

TEN YEARS OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS



Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)

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PREFACE

Ten years have passed since President Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs began to lead socialist Korea.

The past decade was a dynamic period full of transformations, creations and advances, during which the country's national might was remarkably consolidated and the future of a powerful socialist country was assured.

In the decade, the country's conditions and environment were as difficult as ever; the unprecedentedly harsh sanctions and blockade by its hostile forces, several natural calamities and global health crisis lasting for several consecutive years impeded its advance.

However, Kim Jong Un braved all these trials in the vanguard and led the people by indicating directions and giving continuous on-site guidance.

Reflecting the unanimous desire of the people to hold up President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in high esteem for all eternity, he ensured that the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where the President and the Chairman are preserved in their lifetime appearances was refurbished as the supreme sanctuary of Juche.

He formulated their revolutionary ideology into Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, defined the people-first principle as its essence and

developed it into the eternal guiding ideology, guidelines, of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state.

There is a Korean saying that a decade changes rivers and mountains, but the Democratic People's Republic of Korea witnessed one change after another every year of the decade, making continuous advances.

Under his guidance a golden age of construction was ushered in; numerous modern streets, villages, cultural resorts, and factories and enterprises furnished with cutting-edge equipment which would have taken the country scores of years to build according to conventional practice, sprang up over the past ten years, making its previous appearance pale by comparison.

Thanks to his energetic on-site guidance in the economic sectors, firm groundwork for the socialist economy was provided under the banner of self-reliant prosperity and a great advance was witnessed in achieving sustained economic development and improving the people's living standards.

With a view to removing the constant nuclear threat by the hostile forces once and for all, he accomplished the historic cause of perfecting the national nuclear forces through his painstaking efforts and devotion, thus providing a firm guarantee for peace and security on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding region.

With an audacious determination and persevering efforts, he

opened up a new phase for Korea's reunification and enhanced the prestige of his country through energetic diplomatic activities, upholding the banner of independence.

Over the past ten years the Korean people and the international community clearly realized how extraordinary his ideas, theories and leadership ability were.

The Korean people are now visualizing their country's future ten or 20 years ahead in its appearance that changed in the past ten years.

This book gives a review of the past ten years when Kim Jong Un achieved the most brilliant victory in the hardest conditions.

AT A HISTORIC TURNING POINT

In late 2011 Kim Jong Un assumed the responsibility for shouldering the destiny of the DPRK according to the unanimous desire of all the Korean people.

The world's attention focused on the country to find out which road it would take.

It was because the country, though small in terms of territory, population and the economy, was known to the world as the strongest bulwark of socialism and was standing single-handedly against the forces which dominated the world politically, economically and militarily.

After Chairman Kim Jong Il suddenly passed away, the forces hostile to it brought overt and covert pressure to bear upon it, forcing it to abandon the road it had chosen and followed. It must have looked like Hercules of an ancient Greek myth to an objective eye.

Could the DPRK maintain its choice?

At this juncture what Kim Jong Un did first was building

up the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun as the supreme sanctuary of Juche and carrying forward the revolutionary ideology of the President and the Chairman without the slightest deviation.

MAKING THE HISTORY OF THE SUN CONTINUE

It was a unanimous desire of all the Korean people to have Kim Jong Il preserved together with Kim Il Sung in the Kumsusan Memorial Palace.

As a reflection of their ardent desire, Kim Jong Un had Kim Jong Il preserved in his lifetime appearance, together with Kim Il Sung, and the Kumsusan Memorial Palace renamed the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

He gave energetic guidance to laying out the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in a solemn and perfect way.

He devoted all his sincerity to details of the project—building the hall where Kim Jong Il was to be preserved in his lifetime appearance on the highest level, rebuilding the hall where the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il would be set up, rebuilding the hall of lamentation more solemnly, laying out a room where

the national and foreign orders, medals and honorary titles awarded to them were to be exhibited, rooms where the cars, coaches, battery-powered car and boat used by them for field guidance and visit to foreign countries, and exhibiting the photographs showing their careers and people-oriented traits.

He visited the project site more than 40 times in 2012 alone.

It was when rebuilding the hall where the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were to be set up.

The hall would be the first place visitors to the palace would enter.

Kim Jong Un thought over and over on how to portray the statues well so that they could give a feeling of intimacy and benevolence to the visitors.

In early January 2012 he gave his opinion on portraying the statues, and later he came to the site where the statues were being made.

Looking at the statues, he said that the great leaders should be portrayed as beaming.

He gave other important instructions, like the one of portraying Kim Jong Il as wearing glasses.

Thanks to his boundless loyalty and detailed guidance, the statues of the beaming leaders could be set up in the palace before

its opening ceremony held to mark the first anniversary of the demise of Kim Jong Il, and later they were replaced by colour statues.

Kim Jong Un wanted to have Kim Jong Il wear the blouson that he had always worn, the one familiar with the people, a witness to his infinite devotion, boundless simplicity and all the hardships and trials he had endured. So his appearance in blouson was etched in the minds of the Korean people.

Once Kim Jong Il said: I am not in a position to wear a suit; this is a time when we have to wage the revolution; I have many things to do; in order to do many things, I have to wear a “combat uniform;” blouson is a “combat uniform” for me; I like action-oriented clothes.

Kim Jong Un saw to it that the relics left by Kim Jong Il were exhibited in the palace so that the visitors to the palace would realize his painstaking efforts and achievements more keenly through them.

There were many relics which showed the achievements he had performed while leading his country, the revolution and the cause of global independence.

What were of particular importance among them were a car, coach, battery-powered car and boat.

After the demise of Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un stressed the need to lay out rooms, in which the car, coach and battery-powered car used by Kim Jong Il were to be exhibited, on a high level and gave answers on several occasions to the questions arising in laying out the rooms, solving the problems on a priority basis.

When laying out the room for preserving the coach was in full progress, he came to the site, and instructed that all the relics such as the documents Kim Jong Il had signed should be exhibited in the coach, so that it could be an essential part of the eternal sanctuary of the sun.

Thus, the interior of the coach was laid out as it had been in the last days of his life; exhibited here are the blouson, parka, shoes and gloves he wore, documents he went over, the stationery he used, his glasses and a clock still ticks on.

Kim Jong Un concerned himself with laying out the room for preserving the boat used by Kim Jong Il, like moving the boat to the room, enlarging the room, exhibiting the boat in the way that it did not look floating but it was seen as if from a wharf, portraying the water to be dark blue and waving along the direction of the advancing boat, hanging on the wall of the room a photograph of Kim Jong Il on the boat on his way for field guidance, making the inside be seen from outside, and installing a stepping ramp.

Kim Jong Un stressed that the photographs related with the revolutionary activities of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il should be put up on the interior walls of the palace, giving detailed guidance on various problems to this end, like the photographs to be hung, re-producing the black and white ones into colour ones, the style of frames, and the contents and sizes of the captions.

He also gave his opinions on the designing and preserving methods for the rooms where the orders, medals and honorary titles conferred on Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were to be exhibited.

Every space in the palace bears his detailed guidance—the portraits of the beaming images of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il hanging on the front wall of the palace, the Star of Generalissimo, magnolias and military colours embossed on the surface of the rostrum of the plaza, the national emblem plastered on the front wall of the palace, and decorative illuminations.

One day in March 2012, he told the officials that the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun is the palace where the great leaders are preserved in their lifetime appearances, so it must be a place where people could always visit, and that the plaza should always be open for the visitors.

The relationship between the great leaders and the

people was a blood-sealed one.

Once Kim Il Sung was asked by foreign journalists what his hobby was. He answered: I enjoy reading books and mixing with the people to share life with them and talk with them; when books are silent teachers, the people are the most resourceful and best-informed teachers for me; they embody a mix of philosophy, economics and literature; consequently I always mix with them and learn from them.

And Kim Jong Il said: I always want to be with the people; when I go to a construction site, I want to carry building materials on a shoulder pole until my shoulder aches; when I see people playing sports games, I want to join them; and when I see people holding a recreation party, I want to sing a song with them; moreover, when I feel tired and my head aching while working until the small hours, I sometimes feel like meeting the people.

With an insight into the blood-sealed relationship between the leaders and the people and the people's yearning for the leaders, Kim Jong Un did his all to turn the palace into a sacred place where the leaders and the people could always be together. To this end, he proposed transforming the area around the palace into a park, went over its artist's impressions and gave detailed

guidance over its construction.

As a result, the plaza in front of the palace was turned into a park with a bed of rare and beautiful flowers in the central axis of the portraits of the beaming images of the leaders, lawns on both sides of the flower bed with a fountain and sculpture, titled, *Colour Guards under the Star of Generalissimo*, and rest areas studded with good species of trees such as firs and spruces.

When Kim Jong Il passed away, there were no statues or even portraits of his beaming image, for he had never approved proposals related with himself, including that of building such a statue and painting such a portrait.

So the Korean people had to visit the statues of Kim Il Sung, towers to his immortality and portraits of his beaming image to pay tribute to Kim Jong Il when he passed away.

The December 20, 2011 issue of *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the WPK, carried a portrait of beaming Kim Jong Il. Simultaneously, this portrait was set up in several outdoor mourning places such as Kim Il Sung Square, Monument to Party Founding, April 25 House of Culture and Pyongyang Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang and in the mourning places laid out in provincial seats, major organs and enterprises.

Looking at the portrait, the Korean people thought that

Kim Jong Il had not passed away, but was always with them.

Later, the Korean people built mosaic murals portraying Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, and towers to immortality with the words *The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il will always be with us* were built in various parts of the country.

The Korean people had long wished to have a statue of Kim Jong Il built, and proposed building the statue.

However, no statue of Kim Jong Il had been built in the country until he passed away.

Reflecting this wish of the people, Kim Jong Un ensured that statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were erected in various parts of the country.

On January 12, 2012, the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee released a special report.

The report solemnly declared that a bronze statue of Kim Jong Il would be set up as a reflection of the unanimous wish and ardent desire of all the WPK members and other people and the service personnel of the Korean People's Army to uphold Kim Jong Il as the eternal leader of the WPK and the revolution, to glorify his revolutionary career and immortal exploits, and to inherit and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered on Mt Paektu.

Several days after the special report was made public, *Rodong Sinmun* carried the full text of Kim Jong Il's work, titled, *Holding the Great Comrade Kim Il Sung in High Esteem Is the Noblest Moral Obligation of Our Party and People*.

It was a talk Kim Jong Il had with senior officials of the WPK Central Committee on October 27, 1999.

In the work he turned down the suggestion of officials and people that a bronze statue of him be set up on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his birth and emphasized that upholding President Kim Il Sung better was a mission and moral obligation of the revolutionaries, his faith and will and the demands of the revolution and times.

Then he said: I am a revolutionary who has inherited the President's cause, defends his exploits and exalts their brilliance; as one of his men, I have assumed the historic mission of making our people well off, reunifying the country and accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche, true to his intentions; I cannot have a statue of me erected on the excuse of my 60th birthday when I still have many important tasks to do in honouring the pledge I made before his bier, like those of economic construction, improving the people's standard of living and reunifying the country; I cannot permit a statue of me

to be erected when national reunification, which he so earnestly wanted to see and for which he made so much effort, has not yet been achieved; I have not the slightest intention of seeking power or official position; my one and only desire is to hold the President in high esteem and faithfully carry forward and accomplish his cause.

Thinking that if the people knew about it, the desire to build the statue of him would grow higher, he had only the relevant officials and organs informed of it, and prohibited it from being known to the people.

This is why his words in 1999 were made public after he passed away, more than ten years later.

Only then did the Korean people come to know why even one statue of him had not been erected until his death.

Since the news of the death of Kim Jong Il was broadcast, the Korean people sent letters to Kim Jong Un, asking him to have a statue of Kim Jong Il built though it was late; even children said in tears that there were palaces for them in various parts of the country but not a statue of Kim Jong Il.

Saying that he was also to blame for having failed to have a statue of Kim Jong Il set up, Kim Jong Un added: We should set up a statue of the General, though belatedly; we should hold

him up sincerely and eternally with moral obligation and pure conscience.

Kim Jong Un ensured that when a statue of Kim Jong Il was erected, it was set up in a solemn way, and always beside the statue of Kim Il Sung.

There was a principle Kim Jong Un set in erecting the statues of Kim Jong Il beside those of Kim Il Sung.

It was that the statue should be set up at the best place, a place not only with nice surroundings but where many people would come.

Proposing that the statue of Kim Jong Il be set up beside that of Kim Il Sung on Mansu Hill first, he said: I have thought much about a place where the statue should be set up; it would be best to create new statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and set them up on Mansu Hill.

Mansu Hill, which commands a nice view of Pyongyang, where Moran Hill stands nearby and the Taedong River flows in front and where one can greet the sunrise in the morning, is the first place where people visit whether they are happy or sad, for the statue of Kim Il Sung stands there.

Kim Jong Un directed his efforts to having the images of the leaders for the statues shaped as beaming ones.

He went several times to the site, where the statues were being created, and gave detailed guidance, sometimes drawing sketches. And he sent the artists the photographs of the leaders, which he had chosen.

On the early morning of April 9, 2012, he came to Mansu Hill and looked at the statues of the leaders from various points, and highly spoke of the fact that the statues were built on a high level, saying that he was especially satisfied over the fact that the statue of Kim Jong Il, though large-sized, was created so elaborately to the minutest detail.

On April 13, 2012, the unveiling ceremony of the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il was held on Mansu Hill in the presence of Kim Jong Un.

When the statues of the beaming leaders were unveiled, cheers were raised, fireworks were set off and colorful balloons floated, decorating the sky over Mansu Hill.

A Russian poet, who was invited to the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung and to the unveiling ceremony of the statues on Mansu Hill, wrote:

“I could not get to sleep on the night of the day when the unveiling ceremony was held.

“The events that gave pain to people cannot fade into

oblivion. The news that the remains of Marx had been buried at Highgate Cemetery in London far away from his motherland and the box containing the remains of Engels had been thrown to Dover Straits made the Europeans sad. When the renegades of the revolution burnt the remains of Stalin and pulled down the statues of him, people of conscience were furious.

“Today’s unveiling ceremony, a striking contrast to these facts, impressed the world.

“A leader, who performed outstanding exploits for his country and people, must be immortalized. It is because the happiness and future of his people depend on his immortalization.

“Building the statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il after his demise is an expression of the realization of this sacred cause, I think. Under the special concern of Comrade Kim Jong Un, who is possessed of ennobling moral obligation to his predecessor, the ardent desire of the Korean people to have the statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il set up has been realized. It is said that Comrade Kim Jong Un paid close attention to setting up the statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il together with the statue of President Kim Il Sung on Mansu Hill at the centre of Pyongyang, reflecting the ardent aspiration and wish of all the Korean people.

“To look back upon the history of mankind, when creating

a statue of a man, he has been treated as looking serious. But Comrade Kim Jong Un didn’t followed the precedents, but saw to it that, as the two leaders were praised as the Sun by the world people, they were shown to be beaming. I cannot but say that it is an expression of the pure world of his loyalty.”

Later, statues of beaming Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il were erected in many parts of the country including the provincial capitals and major organs. In September 2016 the statue of Kim Jong Il was built in the city of Samjiyon, his native place.

The statues of them encourage the Korean people to be firmly resolved to make redoubled effort and devote themselves to the effort to build a thriving socialist country under the leadership of Kim Jong Un.

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEAS AND LINES

The Juche idea which Kim Il Sung created and splendidly applied to the reality of the DPRK is the sole guiding ideology of the WPK.

Kim Jong Il formulated the Juche idea as Kimilsungism

by systematizing it in a comprehensive way, and enriched Kimilsungism with new ideas and theories as required by the times and developing reality.

Thanks to his energetic ideological and theoretical activities for developing Kimilsungism, the idea was spread and studied across the world as the beacon for the world's progressive people.

Kim Jong Un defined Kimilsungism, which had been enriched in scope and content, as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The formulation of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism was the precious fruit of the unexcelled ideological and theoretical wisdom and energetic ideological and theoretical activities of Kim Jong Un who, with boundless loyalty to the revolutionary cause of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, regarded it as the most important work to associate their revolutionary ideology with their names.

Formulating the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the eternal guiding ideology of the Korean revolution, Kim Jong Un defined the people-first principle as its quintessence.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, which fully reflects the requirements of the present age when the position and role of the masses of the people have been raised remarkably, develops all its principles and contents with man, the masses, at its centre and

with its emphasis put on their role.

Therefore, it is a reasonable, universal and viable ideology of the times, which anyone can readily empathize with and accept as their own.

That it is the people-first ideology means that it puts forward the masses as the most precious and powerful beings in the world, makes everything serve them and solves all problems by relying on them.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism clarified for the first time in history that the masses are a social group formed mainly with the working people and on the basis of the community of their demand for independence and their creative activities, and put forward the idea of regarding and treating the masses as the most precious and almighty beings in the world.

And the fundamentals, principles and contents of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism are consistent with the idea that everything of the state and society should serve the masses. Devoted service for the masses—this is the noble ideal put forward by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. This is the very reason why Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the people-first ideology both in name and in reality.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism also clarifies that the masses

should be united rock-solid around the Party and the leader, and that their independent ideological consciousness and creative abilities should be enhanced.

The ideology not only provides the most general methodology for understanding and transformation, whereby everything should be observed and approached with emphasis put on the activities of man, the masses, but also elucidates the fundamentals, principles, orientation and ways for giving free rein to their creative role.

Its validity and vitality is being fully displayed in the reality of the people-centred socialism of the Korean style.

The DPRK is striving to thoroughly apply the people-first principle to the reality in line with the new requirements of the developing revolution.

The great reality further convinces the Korean people that Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism will be immortal along with the word people.

Kim Jong Un also clearly defined the structural system and contents of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is an integrated system comprising the Juche idea created by Kim Il Sung and developed in depth by him and Kim Jong Il, and the theories and methods

of the revolution and construction elucidated by this idea.

It scientifically explains the true features of society where the independence of the people, the ultimate goal of the Workers' Party of Korea, has been fully realized, the law-governed process by which it is built, and the strategy and policies for the struggle that should strictly be adhered to in the whole course of carrying out the socialist cause, as well as the leadership methods.

Now Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism serves as an ideological and theoretical weapon that strongly encourages the Korean people in the struggle for the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche, and a perfect revolutionary ideology and theory of the era, which comprehensively indicates the way ahead of the peoples the world over in their struggle for independence and socialism.

In the report to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the work of the Party Central Committee, Kim Jong Un said: Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism makes a systematic presentation of the revolutionary theories and leadership methods for achieving the final victory of the socialist cause on the basis of the great Juche idea, and clarifies how all domains of social life can be transformed in a revolutionary way to meet the people's aspiration and demand for independence;

herein lie its unique historic position as the perfect guiding ideology for the revolution in our times, and its invincible might.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is regarded as the eternal banner of struggle of the times as it has provided perfect answers for all the theoretical and practical problems, ranging from the world outlook the people should cherish in the present world, where the imperialist high-handedness and iron-fist policy are rampant, to the fundamental stand and mode of politics to be adhered to in the revolution and construction.

Kim Jong Un developed the lines of the revolution and construction put forward by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il as required by the new era.

At the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in December 1962, Kim Il Sung put forward the line of simultaneously carrying on the building up of the economy and defences in order to safeguard the revolutionary gains from imperialist aggression and push ahead with socialist construction successfully.

In August 2003, Kim Jong Il put forward the line of economic construction in the Songun era, the one of developing light industry and agriculture simultaneously while developing the defence industry on a preferential basis.

They were revolutionary and people-oriented lines that made it possible to defend the dignity of the country and the nation and safeguard socialism, at the same time as providing the people with an affluent and cultured life in the complicated and acute situations.

In 2013, hostile forces that harboured a deep-seated prejudice against the DPRK railroaded a sanctions resolution through the United Nations Security Council, making an issue of the country's launch of a satellite for peaceful purposes. It was a brigandish act of illegalizing the sovereign state's legitimate right.

Around that time, the country conducted the third underground nuclear test as part of measures to protect its inviolable sovereign right and the security of its people.

The hostile forces railroaded a harsher sanctions resolution, and staged joint military exercises by enlisting huge troops in an attempt to start a nuclear war.

On March 31, 2013, a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held under the guidance of Kim Jong Un.

At the meeting Kim Jong Un put forward a new strategic line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the nuclear forces.

The new line of simultaneously promoting the two fronts was a revolutionary and people-oriented one that made it possible to put an end to the hostile forces' increasing nuclear threat by further strengthening the country's nuclear forces and push forward with the building of a powerful socialist country by giving a greater spur to economic construction, so as to improve the people's living standards.

The Korean people fully supported the new line from the outset, and the implementation of the line was accelerated under the direct guidance of Kim Jong Un. This led to an epoch-making miracle—the accomplishment of the national nuclear arms programme in a short period of five years.

On April 20, 2018, at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un proudly declared the great victory of the line of simultaneously pushing ahead with the two fronts, and put forward a new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction by applying the idea of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il on continuous revolution.

The new strategic line is a revolutionary, scientific and people-oriented line of designating the economic front as the major thrust area of socialist construction and building a powerful

socialist economy by concentrating all the efforts of the state on rearranging and revitalizing the overall economy, thus accelerating the advance of the revolution.

At the plenary meeting, Kim Jong Un put forward the slogan “Let us further accelerate the advance of our revolution by concentrating all our efforts on socialist economic construction!” and called upon the entire Party, the whole country and all the people to hold up the slogan and launch a general revolutionary offensive for carrying out the Party's new strategic line, a dynamic campaign for economic construction.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held on April 10, 2019, Kim Jong Un put forward the idea of solidifying the country's independent economic foundations and stepping up socialist construction by holding higher the banner of self-reliance.

At the meeting, he reaffirmed that it was the WPK's steadfast political line to build a powerful socialist country under the unfurled banner of self-reliance as required by the developing revolution, in which the building of an economic power presented itself as a major political task, and specified immediate tasks to be tackled in each sector of the national economy.

In the policy speech, titled, *On Socialist Construction and the*

Internal and External Policies of the Government of the Republic at the Present Stage, he delivered at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on April 12, 2019, he put forward a policy of adhering to the line of building an independent national economy and giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Saying that the strategic policy pursued by the WPK and the government of the DPRK in building a powerful socialist country was to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific, he clarified the economic policy-related tasks for each sector of the national economy for consolidating the self-supporting and Juche character of the economy in every way possible and the tasks to be tackled in actively making the economy modern and IT-based.

At the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in late December 2019, Kim Jong Il advanced the revolutionary line of launching a frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution.

At the plenary meeting, he put forward the militant slogan "Let us smash straight through all the barriers in the way of our advance!" and designated the economic front as the major thrust

area in a frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough.

And he set it forth as an immediate task for the economic field to rearrange the economic foundations of the country and tap all the possible production potentials so as to fully meet the demands for economic development and people's life, and elucidated a strategic policy on setting clearly and attaining without fail the long-term objectives to develop the country's economy on a stable and long-term basis.

The revolutionary line put forward at the meeting reflects the philosophical principle of the revolution that only active offensive instead of passive defence makes it possible to change a difficult situation into a favourable one.

At the Eighth Congress of the WPK held in January 2021, Kim Jong Un defined the country's economic strategy as the one of readjustment and reinforcement and advanced strategic policies for developing the country's economy on a higher level.

With such remarkable wisdom, Kim Jong Un has grasped the requirements of the prevailing situation and the developing revolution, and put forward strategies and policies of stage-by-stage struggle, thus providing new banners for further accelerating the building of a powerful socialist country.

TO REALIZE THE PEOPLE'S DREAMS AND IDEALS

Kim Jong Un has made devoted efforts to realize the people's dreams and ideals.

For building houses and modern bases for cultural and leisure activities, he has guided construction projects on site, in the course of which he has ushered in a golden age of construction. And regarding the improvement of the people's living standards as the most important of all state affairs, he visited factories, farms and fishing villages continuously.

In order not to allow anyone to provoke his beloved people, he accomplished the historic cause of the national nuclear programme, thus providing the capability with which to defend peace.

On this road of blazing the trail, he would go to extremely dangerous launching sites and to the front-line posts.

When the worldwide health crisis broke out, he made a crucial decision—taking a measure of blocking the border in advance in order to defend the safety of the people.

Thanks to his devoted efforts, the Korean people are realizing their dreams and ideals while overcoming manifold difficulties and trials.

CREATING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT FOR A MORE CULTURED LIFE

Having already defined construction as a patriotic cause of lasting significance for building a powerful socialist country, a people's paradise, and an important undertaking for increasing the economic might of the country and raising the level of its civilization, Kim Jong Un has always attached great importance to making the people creators and beneficiaries of better architectural structures by developing architecture based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people.

Thanks to his devoted efforts, many modern structures sprang up in the DPRK over the past ten years.

He visited the Pyongyang University of Architecture, the Paektusan Academy of Architecture and other architectural

educational and designing institutions and examined designs and artist's impressions of important buildings to make sure that all of them were built flawlessly.

He went over the artist's impressions of Mirae Scientists Street for more than 590 times and those of Ryomyong Street for more than 1 390 times, giving his opinions on how to perfect their designs. This shows how hard he strived to build fresh and distinctive styles of buildings.

It was in a single year that Changjon Street was built as a large-scale, comprehensive unit of life with skyscrapers and other high-rise apartment buildings of streamlined, round, square and other architectural styles, a theatre, schools and other public establishments and service facilities. After it, 44- and 36-storeyed apartment buildings that incorporate plastic art and artistic beauty were built for the lecturers at Kim Il Sung University. Each flat has five rooms. And then Unha Scientists Street with multi-storeyed apartment houses of over 1 000 flats, public buildings like school, hospital, nursery and kindergarten, various kinds of welfare service facilities and parks for conducting sports and leisure activities was built in a short span of time.

Unha Scientists Street was followed by Wisong Scientists Residential District for the scientists at the State Academy of

Sciences, and apartment buildings in the shape of a sailing boat for the lecturers at Kim Chaek University of Technology. And Mirae Scientists Street was completed in a year, vividly reflecting the WPK's idea of attaching importance to science and valuing talented personnel.

When the second-stage project of construction of the street was under way, officials and designers presented artist's impressions after those of apartment houses for lecturers at Kim Chaek University of Technology in the shape of a sailing boat and others that had been highly appreciated. This inevitably led to similarity and repetition in architecture, and they failed to think of an apartment house that could be a symbol of the street.

Aware of the fact, Kim Jong Un instructed them to build a 53-storeyed apartment house as the symbol of the street and to make the building depict both the orbit of electron, the microworld of science, and the universe, the macroworld of science, as the building would be built in a scientists street.

As a result, a 24-metre-high tower depicting the universe was installed on the roof of the 53-storeyed apartment house in the shape of the orbit of electron so that, even when seen from afar, the street could be easily recognized as the one for scientists.

Ryomyong Street was built as the one in which a district of

cozy multi-storeyed apartment houses and a district of skyscrapers and other high-rise apartment houses are organically combined in harmony with welfare service facilities, incorporating formative and artistic beauty and greening techniques, as the one in which all public buildings and apartment houses make effective use of sunlight, geothermal and other natural energy through the introduction of zero-energy and green architectural technologies and which has fine features as an energy-saving and green street thanks to the introduction of rooftop and wall greening techniques, and as the one in which advanced science and technology including the one of protecting ecological environment are nicely combined and afforestation and landscaping are distinctively realized.

The city of Samjiyon was renovated into an epitome of socialist civilization and a model of cultured socialist mountain city, which combines the national identity, modernity and northern alpine features wonderfully. Practicality, diversity and formative quality are perfectly ensured in all the buildings in the city.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK held in January 2021 put forward the task of formulating plans for building 10 000 flats every year by concentrating efforts on the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang in the five-year plan period, scrupulously

organizing the operations and guidance for implementing the plans and thus basically solving the housing problem for the Pyongyang citizens.

The congress also put forward the task of building 25 000 houses in the Komdok area, a leading nonferrous mineral producer, where a large contingent of workers live, and thus building it into a new miners town.

Towards the end of 2021, 10 000 flats were built in the Songsin and Songhwa area, forming a new street, and a terraced house district constructed on the Pothong River.

And thousands of houses were built in the Komdok area, smartening up the appearance of the miners town.

Now the country is witnessing another golden age of housing construction.

Kim Jong Un has also paid close attention to building monumental structures and facilities for people's cultural and leisure activities.

Thanks to his idea, the Sci-Tech Complex in the shape of atomic model was built as a fine example of Juche architecture in the 21st century, and the Wonsan Baby Home and Orphanage were built in the shape of sunflower with cylindrical buildings harmoniously arranged.

Other examples are the Pyongyang Old People's Home, which is expressive of the Korean people's custom of preferring to living together under the same roof and designed to reflect the national flavour with three-storeyed pagoda-style gateposts and a Korean-style fence, and the Terminal of Pyongyang International Airport that looks like two doves with open wings facing each other true to its theme of peace and with its front and back glass walls and the floor of its arrivals hall decorated with white tigers, thus vividly demonstrating the image and flavour of the country.

And the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp was built, and Ssuk Island and Rungna Island turned into a hub of science and a pleasure ground for the people, respectively. There are also bases for the people's cultural and leisure activities, including the Munsu Water Park, the Mirim Riding Club, the Thongilgori Fitness Centre, the Ryugyong Health Complex and the People's Open-air Ice Rink covered with an undulating roof, the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital that contribute to the promotion of the people's health, the Songdowon International Children's Camp, and the hostels of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill. All these

buildings are fruits of Kim Jong Un's noble view on people—of giving absolute priority to their demands and convenience.

Kim Jong Un would feel with his hand the floors of buildings to be used by people, sit on a chair to examine it before people used it, and guide the construction of a structure, sometimes drawing pictures on his handbook to perfect details.

One night in October 2013, Kim Jong Un, after dealing with state affairs until late in the evening, went to the construction site of the Mirim Riding Club.

Looking round the site, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the structures that were not arranged to conform to the people's demands and intentions, and said that they should be rearranged even if it would mean postponing the inaugural ceremony, teaching in detail how to rearrange them, before leaving the site with a heavy heart.

Though the night advanced, he kept thinking on how to provide the people with excellent riding service facilities. Then he went again to the construction site merely three hours after leaving it.

A few hours ago I have been here to look round the service building and severely criticized you for constructing it roughly; I've come again unable to get to sleep, he said and continued:

Even though it is well past midnight, I'm going to point out the shortcomings and have some necessary measures taken.

That night he looked round every corner of the construction site, setting forth directions for revision and taking necessary measures.

It was around 04:30 when he left the construction site.

The Munsu Water Park, which resounds with the people's laughter all year round, tells the world of devotion of Kim Jong Un, who went over 113 artist's impressions and gave on-site guidance as often as he could for full two years, in spite of bitter cold, searing heat, pouring rain and harsh wind and even at midnight or dawn.

September 22, 2013 was a Sunday. He visited its construction site with no prior notice and gave the officials detailed guidance. At the dawn of September 29, exactly a week later, he came to the site again without a prior notice. Nobody could know that he had stayed up all night thinking about the project before coming there.

It was at the dawn of October 13, 2013, when he was reported on the completion of the project. At midday, he even skipped his lunch and came to the water park to give detailed guidance over the matters to be put to rights before the inauguration ceremony.

In the afternoon he came again to oversee its trial operation in order to personally check its safety.

He once spent his whole day from dawn to dusk for the sake of scientists and technicians. The story vividly shows how passionate and energetic he is in ensuring the people's wellbeing.

It was January 14, 2014. He had been deliberating well into the night over the housing project for the scientists in the Unjong Science Park. At around 5 o'clock at dawn, he made a phone call to a senior official of the State Academy of Sciences to ask him how many flats were actually needed. On hearing his answer, he told him that he would visit the academy himself.

He went to the academy early in the morning that day, and gave valuable instructions for the development of the country's science and technology till midday and, even skipping his lunch, went to Lake Yonphung.

Unfolding a map, he surveyed the topography of the shore of the lake, walking in front of the others. The previous year he had selected the site of a scientists holiday camp after looking round the lake twice by boat. But that day he looked round the area again covered in deep snow, and said in great satisfaction: It is a prime site for the holiday camp; in summer the landscape was really great for its fresh air and a thick

forest; in winter it is no less beautiful.

In late May 2014, shortly after the project of the holiday camp had started, he visited the construction site. Watching repeatedly the artist's impression of the accommodation buildings and their frameworks alternately, he told officials that they did not go well with the mountainous landscape. Then he instantly suggested a modification of the design to introduce slanted-roofed buildings and interchange them with flat-roofed ones.

Several months later, he visited the site again and expressed great satisfaction over the project nearing completion. He instructed officials that the colour of the roofs should be chosen in conformity with the characters of the buildings and roofing materials heat-painted in the factory should be used to prevent their discolouring. Then he looked round every room of a building.

In a toilet and bathroom, he stressed the need to pay heed to the minutest detail. Then he looked round the indoor and outdoor wading pools and the e-library, over which he expressed great satisfaction.

In accommodation block No 5 he looked round a drawing room, bedroom, partition, desk and bathroom with satisfaction, and went out to the balcony. Admiring the view of the general

service centre and accommodation blocks, he spoke highly of the unique and excellent architectural styles, saying that the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp was literally a "gold cushion" for the scientists and technicians.

On February 26, 2015, he visited the construction site of the Sci-Tech Complex on Ssuk Island despite the cold wind from the river raising clouds of dust. Earlier, in June the previous year, while looking round the island, he had proposed that the Sci-Tech Complex be built there.

Looking round the construction site, he said: The Sci-Tech Complex should be a palace of learning and a hub for propagation of advanced science and technology in which all the people as well as scientists and technicians can learn to their heart's content; the complex should be to the people what gas stations are to the automobiles, so to speak; the complex should be a hub that helps incessant flow of sci-tech information, not a place like a pond of stagnant water.

On October 27, 2015, the Sci-Tech Complex was completed. In front of an artist's rendering of the complex, he listened to the explanation about its distinctive architectural style reminiscent of an atomic structure, a symbol of the world of science, and about its green, energy-saving features, including

lighting, heating and cooling systems based on solar, geothermal and other natural sources of energy. Enjoying a view of the complex, he said: It looks really great and magnificent; a sea change has been made on this island after its building, leaving no traces of the past; it was named Ssuk for the abundance of mugwort, but now it has become an island of science, an island of learning.

Saying that the most important function of the complex was that of an e-library, he emphasized that it should in every way be a house of learning new science and technology, not merely an exhibition house.

On January 1, 2016, he cut the tape at the inauguration ceremony of the complex.

Kim Jong Un worked with devotion to provide the people with better conditions for cultured life.

Concerning himself with how to develop in a diversified way the country's rich hot spring resources, he conducted an in-depth study.

On August 15, 2018, when the hottest period of the year was still not over, he set off at late night for on-site guidance trip with a plan to lay out a model of comprehensive modern spa resort for medical treatment and tourism.

On arriving there, he familiarized himself with the operation of the sanatoria there and their utilization of hot spring.

Mentioning that the country's hot spring facilities were generally outdated in their equipment and their environment were not good, he said that a model should be built so that all other facilities throughout the country could be spruced up.

Walking along the rugged mountain path, he looked round the hot spring valley in Onjong-ri, Yangdok County, in order to familiarize himself with the annual yield of hot spring water and the local environment.

Despite the pouring rain, he felt the water as hot as 80°C gushing out from underground, and wore a broad smile on his face as if he had found jewels.

He said that Yangdok County was suitable for building holiday camps and sanatoria for its hot spring, high mountains, thick forests, fresh air and beautiful landscape. That day he chose a site for a large hotel and instructed that self-catering accommodations and various kinds of modern welfare facilities should be built. He also said that both indoor and outdoor baths should be built and the spa service be diversified into those for individuals and groups and those for medical treatment and other purposes.

He suggested that a comprehensive sanatorium for medical treatment be erected in the area and the resident's village be built as a unique spa town by combining low-rise apartment blocks and single-storeyed houses.

Kim Jong Un went over as many as 2 000-plus artist's impressions for the project and visited the construction site several times including in April, August, October and November 2019.

Thanks to his devotion, the distinctive hot spring resort could be built. Now it resounds with the laughter of the people enjoying spa bath, skiing and riding.

REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF STATE AFFAIRS

Regarding improvement of the people's living standards as the most important of state affairs, Kim Jong Un visited many factories, enterprises, farms and fishing bases.

His special concern was the solving of the food problem.

Farm No. 1116, which he said that the more he visited the more he felt attached to, is a witness to the efforts he has devoted to this end.

Kim Jong Un had already visited the farm and given it the task to become a model unit for the whole country in seed improvement and breeding. When he heard that the farm had achieved some success, he would be very pleased.

In 2015 alone he visited the farm two times.

On May 31, he looked round its seed research institute, pilot factory and trial cultivation plots, acquainting himself with seed breeding and farm management, and expressed great satisfaction with the successes the officials, scientists, researchers and other employees had achieved in their work to put seed breeding on a scientific basis.

In August, he visited the farm again in the scorching midsummer heat and looked round the plots, encouraging the farm to breed better seeds.

Stressing that in order to farm well and thus solve the food problem for the people, it was essential to effect a revolutionary change in seed collection and breed a larger number of strains which require less fertilizer and are high-yielding and which are resistant to drought, wind and rain, cold, excessive heat and

blight, he set a higher target for the farm.

He visited the farm for the fifth time in September 2017. While looking at the fields expecting a bumper crop even in unfavourable climatic conditions, he said: It is great; the sight makes me feel like reciting a poem that scientific farming and seed revolution are good; it makes me confident; the sound of the undulating ears of rice and corn is a song of rich harvest, a song of victory of socialism and happy laughter of the people.

Kim Jong Un also paid attention to enriching the people's diet by having vegetable, mushroom and fruit production increased.

On June 9, 2014, when he visited the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, he gave instructions on greenhouse vegetable production for long in the greenhouses, where the temperature was 43°C. When an official of the farm told him that the greenhouse was too hot, he said: It's all right; I would not mind a place more uncomfortable than here if I can have the people provided with fresh vegetables all year round.

He was always concerned about providing fresh vegetables to the people in the northern area of the country, where vegetable

cultivation is unsuitable because of the northern oceanic climatic conditions.

In July 2018, he went to Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, where he unfolded a plan for building a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm and selected its site. Next month he visited the site again in scorching midsummer heat, guiding preparation for the construction project.

The Korean People's Army soldiers who were seconded to the project, launched a daring drive and built greenhouses, a tree nursery and hundreds of houses in a little more than one year.

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery were inaugurated on December 3, 2019.

Looking round the greenhouse farm, Kim Jong Un said: There is a geographical difference in distance between regions but in my mind there are not people who are far away from me and those who are close to me; I only hope that this farm will contribute to improving the diet of the people in North Hamgyong Province

Kim Jong Un paid close attention also to increasing the production of mushrooms.

Having visited the newly-built Central Mushroom Institute

under the State Academy of Sciences on a rainy day in October 2013 and opened a bright prospect for cultivating mushrooms on a large scale, Kim Jong Un, in January 2015, visited the then Pyongyang Municipal Mushroom Farm that had been newly built, and said: Today I feel quite pleased to see at the start of the new year this wonderful structure for the people; how good it would be if 365 days would all be such days.

Kim Jong Un also led fruit cultivation in the country, frequently visiting large-scale fruit farms.

On September 17, 2016, he visited the Kosan Combined Fruit Farm. Feeling with his hand the apples hanging on the apple trees, he said that the apples were very big and fragrant, and that he could picture in his mind the people including children, who would feel happy after receiving those apples.

When he visited Kwail County, South Hwanghae Province, on September 20, 2017, he said: I very much feel like looking round all of the thousands of hectares of the orchard; the more I see, the more I feel pleased; I feel relieved of the accumulated fatigue to think that our people would be very happy to hear about the good harvest of fruits in this county.

To provide the people with more meat and fish, Kim Jong Un

energetically guided the work of stockbreeding bases and seafood production and processing bases across the country.

On August 17, 2016, a midsummer day, Kim Jong Un visited the Taedonggang Pig Farm after looking round the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm.

Even though the pig farm was built in a modern way, the smell in the fattening section was still bad. But, not minding it, he looked round with pleasure the section teeming with fat pigs, and all other places of the farm, including the organic compound fertilizer plant.

One snowy day in January 2014, he visited a seafood refrigerating facility which had been built by a unit, and said: I have come here today to discuss the possibility of supplying fish to baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans and old people's homes across the country; it is a firm determination and will of the Party to ensure that all the orphans grow up stoutly to be successors and pillars of the revolution without feeling the sorrow of being bereft of their parents. Then he calculated on his notebook the amount of fish needed in a year to provide each of them with 300g of fish a day.

One cold day in February, about one and a half months

later, he visited the construction site of a fishery station, and said: I can already picture in my mind a commissioned modern fishery station and shoals of fish waiting to be caught; it is a source of our pride that we are doing a worthwhile project for our beloved people including children; I just feel excited to think of that.

He paid close attention also to the work of fish farms and seaweeds cultivation bases.

When he visited a fish farm, he was very pleased to see ponds teeming with big fish and said with satisfaction that it seemed there were more fish than water in the ponds. And when he visited another fish farm, he referred to the need to rear high-grade fish like Hucho ishikawai and mandarin fish for the people.

The history of “gold seas” of the DPRK is related with the August 25 Fishery Station of the Korean People’s Army, which Kim Jong Un visited several times.

Kim Jong Un visited this fishery station for the first time on May 27, 2013, when it was raining.

That day Kim Jong Un, who had gone there through rough sea, set forward its goal of fish catch and said: I am not giving you an order as the Supreme Commander, but it is my request.

After naming the newly-built fishing vessels *Tanphung* (autumnal leaves) with the expectation that the vessels would land rich hauls of fish just like farmers reap rich harvests of grains in autumn, he said the name reflected his wish to provide the soldiers with a large amount of fish.

Busy as he was with state affairs, he, on receiving a letter the officials and employees of the fishery station had written to him after they had overfulfilled the goal with the ships of *Tanphung* series, sent a reply extending his thanks to them. And as he wanted to see the big fish catch for himself, he went to the fishery station on December 15 again through rough sea.

Very pleased to see the storehouses filled with pickled and frozen fish, he said: Our people have entrusted their dear sons and daughters to me, Supreme Commander, out of their trust in me; this fishery station has made it possible to provide all those soldiers with prescribed amount of fish every day; I am very thankful for it.

In those days he visited the January 8 Fishery Station of the KPA, Sinpho Pelagic Fishing Complex and other fishing bases.

His leadership for improving the living standards of the people is imprinted in the factories of the foodstuff industry.

Pickled fish is one of the nutritious and delicious side dishes the Koreans have been fond of from ancient times.

Kim Jong Un initiated to build the country's first factory that can produce pickled fish in an industrial way, and personally went to its construction site in March 2015 and guided its construction on the spot.

As a result, the factory that produces various kinds of pickled fish and fish soy on a large scale was built in a short span of time.

On August 7, 2018, the hottest day the country's meteorological observation had ever recorded, Kim Jong Un visited the factory again. Seeing the products piled up inside the storehouse, he said: I feel relieved of all the accumulated fatigue to think that we are able to make a contribution to improving the diet of the people.

Thanks to his devoted efforts, many foodstuff factories including the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, Pyongyang Condiments Factory, Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople, Pyongyang Taegyong Laver Processing Factory, Pyongyang Corn Processing Factory, Ryugyong Kimchi Factory and Kalma Foodstuff Factory were newly built or renovated on a Juche-oriented, modern and scientific footing

in a matter of a few years.

Together with them the Ryongaksan Spring Water Factory, Kangso Mineral Water Factory and many other similar factories were built or renovated to provide the people with good quality and medicinal water.

Kim Jong Un was also concerned with the supply of daily necessities to the people.

While giving on-site guidance at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill on June 20, 2016, he gave it the task of setting up a modern production line of various kinds of quality quilts. After having relevant measures taken to this end, he visited the mill again on January 7, 2017, a very cold midwinter day, to see the new quilt production line.

Looking at the line that were producing various kinds of quilts, including those for four seasons and bed spreads, he said with satisfaction: The colours and patterns of the quilts look refined and beautiful as suited to the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of our people; they are also light and soft; they will attract the people's attention in the shops and they will be in high demand.

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory tells his devoted efforts aimed at providing the people with good-looking and quality

shoes and making a leap forward in footwear production.

It was on July 25, 2014, a midsummer day, when he visited the factory for the first time. That day he gave instructions on producing various kinds of leather shoes which are convenient, light, durable, and nice looking for the users of various ages, and put forward detailed tasks for renovating the factory.

He visited the factory again on January 30, 2015. While looking round the factory, he said: The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory should normalize production and improve the quality of its products; the shoes are an essential item of daily necessities for the people; the factory should improve the quality of its products so as to make them favoured by the people.

After that Kim Jong Un visited the factory in November 2015 for the third time, and promised the officials and workers there that he would often come to the factory to see the production of shoes.

He kept the promise, and visited the factory on December 8, 2016.

Looking round the factory, he said: I feel happy whenever I come to this factory; this factory can be called my factory; I am going to discuss with the officials of the factory all the issues

including production, technical innovation of the production lines and designs and take relevant measures; otherwise, I may not feel at ease; this is why I have said I will come here without prior notice; I will take responsibility for this factory.

In early December 2018, when he visited the factory for the fifth time, he said: Today I have come to this factory without prior notice, and I saw shoes being mass-produced; I feel very satisfied and delighted to see shoes “cascading” down.

On July 11, 2016, he visited the Phyongsong Artificial Leather Factory. Noting that it was a valuable factory of the country, he said: The factory is producing quality artificial leather of different colours; it should produce a larger amount of such leather in order to ensure the diversity of kind, shape and colour in the production of shoes; the factory should launch a vigorous struggle to increase the proportion of domestic production of raw and other materials and improve the quality of its products.

As he concerned himself so much with footwear production, he visited the Ryuwon Shoes Factory in January 2015 and October 2017, giving instructions on renovating the factory and indicating the road the factory should follow.

Kim Jong Un, who prioritizes and absolutizes all the

issues related to the people's life, paid close attention to the production of socks.

Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory on July 2, 2012.

He stretched a man's sock to right and left to find out the quality of the socks produced by the factory. He learned whether the socks were produced on a regular basis, taught the ways to normalize production and paid attention to the trademark of the products.

He visited the factory again on August 6, 2014, although the weather was still very hot.

After telling the officials that they should produce various kinds of nice-looking quality socks which would be favoured by the people, he added: You should rack your brains to produce elegant and modern socks; you should frequently update the design of the trademark and improve packaging.

He proposed portraying animals loved by children on children's socks.

Thanks to his detailed instructions, a raccoon dog, cat and bear from the animation *Clever Raccoon Dog* were portrayed on children's socks.

Kim Jong Un paid heed also to cosmetics and dental hygiene

goods in improving the people's living standards.

He visited the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory twice, leading it to increase the kinds of products and improve their quality.

When he visited the factory on February 4, 2015, he said: I have come here today to ensure that the products of the factory become world-class ones; it is important that the factory should purchase world-famous cosmetics, make an analysis of them and compare them with our cosmetics; you should not be a frog in a little pond.

That day he gave instructions on raising the quality of the factory's products to the world standard.

Then he said that the factory should be renovated and he would help the renovation project. He went over the formation plan of the factory to be renovated, and took measures for organizing construction forces and scientific and technical forces for the renovation project and supplying raw and other materials to it. Later, he even sent it world-famous cosmetics to broaden the vision of the officials and employees of the factory.

When he visited the renovated factory on October 28, 2017, he expressed his pleasure, saying: The factory produces many kinds of cosmetics; their qualities are high; their containers

as well as packaging look really nice; now the dream of our women to look more beautiful can come true; I am very glad to think that our women and other people would feel happy in front of the cosmetics of world standard made in this cosmetics factory, which has put production on a modern, scientific and industrial basis.

Kim Jong Un designated a place at the foot of Mt Ryongak, a scenic spot in Pyongyang, as the site of a factory that would produce high-quality soap. When he visited the construction site of the factory on June 3, 2016, he named it Ryongaksan Soap Factory and stressed the need to build it as a splendid factory that could be of practical help for the living of the people.

On October 28 that year he visited the factory, whose construction had been finished. Looking round the factory, he said: It is our Party's intention to put production at this factory on a normal footing and raise the quality of the cosmetics including shampoo and conditioner to the standard of the advanced countries; I feel relieved of the accumulated fatigue to think that our people would be happy to use quality shampoo and conditioner produced at this factory.

Concerned with the production of dental hygiene goods for

the people, he visited the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Goods Factory on June 19, 2017, and said: From olden times it has been said that good teeth are one of the five blessings for humans; as we have built this modern dental hygiene goods factory, our dream to provide the people with various quality dental hygiene goods can come true; I feel very happy that we have done another worthwhile work for the health of the people.

The Mangyongdae Revolutionary Site Souvenir Factory that produces zippers and melamine goods and the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory that produces various kinds of plastic bags, plastic containers, disposable containers and plastic pipes of different purposes are also associated with the devoted efforts made by Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un paid close attention to the means of transportation for the people, and took measures for producing modern trolley buses and subway trains of new models.

Trying the newly-built trolley bus out along the street of the capital city late at night on February 4, 2018 lest the trial run should disturb the people, Kim Jong Un said to the officials accompanying him: I would feel at ease only after personally trying the newly-built trolley bus which people will use; we will put ourselves in the shoes of the people and find out

shortcomings of the trolley bus together.

It is not because Kim Jong Un does not feel tired that he strives to improve the people's living standards, visiting so many facilities. It is because he thinks he exists for the people.

POWERFUL SWORD FOR DEFENDING PEACE

Over the past ten years the hostile forces' political and military pressure and sanctions against the DPRK grew harsher.

Given the situation, the country had to further strengthen its defence capabilities for its prosperity and its people's happy life.

The successes achieved in this regard are inconceivable separated from the devoted efforts of Kim Jong Un who is possessed of absolute trust in and affection for his people.

At the March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK held on 31 of that month, Kim Jong Un set forth a new strategic line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the national nuclear forces, and

energetically led the effort to bolster up the nuclear deterrent for self-defence.

The hostile forces viciously slandered the line, claiming that "it is unrealistic," that "it is unlikely to be successful," and that "it will only impoverish the country's economy and people's livelihood," and tried to block the road of implementing the line by bringing unprecedented sanctions, pressure, military threat and intimidation to bear upon the Korean people.

Whenever the DPRK took measures for bolstering up its nuclear deterrent to cope with the hostile forces' nuclear threat and blackmail, they contrived "sanctions resolutions" one after another, preventing it from conducting normal economic exchanges and financial transactions with other countries, and even committing such a mean act as adding to the list of items under sanctions ordinary foodstuffs, sports equipment and children's toys which have nothing to do with arms development.

Some countries jumped on the anti-DPRK bandwagon of the hostile forces, slandering the DPRK's line of simultaneously developing the two fronts and laying obstacles to the implementation of the line.

However, the Korean people did not yield or give up.

The DPRK had to possess H-bomb in order to ensure its eternal security by achieving the balance of power with the biggest nuclear weapons state, which possessed H-bomb for the first time in the world, and to defend its sovereignty and dignity. But there was no one which it could rely on or from whom it could expect assistance.

Thanks to the wisdom, spirit of self-reliance and fortitude of the defence scientists, the country reached the stage of testing an H-bomb.

On December 15, 2015, Kim Jong Un issued an order to open the curtain of the year 2016, when the historic Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was slated to be held, with the first H-bomb test.

The nuclear scientists, technicians and workers in the sector of national defence finished the preparations for the test in less than 20 days by working day and night.

Upon receiving a report that the preparations for the test were completed, Kim Jong Un signed on January 3, 2016 the final order to carry out the test.

At last, on January 6, 2016, the test of the first H-bomb which the country had manufactured with its own wisdom, technology and effort was carried out with success.

Kim Jong Un made sure that the country put spurs to manufacturing nuclear weapons which would deal a merciless blow to the hostile forces.

In March 2016, he saw the powerful and miniaturized nuclear warheads newly designed to be mounted on different tactical and strategic ballistic missiles, guiding the work of manufacturing nuclear weapons.

He advanced clear stage-by-stage goals for accomplishing the cause of perfecting the country's nuclear forces and, in particular, ensured that the goals of the final stage set at the Seventh Congress of the WPK were attained one by one.

Scientists and technicians made strenuous efforts to improve the technical performance of the H-bomb, displaying boundless loyalty to their country and fellow people and the spirit of self-reliance and self-development.

On September 3, 2017, Kim Jong Un convened a meeting of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, at which he signed an order to conduct a test of H-bomb to be mounted on ICBM as part of the effort to attain the final goal of perfecting the national nuclear forces.

At 12:00 that day the scientists successfully conducted the test, bringing about the birth of a Juche-based thermonuclear

weapon with ultra-high explosive power which would be recorded in the nation's history spanning 5 000 years.

Kim Jong Un led the work of developing means of delivering missile that can strike the enemy wherever he may be.

He led scientists and technicians in the defence industry sector to develop the difficult and challenging ballistic missile re-entry technology by their efforts and technology.

True to his intention, the scientists and technicians succeeded in a simulation test of the reentry of nose cone tip of ballistic missile warhead into the earth's atmosphere despite the vicious sanctions and obstructive manoeuvres by the hostile forces.

In March 2016, a test was successfully conducted under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, and the country made great progress in ballistic missile technology.

Kim Jong Un energetically led the work of developing the high-thrust motor in a new way.

Encouraged by their leader's trust and expectation, scientists and technicians worked hard with a firm determination to produce a new-type high-thrust motor at any cost.

Through several stages of research and test in 2016 including an on-the-ground jet and segment separation test of a high-powered solid-fuel missile motor and an on-the-ground

testing of a new type of high-powered intercontinental ballistic missile motor, they developed the country's missile industry into an innovation-driven one from the previous copy-based one.

At last, they succeeded in the first test of high-thrust motor which outperformed the past versions and thus registered another miracle in the history of building up the defence industry.

The success was a remarkable event that opened up a broad avenue for bolstering up the military strength of the country. Very pleased, Kim Jong Un gave a piggy-back.

Thanks to the great success of the day, solid scientific and technological foundations were laid for the country to accomplish the cause of building its Juche-oriented nuclear forces and attaining the status of a world-class missile power.

March 18, 2017 was recorded in the country's history as a day when a new milestone was set up for bolstering up its military strength and as a significant day when its missile industry was put on a new stage of its development.

Based on this success, the DPRK built up its status as a world-recognized ICBM possessor by test-firing ICBM on several occasions in a safe and transparent way.

In his New Year Address for 2017 Kim Jong Un proclaimed,

on behalf of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK, that the preparations for a test-fire of ICBM were being pushed forward at the final stage. He then vigorously made painstaking efforts for the success of the test all year round, visiting the test-fire sites even at midnight and at dawn.

Encouraged by his devoted efforts, the scientists and technicians, by giving full play to their spiritual strength and technical potentials, designed and manufactured an ICBM capable of carrying large-sized heavy nuclear warhead. They manufactured ICBMs of *Hwasong* series based on their country's own science and technology from A to Z in a short span of time.

July 4, when an ICBM of *Hwasong-14* series was successfully launched, was recorded as an eventful day when the interest of world politics were focused on the DPRK.

In the past it usually took others 15 to 20 years to complete a single missile weapon system, but the Korean scientists manufactured it in one month and a half and succeeded in launching it, while ensuring both the speed and quality.

They had conducted dozens of basic and partial tests for the development of the ICBM.

Kim Jong Un had guided in detail the whole course of the

launch from the injection of fuel at the dangerous launching site.

Indeed, the ICBM of the DPRK can be said to be a crystallization of Kim Jong Un's affection and devoted efforts for his country.

Hwasong-14 was also a precious achievement made by the great Korean people, who absolutely supported the WPK's line of simultaneously developing the two fronts

On July 4, when *Hwasong-14* was successfully launched, Kim Jong Un declared:

Today is a historic day; it is the day when our country has possessed ICBM. The DPRK has now become an ICBM possessor.

Kim Jong Un set forth a militant task of conducting the test-fire of *Hwasong-14* simulating its maximum range at an early date.

Scientists and technicians went over and confirmed its design and each process of its test-fire in less than 15 days, and completed the preparations for the test-fire according to the firing option, on the site and at the time indicated by Kim Jong Un.

On the night of July 28, 2017, the second test-fire of

Hwasong-14 was successfully conducted under the guidance of Kim Jong Un.

To achieve victory in perfecting the state nuclear forces, Kim Jong Un set forth the orientation of developing a new-type missile, and energetically led the completion of *Hwasong-15* ICBM system.

The workers in the munitions industry built a 9-axis transporter-erector-launcher and the scientists and technicians of the defence industry developed a new-type ICBM.

On November 28, 2017, after receiving a report that preparations for the test-fire of the ICBM had been completed, Kim Jong Un went to the site of its technical preparations at midnight. He first saw the 9-axis vehicle. He then went to the launch site and gave detailed guidance to the pre-launch processes including the erection of the missile. After acquainting himself in detail with the plan of the test-fire, he issued an order to launch it.

Looking at the vapour trail left by the missile, Kim Jong Un said: Today is a significant day when the historic cause of perfecting the national nuclear forces, the cause of building a missile power, has been accomplished; this day, when the great might to put the strategic position of the country on a higher

level was born, should be recorded in golden letters in the history of the country.

He also led the effort for developing SLBM and surface-to-surface IRBM *Pukguksong-2*.

On April 20, 2018, at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh WPK Central Committee, Kim Jong Un declared the great victory of the line of simultaneously developing the two fronts and the perfection of the national nuclear forces.

At the meeting he said: We have accomplished in less than five years the great cause of building up the national nuclear forces, a cause which took others 15 to 20 years and which requires great courage and pluck even to mention; this miraculous victory is a great victory of the WPK's line of simultaneously developing the two fronts and, at the same time, a brilliant historic victory that can be achieved only by the heroic Korean people.

As the line of simultaneously developing the two fronts was carried out, the Korean people's hard struggle to secure a powerful treasured sword for defending peace came to a successful conclusion, and they came to have a sure guarantee for leading the most dignified and happiest life throughout generations.

The cutting-edge military hardware and combat equipment displayed in the Defence Development Exhibition, called *Self-Defence 2021*, held in October 2021 in commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the founding of the WPK visually demonstrated the remarkable level of development of the DPRK's defence science and munitions industry and their bright future, as well as the country's formidable might.

A NEW MILESTONE IN INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS AND SEASONED EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Kim Jong Un put his heart and soul into realizing the unanimous aspiration of the Korean nation to reunify the divided country and open up a road of ever-lasting prosperity of the nation.

With an insight into the iron truth of history that national unity is just the reunification of the nation and the reunified power and with ennobling love for his nation and magnanimity, he set forth a line of bringing about a radical turn in inter-Korean relations in keeping with the requirements of the rapidly-changing situation, and took drastic measures in succession, thus improving the north-south relations, which were at their worst, and opening up a new phase for the reunification of the country. The Korean nation witnessed an eye-opening reality unfolded thanks to the patriotic devotion of Kim Jong Un, who opened a broad avenue for

national reunification in the vanguard with broad-minded determinations and unyielding practice.

He also wrote a new chapter in the history of development of the country's external relations. Maintaining a firm stand of independence in the vortex of fluid world politics, he conducted vigorous external activities, ushering in a new phase in the situation on the Korean peninsula and bringing about a dramatic change in the world political landscape.

PROVIDING A NEW LANDMARK FOR NATIONAL REUNIFICATION

Entering the 2010s, the situation on the Korean peninsula became complicated. Foreign forces were desperate to obstruct the reunification of Korea. And the conservatives in south Korea, who were obsessed with confrontation with the fellow countrymen in the north, flatly denied the historic June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration and neglected their implementation after they took office.

In particular, after the death of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the conservatives openly revealed their hostility towards the north;

they went so far as to commit such inhumane and anti-national acts of checking the south Korean people's mourning for Kim Jong Il; besides, they slandered and defiled the system of the north, and staged war exercises ceaselessly claiming that they were "annual" and "defensive" ones. This drove the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

So the north-south relations, which had been developing favourably at the beginning of the new century, returned to the phase as catastrophic as that before the June 15 era.

In his speech delivered at the military parade held in celebration of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung on April 15, 2012, Kim Jong Un said: It is, indeed, heartrending that, having lived as a homogeneous nation on the same territory for thousands of years, compatriots have suffered the pain of division for nearly 70 years; our Party and the government of the DPRK will join hands with anyone who sincerely wishes the reunification of the country and peace and prosperity of the nation, and make responsible and persevering efforts to realize the historic cause of the country's reunification.

And in his New Year Address for 2013 he elucidated his will to achieve independent reunification and build a reunified thriving country on the 3 000-ri land through the united efforts

of the whole nation. On other occasions including his New Year Address for 2015 he repeatedly stressed that the south Korean authorities should discontinue all war moves including reckless military exercises they conducted with foreign forces and follow the road of easing tension and creating a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula.

Thanks to Kim Jong Un's patriotic will and devoted efforts to reunify the country through a concerted struggle of the whole nation, three rounds of north-south summit and talks were held in 2018.

Until the end of 2017, the situation on the Korean peninsula was tense and complicated; the United States and its followers imposed sanctions and pressure on the DPRK and committed frantic war provocations against it in an attempt to check its intensifying of its self-defensive military capability.

Seeing through the change of situation running towards war every hour and the growing aspiration of the nation to reunification, Kim Jong Un unfolded a struggle to make a breakthrough in the efforts for improving inter-Korean relations and achieving independent reunification in an active manner.

In his New Year Address for 2018 he mentioned that the prevailing situation demanded that the north and south improve

the relations between themselves and take decisive measures for achieving a breakthrough for independent reunification without being obsessed by the past. And he set forth an audacious policy of switching inter-Korean relations to overcome the difficulties standing on the road of national reunification such as easing the acute military tension between the north and south and creating a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula, establishing a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification, and making both sides raise the banner of national independence higher than ever before.

His policy caused a thunderous sensation at home and abroad.

People of various social standings in south Korea supported and welcomed the policy enthusiastically, praising it as an "ambitious proposal for improving the south-north relations," a "great gift for the nation in the New Year" and an "unprecedented measure surpassing expectation." The political and other figures said that "the content of and expressions in the New Year Address are extraordinarily shocking and surprising," that "it contains highly exceptional measures," and that "it is a proposal which deserves ready welcome and a corresponding measure should be taken in return."

The south Korean mass media highlighted that “the north’s New Year Address for 2018 put emphasis on the improvement of the south-north relations,” and that “it draws attention that a quarter of the address referred to the issue of the south-north relations, making clear the north’s will to improve the relations.”

After clarifying the will of improving inter-Korean relations in the New Year Address, Kim Jong Un took successive measures for achieving reconciliation and unity of the nation and peace.

The north dispatched a high-level delegation, art troupe and athletes and cheering party to the 23rd Winter Olympic Games held in south Korea, changing the catastrophic inter-Korean relations into an atmosphere of national reconciliation, unity and reunification and providing an environment favourable for a north-south summit.

He met the members of a special envoy delegation of south Korea on their visit to Pyongyang, and affirmed that it was his firm will to advance inter-Korean relations vigorously through the concerted efforts of the nation and write a new chapter for national reunification to the admiration of the world. And he exchanged views about an inter-Korean summit and gave instructions to a relevant sector to take immediate practical measures in this regard.

At last, on April 27, 2018, a north-south summit took place

at Panmunjom, and this was recorded as the third round of summit meeting and talks in the history of the north-south relations.

Panmunjom is a place where the tragedy of national division is weighing heavily and military forces of both sides are standing in sharp confrontation. As he crossed the demarcation line and entered the south side area, Panmunjom, which had been a symbol of division, became a symbol of peace.

On the day Kim Jong Un noted that he felt once again the sense of mission and duty before the nation to put an end to the history of division and confrontation and usher in a new era of peace and reunification, saying that today he came here with the feeling of firing a signal flare at the starting point of writing the new history.

And when he planted a pine tree in commemoration of the meeting, he called for properly cultivating the trend of hard-won inter-Korean rapprochement with the tree as a token, out of a determination to sacrifice one’s all and become compost, soil and windbreak that would fertilize it, cover its precious roots and protect it, and carving out the future with a concerted effort in the spirit as strong as the evergreen pine tree.

He wrote on the visitors book of the House of Peace on the

south side: “A new history starts now. At the starting point of the history, an era of peace. Kim Jong Un April 27, 2018.”

At the meeting and talks a consensus of opinion was reached on all agenda items discussed. Kim Jong Un signed the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula together with the chief executive of south Korea.

The Panmunjom Declaration set up a new milestone of historic significance in reconnecting the severed blood vessels of the nation and achieving common prosperity and independent reunification through a comprehensive and radical development of inter-Korean relations in keeping with the unanimous desire and requirements of the entire nation aspiring to peace and reunification. The declaration is the most realistic and reasonable programme common to the nation, whose core is the ideal of By Our Nation Itself and the principle of independence and which conforms with the will and wish of the entire Korean nation, and the aspiration of the international community to peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. It is also a programme in the new historic times, which inherited the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration provided by Kim Jong Il.

At the suggestion of Kim Jong Un, the Standing Committee

of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea adopted the decree, titled, *On Revising the Pyongyang Time*. It was an expression of Kim Jong Un’s determination to bring national reunification earlier, as well as the first practical measure for achieving reconciliation and unity of the nation.

With the holding of the north-south summit meeting and talks and adoption of the April 27 Declaration as a momentum, the second hand of the reunification clock, which had stopped for 11 years, began to move ahead again.

However, the south Korean authorities, running against the Panmunjom Declaration, committed reckless moves of confrontation, like conducting north-targeted aerial precision strike exercises with foreign forces on an unprecedentedly large scale, after the third inter-Korean summit. This brought the north-south relations, which were developing favourably, to a crisis again.

At this juncture, Kim Jong Un proposed the fourth north-south summit meeting and talks.

The summit meeting and talks were held at the Thongil House on the north side area of Panmunjom on May 26, 2018, 29 days after the previous summit.

At the meeting and talks Kim Jong Un had a candid dialogue freely and open-heartedly with his south Korean counterpart on the crucial pending issues.

At the talks there was an in-depth exchange of views on matters which should be resolved to quickly implement the Panmunjom Declaration agreed upon at the third north-south summit, realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and achieve regional peace, stability and prosperity, those the north and the south were now faced with, and the successful holding of a DPRK-US summit. The top leaders of the north and the south agreed that both sides should trust and care for each other and make joint efforts to ensure that the Panmunjom Declaration reflecting the unanimous desire of the entire nation was implemented as early as possible. They also agreed to hold the north-south high-level talks on June 1 and further accelerate the programme for talks in various fields including those of military authorities and the Red Cross.

Kim Jong Un also expressed his firm will with regard to the DPRK-US summit scheduled for June 12, and stressed the need for both sides to positively join efforts to improve DPRK-US relations and build a mechanism for permanent and durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

As they were held when the situation on the Korean peninsula was entering a phase of dramatic change, the fourth north-south summit meeting and talks vividly showed that no matter how formidable the challenges of the anti-reunification forces at home and abroad were and how the situation around the peninsula changed, a wide road to improving the inter-Korean relations and achieving peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula can be opened when the Korean nation pool their will and efforts together. It also gave fresh hope and vitality to all the Korean people.

Thanks to Kim Jong Un's will to usher in a new heyday of national reunification by consolidating the thawing inter-Korean relations after April and May 2018 and accelerating the implementation of the historic Panmunjom Joint Declaration, the fifth round of north-south summit took place.

After the fourth summit, practical work for implementing the Panmunjom Declaration was conducted full steam, bringing about great progress unprecedented in the development of inter-Korean relations. Following the high-level talks for implementing the declaration, various meetings in different fields including those of the Red Cross, sports, railway and road were held and inter-Korean military talks and contacts

took place to ease military tension and remove the danger of war.

Meanwhile, sportspersons of the north and the south jointly took part in the 18th Asian Games and other international games, demonstrating to the whole world the resourcefulness, talent and united appearance of their nation; and a basketball match between the north and south for national reunification and a football match between workers of the north and south for national reunification took place splendidly, enhancing the atmosphere for national reconciliation and the enthusiasm for reunification.

In order to usher in a golden age of national reunification by cementing the north-south relations, which had entered the track of a new turn, and speeding up the implementation of the historic Panmunjom Declaration, Kim Jong Un received the members of a special envoy delegation of south Korea on September 5, 2018, and accepted the proposal by the chief executive of south Korea to visit Pyongyang.

On September 18, 2018, the fifth inter-Korean summit meeting and talks took place in Pyongyang.

At the two-day talks there was an in-depth exchange of opinions on various issues arising in further accelerating the development of inter-Korean relations by faithfully implementing

the Panmunjom Declaration in an all-round way. The two sides reaffirmed their will to implement the historic Panmunjom Declaration to the letter and formulated important matters to be maintained in implementing the declaration and detailed measures as well and agreed upon a series of immediate practical steps to be taken by them.

Kim Jong Un highly appreciated the present state of the north-south relations that were positively developing after the two rounds of summit meetings and talks had been held successfully, and had a frank and candid conversation with the chief executive of south Korea over important issues of mutual concern.

On September 19 Kim Jong Un visited the Paekhwawon State Guest House, where the south Korean chief executive was staying, and held the second-day talks.

The top leaders had an in-depth discussion of the ways for steadily taking measures, which would meet the requirements of the era of reconciliation and cooperation and fully guarantee the current development of relations, on the basis of the precious successes and experience they had achieved and gained as they dramatically reversed the inter-Korean relations of extreme hostility and confrontation and brought about startling changes and fruits by making sincere efforts with the viewpoint and

attitude of pooling minds and intentions and respecting and trusting each other.

Kim Jong Un signed the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, together with his south Korean counterpart.

In the run-up to the summit meeting and talks, it was a great concern at home and abroad what kind of issues would be discussed and what sort of document would be adopted at the summit meeting and talks, which were to be held in Pyongyang following the summits in June 15, 2000 and October 4, 2007. Mass media of the United States, Britain, France and Japan commented beforehand that the summit and talks would be the most challenging of the talks Moon Jae In had had with President Kim Jong Un so far. And some south Korean media commented that the ultimate goal of the summit meeting and talks was not the improvement of inter-Korean relations but denuclearization.

Nevertheless, Kim Jong Un saw to it that the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration became an important document permeated with the spirit of By Our Nation Itself and a document which would play the role of accelerator in advancing the north-south relations on a new higher stage by implementing the historic Panmunjom Declaration.

Thus those problems, which had remained unsolved for dozens

of years, were all settled at once in a few hours. It was a miracle.

Following the Pyongyang summit and talks an inter-Korean agreement on the military field was adopted, which was of great significance in removing the military hostility on the Korean peninsula and building up military confidence. The September Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the north-south military agreement, an agreement attached to the declaration, were an important milestone in further stepping up the development of inter-Korean relations and ushering in a new golden age of reconciliation and unity, and peace and prosperity of the nation by fully and faithfully implementing the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration in keeping with the unanimous aspirations and requirements of the entire nation.

WRITING A NEW CHAPTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

Kim Jong Un further expanded and developed the DPRK's relations of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation with other countries as required by the new era.

His first, lightning visit to the People's Republic of China in March 2018 was a noteworthy event in inheriting the proud history and tradition created by the leaders of preceding generations of the two countries and further developing the DPRK-PRC friendly relations forged through their sacred joint struggle for the cause of socialism.

President Xi Jinping deepened friendly relations with Kim Jong Un in Yangyuanzhai of the Diaoyutai State Guest House, in which Kim Il Sung had shared friendly feelings with Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai and Deng Xiaoping.

With regard to this, related officials of China said: Leaders of preceding generations of China used to transcend diplomatic conventions and hold talks with the leaders of the DPRK in a friendly and family atmosphere in Yangyuanzhai, out of respect and reverence for them; it is the highest level of courtesy for Xi Jinping to have arranged a luncheon with his wife for the DPRK leader in Yangyuanzhai, associated with the history of China-Korea relations.

Xi Jinping made sure that an artistic performance was given in honour of the visiting DPRK leader, and presented to him such gifts as a large cloisonne enamel vase, mao-tai, porcelain tea set and jewellery box.

A Chinese official said: General Secretary Xi Jinping presented a large cloisonne enamel vase he had prepared with sincerity to President Kim Jong Un and this clearly shows how he reveres and respects President Kim Jong Un.

Through talks with Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un provided a firm foundation for safeguarding the history and tradition of friendship and expanding and developing strategic communication and comradely relations of friendship between the two countries.

Following his visit to Dalian, China, in early May 2018, Kim Jong Un visited China again in June the same year. These visits were an unprecedented event in the history of mutual visits between the DPRK and China and in the world diplomatic history and demonstrated the invincible might of the relations of friendship between the two countries.

In January 2019, the year that marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, Kim Jong Un visited China again.

At the talks the two leaders exchanged each other's opinions of developing friendship, solidarity, exchanges and cooperation between the two parties and countries, of the independent stands maintained by the two parties and governments and of the international and regional issues of common concern, and agreed

upon new plans for expanding and developing the tradition of high-level mutual visits in the political, economic, military and cultural fields in 2019.

In June 2019 Xi Jinping visited the DPRK at the invitation of Kim Jong Un.

At the talks with Xi Jinping Kim Jong Un reaffirmed the truth that socialism is an unchangeable core of friendship between the DPRK and China and that the uniqueness and invincibility of the friendship between the two countries lie in safeguarding and glorifying socialism by their concerted efforts, and expressed his full confidence that they would join efforts for achieving a brilliant victory without fail in the struggle for advancing the socialist cause.

Kim Jong Un also conducted energetic activities for further developing friendly relations between the DPRK and Cuba.

In June 2016 he met a special envoy of Raul Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and his party on their visit to the DPRK and had talks with them. At the talks he said that though the DPRK and Cuba were far-off geographically, they were fighting in the same trench of common struggle against imperialism and the Party, government and people of the DPRK would always stand by the

party, government and people of Cuba, expressing his confidence that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries would be further expanded and developed.

Attaching importance to the relations with Cuba, he visited the Cuban embassy in Pyongyang on November 28, 2016 on the occasion of the death of Fidel Castro, supreme leader of the Cuban revolution, and expressed his heartfelt condolence. He wrote on the mourners book as follows:

“An outstanding leader has died, but his name and exploits will live for ever in our memory. With the pain of having lost a great comrade and a great comrade-in-arms.”

In November 2018, Kim Jong Un met Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

He watched an artistic performance with the Cuban leader, arranged a grand party for him, had talks and luncheon with him in the office building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and gave him a hearty send-off.

At the talks with the Cuban leader, he said that the leaders of the preceding generations of the two countries had provided and developed the framework of the special friendship based

on revolutionary principles, comradely obligation and socialist principle and that the history and tradition of bilateral friendship had invariably been carried forward and further developed under the new situation and environment thanks to the joint efforts of both sides. He expressed the firm stand and will to further expand and strengthen the strategic and comradely bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and two countries in line with the requirements of the new era in the future, too.

Kim Jong Un paid a historic goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in March 2019 with a view to inheriting, and opening another heyday of fraternal relations with the Vietnamese people, and put the friendship between the two countries on a higher level as required by the new era.

The friendly relations between the two countries forged on the basis of the noble comradely obligation and close friendship between Kim Il Sung and Ho Chi Minh had been consolidated along the course of their efforts for the cause of socialism.

At the talks he had with the leading officials of the party and state of Vietnam Kim Jong Un clarified the consistent standpoint of the Workers' Party of Korea and government of the DPRK to carry on the blood-sealed friendly and cooperative

relations between the two countries and two parties true to the intentions of the leaders of the preceding generations of the two countries and discussed the issues arising in conducting brisk party- and government-level visits and regularizing and developing cooperation and exchange in the economy, science and technology, national defence, sports, art and literature, press and all other fields.

In order to further develop the DPRK-Russia friendly relations as required by the new era and situation, Kim Jong Un visited the Russia Federation in April 2019, thus bringing about another heyday of developing bilateral relations.

President Putin of Russia came to Vladivostok in company with the guard of honour of three services of the Russian armed forces, military band and famous national art troupes from Moscow to welcome Kim Jong Un.

Kim Jong Un had open-minded and meaningful talks with Putin on the issues of developing the relations of friendship between the DPRK and Russia and ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula and beyond, and on international issues of mutual concern. He made it clear that it was the steadfast standpoint and strategic policy of the government of the DPRK to ceaselessly consolidate and develop the strategic and traditional

bilateral relations of friendship on a new level as required by the new century.

Kim Jong Un wrote new chapters noteworthy in history through his lightning and bold external activities.

Kim Jong Un ensured that three rounds of DPRK-US summit and talks were held, opening up a new history of the relations between his country and the US.

Historically, the US had not recognized the DPRK, a legitimate sovereign state, but resorted to war threats and economic sanctions and blockade as its only policy aimed at crushing the DPRK.

Like earlier US administrations, the Trump administration had not concealed its ambition to stifle it to death.

Trump ensured that sanctions were imposed against the DPRK on the excuse of its measures to strengthen its self-defensive national power and, moreover, uttered such virulent words as “fire and fury,” “total destruction,” “ready for a war,” “silence before a storm” and “the one and only way” on official occasions including the UN arena and on his Twitter account, making a nuclear war against the DPRK a fait accompli.

Determined to confront the aggressive manoeuvres of the US aimed at depriving his country of its rights to independence,

survival and development by means of nuclear weapons, and settle accounts with it by means of nuclear weapons, Kim Jong Un put forward a new line of promoting the country’s economic construction and building up its nuclear forces simultaneously, and finally accomplished the historic cause of perfecting the nation’s nuclear capability in 2017.

The result was that the strategic relationship between the two countries changed from the US’s unilateral nuclear threat to the DPRK to the DPRK’s practical nuclear threat to the US.

The north Korean issue became one which could be neglected any longer for the Trump administration, whose north Korea policy was “maximum pressure and engagement,” and ridding the Americans of their fear of the DPRK’s nuclear weapons capable of attacking their land any time rose as a top-priority task of its policy.

The Republicans, who were trying to win the midterm elections in November 2018 by driving away the American people’s anxiety over national security, had no other choice but to face the DPRK whether they wanted it or not.

In the long run, the Trump administration gave up its previous declaration that it would never recognize or face the DPRK until the latter abandoned its nuclear programme, and decided to

engage in negotiations with it.

Trump secretly sent Mike Pompeo, Director of CIA and Secretary of State-designate, to Pyongyang in late March 2018 as his special envoy and in early May sent him, now Secretary of State, to Pyongyang again to make preparations for a US-DPRK summit.

Kim Jong Un met Pompeo on May 9.

He warmly greeted the US official and sincerely congratulated him upon his recent inauguration as the US Secretary of State.

He welcomed him to Pyongyang and posed for a photograph with him.

Pompeo courteously conveyed Trump's verbal message to Kim Jong Un.

Upon hearing the message, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the US President's deep interest in the negotiated settlement of the issues, and expressed appreciation.

He and Pompeo exchanged their assessments of and views on the acute Korean peninsula situation, which was drawing worldwide concern, as well as the stands and views of their own supreme leaderships on the summit.

Kim Jong Un said that the upcoming DPRK-US summit

meeting and talks would be a historic event marking a fine first step towards promoting the positive development of the peninsula situation and building a good future.

Kim Jong Un accepted the US president's official request for releasing Americans who were detained in the DPRK for having committed hostile acts, and ensured that a special pardon was granted for them so that they could return home.

Soon after hearing the result of Pompeo's Pyongyang visit, Trump convened a Cabinet meeting, and said he felt thankful for the DPRK leader. And he received Pompeo and the released Americans at the airport. When journalists asked his impression, he said: I want to thank President Kim Jong Un; wait and see what will happen in future; I will achieve a great success; if necessary, I will visit Pyongyang.

The US government released a statement that President Trump was very thankful for President Kim Jong Un for releasing the detained Americans and that he viewed it as an expression of positive goodwill, and repeated the statement through its spokesman.

Finally, the historic moment awaited by the whole world arrived.

Kim Jong Un arrived in Singapore at 15:00 on June 10 for the

historic first meeting and talks with the US President.

On June 12, Kim Jong Un left the lodging hotel at 08:10 am local time, and arrived at the Capella Hotel on Sentosa Island, the venue of the summit.

At 09:00 am, Kim Jong Un met and took the first handshake with US President Donald Trump.

That Trump gave Kim Jong Un his hand with due respect as head of state drew keen worldwide interest and was a source of special report.

Whenever he shook hands with heads of state of foreign countries, Trump would grasp others' hands tightly or tug them to their embarrassment. In the past he had been criticized much because of this bad habit when he was shaking hand with the heads of the European allied countries.

Because of it, his handshake was the focus of the media before the opening of the summit in Singapore. However, Trump held out his arm first and shook hands with Kim Jong Un gently.

The foreign media reported: Trump showed an unprecedented image of shaking hands with Kim Jong Un gently; the US president, who had been infamous with a rude way of handshaking, was gentle to Kim Jong Un; he showed a new

Trump-style handshake to President Kim Jong Un as an expression of his highest level of cordial reception.

The top leaders of the two countries took the first step towards reconciliation and came face to face with each other for dialogue, for the first time in over 70 years characterized by conflict and antagonism since the division of the Korean peninsula.

There were one-on-one talks between the two leaders.

Kim Jong Un said: It was really not that easy we have got to where we are; we were once hostage to the past and had our eyes and ears covered by ingrained prejudice and practices; but we have braved it out and we are now here at the new starting point.

The two leaders shared candid views on the pending issues of vital significance in ending the decades-long hostile relationship between the DPRK and the US and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The tete-a-tete was followed by enlarged talks.

Both sides held a comprehensive and in-depth discussion about the establishment of a new DPRK-US relationship and the setup of a permanent and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that he was glad to sit together with President Trump and other members of the US delegation, Kim Jong Un highly appreciated Trump's willingness and passion to seek a negotiated, realistic settlement of the issues despite the past history of hostility between the two countries.

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

Many issues have stemmed from the deep-rooted distrust and hostility between the two countries, Kim Jong Un said, noting that both countries need to be understanding each other, promise to refrain from antagonizing the other party and take legal and institutional measures to guarantee it in order to ensure peace and stability on the peninsula and denuclearize it. He also stressed the need for both sides to take practical measures at an early date for implementing the issues dealt with at the talks and the joint statement. He accepted on the spot Trump's request for recovering the remains of American soldiers and repatriating those already identified, and gave a relevant organ an instruction on taking

a step to address the issue as early as possible.

To build a permanent and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula is vital for ensuring peace and security in the region and the rest of the world, he said. And he pointed to the need to make a courageous decision to halt the provocative, hostile military actions for now.

Expressing his sympathy with it, Trump voiced his willingness to stop the US-south Korea joint military exercises, which the DPRK side regarded as provocative, while the dialogue of goodwill was under way between the two countries, to offer a security assurance to the DPRK and to lift sanctions against it in keeping with the improvement of bilateral relations through dialogue and negotiations.

Kim Jong Un stated that, if the US side took genuine confidence-building measures to improve relations, the DPRK was also ready to take additional goodwill measures of the next stage in return.

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

That day a luncheon was arranged for the top leaders of

the DPRK and the US and participants in the summit from both sides.

At the luncheon, they swapped opinions on invigorating exchange of opinions and contacts between the two sides in order to consolidate the successes of the summit and rapidly develop the bilateral relations.

After the luncheon, Kim Jong Un had a walk with Trump, deepening rapport.

The two leaders signed a joint statement of the Singapore summit.

Today both sides are to sign the historic joint statement which marks the departure from the past for a new start, Kim Jong Un said, adding that the world would witness a remarkable change.

The news of the successful Singapore summit, which drew enthusiastic support and welcome of the whole world, set it astir.

Many countries welcomed the result of the summit, saying it marked a megaevent of paramount importance in stimulating the current trend towards reconciliation, peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and beyond and in effecting a dramatic turn in the relationship between the most hostile foes as required by the developing times.

In late February 2019, Kim Jong Un and Trump held the second round of DPRK-US summit in Hanoi, Vietnam.

At the two-day talks, Kim Jong Un expressed his resolve to establish essential stages and course to be followed without fail for implementing the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement in the interests of both sides, and to take more prudent and trustworthy steps, and looked forward to a positive response from the US side. However, the US side insisted on impracticable methods without any definite orientation or methodology. In other words, the US was not prepared to solve problems with the DPRK at the negotiating table.

Kim Jong Un maintained a thoroughgoing principle of independence and never made any concession on the issues which would be in conflict with the interests of his country.

In the policy speech at the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held after the second round of DPRK-US summit, Kim Jong Un stressed: Given the deep-rooted animosity between the DPRK and the US, in order to implement the June 12 Joint Statement the US should abandon its present method of calculation and approach us with a new one.

On June 29, 2019, Trump, while visiting Osaka, Japan, posted on Twitter his hope to meet Kim Jong Un even for two minutes.

On receiving the report, Kim Jong Un took practical measures, saying that the US president proposed in front of our gate a meeting with him and it was his obligation to meet him from the point of view of humane values.

So the standpoint of the DPRK on Trump's proposal for the meeting was made public in the name of the First Vice-Foreign Minister

Trump sent his official standpoint about a Panmunjom US-DPRK summit, and a working-level contact was held between the two countries.

At the working-level contact, it was revealed that Trump wanted another full round of summit, not a meeting for two minutes.

The US side said that their president hoped not only a summit but also an enlarged meeting.

As the DPRK side flatly rejected the US proposal at the contact, the US side begged the former not to make the Panmunjom summit miscarried, saying that they would do anything what it wanted.

Actually, a summit is a matter of paramount importance for countries as it is to be prepared for several months or for at least two or three days, because it involves many complicated

matters in security assurance and diplomatic protocol.

But Kim Jong Un, for the destiny of his country and fellow people and for the interests of the country, made a determination in one day to meet Trump, and went to Panmunjom without caring for his personal safety.

Shortly after he crossed the demarcation line to the north side in Panmunjom, Trump said to Kim Jong Un that he would have been very embarrassed if he had rejected his proposal posted on Twitter.

The Panmunjom summit, which had begun by Trump's request of a two-minute meeting, was planned to be held for 15 minutes as a result of the working-level contact and finally extended to one hour by Trump's request.

Though he showed generosity and magnanimity at the meeting, Kim Jong Un firmly maintained independent and principled standpoint at the talks.

The Panmunjom DPRK-US summit surprised the world.

The three rounds of DPRK-US summit were events of great significance which displayed throughout the world the personality of Kim Jong Un as an outstanding leader and the absolute position of the DPRK at the centre of the international political landscape.

Thanks to the energetic external activities conducted by Kim Jong Un, the DPRK, while firmly maintaining the principle of independence, developed different levels of contacts, exchanges and cooperation with the countries that respected its sovereignty and were friendly to it, thus giving a powerful encouragement to the international current towards independence, peace and friendship.

* * *

As seen above, the past decade is characterized by Kim Jong Un's devoted efforts for the happiness of his people and prosperity of his country. The Korean people are now firmly convinced that only victory and glory are in store for them as long as they remain faithful to his leadership.

TEN YEARS OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

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