldwide health

crisis the DPRK had undergone for the first time since its founding.

However, many people-oriented policies have been introduced despite manifold difficulties and trials.

The construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, the rural housing construction, the enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education, childcare policy and the provision of school uniforms and school things by the state are the major policies adopted in the new century of the Juche era.

They did not begin only today.

The state policies were invariably followed even during the life-and-death war.

To cite an example, the free medical care system was enforced from January 1953 when the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) was at its height. Government measures were taken in 1951 to restore the destroyed sanatoria and holiday homes for recuperation and relaxation of the working people. As a result, the number of visitors to them increased 7.5 times in 1952 over the year before and front-line rest homes were run for the soldiers of the People's Army.

Cabinet decisions on the establishment of schools for bereaved children and state social security services were adopted in 1951.

During the war, Cabinet decisions were adopted and enforced in succession including those on increasing food rations for the family members of workers, technicians and office workers, on state regular subsidies, on measures for the relief of war sufferers, and on exempting the poor peasants

from agricultural tax in kind and payment of state loan grains for 1952.

It is noteworthy that these policies had no special privileges for anyone.

If they had, they were none other than the people.

As is seen, in the DPRK the

state formulates all policies by reflecting the opinions and demands of the people and regards it as the absolute standard and an immutable principle of all its work and as its eternal policy to give top and absolute priority to the rights and interests and convenience of the people.



People enjoy a happy life under the state benefits.

Under the universal 12-year compulsory education

By Jon Sin Ju

In September 2012, the law on enforcing a universal 12-year compulsory education was adopted at the Sixth Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

In fact, it was not easy for the country to extend the education system for one year free of charge at the beginning of the new century of the Juche era despite manifold trials and ordeals facing it.

But with a deep insight into the important role education plays in the revolution and construction, Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, published such works as "Let Us Make Ours a Country of Education and a Talent Power by Bringing about a Radical Improvement in Education in the New Century" to provide important guidelines for the successful educational progress.

At the same time, a series of Party and state measures were taken to develop education, and the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK set the development of education along with science as an undertaking for the everlasting prosperity of the country to successfully maintain the lifeline of the revolution and discussed and decided on important issues for it.

He continued his field inspection tour of the field of education including newly-rebuilt Pyongyang Teachers Training College, Pyongyang University of Architecture and the Pacumui Chollikil (250-mile Journey for Learning) Schoolchildren's Palace.

Marked achievements were



Students learn to their heart's content under the benefits of the universal 12-year compulsory education system.



made in the educational field afterwards.

Many new teaching methods and education support multimedia presentations for each subject developed by teachers were widely introduced into educational practice, teaching qualifications of teachers were improved at a fast rate and a regular technical senior middle school system was established across the country to give a strong impetus to the development of all sectors including the metallurgical, electric power and coal industries.

Kim Jong Un showed warm love for and placed great trust in the educators.

He highly praised the teachers who volunteered to work at branch schools on islands and other schools in the frontline areas and remote mountain villages and put those, who devoted themselves to training students to become competent talents of the country whether they were recognized or not, forward as patriots.

With the habit of giving top priority to education being established throughout society, a social

and all-people campaign was conducted for supporting schools and projects were vigorously pushed forward to improve the educational conditions and environment in line with the world trend of educational development and pedagogical requirements.

The vitality of the universal 12-year compulsory education is growing day by day and the rosy future of the country is brought forward under the wise leadership of the respected General Secretary who prioritizes education.

Research-oriented teaching, study methods widely applied

By Ri Sang Il PT

Officials and educators of the higher education field work hard to employ research-oriented teaching and study methods.

After fixing the types, goal and demand of talents to be trained in each university, faculty and department in the scientific way last year, relevant officials and researchers of the Ministry of Education and the Academy of Pedagogical Science offer technical guidance intensively to make progress in the training of talents in each types and field this year.

In particular, they attach importance to improving the teaching methods and forms to enable all students to become active learners and searchers and acquire practical knowledge and abilities and press on with it.

Accordingly, lecturers and researchers of the institutes of higher learning at all levels put in efforts to explore ways in all aspects to introduce research-oriented teaching and study methods of a higher level and employ them this year.

Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, the University of Sciences and other major universities try to change the general study atmosphere and teaching methods and set an example in the field of higher education by

positively encouraging and developing the experience of research-oriented teaching and study methods created in the course of their work to build a top-class university.

The high-level research-oriented teaching and study methods these universities introduced within the range of training outstanding talents last year are gradually being applied to all universities and colleges. They actively involve many students in research projects from the low academic year and encourage their activities.

The introduction of research-oriented teaching and study methods is forged ahead in close connection with the work to carry out the important tasks facing the education field in the present time, including those of training more world-famous scholars and outstanding academic and practical talents who will contribute to the development of the national economy and the country's science and technology, bridging the gap in the educational level between the central and local areas and between cities and rural villages and increasing the number of polyglots.

Meanwhile, positive measures have been taken to promote experiment and practice and practical training education in the field of higher education as a whole.

Girl with outstanding foreign language ability



By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Pre-school and primary school children favour the multimedia presentation "Kindergarten English", which enables kindergartners to learn

English by means of songs, and an educational multimedia for primary school pupils to study English.

But most of them do not know whose voice was recorded in the presentations.

Im Song A (pictured), second-year

student of junior class at Songyo Senior Middle School in Songyo District of Pyongyang made a big contribution for children to learn English with her correct pronunciation at a young age.

Her English pronunciation was recorded in "Kindergarten English" when she was eight.

Her outstanding English ability at the young age is greatly attributed to her mother Pak Un Byol.

Pak, who graduated from Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies, had taught her daughter English since the child began to talk. As she simultaneously taught her Korean language and English alphabet, words and pronunciation, Pak made her develop a habit of expressing all she knew in English.

And she became a conversational partner of her daughter every day

to enhance her English-speaking skills.

Teachers of her primary school gave her unsparing help to further improve the ability of the girl who had already learned the rudiments of English.

Song A keeps more than 30 diaries in which she wrote what happened in her life in English.

They show how much she tried to express her feelings in English every day.

As she likes to draw very much, Song A shows her feelings visually by drawing pictures and inserting English sentences.

When relevant educational workers were looking for a speaker in

the English education multimedia, Pak Un Byol encouraged Song A to take part in the production of it out of a desire for her daughter's talent to make a contribution even a bit to the development of English education for children.

Song A fully demonstrated her practical ability at the second national foreign language conversation contest of junior and senior middle school students held in November last year.

She was the only first-year student at the finals entered by over 130 second-year students of junior middle schools. But from the beginning, she expressed her

thoughts fluently, freely and accurately to draw admiration of participants and teachers as well as judges and finally stood on the winners' podium.

Pak Un Byol replied to those sending her praise for her efforts that her daughter was successful thanks to the teachers of the school who had passionately guided her in study to improve her skills and always lead other students, placing deep trust on her.

Song A's English ability far surpasses her peers'. She made a video showing her life with her remarkable conversational ability, evoking a good response from netizens.



Photos show farmhouses of stylish designs newly built in rural villages across the country.

Rural community undergoes radical transformation

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The countryside is changing.

Farm towns have mushroomed in different parts of the country, boasting of the civilization in the new era, and agricultural workers move into new houses.

When they heard the news about house moving at a farm for the first time, everyone was surprised and rejoiced at the singular event. But now it has become a history.

The news about house moving in rural villages

has become an everyday occurrence in the life of the Korean people.

The rural community are now filled with joy and happiness, saying that they will move into new houses soon and that next year houses will be built in a better style in their villages.

With a growing number of agricultural workers moving into new houses throughout the country and villages in parks increasing in number with the passage of time, a radical change has also taken place in the rhythm, habit and way of life of agricultural workers.

A dynamic all-people movement has been launched to keep their new villages and houses clean and manage them well with great enthusiasm to repay the growing favour shown by the country. In the midst of it, model families and neighbourhood units of socialist cultured way of life increase in number and a growing number of agricultural workers work heart and soul to produce more crops in order to lighten the burden of the country even a little.

In the flames of scientific farming, valuable experience has been gained in producing

high yields across the country, both in the plains and mountainous areas, and the vast stretches of socialist fields are seething with activities to mechanize all farming processes.

The rapid progress of the rural technical revolution steadily increases the agricultural productive forces, making the country's agriculture modern and advanced.

Agricultural science and technology are widely disseminated among agricultural workers to carry out the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea

on making all people well versed in science and technology, building up the technical force of the agricultural production units. Various advanced farming techniques and methods have been introduced positively including the nutritive seedlings and mulching cultivation method and farming operations turned into technical ones, providing good experiences for increasing the per-hectare yield even under the extreme weather conditions that hit the county in succession.

According to the WPK's plan to step up the irrigation and mechanization of agriculture in a short time, gratifying scenes unfold in different parts of the country like new waterways built across the vast fields and efficient farm machines advancing along the farmland in row.

The rural community of the country is now being transformed with each passing day thanks to the WPK's policy on rural construction to turn all the rural villages of the country into a rich and cultured socialist paradise.

Our village full of happiness is best



Family members of Ri Won Sok, farmer of the Jangsuwon Farm under the Pyongyang Municipal Rural Economy Committee, are all smiles after moving into a new house. PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

By Kim Il Jin PT

Modern houses built all across the countryside are a hot topic of conversation these days.

Some people say they look like a picture and others call them nice villas.

People moved into new houses also at the Jangsuwon Farm under the Pyongyang Municipal Rural Economy

Committee in April this year.

'New houses are really good'

Each of the scores of blocks of single- and low-storey and terraced dwelling houses boasts unique architectural and modern beauty.

"The stairs are so comfortable my aged parents do not find it hard to go up and down them," said Ri Won Sok, another farmer living in

a terraced house. "The floor of the kitchen is covered with white tiles and it is sunny. I feel as if I'm dreaming."

Ri Sun Sil, mother of Ri Sun Chol who is a farmer living in a low-storey apartment house, said that she is hale and hearty though she is over 80 thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea, and continued:

"As there is balconies at the new house, I can take the air, do exercise and command an overall view of the village at any time. It's really refreshing."

She added that all the farmers are now living happily in highly civilized villages under the loving care of the Workers' Party.

'I'll become a patriotic farmer'

Our couple volunteered for the farm last year.

We settled in the countryside with the determination to contribute to filling up the country's granary with rice, along with some sort of worry.

As we were strangers to farming, we feared that we would be unable to become attached to rural life.

Then one day, I was very surprised.

The state provided us with a new house just like the farmers who had cultivated land all their lives.

On the day of moving into the new house, my wife kept smiling as she saw the smart kitchen equipped with a convenient sink, kitchen table and cupboard and a washroom with taps from which clear water streamed down.

As I spend dreamy days in the new house, I feel deeper gratitude toward the country bestowing great favours on ordinary farmers.

An official of the farm told me the following story:

General Secretary Kim Jong Un gave guidance over each formation plan in "The Collection of 100 Dwelling House Illustrations". Not only the structure of rural houses, which are diverse in

architectural style and whose formative artistic quality is ensured at a high level, but also such architectural elements as wall decoration, railings and ornamental lamps are associated with his warm love and meticulous care and his intention to provide our agricultural workers with civilized living conditions.

Our couple will become patriotic farmers who repay the deep affection of the country with high crop yields by devoting our sincere sweat to the fields.

Kim Man Song, farmer

Knowing farmers' innermost thoughts

More than 250 families moved into new modern flats all at a time in our farm.

Some months have passed since then, but as the days go by, I feel my home warmer, cosier and more comfortable to live.

I particularly like the communal domestic animal house.

It is very convenient to raise domestic animals such



Ri Sun Sil

as pigs, goats and rabbits.

It has a veterinary and anti-epizootic room and a disinfecting room and also the conditions for producing a lot of manure by treating the excrement of livestock.

All the farmers are determined to raise animals well at the good communal animal houses, which the country set up by reading their innermost thoughts, to enrich their life, produce a large amount of manure and thereby increase grain production.

Kye Chun Il, technical staffer

Flood victims are thankful as they have pleasant time in Pyongyang

By Kim Rye Yong PT

Today when natural disasters occur in all parts of the world, the miserable plight and difficulties of living flood victims suffer are regarded as their inevitable fates.

In late July, some regions of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces in the DPRK suffered severe flood damage as there was an unprecedentedly heavy rainfall in the northwestern part of Korea.

Immediately after the damage occurred, the Korean People's Army was mobilized to conduct a rescue operation. Then a construction campaign has been launched as the most important emergency state affair to bring the life of the flood victims to normal and completely change the flood-hit areas, instead of restoring them to their original state, so that they can provide the people with conditions to

lead a civilized and cultural life and the residents do not know what is flood victims again.

According to the direct step taken by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, well over ten thousand flood victims, especially, children, schoolchildren, aged people, invalids, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and mothers of children, were invited to Pyongyang as special guests. They spend a pleasant time under the protection and care of the state.

The April 25 Hostel and the military parade training base built for participants in national meetings and military parades have turned into their lodging places.

Full convenience provided

All conditions were provided for the special guests at the April 25 Hostel and the military parade training base in a short span of time.

A variety of foodstuffs, ranging from food and side dishes to fruits, sweets and cakes and nutritious foods, and all kinds of daily necessities including clothes, shoes, cosmetics and sanitary goods are fully provided to the flood victims.

The rooms are furnished with air-conditioners and fans to ensure suitable temperature and humidity in line with the current weather which is still hot.

The household doctor system, which is enforced throughout the country under the socialist public health system, is also invariably in force in this place.

Hundreds of medics of the Korean People's Army, whose duty is to protect the lives and security of the people, are taking care of their health on a constant basis as "household doctors" in charge of the health of the flood victims.

The Pyongyang catering

service units have mobilized competent cooks and waitresses to serve various kinds of tasty and nutritious meals according to the ages and health conditions of them, from the aged people to children, sickly people and honoured disabled soldiers.

What is more surprising is the kindergarten and school arranged at the April 25 Hostel. Though prepared for temporary use, they are fully equipped with everything for education and edification, from desks and chairs in classrooms, to teaching aids, computers, laboratory rooms for experiments and practical training, study halls, general playing spaces, and volleyball and basketball courts in the playground.

Teachers who were selected or volunteered from schools and kindergartens at all levels in Pyongyang are teaching school and kindergarten children here.

Expression of gratitude

Perhaps, no one will shed more tears than the flood victims living here.

They could hardly repress tears welling up in their eyes on the day when they saw the benevolent looks of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who warmly greeted and welcomed them at the lodging place with loving care and delivered a welcome address. They were also moved to tears during the days when they enjoyed the dreamlike happiness in Pyongyang.

Everyone sheds tears as they sit at the rich dining table, receive daily necessities that are supplied repeatedly, see the children who are laughing and talking about their new uniforms, shoes and school things, and look back on the day when they spent a pleasant time at the renowned leisure centres or scenic spots.

The nursing mothers are

excited more than anyone else. Whenever they receive the best things for babies they had not expected, they cannot control tears rolling down on the faces of their babies.

On August 31, over a thousand flood victims, from old people who celebrated their 60th, 70th and 80th birthdays to a baby celebrating its first birth anniversary, received significant and grand birthday spreads even their families had not expected.

Everyone gave vent to their gratitude and excitement, saying "the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is really the father of all of us" and "no words can express our happiness today".

With love and happiness growing with each passing day, such words as "blessing of flood damage" and "mercy of flood damage" have been coined among the flood victims.

Decorating streets with flowers

By Kil Chung Il PT

The Phyongchon District floricultural station in Pyongyang decorates streets more beautifully with flowers of different shapes and colours.

The flower beds and stands in Mirac Scientists Street and the area of Puksong-dong No.1 are filled with fully-blown flowers, giving a refreshed feeling and emotion to the pedestrians.

According to an official of the station, they have all the conditions for cultivating various kinds of flowers by season.

They obtained necessary seeds, humus, fertilizer and agrochemical, grew different kinds of flower plants in greenhouses at the beginning of the year to decorate the beds and stands in the street with fully-blown flowers.

The plants they cultivate, including big marigold, French marigold and common marigold, number tens of thousands a year.

They have conducted nutritional management of the plants so that they can resist the sweltering weather in mid-summer, and taken preventive measures against harmful insects.

In order to renew flower decoration by season in line with the state of green areas in the streets and their surroundings, they are raising top primrose, and applying methods for making flower colours brighter and the flowers bigger.

The effect of decoration differs according to where and in which form the flowers are distributed, said So Yun Hui, technical instructor of the station, adding that all employees pay attention to creating flower decoration designs.

Many employees have presented original ideas, which have been completed through collective discussion; this contributes to decorating the streets in a more characteristic way.

Thanks to their efforts, the streets in the district are becoming more beautiful.

Kind employees of optician's



Employees provide efficient and effective customer service at the Pyongyang Spectacles Shop. WON TONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



By Pang Un Ju PT

Glasses are small but they are an inseparable element in the daily life of people.

There are people who are well-known to many people for their service of glasses.

"Many people come to our shop because of kind and correct service of our shop assistants, I think," said Jang Chol, staffer for service of the Pyongyang Spectacles Shop. He introduced Manageress Song Song Hui who have worked at the shop for decades. Her father Song Tae Gwan was well-known as a patriotic businessman. She was a doctor, but she decided to follow in her father's footsteps and willingly changed her career into the glasses service sector, he said.

Song Song Hui usually says, "Kindness, correctness and scientific accuracy are the basic requirements for service.

We must regard customers as our blood relations."

Her work principle is entirely reflected in the service activities of the shop.

The optician's reportedly provides customers with immediate service like correct eye tests, mobile service to workplaces and families, delivery-to-order service and the processing of spectacle lens and repair of spectacle frames.

According to Kang Un Ha, a shop assistant, it gives correct eye tests to customers automatically or manually and chooses suitable glasses for them according to their ages and occupations. "I am happy to see customers delighted to wear glasses that suit their eyesight, saying they can see everything well," she said.

An old man said that he hesitated at first when an earpiece of his glasses was broken, but he immediately remembered the kind and polite

shop assistants of the optician's and came to the shop. And he was pleased that his glasses were repaired satisfactorily.

The shop assistants feel happy as they see customers, choosing glasses they like in terms of shape, colour and function at the glasses counters for students, children and the aged, feel satisfied.

Saying that glasses are an expression of the level of civilization of people, Pak Hyon Gyong, an employee of the shop, noted that many office workers and old people came to buy glasses in the past, but now lots of university students and children want to wear spectacles to protect their eyes.

The optician's offers free service to war veterans and special-class honoured disabled soldiers.

"I can hardly repress the feeling of gratitude to the employees of the Pyongyang Spectacles Shop for visiting

the houses of war veterans to test their eyes and serve them glasses that suit their eyesight for free and show utmost sincerity for them. Wearing glasses provided by them, I can see better. Now I can see the letters of newspapers and letters from my grandchildren clearly," said Han Tong Su, a war veteran living in Songbuk-dong of Moranbong District, as he referred to their kind-hearted service. They bring them new glasses whenever new types of glasses are produced and he feels them like his real daughters, he added.

Kim Kwang Chol, a special-class honoured disabled soldier living in Hwasong-dong No. 2 of Hwasong District, said that Hwasong Street is marvellous as he sees it wearing glasses provided by the employees of the shop.

Everyone who enjoyed kind service at the shop expresses deep gratitude to its employees.

Cornerstone and driving force of national prosperity

By **Ri Sung Ik** PT

Love for the country is the noble sense of human beings and an important factor in determining the existence, development and future of each country and nation.

If a country is burning with patriotic zeal, it can build a paradise even on the ruins. But if it lacks patriotic spirit, it will decline even if it has enormous wealth.

Therefore, every country regarded and still regards patriotism as one of the essential elements of national development both in the past and in the present world.

The DPRK has created miracles and brought about changes on the strength of patriotism and unity fully displayed over the long period of time from its birth until today.

The united strength of the Korean people was so tremendous as they were led by the great leaders.

The Korean people, who had submitted to the fate of a colonial ruined nation though they had unusual patriotic spirit and wisdom, could build a genuine country of the people and enjoy the true life and happiness in its embrace as they held President Kim Il Sung in high esteem as their leader.

That is why the Korean people absolutely trusted the President, regarded loyalty to his leadership as their staunch faith and cherished the truth of history and life deep in their hearts.

Therefore, the patriotic struggle of the people has never been separated from the loyalty to their leader in the development course of the DPRK.

Today, the real value of genuine patriotism is further highlighted in the era of comprehensive national rejuvenation.

All the Korean people are working to provide a new turning point of creation and change in perfect unity with an uphill patriotic struggle, fascinated and impressed by the ideology and ideal of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who wants to turn the country into a powerful and prosperous nation as soon as possible and provide them with plentiful and civilized life to be envied by all in the world.

In such a short time, model creations of the efflorescence of socialist civilization symbolizing the era of overall national rejuvenation of the country have sprung up continuously in the DPRK.

Eye-opening successes showing that a new era of rural development and regional development has been ushered in are the brilliant results achieved by the strong spirit of patriotism of the Korean people who are rallied closely around the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

The strength of patriotism and unity of all the Korean people, who are supporting the grand aspirations of the leader with absolute loyalty, is irresistible and it is the most important factor in national rejuvenation.

Inevitable is the revival of the DPRK, a country in which all the people share the intention with their leader, breathe the same breath as and keep pace with him, rain or shine, and where loyalty and patriotism have become national traits.

Constant efforts directed to educational development



Yom Tae Son

Head of the higher education department of the Ministry of Education

Today, the Workers' Party of Korea works out grand plans in succession to achieve the prosperity of the state and welfare of the people.

The successful implementation of them is guaranteed by education.

Our education sector continues to put big efforts into reorganizing the educational structure so as to provide advanced education.

Education guidance institutions at all levels are working to set up necessary subjects, courses and faculties, build up the ranks of teachers and improve education a level higher by developing teaching

contents and methods in a more concrete, diverse and practical way so as to train competent talents.

Accordingly, they attach special importance to improving the methods of examination and ability evaluation.

They also put spurs to solving theoretical and practical problems arising in further perfecting the general educational structure, so as to provide students education according to their natural aptitude while giving them enough general basic knowledge, and in putting the higher educational structure on the world's advanced level.

They take it as mid- and

long-term plans to positively create and introduce advanced teaching styles, methods and educational technology, so that students can develop the abilities to think in an independent and creative way and act voluntarily from childhood, and to increase the proportion of experiments, practical training and teaching of practical skills, and are pushing on with the plans.

They also channel persevering efforts into building up the ranks of teachers and enhancing their abilities and qualifications by pressing on with the campaign for radically improving their qualifications. To this end, they work to

solve the problems of upgrading teachers' training, consolidating their ranks and strengthening the re-education system for those in active service.

In keeping with the innovation in the educational structure and teaching contents and methods, they also push the projects for completely changing the educational conditions and environment.

The education sector recently succeeded in developing and introducing an experiment simulation program for each subject which helps students develop abilities to think in an independent and creative way and act voluntarily from childhood

Based on our successes, we will make better progress in the educational development of the country and thus produce substantial results.

Japan hastens its self-destruction

By **Pak Song Min** PT

Recently, voices are growing louder at home and abroad to criticize Japan's moves toward military resurgence.

A Japanese civil society organization held a briefing session and exchange of opinion on the theme of "war movement extending from Okinawa, Kyushu and West Japan to the whole country" at the Okinawa citizens' hall on August 11.

A member of the civic liaison council for protecting peace and nature of Ishigaki Island criticized the evacuation plan from the island pushed ahead by the government, saying "even if we are evacuated to Fukuoka or Yamaguchi, there is a fear that they would turn into a battlefield. All residents cannot evacuate from the island and even if they can do, they will be miserable. The whole country has to stop war preparations altogether".

Other members of the council expressed their opinions, saying that "the deployment of long-range missiles is very dangerous as it is highly likely to spark a war", "the construction of an ammunition depot in Oita is directly linked to a missile regiment in Okinawa. It is a violation of international humanitarian law to build an ammunition depot in a densely populated area".

At the rally, a joint statement was issued to demand seven organizations within and without the prefecture give a halt to "a war for the state" together with citizens and the government make efforts to achieve peace in East Asia by dint of dialogue and diplomacy.

As is known, Japan's moves towards modernizing the military hardware of its Self-Defence Forces has now become ever more undisguised.

The Japanese authorities decided on the largest-ever defence budget for 2024 which increased by 16.5 percent over last year and revised the "three principles of the transfer of defence equipment" and operation guidelines without parliamentary discussion, providing a springboard for exporting large quantities of lethal weapons abroad.

And while making a fuss about others' "threat", they are staging war drills allegedly to cope with it and building up military ties with self-invited guests that are detrimental to regional peace and security.

In this regard, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that such an act of provocation of Japan, which is hell-bent on military drills together with the US and Australia in Hokkaido near the border with Russia, poses a potential threat to Russia's security, adding that the irresponsible policy of the Kishida government is pushing Tokyo to escalate tension in Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

A spokesman for the Chinese Defence Ministry, in a press conference in April, said that the US-Japan alliance, the outcome of the Cold War, should neither target a third party nor disturb regional peace and stability.

Japan, a war criminal state which triggered a war of aggression in the past century and inflicted untold misfortune on the region and the rest of the world, has embarked on the road of overseas re-invasion again, oblivious of the lessons from its defeat. This is nothing but a reckless act of taking oil to extinguish the fire.

BYWORD

Young builders

Korean young men and women are performing feats on every socialist construction site.

This year, too, they, fully taking upon themselves the construction project for Jonwi Street in

Pyongyang, built it magnificently as a grand monument to youth.

And most recently, young people were the first to volunteer to work on the rehabilitation sites in North Phyongan

Province which were severely hit by devastating floods.

For their burning passion, the appellation of "young builders" came to symbolize the youth and their heroic feats.

It is the will of young people of new generations to carry forward the spirit of their preceding generations who unsparingly devoted their youth to national defence and prosperity.

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Press statement by chief of Public Information Office of Ministry of National Defence of DPRK

KCNA

The chief of the Public Information Office of the Ministry of National Defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 5 issued a press statement titled "Provocateurs can never evade the heavy responsibility for escalating tension", which said:

The US and the ROK are staging provocative joint military drills one after another, maximizing the military tension in the region of the Korean peninsula.

The hostile forces staged the largest-ever joint military exercises Ulji Freedom Shield from August 19 to 29 by mobilizing more than 200 fighters of various kinds, the US Army unit coping with chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear attacks and even troops of satellite countries under the "UN Command". And they have frantically been staging the joint landing drill Ssangyong from August 26.

Ssangyong drill with an involvement of division-level forces, 40-odd warships and

various kinds of 80-odd military planes and armoured vehicles is an extremely reckless and dangerous military racket presupposing an open invasion of the sacred territory of the DPRK.

Meanwhile, the ROK military gangsters early in August introduced tanks and other offensive military hardware in the area five kilometres away from the southern border of the DPRK and committed a grave provocation by staging a brigade-level field mobile drill.

For the past two months the US and the ROK military gangsters have desperately staged all sorts of provocative war exercises targeting the DPRK in the ground, sea and air, including a special operation drill aimed at the infiltration into the rear of the DPRK and "small-unit mobile live firing drill" involving the US First Armoured Division and the First Armoured Brigade of the puppet ROK Army.

The provocative anti-DPRK military drills being staged by the US and the ROK under the eyes of the DPRK without a time gap from the outset of this year clearly show what the source of escalating tension is and where

the dark clouds of security instability are coming from on the Korean peninsula.

No such area as the Korean peninsula can be found on earth, where the joint military exercises targeting a sovereign state under different codenames such as Freedom Shield, combined joint formation drill, joint airborne infiltration drill, Iron Mace are being staged in succession.

It is a well-known fact that the accumulation of such threatening actions on the Korean peninsula, the hottest spot in the state of armistice in the world, will only spark off tensions and drive the security environment in the region into an irreversibly catastrophic situation.

The US and its followers are seriously threatening regional peace and stability while getting hell-bent on unilateral military provocations. Their rash acts make clearer the origin of the provocation in a striking contrast to the peace-loving desire of the independent and sovereign states in the region.

As long as there exist the US and the ROK, confrontational entities and destroyers of peace,

the provocative military drills will continue, exposing the Korean peninsula to constant instability.

The present situation proves once again that the ceaseless buildup of the defence capabilities and their offensive application by the DPRK are the only way to neutralize the danger of war drills pursued by the US and the ROK and to control the instability in the region.

The more frequently the US and the ROK stage joint military drills, the more the DPRK hardens its will to defend the security and territorial integrity of the state by dint of powerful self-defensive strength, and this will lead to the strong deterrence, which the hostile forces seeking aggression are afraid of and hesitate.

The Korean People's Army will never tolerate the US and ROK's military moves threatening the security environment on the Korean peninsula but firmly guarantee the security of the state and regional peace by dint of strength and action.

The hostile forces can never evade the heavy responsibility for escalating tension and will have to pay a dear price.

Prospects of world food security get bleaker

By Song Jong Ho PT

About 28.9% of the world population are now suffering from food shortage.

It is a statistic published by the UN recently. According to the survey results, the number of people suffering from hunger increases in the world every year, reaching as many as hundreds of millions last year.

There are several contributors to the world food crisis, but most important is the tremendous negative influence of the ever-worsening natural disasters on the agricultural sector. This year alone, natural disasters caused by El Nino have dealt a heavy blow to agricultural production.

Experts have already released a research result that El Nino would bring about adverse effect on food production this year.

Actually, many countries are suffering great damage from natural calamities in the agricultural sector.

As the worst-ever drought hit Zimbabwe, no harvest is expected in over half of the crops, with about 7.6 million people being exposed to the danger of severe famine.

Food crisis is worsening in Namibia due to the drought caused by El Nino.

According to a report published by the UN on July 19, the level of reservoirs dropped by at least 70% and the grain output decreased by 53% due to the drought in this country. At present, nearly half of its population are suffering from food shortage, which is double the number of last year.

The situations are the same in other African countries.

The reduction of food production owing to severe drought and water scarcity has also emerged as a big problem in Europe.

Water scarcity is worsening in the middle and southern parts of Italy.

According to the local mass media, these regions have a store of irrigation water for only three weeks. In Sicily six reservoirs are dry. In

The negative influence of natural disasters on the agricultural sector has become a long-term problem, not the one limited to a certain period of time.

away farmland.

The negative influence of natural disasters on the agricultural sector has become a long-term problem, not the one limited to a certain period of time.

The past three decades show well how much damage the world agriculture has suffered from natural disasters.

According to the official statistics, the number of natural disasters occurred worldwide was about 100 every year in the 1970s, but it has increased to about 400 every year in the recent two decades and they have grown in strength and complexity.

Sardinia the water volume of reservoirs is only 57% of their storage capacity.

Heavy rain and flood inflicted untold damage on the agricultural sector in Asian countries, sweeping crops in large areas and washing

concretely, natural disasters brought damage worth about US\$ 3.8 trillion to the world agricultural production in the period between 1992 and 2021.

This means a five percent annual loss of the total annual world agricultural output value, or about 300 million tons of farm produce. Of them the annual average loss of grain is nearly 69 million tons, that of fruit, vegetable and sugar crops 4 000 tons respectively and that of meat, dairy products and eggs about 16 million tons.

Pundits see that the agricultural sector would suffer increasing damage under the situation that as the earth's temperature continues to rise and accordingly the extent of natural disasters increases. And they suggest it as the ways of reducing the damage to update data and information on the impact natural disasters make on agriculture, take measures in different sectors to lessen the effect of various kinds of calamities and boost investment in agriculture.

The bleak prospects for the world food security further highlights the importance of the work to protect the agricultural sector from natural disasters.

Briefly

Iran

President censures US, West for moves to protect Israel

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized the US and West for protecting Israel in a telephone conversation with the Norwegian Prime Minister on August 29.

The US and some Western countries keep mum about the fact that Israel kills innocent people and makes bombing raids on civilian regions, he said. More intolerable is that these countries are supplying funds and weapons to Israel, he denounced.

His country plays an important role in ensuring security in the Near East and the rest of the world, he said, adding that he would continue to strive to put an end to war, violence and instability.

CSTO

NATO condemned for moves to escalate tension

The joint chief of staff of the collective security treaty organization decried NATO for the moves to escalate tension in a press conference on August 29.

Saying that the acts of provocation by Ukraine in Kursk, Russia, are aggravating tension in the region under the control of the collective security treaty organization, he stated that NATO is reinforcing its forces near the border with member states of the CSTO on the pretext of coping with the "threat" from the east.

Japan

Locals call for halt to toxic water discharge

Shortly ago, the Japanese citizens held a rally in Tokyo to protest against the authorities' moves for discharging the nuclear contaminated water into the sea.

Many people took part in the rally held on the occasion of the first anniversary of the first dumping of the water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the sea.

The participants demanded that the authorities discontinue the discharge that pollutes the sea, holding placards including the one reading, "Stop dumping contaminated water into the sea."

Palestine

Israeli forces commit new genocide in West Bank

The Israeli forces conducted a new military operation in the northern part of the West Bank on August 28 and 29.

Their ground force accompanied by assault helicopters and drones raided Jenin, Tul Karm and another city allegedly to remove the bases of the Palestinian resistance forces.

They attacked not only residential areas but refugee settlements to shoot at people and armoured vehicles ran about around a hospital for manslaughter. In the course of this, at least ten Palestinians were killed, scores of others wounded and houses and infrastructures severely destroyed.



Pyongyang at night

A partial aerial view of Pyongyang seen from the Pothong riverside.



2024 Indoor Athletics Championships held

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The 2024 Indoor Athletics Championships were held in August at the Athletics Gymnasium on Chongchun Street and Sosan Football Stadium in Pyongyang.

They brought together nearly 150 male and female players from 18 units including the Amnokgang and Pyongyang sports clubs

and April 25 Sports Team. National records were renewed in two events at the championships which took place, divided into 19 events. Jo Kum Ryong, player of the Amnokgang Sports Club who had broken the DPRK record in the men's 60m race last year, set a new record again in the event.

Two runners bettered the DPRK record in the men's 800m race.

Kim Kwang Ho from

the Suyangsan Sports Club and Ju Man Chol from the Amnokgang Sports Club broke the old record by displaying high speed and perseverance from the beginning to the end.

At the championships, players of the Kigwancha Sports Club made a clean sweep of all trophies in the men's 60m race, 60m hurdles, long jump and triple jump and the women's 800m race.

Those from the Amnokgang Sports Club won the women's 400m race, 60m hurdles and 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay respectively.

The April 25 Sports Team was placed first in the women's 60m, 1 500m and 3 000m races, with the Suyangsan and Songchongang sports clubs winning the men's 800m race and women's long jump respectively.

2024 National Schoolchildren's Games closes

By Song Jong Ho PT

The 2024 National Schoolchildren's Games closed with a due ceremony on September 3.

Starting in January, the games were played in 18 events, including Taekwon-Do, basketball, volleyball

and speed skating. Members of various school sports groups from Pyongyang Municipality and South Hamgyong and North and South Phyongan provinces proved successful in each match.

Present at the closing ceremony held at the Central Youth Hall were

officials of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and the provincial youth league committees and officials, teachers and students of exemplary schools and schoolchildren in Pyongyang.

The provincial standings were announced. Citations

and trophy cups were awarded to the successful teams and the best player prize to exemplary members of school sports groups.

Pae Chung Il, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, made a closing address.

Historical site Chilsong Gate

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Chilsong Gate is the northern gate of the Walled City of Pyongyang on Moran Hill in Pyongyang.

It was built as the northern gate of the keep of the Walled City of Pyongyang during the reign of Koguryo in the mid-6th century.

Chilsong Gate means the northern gate, derived from the Great Bear, which is located in the northern

sky. It is associated with the heroic anti-aggression struggle of the ancestors.

During the period of Koryo Kingdom and the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), the Korean people defeated the foreign invaders at the Chilsong Gate. Thus, they have long since called it the "Gate of Victory".

Today, the Chilsong Gate is under good protection as one of the relics of national treasure value.

