



2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE



2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE

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Preface

The year 2020 was a nightmare for mankind.

A global health crisis persisted throughout the year, breaking the balance of social life and plunging the world into anxiety and fear.

Even the Olympic Games were deferred for the first time since the Second World War.

The public health crisis caused by malignant virus laid a tremendous obstacle on the way of the Korean people who started a new advance in 2020. To make matters worse, the country was hit by successive natural calamities.

However, the Korean people never flinched before the trials as they were led by Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs. The leader devoted his all to the safety of his people. Encouraged by his devoted efforts for them, the latter turned out as one in the struggle to remove the aftereffects of the disasters and could splendidly celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea as a revolutionary holiday.

By raising the elated spirit still higher and conducting a vigorous struggle, they saw off 2020 with brilliant work results and greeted the New Year 2021 in which the Eighth WPK Congress was to be held.



2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE

1. For a Fresh Upsurge

Line of a Frontal Offensive
to Achieve a Breakthrough

With an Indefatigable Will

Line of a Frontal Offensive to Achieve a Breakthrough

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in Pyongyang in late December 2019 advanced the revolutionary line of surmounting the difficulties by dint of a frontal offensive as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution. What, then, made the WPK decide on the line?

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee in April 2018 proudly declared the great victory of the line of simultaneously promoting the economic construction and upbuilding of nuclear forces put forth at the March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee, and set forth a new strategic line of focusing an all-out effort on socialist economic construction.

The result was that the Korean people could put an end with nuclear forces to their hostile forces' long-drawn-out nuclear threat and focus on socialist economic development in the struggle for building a prosperous and civilized socialist country.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee created an enormous sensation in the world.

But the forces hostile towards the DPRK, frightened by its rapidly-increasing might, tried tenaciously to block its independent development.

Having realized that they could not stop the Korean people's advance by means of military force, they resorted to the policy of isolating and suffocating the DPRK through sanctions. In the meantime, they put forth the demands, which ran counter to the fundamental interests of the Korean people, as conditions for lifting the sanctions. Their schemes were an unbearable challenge for the Korean people.

The prevailing situation demanded that the Korean people further consolidate their internal forces in all aspects.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held in this environment discussed the struggle orientation in the prevailing internal and external situations and the issues on splendidly celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the WPK.

The report to the plenary meeting reviewed and analyzed the struggle conducted over the past eight months since the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee in April 2019.

The report mentioned that during the period which was characterized by continuous intensive struggle and dynamic advance, the WPK had always formulated and implemented correct foreign and domestic political lines centred on the people's urgent demands, rights and interests, and the country's sovereignty and security; in this course it had achieved remarkable successes.

Next, the report pointed out that the real intention of the United

States was to seek its own political and diplomatic interests under the signboard of dialogue and negotiations and at the same time clinging to sanctions so as to gradually reduce the DPRK's strength.

The report disclosed the double-dealing behaviour of the United States which was just using the DPRK-US talks as a means to gain time to stifle the DPRK politically, militarily and economically, without any intention to withdraw its policy hostile towards the DPRK and improve its relations with the latter.

Stressing that the fierce confrontation with the enemy was always accompanied by the work of strengthening one's own forces and only when priority was given to self-strengthening can one take the initiative and achieve victory, the report mentioned the problems that needed to be put to rights in state management, the economic work and other fields from the viewpoint of building up the country's strength.

It pointed out that, although the country was crying out for self-reliance and self-sufficiency, the implementation of this work was not yet freed from the habit of the past, and analyzed the present situation including state management and economic work which was insufficient for pulling and spurring the great cause of self-reliance and self-development.

On the basis of this analysis, the report set forth major tasks of rearranging the economic work system and order first.

It then mentioned crucial tasks for conducting the economic work firmly in conformity with the practical conditions, finding

out a clear-cut way of improving planning to meet the actual requirements, keeping the overall balance between production and supply and raising the confidence in the national economic plan.

It specified the orientation of solving key issues for the economic growth to be pushed forward by the whole Party and state. They included the issue of abolishing unnecessary procedures and systems in improving the economic management as required by the times when all the countries around the world were vying with each other to develop new technologies and new products by racing against time, the issue of putting on the right track all the elements that hampered production activities and decreased working efficiency in state management and the economic work, the issue of expanding and strengthening the national specialized construction forces and modernizing their building equipment so as to make them take charge of major projects and the issue of conducting the work of enforcing the socialist system of responsible business operation in a realistic way.

It made an overall analysis of the evil practices and the state of stagnation revealed in the fields of the metal, chemical, electric-power, coal-mining, machine-building, building-materials and light industries and rail transport, and specified scientific and substantial measures for bringing about a stride forward in the economic work.

Next, the need to improve science, education and public health was stressed.

Noting that if science was an engine leading the economic

development, education could be called the mother of science, the report referred to the need to steadily improve the structures and teaching programmes of universities and colleges in keeping with the developing reality and the world trend, to make the contents of education practical, comprehensive and up-to-date, to narrow the differences in the level of education between the central and local areas and to produce larger numbers of talented personnel and valuable sci-tech findings.

Mentioning that public health was a major criterion of the image of socialism through which the people directly enjoy the advantages of the socialist system, the report set forth tasks arising for the socialist public health service in sustaining its original features, building up its material and technological foundations and encouraging all the medical workers to be possessed of warm human love and high level of medical qualifications.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un declared the plenary meeting close with an earnest appeal for all the revolutionaries to become the people's faithful and diligent servants who work heart and soul for them.

On the morning of January 1, 2020, all the mass media of the DPRK gave coverage of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee.

As soon as the coverage was released, it raised full support of all the Korean people and great sensation among them and the world's major mass media vied each other to relay it.

With an Indefatigable Will

The economy was the major thrust area in the frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough, a new revolutionary line put forth in early 2020.

In pursuance of the line, concrete plans and methodology for improved economic work were worked out, and practical measures for their implementation taken.

The Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory was a project of primary importance in developing the country's chemical industry onto a higher level.

In order to ensure a stable and sustainable crop yield despite natural calamities which struck the country almost every year, it needed its own modern base for mass-producing high-concentration ammonium phosphate fertilizer.

On January 6, 2020, Kim Jong Un visited the fertilizer factory which was under construction.

While being briefed about the master plan of the factory and the scientific and technological problems arising in its construction, he acquainted himself with the progress of its construction in detail.

After looking round the construction site, he expressed his expectations and belief that all the builders, workers, scientists and technicians employed for its construction, would exert themselves as the point men in the gigantic frontal offensive with patriotic

minds that they were also responsible for agriculture, the forefront in defending socialism.

Encouraged by his visit, the builders, scientists and technicians fulfilled the difficult tasks arising in the construction by their own efforts and technology.

On May 1, 2020, Kim Jong Un attended the ceremony for its completion and cut the ribbon.

The completion of the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory was the first success achieved on the economic front after the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee and served as an important occasion in bringing about a leap forward in the chemical industry.



Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory



With a view to turning the frontal offensive into an occasion for devoted service for the people, the WPK decided to build a modern general hospital in Pyongyang, the capital city of the country, to mark the 75th anniversary of its founding.

The ground-breaking ceremony for its construction was held on March 17, 2020, on the shore of the Taedong River which runs through the central part of the city.

Kim Jong Un delivered a speech in the ceremony.

In the speech he said: In ensuring that we usher in without fail an historic and dynamic phase in the course of developing socialism this year, we are facing a number of challenging and colossal tasks; of the fighting tasks, one is particularly important and worthwhile; it is to build a modern general hospital; this is something our Party has long planned and aspired to do; the Party Central Committee postponed several construction projects planned for this year and identified the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital as a major project to be completed by the 75th anniversary of the Party's founding, one which should be given priority over other construction projects this year, the first year of the all-out frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough; subsequently, it has made full preparations.

He continued: The Pyongyang General Hospital, which, despite the manifold difficulties and hardships, will rise high in the centre of the capital, will be a structure that not only demonstrates the true spirit of our country as it advances vigorously towards a better future by frustrating with good humour the cruel sanctions and blockade

imposed by hostile forces, but also highlights the constancy of our revolution.

In the concluding part he called out: Let us all strive hard, by truly devoting our sweat and blood, for this honourable and worthwhile construction project and for the sake of our people, and build on this very spot a wonderful hospital for the people that will be the envy of the world.

After the speech, he broke ground first to signal the start of the construction of the hospital and pressed the button for blasting.

Meanwhile, a chicken farm which would greatly contribute to



Ground-breaking ceremony of the Pyongyang General Hospital

shoring up the country's poultry farming started to take shape in Kwangchon-ri, Hwangju County, North Hwanghae Province.

On July 22, 2020, Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of the Kwangchon Chicken Farm.

While acquainting himself with the progress of the construction, he suggested building good houses first for the people to be relocated owing to the construction so as to release them of discomfort.

In 2020 the country's scientists and technicians established a firm outlook on the independent development of science and technology and made tireless efforts, in the course of which they scored many successes conducive to the economic development and improvement of the people's living standards.

As part of an effort to perfect the Juche-based system of making iron scientifically and technologically and increase production capacity, the metal industry successfully promoted the work of introducing in the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex the floating-type preheating furnaces which increase productivity while remarkably decreasing oxygen consumption and saving ore and coal.

The electric-power industry achieved successes in its effort to restore the original capacity of generating equipment and operate the thermal and hydraulic power plants in their maximum capacity.

It also strived to reinforce the existing power-generation

foundation of hydraulic power plants by relying on advanced science and technology.

The light industry sector set it as its major tasks to tap locally-available raw and other material resources, diversify consumer goods in terms of shape and kind and raise their quality.

The mining industry recorded successes in putting the process of producing fireproof materials, thereby opening a prospect for increasing production.

As seen above, the economic sector was the major thrust area of the frontal offensive of the Korean people to defend and achieve dignity and prosperity on their own.

2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE

2. Unexpected Challenge

Outbreak of COVID-19

Preemptive Response



Outbreak of COVID-19

From early 2020 the world was plunged into anxiety and fear for COVID-19, a life-threatening virus.

The novel coronavirus epidemic which broke out in December 2019 rapidly spread throughout the world. Everything was unclear about the virus—the route of its infection and even the cause of its outbreak—and the speed of its dissemination was very high.

At first, the public failed to recognize its danger and thought that it would die down as in the case of SARS and vaccines would soon be developed.

But they were mistaken. The danger did not abate but instead

Global COVID-19 situation



grew with each passing day, threatening the people's lives.

The number of infected cases which was only scores as of December 2019 increased to thousands in mid-January next year.

Still it was not taken seriously, resulting in the virus sweeping the world.

On January 30, 2020, the WHO declared a global health emergency and in February named the virus COVID-19.

Notwithstanding this, the number of the infected cases kept increasing. It surpassed 11 million in a matter of only six months.

In contrast to the guess that the epidemic would abate when the weather became hot, it grew alarmingly serious. Untimely lifting of anti-epidemic measures by various countries brought irrevocable aftereffects.

The world resounded with the lamentation of bereaved families of the deceased from the pandemic and hospitals were filled with extremely serious cases to their capacity.

As of October the numbers of cases and the dead were 41 019 310 and 1 128 800 and of November, 55 921 700 and 1 342 700, respectively.

As it grew colder, it caused even greater harm to various fields of social life including the economy and culture.

Only then did the world recognize the severity of the disease and start to pay heed to anti-epidemic work, but it was too late.

Preemptive Response

The world health crisis laid a big obstacle in the frontal offensive of the Korean people and this demanded timely measures.

To defend the security of the state and safety of the people, the WPK made an immediate and resolute decision—complete closing of the country's borders, coastal lines and territorial air from mid-January 2020.

Some countries betrayed uneasiness, expressing regret over the DPRK's measure.

As a matter of fact, an effective vaccine was yet to be developed. If the DPRK opened its borders, it might suffer a loss decisive of the destiny of the country and nation.

In other words, COVID-19, once it came into the country's territory, might cause a fatal loss to it and its people.

In a word, it might lose ten, nay 100, years for an immediate gain. The only choice for the country was to build a preemptive and perfect barrier based on the nationwide unity of thinking and act.

For this reason, the WPK and the DPRK government, though they were fully aware that the rigid blockade might impede the economy and people's living, made such a difficult decision for



Intense pandemic prevention work



the country's security and people's safety as they firmly trusted their people.

The meetings of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee held in 2020 discussed epidemic prevention as the top agenda item and took measures for building up a timely and perfect prevention barrier.

The focus of all the meetings was to raise the level of the citizens' awareness of crisis and encourage them to take voluntary part in the prevention effort with a high degree of alertness.

They also stressed the need to focus an all-out effort on ensuring that all the citizens were highly conscious of prevention work and discussed measures to establish a thoroughgoing barrier within the territory of the country and all-people prevention system and to stabilize the people's living.

The enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee held in late February 2020 discussed the issues related to applying measures of super class throughout the country to ward off the disease which was rapidly spreading across the world.

After discussing the steps to prevent the inflow and dissemination of the malignant virus in a scientific and preemptive way, the meeting stressed that no exception should be allowed within the prevention system, that a strict discipline should be set up whereby all the sectors and units unconditionally obey the central

prevention headquarters and implement its decisions and that legal surveillance should be intensified.

It also pointed out that it was important to defend the people's lives and safety by intensifying medical examination, inspection and other preventive work while blocking every passage, through which the virus may make inroads, in accordance with the already-established work system and order.

The meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on April 11 decided to keep the nationwide measures in place to cope with the uninterrupted spread of the pandemic and studied measures to modify some political tasks for implementing the resolution adopted at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee in line with the prevailing internal and external situations.

The meeting adopted a joint resolution of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK State Affairs Commission and the DPRK Cabinet on intensifying measures for protecting the people's lives and safety.

Referring to the need to intensify nationwide prevention work, the resolution advanced concrete objectives for 2020 in the effort to promote economic construction and stabilize the people's living, as well as the fighting tasks for all sectors and units.

Despite the intensive prevention work, a dangerous situation that might lead to a destructive and catastrophic disaster was

created in Kaesong on July 19. To cope with this situation, the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee convened an emergency enlarged meeting on July 25.

At the meeting the WPK Central Committee clarified its decision to declare an emergency in the relevant area, raise the nationwide emergency prevention system to top emergency system and issue the special-class alarm.

A meeting of the Executive Policy Council of the WPK Central Committee on August 5 studied the situation in tightly-closed Kaesong in compliance of the top emergency system and decided that the WPK Central Committee would provide the local people with special aid money and food grains.

The 16th meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee on August 13 discussed again the measures for focusing on removing the aftereffects of flooding so as to stabilize the living of the disaster victims as soon as possible and maintain rigid prevention system and perfect the system of commanding prevention work.

It stressed the need for the WPK and the government to advance right policy orientation for simultaneously coping with two challenges—the global health crisis and unexpected natural disasters that hit the country—and to display refined leadership art in this three-dimensional and offensive struggle.

The 17th enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the

Seventh WPK Central Committee held on August 25 examined the overall state of the prevention work and discussed the measures for intensifying it.

After notifying its participants of the defects evident in emergency prevention work, it stressed the need to constantly improve and maintain prevention state and take strong Party-wide and society-wide measures for eliminating the root causes of the defects.

The 20th enlarged meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held on November 15 discussed issues related with reinforcing the national prevention system.

The meeting analyzed and reviewed the severity of the pandemic situation and the domestic prevention state and advanced the Party-oriented, military and economic tasks for reinforcing the prevention work, the major front in the 80-day campaign.

It also stressed that officials, mindful of their heavy responsibility they have assumed for the country's security and people's safety, should remain highly alert and perfect barrier should be built up and the prevention work be further intensified.

Never before in its 75-year-long history had the WPK discussed prevention work as a major agenda item of almost all the meetings of its Political Bureau in a year as it did in 2020.

As seen above, the WPK and the DPRK government planned and executed all work regarding the country's security and people's

lives and safety as the top priority.

And all the people supported the steadfast determination of the WPK and the government to defend at all costs the people's lives and safety which constitute the country's foundation and assets and turned out as one in the struggle to implement it. They highly displayed the noble trait of helping and leading each other forward in the prevention campaign.

2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE

3. Surmounting Aftereffects of Natural Disasters

Catastrophic Natural Disasters
With Passion and a Tender Heart
Living Up to the People's Trust



Catastrophic Natural Disasters

The world experienced many natural disasters including typhoons and flooding caused by global warming in 2020, too.

The DPRK was no exception in this.

Typhoon Nos 8, 9 and 10 hit various parts of the country in succession during late August and early September, causing disastrous flooding, tidal storms and typhoons.

In August floods hit the country's central inland part including Taechong-ri, Unpha County and Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, both in North Hwanghae Province, and Kimhwa County in Kangwon Province.

Typically, a flood struck Taechong-ri in early August, submerging over 730 houses, 600 hectares of paddy fields and demolishing 179 houses.

On August 26 and 27, typhoon No 8 swept the western coastal areas and various other parts of the country.

Typhoon No 8 was stronger and more disastrous in terms of intensity and severity than typhoon No 13 of September 2019.

In particular, North and South Hwanghae provinces suffered the greatest damages. Fully-grown crops were submerged and damaged.

On September 3, typhoon No 9 hit the northern part of the country including Hoeryong in North Hamgyong Province and Komdok area in South Hamgyong Province.

Heavy rains and strong wind destroyed about 1 000 houses and submerged many public buildings and a large area of farmland.

Tidal waves damaged dykes, houses, public buildings and harbours.

Shortly afterwards, on September 7, typhoon No 10 struck the northern part again, wreaking havoc on it.

In the wake of the typhoon heavy rains lashed various parts of the country on September 7 and 8—more than 150mm on the eastern coastal area, 300-400mm in some parts of North Hamgyong and Kangwon provinces and Rason accompanied with downpours and over 100mm accompanied with downpours in various parts of northern inland area and middle inland area along the west coast.

Gales of more than 35m/s of maximum instantaneous speed swept the country on 7 and 8—a gale of over 25m/s of maximum instantaneous speed in the inland areas along the east coast, North and South Hwanghae provinces, Nampho and Kaesong and a gale of 15m/s in Pyongyang, North and South Phyongan provinces and some northern inland areas.

Flooding and typhoons which hit the country in succession damaged dams, railways and railway bridges, farmland, roads, waterways, irrigation structures and rivers.



Some villages damaged by typhoons



With Passion and a Tender Heart

As mentioned above, manifold trials and ordeals befell the Korean people in 2020. The global health crisis which started in the beginning of the year was an unexpected challenge for them, but the natural disasters that hit their country in succession were one misfortune on top of another.

However, they could successfully overcome all the difficulties and trials thanks to their benevolent socialist system and the noble social trait of helping and leading one another forward.

On August 6, 2020, Kim Jong Un personally drove his car along the muddy road to Taechong-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, which was afflicted by flooding. He visited the place again after a few days.

He inquired about the damage. He felt relieved only after hearing the report that there was no casualty because all the inhabitants had been evacuated to safe places. Then he clarified concrete tasks and ways for restoring the place.

Measures for stabilizing the life of the flood victims were adopted shortly after his visit.

Food grains were provided to them and the soldiers of the Korean People's Army were dispatched on a mission to build

houses for them. They were offered the offices of the WPK county committee, county people's committee and other county-level organs, public buildings and unaffected houses, as well as household goods including new quilts, TV sets and fans. The county officials worked in makeshift tents and doctors visited the victims every day.

There is another example.

In late August 2020 typhoon No 8 was approaching the west coast of the country.

Kim Jong Un telephoned the senior officials of South Hwanghae Province and the counties of the province located on the expected route of the typhoon more than ten times. He advised them on how to minimize the damage by the typhoon and stressed that they should pay special attention to safeguarding the people's lives and safety.

When the typhoon came, he, driving his car in the raging storm, looked round the streets of Pyongyang out of his concern for the citizens' safety. But the Korean people did not know about this until the end of the year.

On September 5, the WPK Executive Policy Council had its enlarged meeting in a stricken area.

The meeting seriously discussed the issue of restoration of North and South Hamgyong provinces and decided on the concrete

measures for forming construction forces to be dispatched there and for providing designs of architectural structures and building materials.

That day Kim Jong Un sent an open letter to the WPK members in Pyongyang.

In the letter he wrote that typhoon No 9 had inflicted damage on Kangwon and North and South Hamgyong provinces on the east coast and that in the critical situation which admitted not a moment of delay, the WPK Central Committee had decided to unburden itself of the problem of strongly supporting the reconstruction project sites in North and South Hamgyong provinces to none other than the WPK members in the capital city.

This year we have experienced special difficulties owing to the continuing worldwide healthcare crisis concurring with the natural disasters, but we are overcoming all these difficulties bravely on the strength of the unity of the Party and the people; this is a year of struggle, advance and unity, in which we are achieving firmer solidarity through a super-intense, arduous struggle, he added.

He continued to write:

“October 10 (the anniversary of the WPK founding–Tr.) **is approaching nearer, and even though we are under difficult conditions and time is not enough, we can never leave the many new disaster victims in North and South Hamgyong provinces**

to greet the holiday outdoors; the WPK Central Committee calls upon the Party members in the capital city, with the warm care and solicitude of the Party and deep affection of Pyongyang, to wholeheartedly console the people in the damaged areas, help them and work with devotion so that they can get rid of the aftereffects as soon as possible.

“Now the front where the reconstruction campaign is being conducted to relieve the disaster victims of their inconveniences and sufferings is the forefront to which our Party must direct all its efforts. That is why the WPK Central Committee has decided to organize elite divisions, involving 12 000 hardcore Party members in the capital city, to be dispatched immediately to North and South Hamgyong provinces, respectively.

“Explaining to the people in the afflicted areas the genuine desire of the WPK Central Committee to turn the misfortune into blessings and get them to live in better houses and in a better environment, you should sincerely help them to carry out the reconstruction projects with confidence and optimism.”

Saying that what worried him most was their health, he asked the WPK members to be dispatched to finish the projects and come back to the capital city of Pyongyang and their dear houses in good health.

His letter inspired strength and courage in all the Korean people.

On the morning of September 6, innumerable WPK members volunteered to be enlisted in the divisions to be organized and dispatched to the afflicted areas, many of them boasting that they were highly experienced in construction.

Even elderly WPK members asked their organizations to permit them to be involved, saying that they could at least work as cooks for the volunteers.

Other Pyongyang citizens, who were not WPK members, responded to the call of Kim Jong Un. As a result, two powerful divisions were formed in a day.

Directly after a rally they held in the plaza park of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, the combatants of the divisions set off to their designated areas.

Immediately on arriving at the stricken areas, they buckled down to laying roads for the transport of building materials even before they built their lodgings.

They finished digging for bases and removing the excavated earth within a few days after their arrival and started placing concrete for base building.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the members of the divisions and all other people across the country, new houses for the victims were built in many disaster-stricken areas before the 75th anniversary



of the WPK founding.

The restoration campaign was not merely an effort to remove the aftereffects of the disasters, but it was a process in which a radical change was brought about in the people's ideological viewpoint and work style and misfortune was turned into a blessing.

Houses, public buildings, roads, bridges, railways and embankments were replaced by better and stronger ones. In building houses the dwellers' opinions and interests were taken into consideration.

In the course of this campaign to defend the lives and happiness of the people, the single-hearted unity, one of the DPRK's peculiar features, was further cemented and fully demonstrated and the ties of blood between the WPK and the people were consolidated.

Living Up to the People's Trust

In 2020 the Korean people's trust in the KPA grew stronger, and their trust in the WPK was defended by the KPA.

To look back, the KPA soldiers had performed feats in major sectors of socialist economic construction as well as in national defence.

They built many monumental edifices in the 1990s which was a period of Arduous March and forced march for the DPRK as they had done in the 1980s.

In recent years they played a major role in building the Munsu Water Park, Masikryong Ski Resort, Wisong Scientists Dwelling District, Mirim Riding Club, Sci-tech Complex, Mirae Scientists Street, Ryomyong Street, Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, houses in Rason and North Hamgyong Province and other people's cultural resorts and architectural structures as required by the demands of the new century.

They shed sweat and blood for the people's wellbeing also in the restoration campaign in 2020.

The KPA soldiers who were dispatched to Tacchong-ri, Unpha County and Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County both in North Hwanghae Province in early August 2020 fulfilled their noble mission as the

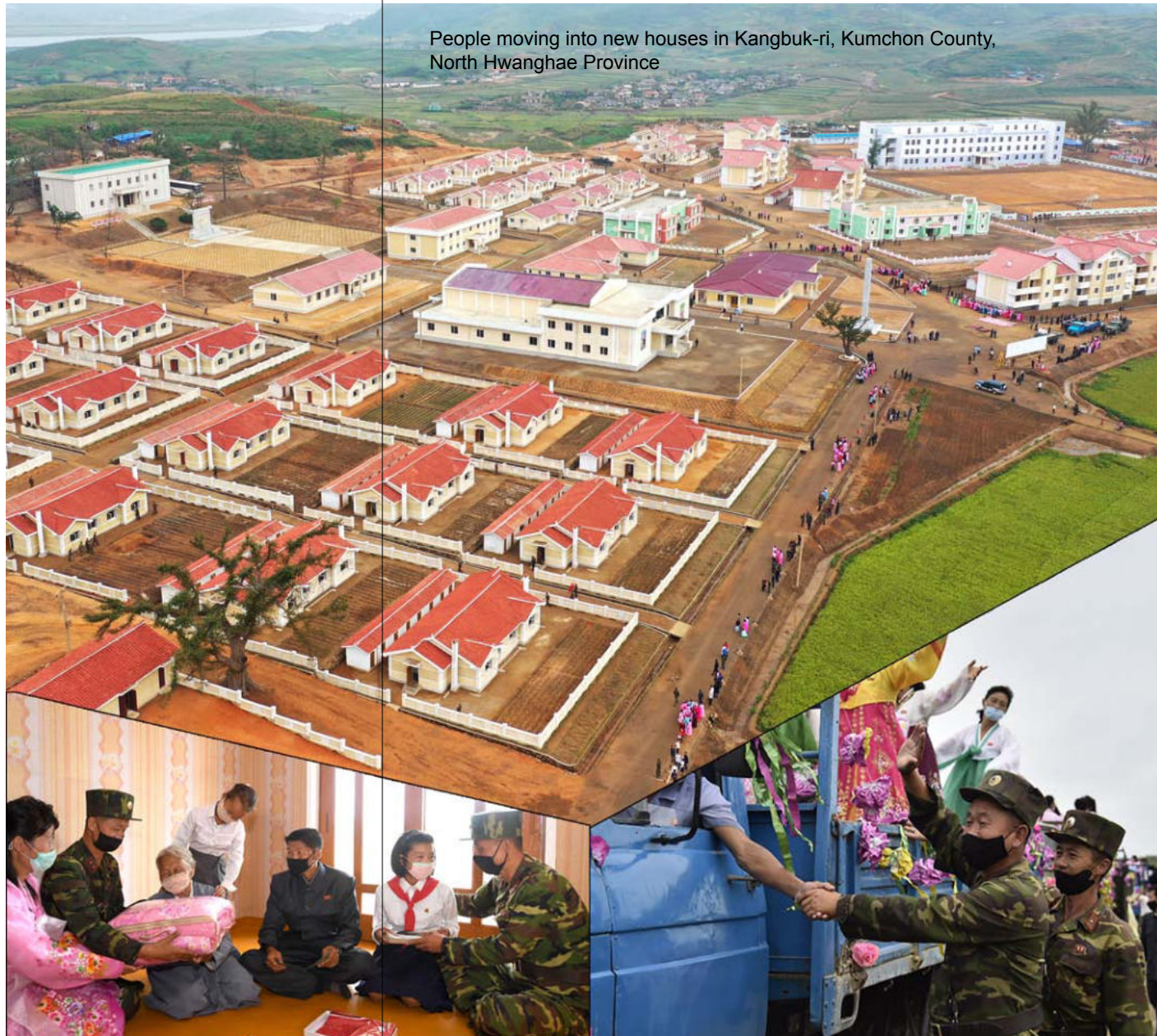
army of the people.

They never imposed a burden on the local people but devoted themselves to the restoration campaign with a mind that they were building houses for their own families.

Those who were involved in repairing an embankment built a cofferdam even at the risk of their lives, whereas others waged a 24-7 campaign in torrential rains to relink roads and weirs.

Other KPA soldiers finished building the framework of a three-storeyed apartment block within just three days.

Taechong-ri and Kangbuk-ri were turned into beautiful fairylands



People moving into new houses in Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, North Hwanghae Province

in 30 days, fully demonstrating the ideological, spiritual and moral traits of the KPA soldiers who were possessed of boundless loyalty to the WPK and ardent love for the people.

The people of Komdok, South Hamgyong Province, the east coastal areas in Kangwon Province and the areas in North Hamgyong Province had never expected that the aftereffects could be removed and their houses built so quickly and so excellently.

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the KPA soldiers, the disaster victims were provided with well-furnished houses before the 75th anniversary of the WPK founding and most of the projects were finished.

The Korean people extended thanks to the WPK which had trained such an army.

In his speech at the military parade celebrating the 75th anniversary of the WPK, Kim Jong Un said: The KPA service personnel would say that defending their country, people and revolution is the natural duty of the People's Army, but the pains they have gone to, are too great; the tasks they have undertaken are too many and the pains they have gone to, too great; because of this, I feel great remorse, and it pains my heart that they are not all here with us on this glorious night; I pay the highest tribute to them for their loyal and filial, ardent devotion to our state and people, and extend warm thanks to all service personnel.

In the grim situation of 2020 the KPA creditably secured the WPK's people-first politics and the people's trust in the WPK.

The Korean people celebrated the October holiday with gratitude to and trust in the WPK which had trained such a laudable army.

2020: A YEAR OF TRIALS AND STRUGGLE

4. Victorious Conclusion

Imposing Military Parade

80-Day Campaign



Imposing Military Parade

On the night of October 9, 2020, Kim Il Sung Square was crowded with the people who gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the WPK founding.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in late December 2019 had discussed the agenda item on significantly celebrating the 75th anniversary of the WPK founding. 284 days, or 6 816 hours, had passed since the beginning of 2020.

For this night of celebration, the Korean people had displayed so much patience and devoted so great efforts, overcoming harsh trials and difficulties.

So all the people present there were filled with the confidence and deep emotion of victors.

Amid a chime signalling the start of the new day, October 10, and the playing of the welcome music, Kim Jong Un mounted the rostrum in the square.

He waved back to the enthusiastically cheering paraders and audience.

After a short while he delivered a speech full of emotions.

In his speech, he first congratulated warmly all the people in the country and the service personnel of the Korean People's Army and the Public Security Forces, members of the Worker-Peasant

Red Guards and Young Red Guards, delegates attending the celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the WPK founding, Pyongyang citizens, and officers and men of the units participating in the military parade held to celebrate the glorious October holiday.

He also extended heartfelt thanks to all the service personnel of the Korean People's Army.

Then he continued: I also offer my militant encouragement and thanks to my most dependable combatants who make up the divisions of WPK members dispatched from the capital city as a hardcore force; they are patriots who deserve to be present here; but instead, they volunteered, after completing their tasks at the rehabilitation project sites, to go to other disaster-hit areas, rather than returning to Pyongyang and their beloved families; I hope that those families that have settled in new villages and homes after recovering from the effects of the natural calamities, as well as other families across the country, will experience nothing but happiness and joy; I hope that our children will always see their happy dreams come true.

He added:

“No other country in the world celebrates a party's founding anniversary as a joyous holiday and grand, auspicious event for the entire population, as our country does. I carefully considered what I might say first at this moment, when we are looking back on every page of our Party's glorious 75-year history. But I have

only one heartfelt, sincere word for our people: *Thanks*.

“First of all, I thank them for being healthy and free from illness. For our Party, nothing is more precious than the life of every one of our people. Their good health is essential to the very existence of our Party, our state, and everything on this land. Our people rose up and, in a display of great commitment, expressed absolute support for and trust in the measures adopted by the Party and state. In this way, they not only resolutely safeguarded their destiny, but also bravely and with great vigour overcame the severe hardships and trials. Were it not for such excellent people who worry about, care for and protect one another, and were it not for our socialist society in which these people work together in a spirit of patriotism and self-awareness, we would not have prevented the dreadful catastrophe.

“Thanks to the trust of all the people, I have been handed the important responsibility of leading this country, upholding the cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Yet my efforts and sincerity have fallen short of ridding our people of all the hardships they face. Our people, however, have always believed in and fully trusted me, and supported every one of my plans and decisions. Here tonight, I solemnly swear once again that I will live up to the people’s trust without fail, even if my body is torn and crushed to pieces in the course of defending their great trust, and that I will remain faithful to it.

“Without our own independent strength, we could do nothing

other than use our clenched fists to wipe away the streaming tears and blood. Our Party, with our powerful military strength, will guarantee the sovereignty of the country and the security of its territory, and safeguard for ever the safety, peace and future of our state and people.

“Time is on our side. Let us all advance vigorously towards a bright future of socialism, towards fresh victory! Finally, I once again extend thanks to all the people for being in good health, free from any disease. And I also extend my heartfelt thanks to them for invariably trusting in our Party.”

He concluded his speech, saying, “Long live our great people!”

Amid the playing of the national anthem, the national flag was slowly hoisted and the military parade began.

The parade demonstrated the qualitative development of the DPRK’s armed forces, and was a grand one unprecedented in the history of the country’s military parade.

From the beginning to the end, it demonstrated the highly modernized and artistic levels of the KPA, opening a new chapter of the history of military art.

It was combined with music of a new style; the music was light, energetic and sometimes solemn, accentuating the characteristic features of each arm and service.

The uniforms and equipment of the paraders were strong in the Korean character as they suited the character of modern warfare,





natural and geographical conditions of the country and physical features of the Korean people.

The night flight skills of the column of airplanes and the combination of colourful fireworks and decorative illumination highlighted the unique features of the Korean-style parade and the time selection of the parade.

When the parade was over, Kim Jong Un warmly waved back to the enthusiastically cheering audience.

Lasting for about two hours since his speech, the parade solemnly declared to the world which path socialist Korea would take and how it would guarantee it.

80-Day Campaign

The 19th Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held on October 5, 2020, discussed the issue of splendidly greeting the Eighth Congress of the WPK by waging an 80-day campaign involving the entire WPK, the whole country and all the people.

Over 80 days remained before the Eighth WPK Congress which would be a highly important political event in the new journey of the Party.

The Korean people faced a heavy yet important task of holding celebration events of the 75th anniversary of the WPK founding they had prepared with great efforts and then greeting with proud successes the Eighth WPK Congress which was scheduled for early January 2021.

Still they had many trials and hardships that could not be ignored at home and abroad, as well as heavy tasks to be implemented within 2020.

They could not slacken their pace for many reasons, the least of which was to consolidate the historic successes they had achieved in the course of overcoming the trials and ordeals in 2020 through a frontal offensive.

The meeting specified the campaign's main objective, the main principles to be maintained in the campaign and the goals to be

attained by each sector.

The main thrust area of the 80-day campaign, too, was the epidemic prevention front, i.e., to maintain strict prevention measures.

Other targets were to complete the large-scale restoration projects, wind up the year's farming successfully, step up the planned national priority projects and at the same time accelerate the struggle for implementing the five-year strategic plan for national economic development as much as possible.

All the people turned out in response to the call of the WPK for brilliantly concluding the struggle of the last 80 days of 2020.

In the initial period of the campaign, the workers, scientists and technicians in the rail transport sector developed 6-axis alternating-current electric locomotive by introducing the state-of-the-art technology and the workers of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex overfulfilled the daily electricity production plan by more than 30 per cent.

The textile industry sector produced over 1 000 workers who overfulfilled their yearly plans, thus greatly instilling great strength and courage in others.

Of course, the achievements were not so great in the light of the ideals of the Korean people. But because they were attained under unfavourable conditions, they could be called valuable assets in their efforts for tapping locally-available raw and other materials and recycling and for strengthening their internal force.

According to the report of the Korean Central News Agency on January 1, 2021, on the successful conclusion of the 80-day campaign, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, Chollima Steel Complex and other units of the metal industry sector hit their targets for the production of pig iron, steel, rolled steel, iron ore and other major indices ahead of schedule.

Several units in the chemical industry sector completed the projects for expanding their production capacity and more than a hundred farms in the agricultural sector reaped a rich harvest in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions of the year.

The electric power industry, the coal-mining industry and the rail transport sector exceeded their campaign targets by 6.4 per cent, 2 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

Many units in the mining industry sector fulfilled their production quotas and over 40 units in the forestry sector carried out their campaign plans.

The workers of the general tideland reclamation enterprises of North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces completed the second-stage project of the Honggondo tideland reclamation and the construction of the third and fourth sections of the Ryongmaedo tideland, bringing a large area of tideland equivalent to the farmland of a county under cultivation.

The Kumyagang Power Plant No 2 and other power plants were completed and many factories and cultural facilities such as the Pyongyang Electric Medical Appliances Factory, Unjong Tea



Bottling Factory and Pyongyang National Musical Instrument Factory were built. Over 7 900 technical innovations were made, greatly contributing to putting the national economy on a scientific basis.

In this way the Korean people splendidly adorned the year 2020 fraught with uncountable hardships with the 80-day campaign and saw in the new year 2021 in which the Eighth WPK Congress, a great



turning point for bringing about a new upsurge and transformation in socialist construction, was to be held.

Still, formidable challenges are in store for the Korean people. But they will steadily and perseveringly strive to usher in an era of new prosperity, an era when their ideals and dream come true.

2020: A Year of Trials and Struggle

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