



World of Affection for the People

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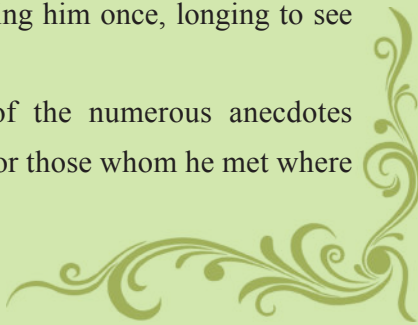
Foreword

A leader endowed with warm affection for his people, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un spends days and nights working with devotion for their interests.

The country, in which he was born, is dear to his heart, and he finds the worth of working for the revolution in a happy smile spreading over the people's faces. Impressed by this ennobling view of life, the people call him dear father. He treasures their lofty sense of patriotism and shows tender care for them, doing his best to translate their wishes into reality and breaking not a single promise he makes with them.

As he makes so painstaking efforts to ensure that their ideals come true and to promote their wellbeing, all the people in the country respect their benevolent leader, yearning for him all the time and, after meeting him once, longing to see him again.

This book contains some of the numerous anecdotes telling of how deeply he cared for those whom he met where he went.



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1. Ennobling View of Life

Concept of a Day

At dawn one day an official asked the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to stop working and go to bed as another day was going to break soon. As Kim Jong Un had worked throughout the night oblivious of the passage of time, he needed even a short rest before he began another day of work, the official thought.

Reading his mind, Kim Jong Un said that he had a different idea of *today* from his.

He explained:

You usually regard *today* as the period of time until the hours when you wind up your daily work or until 24 hours. But while at work, I see *today* as the period until 5 o'clock

the following morning. So at 5 o'clock a few minutes ago, I reviewed my work of the day and decided what I will do on the new day.

Hearing his words the official told himself:

Five o'clock in the morning is the time that we usually regard as the beginning of a new day and spend dreaming. But he says he does his work of the earlier day until that time. Then his notion of *today* is...

As if reading his inner thought, Kim Jong Un said:

I have been used to burning the midnight oil since I was young, and it has now become one of the rules in my life. I like it very much when I can engross myself in thinking at silent hours of the night. When I find a solution to the problem I have wrestled with through the night, I feel really refreshed and relieved of all my pent-up fatigue.

In general, it is a requirement of the human body to work during the day and have a rest at night, so sleeping has been regarded as an essential part of the day in relieving oneself of the day's fatigue and replenishing the energy for a new day. There is a limit to the physical capacity, and a tight and strenuous schedule is inevitably followed by physical exhaustion, which should be removed by an appropriate rest.

Yet each of the workdays of Kim Jong Un cannot be seen

merely as the time of the exertion of his willpower; they are a continuation of his work with superhuman energy and sense of responsibility for the heavy burden he is bearing for the good of his people.

Here goes a story about one of his unusual days.

One day he visited a fishery station on the East Sea of Korea after hearing that it had caught a lot of fish.

Marvelling at the sight of the big catch, he, though the sea water that came along with the unloading of fish splashed his clothes and shoes, stood there wearing a happy smile all the time. Then, he said that although it was past two o'clock in the morning when he received the report that they had caught a lot of fish, he was so pleased that he felt like dancing, too happy to get to sleep.

On another day he said:

I always yearn for two things. One is my wish to see as soon as possible the communist paradise where our people live with nothing to envy in the world, and the other is to sleep. I really yearn for sleeping.

Lesson on Patriotism

One April day some officials, while waiting for Kim Jong Un, were having a chat in the waiting room at his office.

Their topic turned to memories of their home towns—games they had played with their mates, sites and things of historical importance in their places, local specialties, and so on.

At that time Kim Jong Un walked into the waiting room and asked what they were talking about.

One of them said they had been boasting about their own home towns.

Smiling broadly, he took a seat next to them, saying that revolutionaries should not forget their home towns.

He noted:

If you lack love for your home town where you were born and grew up, and fail to treasure it, you cannot fight for your country at the cost of life. That is why we say love for the home town precisely means love for the country.

Looking at the officials who were lost in deep thought, he stressed that officials should hold their country dear and they

could have the courage to give up their life to defend it only when they cherished the love for their home town.

He continued to say:

I love the whole land of my country, my motherland, as the place where I was born and grew up.

Now the officials recalled what he had said years before:

I believe you will be genuine persons who work heart and soul for the prosperity of our country, our motherland, cherishing the patriotic mind of loving and treasuring even a blade of grass and a tree on this land like your own flesh and valuing our own things more dearly than foreign ones.

Seeing the officials impressed with his words, Kim Jong Un said:

I believe my country, my motherland, is the best, and I will work faithfully, all my life, as a son of my country, my motherland.

A Source of Pleasure of Carrying on the Revolution

One day Kim Jong Un received a report that a foodstuff factory had been successfully upgraded.

As he knew it would be another nice foodstuff supplier for the service personnel, he felt so pleased that he went to see it though he was so busy with state affairs.

Looking round the factory, he was very satisfied, saying repeatedly that no one would find a match for this foodstuff factory in terms of size, production capacity and modernization standard, and that the factory would serve as a model and standard, good enough to be called an out-and-out smart factory and a source of pride in the eyes of the world.

After going round the condiments workshop with satisfaction, he was walking out of the building, when he came to a halt suddenly and asked a factory official to bring him a packet of bean paste so that he could taste it.

Having tasted the paste after a while, Kim Jong Un offered it to the officials of his entourage, before asking how they liked it.

When they said it was very good, he disagreed with them, saying that although it was much better in colour and taste than it had been earlier, it still tasted a little bitter.

Then he asked about the proportion of bean and maize in the paste, before stressing that if they were to ensure a high level of production on a normal footing they would have to take a proper measure for the supply of raw and other materials, keep

the facilities in a good state of maintenance and operation and focus on improving the quality of products.

Winding up his visit to the factory, he asked earnestly:

The people whose children stand in the posts of national defence will be very happy if they know the People's Army has now got this factory. To think of this, I feel quite pleased. This is a source of pleasure of carrying on the revolution, isn't it? We should work harder to supply greater amounts of foodstuffs to our soldiers.

On his continuous journey for field guidance without any break, he always works to bring happiness to the service personnel and other people, seeking his pleasure and worth of life in devoting himself to their well-being.

Happiness for a Revolutionary

Kim Jong Un visited Mangyongdae Revolutionary School on June 6, 2014 on the occasion of the 68th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union.

Walking into the hall of the newly-built school gym, he said it was a wonderful building, and praised it as a standard of its kind in the country, expressing his great satisfaction.

Wearing a bright smile, he remarked that there would be no match for the gym in the world, and that it was a laudable building that was erected in reflection of the desire of the entire nation.

One January day two years previously, he dropped in at the gym on his visit to the school. Learning that it had a poor heating system as it was an old building, he felt the floor of the gym, which was cold, and decided to have an excellent gym built for the school.

He assigned a relevant organ the task of making a design of the gym and made sure that the organ was provided with necessary information on international practice.

Later when he was examining a scale model prepared by designers, he pointed out whatever was short of his expectation. He was so solicitous that he went over its model as many as nine times before finally approving it.

In accordance with the design that had been completed under his close concern, the gym was built in a unique form of two basement floors and one floor above ground.

Seeing the leader so satisfied with the gym, a senior official of the school said that all visitors called it a palace both under and above ground.

Readily agreeing with him, Kim Jong Un said:

This kind of gym can be built only by our Party that carries forward the ennobling care of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il for the younger generations.

Now the official told him that some foreign visitors to the school had asked him why there were no spectators' seats in the gym. They had meant to ask how the school could make up for the cost of the building when there were no such seats. He had explained that the gym was built at the state's expense under the care of Kim Jong Un for the students to play freely, not for any profit. Hearing the answer, the foreigners had been surprised, only making nods.

Hearing the story, Kim Jong Un, with a bright smile, advised him to boast about the gym to foreigners. Then, carefully looking at every corner of the gym, he emphasized that whatever they did for the good of the students of the school, they should ensure the highest level of them.

After a while, giving a look around the inside of the gym again, he said it was really excellent, and suggested building all other gyms in a similar style. Then he reiterated that the gym of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School was a model, admirable one reflecting the intention of the Party.

Now the official, an alumnus of the school, told Kim Jong Un that it was over 40 years since he finished the

school, and that its educational environment was improved amazingly compared to what it had been when he left the school.

Giving a hearty laugh, Kim Jong Un said:

Building a structure needs a lot of cost, but you will find it worthy of hard work and feel proud and pleased when you have erected an excellent one. The source of pleasure for revolutionaries lies in their creating and increasing the wealth of lasting value for the country with their own hands. And just for this pleasure they engage themselves in the revolution, devoting all their wisdom and energy to the effort to increase the wealth of the nation.

Valuable Treasure

One October day in 2019 Kim Jong Un visited the construction site of a greenhouse farm in the Jungphyong area.

While going round the apartment houses built by the soldiers, he approached the entrance to one of them.

Looking at the apartment house, he said that the apartment houses built by the soldiers were all quite admirable. Then, he asked how many models they had adopted for the houses.

Hearing the answer, he said that the apartment models were

all nice. The low-rise apartments in the residential district were of diversified shapes with original attractions.

Stepping into flat No. 1 on the first floor, he looked round the bathroom, kitchen and other parts of the flat. Looking at the ceiling of a living room he said that it had been flawlessly finished.

The accompanying officials cast their glance at the ceiling and said admiringly that even skilled plasterers would feel ashamed to see the ceiling treatment.

Kim Jong Un gave a hearty laugh, saying:

You are right. This is a wonderful flat. I am sure the people will find it really good. When the workers of the greenhouse farm move into nice flats like this, the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* will come from them of its own accord. Our soldiers have helped me fulfil another wish of mine. I really appreciate the efforts of the soldiers.

Excited at his praise, a commanding officer of the unit told him that the skills of his soldiers had been considerably improved during the project.

Kim Jong Un, approving the officer's prideful words, said that such a course would help the soldiers temper themselves ideologically while learning how to do their work.

Then, giving another look at the inside of the drawing

room, he said:

I am really proud of my service personnel. I highly appreciate their work. Please tell them that I was very satisfied with the houses.

Looking up to him, the officers said that they would be grateful for his appreciation.

Kim Jong Un walked out of flat No. 1 and then into the next flat, when an officer told him that those houses were what the soldiers of a certain sub-unit of his had built for the first time in their life.

Kim Jong Un said that as they were things done by the service personnel, the greenhouse, tree nursery and rural houses were all the more valuable.

In fact, the soldiers had had no experience in construction. As they were the first houses they had built, the officers had been wondering if they could deserve any appreciation when they were compared with what were built by skilled builders.

Looking at the officers, Kim Jong Un asked them to tell the soldiers that the Supreme Commander had highly praised their patriotic spirit. Then, he went to the resting place in front of the apartment house, saying:

I feel really pleased today. This place used to be dusty, but now it has got a large greenhouse farm. How good it is!

2. Encouraging People to Cherish Patriotism

Red Apples in Kosan

It was one autumn day when grain crops and fruits of various kinds were ripening on the fields and in the mountains.

Upon learning that the Kosan Combined Fruit Farm was to reap a rich harvest of fruits, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited it despite his tight schedule.

He made the rounds of several places, telling the local officials that, back to Pyongyang, he would have the happy news widely known across the country.

A senior official of the farm said that many fields attained the set target of 50 tons per hectare.

Kim Jong Un was very glad to hear it, urging him to guide him there.

Arriving at one of the fields, he looked at the apple trees there and said that all the branches were laden with a lot of ripe fruits.

Then he approached a container packed with freshly picked apples.

Holding a big apple in his hand, he said:

All the apples are big and look tasty. They are so red that they look as if they were dyed red.

Still wearing a bright smile on his face, he stepped into the field.

He touched ripe apples one after another, saying that they were really nice and amazingly red.

The official of the farm told him that its employees had tended the trees with care without picking apples from them as they had wanted to show this spectacular scenery to Kim Jong Un.

Deeply moved by this, Kim Jong Un said:

You say that the officials and employees of the Kosan Combined Fruit Farm have tended the apple trees with care from the flowering season to this ripening one, eagerly waiting for my visit. It seems to me that these apples have turned red as a reflection of their loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm.

Intention Behind High Appreciation

One day in mid-May 2013, Kim Jong Un inspected a unit of the Korean People's Army.

Acknowledging a salute from its commander, he said:

I feel refreshed to see the forested mountains around this unit and its compound covered with trees. The air is fresh here in this place clad in trees and flowers.

The commander beamed with joy, swelling with pride in being praised by Kim Jong Un. Previously, while serving at another unit, he had been praised by General Kim Jong Il for having led the effort to plant trees in and around the compound of the unit.

What a good blessing, he said to himself.

Kim Jong Un resumed:

On my way to this unit, I presumed that there would be many imperfect aspects here because it was not long after the unit's command was built. As I see it now, this does not look like a new unit.

Casting his eyes around the unit's command, he said:

Though newly established, it has achieved a lot. You have

planted many trees to create a dense forest, and the air is so clear that I feel refreshed and pleased indeed.

This reminded them of one March day the previous year when Kim Jong Un inspected a unit. Together with officials in his company, he had planted Korean spruce and Kobus magnolia he had brought with him, going into details about how to plant them.

Pointing to the tall trees lining the road nearby, he said that there were so many trees and it was very pleasant to see them.

And on his way to a company, he said:

As I am walking in the compound covered with green trees, I feel like singing that ours is a beautiful country with scenic mountains and clear rivers.

He noticed hedges growing under the eaves of the company's barracks, which indicated the soldiers' lifestyle.

He said to the officers of the unit:

My inspection today is worthwhile. I am reluctant to leave this unit. I like it very much. I wish I stayed here longer.

Implanting Patriotism in the Sportspersons

It happened when Kim Jong Un met the sportspersons who had brought glory to their country by winning medals at international competitions.

After congratulating the players and their coaches on their successes, he said that they were a source of pride for their country and fellow people.

Still smiling, he asked what would usually come into their minds before the start of a match.

This question reminded them of the past moments when they had felt tense thinking over the tactical plans to beat the opponents. At such stressful moments, they had gathered strength and courage thinking that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and fellow people were watching them.

A chief coach answered that they had reminded themselves of his expectations.

Kim Jong Un said:

What can you see on your chests? It is the flag of the DPRK. You should play a game with a resolution to add glory to this

flag and enhance our country's reputation.

He continued to tell them how he had felt during the recent competition, waiting for the results.

He said:

To be frank, when you were leaving Pyongyang International Airport, I was near the runway to bid farewell to you without being noticed. I wished you came back as winners. I am sure that our people, including the service personnel, felt the same.

For the players and coaches, this was a great surprise.

How could they know that he had been seeing them off near the runway?

He went on to say:

Our players were very successful at the recent competitions. This is a natural result of their hard training. In ordinary days they made persevering efforts, being conscious that the height of a medal-awarding podium represents the prestige of their country.

He then stressed that the gold medalists and their coaches should be given high commendation.

It was time for them to leave, but all the players and coaches looked reluctant to go.

Shaking hands with them one by one, he said:

I believe that our Party's dependable sportspersons will devote their all to winning greater victories and demonstrate the dignity and might of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea at Asian and world championships.

Who Is a Patriot?

In October 2020 Kim Jong Un visited the reconstruction site of Kimhwa County in Kangwon Province, afflicted by a natural disaster.

The county had undergone a transformation in just 40-odd days.

After having a panoramic view of the county for a good while, Kim Jong Un asked if the county people liked it, and when he heard that they did, he continued:

Then I have nothing more to be desirous of. No struggle would be more pleasing and worthwhile than that aimed at ensuring the people lead a happy life in modern houses befitting an ideal, cultured society our Party plans to build by eradicating the backwardness of the times.

He also looked round the construction site of houses in the seat of Choso-ri.

Enjoying a view of the village at the foot of a hill, looking like a column under review at a military parade, Kim Jong Un said:

We were right to have new houses built. They look

completely different from those in the county seat.

Officials also felt happy to see the transformed rural village, and one of them told Kim Jong Un that the village sat in a wonderful place at the foot of a mountain.

Kim Jong Un looked at the village again, and pointed out that there were no trees on the mountain, continuing that there were some trees on the mountain in front of the village.

In contrast to the mountain at the back of the village, the mountain in front was densely wooded with pine nut trees, seemingly scores of years old.

Kim Jong Un stopped for a while to see the forest. Then he asked who had planted the trees and how old they were.

An official answered that the trees had been planted more than 40 years before by the then senior official of the county Party committee together with the county residents.

Looking at the mountain in front, Kim Jong Un said:

The then chief secretary of the Kimhwa County Party Committee did a worthwhile thing.

Over 40 years before, the then chief secretary of the Kimhwa County Party Committee had mobilized county residents to fertilize the barren land, rooting out useless trees there. With an eye to the day when pine nuts would form a forest, he had planted the trees and led the residents in tending them almost

every day, whether he was recognized or not. The forest got denser and larger year after year, and became a wealth of the country to be a pride of the county.

Keeping his eyes on the picturesque forest, Kim Jong Un said:

General Kim Jong Il said that such an official is a patriot.

He highly appreciated the old Party official for his patriotic devotion as he had contributed to planting a pine nut forest in the mountains.

Though he was gone scores of years ago, the name of the official is inscribed in the annals of the county's history as a patriot, and he lives in the hearts of the local people as a patriotic martyr of the province.

3. Warm Human Feelings

Photos Taken with Tender Care

It happened after a tank-driving contest ended, in which the participating service personnel demonstrated their fighting efficiency and bravery.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the drivers and said that he would have a photo taken with them.

Overjoyed, they ran towards him, many of them struggling to stand nearer and some pushing others even on the turret.

Among them was one who was too short to rival his big fellows.

All settling themselves where they were standing, Kim Jong Un asked about the winners' place and went into their midst.

The poor soldier grew impatient, standing on tiptoe to get his face shown between the shoulders in the front row.

He was afraid that he might be invisible to the cameraman's eye.

At the moment, Kim Jong Un turned back and asked if there was anyone whose face was hidden by those standing in the front row.

The soldier was eager to shout for his presence to be known, but he didn't dare.

Looking carefully at the soldiers standing behind, Kim Jong Un noticed another short man and urged him to move into the first row.

Others gazing at the lucky man with an envious look, Kim Jong Un at last found the poor soldier standing on tiptoe.

You are short, too, said he.

The soldier felt as if he were in a dream.

Kim Jong Un took his hand and pulled him to his side.

His hand still holding the soldier's, the camera clicked.

Having blamed himself for being shorter than others, the soldier was still smiling.

After all, for being so short, he was led to stand just beside Kim Jong Un.

Here is another similar episode that happened when

Kim Jong Un was about to pose for a photo with the employees of the Kangso Mineral Water Factory.

Standing in the midst of the employees, he noticed a woman nearby, who looked uneasy about her small stature.

Reading her thought, he said that he was afraid she might be overshadowed by her taller colleagues.

Then he asked the cameraman if all the faces were visible.

The latter answered that everyone in the front row should squat down.

Kim Jong Un told those in the front row to crouch, so that others behind could be clearly seen.

Now all the faces smiling happily, the camera clicked.

There are many other stories telling of his meticulous care—returning to an army unit he inspected after hearing about the women soldiers on duty who had missed the photo with him; posing for a photo with a manager’s wife who was bedridden; caring about a former political instructor who was absent from a photo session; having a photo taken with a table-tennis player who had brought glory to her country.

Two Ailing Officers Sent for

One day Kim Jong Un visited a unit of the Korean People’s Army.

All the officers and men were overjoyed to see him at their unit.

Unfortunately, two officers—commander of a company and its political instructor—were not there with them.

While Kim Jong Un was making the rounds of the unit, the officers were looking out of the windows in an empty room.

They were blaming themselves for suffering from a bout of flu, when a commanding officer of the unit was seen rushing towards them.

He was almost shouting, informing them that the Supreme Commander was calling them.

They could hardly believe their ears, yet hurrying out of the room.

Taking a few steps outdoors, they halted.

How can we stand before him, being still sick with this flu?

The commanding officer began to explain.

After being shown around the unit headquarters,

Kim Jong Un went to their company's barracks, where he wondered why its commander and political instructor were not there.

The commanding officer hesitated for a while and told him that they were down with flu.

Kim Jong Un said:

I must see them. How sorry they will be if I, the Supreme Commander, go back without meeting them in their company? You say that it is flu they are suffering from. Even if it is anything more serious, I will meet them.

The two officers arrived and gave him a salute.

Smiling at them, Kim Jong Un said:

I am glad to see you both. I summoned you to look round the company together with you.

They threw themselves into his embrace and burst into tears.

Patting them on their shoulders, he resumed that he had heard about their illness and they should take good care of themselves.

Guided by the officers, he looked round the company.

Seeing the Soldiers in a Sound Sleep

It was well after midnight in early spring.

The cold of late winter still lingered.

It was several hours before dawn, when Kim Jong Un came to visit a unit of the Korean People's Army.

Silence reigned in the barracks where the soldiers were in a sound sleep.

The officers of the unit were so pleased to meet him, thinking that they should wake the soldiers as he would want to see them. They knew how much he was concerned about soldiers whenever he inspected an army unit.

Kim Jong Un said to the officers:

I cannot meet the soldiers in the dead of night, but I would feel relieved at least to see them sleeping.

He asked them where the soldiers were sleeping, telling them to guide him there.

In the barracks of a platoon where he was guided, the soldiers were sleeping—one with his arms and legs stretched wide, another with his blanket pushed sideways, still another snoring with one of his legs put on the other's belly, etc.

Kim Jong Un was so pleased to see them, saying that they were sleeping comfortably as the room was warm enough.

I am afraid that the temperature might go down at dawn, he said, feeling the room's temperature for a good while.

Then he asked the commander of the unit if there was any other bedroom.

The commander replied yes.

Guided by him, Kim Jong Un walked with the officials in his company.

Stopping at the threshold of another bedroom, he told his entourage to keep quiet as the soldiers were sleeping.

They almost tiptoed into the room.

Kim Jong Un stood long in the room, looking at the sleeping soldiers with a smile.

All the faces looked reddish in the warm room, one soldier swaying back and forth, another smiling as if he were in a good dream, etc.

Kim Jong Un smiled brightly, saying that he was enjoying the smell of his soldiers' sweat after a long interval.

All stood in silence, hearing the breathing of the soldiers and the ticking of the clock.

Telling the officials to leave immediately and quietly so

that they would not disrupt the soldiers' sleep, Kim Jong Un stepped out.

He said to the officials:

It seems that I have been relieved of all fatigue to see the soldiers sleeping comfortably.

He continued his way around other places of the unit, showing close concern for the soldiers' living conditions. Then he left the unit before the soldiers awoke.

Special Measure Taken for Farms

The Sinjang Farm, a small farm, is situated in a remote mountain area of Yonsa County in the northern border region of the country. So the farm was little known to other regions.

However, its name is now often mentioned publicly.

In late December 2021 the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea adopted a decision on taking a special measure of exempting the then cooperative farms from all the loans they had failed to pay back to the state as part of important steps for reinforcing their economic foundations.

Despite the tremendous loss it might suffer, the state took such an important measure so as to provide them with favourable financial and material conditions. On hearing the news, agricultural workers and all other people throughout the country were filled with enthusiasm to bring about a fresh leap forward in agricultural production.

However, officials and farmers of the Sinjang Farm felt regretful for they had repaid their loan just a few days before.

Some farmers complained that they could not enjoy benefits

from the measure which others could, while some others were anxious about the difficult situation in their farm.

Their sentiment weighed heavily on the officials.

Yet there was a measure awaiting them.

A few days after the plenary meeting, Kim Jong Un had a talk with some officials.

He said:

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee we took a special measure of exempting the farms from all the loans they have failed to pay back to the state. The loans paid back by the farms a few days before the meeting should be returned to them. The Sinjang Farm in Yonsa County, North Hamgyong Province, is said to be feeling regretful as it paid back its loan on last December 24 by collecting all the money it had. That money should be returned to the farm.

When they heard about it, all the farmers could not go to sleep; they realized that busy as he was dealing with all the country's affairs, Kim Jong Un was concerned about even a small farm like theirs; they felt grateful to their leader, who cared for them far away from Pyongyang; and they made up their mind to do farming well.

Later the officials and farmers in Sinjang turned out as one

and reaped a good harvest.

The loans repaid by not only Sinjang but also hundreds of other farms in the country were returned thanks to that measure.

Table Tennis Player's Desire Fulfilled

One May day Kim Jong Un watched a table tennis match.

When the match was over, he called one of the players, named Se Hyok, and asked how old he was and if the life in his sports club was not difficult.

The player said he was all right.

Kim Jong Un said:

You remind me of President Kim Il Sung posing for a photo with the world table tennis queen Pak Yong Sun, taking her arm in his and wearing a broad smile.

Pak Yong Sun was Se Hyok's mother. Without becoming the least discouraged, she had continued to play to the last point and defeated the ace players of the world in the women's singles at the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships, becoming the world table tennis queen at the age of 19. She was admired by the whole world.

The International Table Tennis Federation Championships Organizing Committee had awarded her the trophy as well as the title of the world table tennis queen, crown and sash,

something unprecedented in the history of the championships.

President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il had spoken highly of her, calling her a sports heroine who exalted the honour of the country to the world. They had met her and posed for a photo with her, before giving her presents.

This being a motive force, she had taken first place again in the women's singles at the 34th World Table Tennis Championships, becoming a two-time world champion, and in many other international games.

The President and the General had put her forward to be the envy of all the people.

As he recalled it, Se Hyok felt overwhelming emotion.

Seeing him, Kim Jong Un said:

It's a pity that she left us so early. In recognition of the exploits she performed for the development of the country's sports techniques, we have to look after Se Hyok well.

Se Hyok was moved to tears. His mother had died when he was only two years old. So his yearning for mother's love was greater than any others'.

Kim Jong Un waited for him to calm down, and asked him what he wanted to do in the future and speak of it without hesitation, if any.

The young man answered unreservedly.

Later, Kim Jong Un ensured that his desire was fulfilled.

Some people, who heard this story, said he owed his good luck to his famous mother.

But, Se Hyok said:

They are wrong. Even if she were alive, my mother would not be able to realize my dreams and desires. How could her life be so brilliant if our respected Comrade Kim Jong Un does not remember her and put her forward? My happy life of today is also inconceivable apart from his benevolence.

To Keep Promise

Rodong Sinmun, dated March 16, 2024, carried an article on Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un guiding a drill of airborne units of the Korean People's Army.

That evening, Kim Hye Yong, living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 44, Yonyang-dong in the city of Haeju, could not get to sleep.

She thought: My son is also a paratrooper. He might have participated in the drill.

However, she stopped thinking about it as her son was still a recruit, though she did not give up her wish that her son had been there.

A few days later, she heard that her son had a photo taken with Kim Jong Un at the headquarters building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The news being so unbelievable, she could not repress her feelings of emotion.

Her neighbours congratulated her as if it were their own glory.

An ordinary paratrooper of worker origin was honoured

with such a glory.

One March day, a drill order was suddenly given to an airborne unit.

Among the paratroopers was a recruit, Hye Yong's son. He jumped down from the transport aircraft towards the assembly place, only to land on a deep valley far away because of a strong air current.

However, he did not feel confused, but moved calmly and quickly until he heard the stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" from the assembly place.

Is the Supreme Commander in our training ground?

Anxious that he might miss the historic moment, he hurried along his way with his kit in order as regulated. Some minutes later he saw a motorcade running towards him.

Though in a hurry, he moved to the roadside and made a salute after tidying up his military uniform.

The cars moved on except one stopping beside him. The car window was rolled down, and he saw Kim Jong Un looking out of it with a broad smile on his face and motioning him to come nearer.

He was at a loss for a moment, but soon made a salute to the Supreme Commander.

Acknowledging his salute, Kim Jong Un asked where he

had landed and said in a low voice:

Probably, you missed a photo with me.

Then he asked the soldier if he was wounded anywhere.

After hearing his reply that he was not wounded, Kim Jong Un said:

Good, let us meet again in Pyongyang.

The soldier told his officers and comrades-in-arms about it, but they could hardly believe that Kim Jong Un, who was devoting his all, by saving every second and minute, for the prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the people, had his car stopped and made a promise with a rank-and-file soldier to see each other again in Pyongyang.

However, the paratroopers, who were making preparations to return to their respective units, were told that the Supreme Commander called to Pyongyang all the paratroopers who had failed to have a photo taken with him.

And when the paratroopers came to Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un called them to the headquarters building of the Party Central Committee.

While seeing the soldiers on the stand ready for the photo session, he recognized the soldier in the first line and said:

You are the soldier I met.

Later the soldier heard from the commanding officers that

the Supreme Commander, while talking about those who had missed the photo session with him, said he would keep the promise he had made with the soldier.

On hearing it, the soldier's mother said:

The son of an ordinary worker could become an envy of others, thanks to the deep trust and affection of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

4. On the Road of Devotion

Earnest Request

Once there was an important actual-war drill, in which the soldiers of a unit of the Korean People's Army on the west of the frontline demonstrated to the full the military capabilities they had developed through day-to-day training.

Quite pleased with their success, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent his congratulations to the soldiers and ensured that large quantities of supplies were sent to them. Then he called the commanding officers of the unit.

When they thanked him on behalf of all the soldiers under their charge, he said:

It is my desire to pick even a star from the sky if it was for the sake of the soldiers. I am resolved to share weal and

woe with them on the frontline where hails of bullets fall, and to devote my all for them. Commanding officers of the People's Army should become genuine officers, who are ready to sacrifice themselves for their soldiers.

He continued:

They should take care of their soldiers with parental affection, bearing in their mind the slogan "We serve the soldiers!" They should make it their habit to favour their soldiers, carry them on their backs and work with devotion for them until their shoes are worn out. They should always mingle with the soldiers and understand even trifling matters of the latter's life—whether their shoes are alright and whether they sleep well—before solving those problems. They should work with devotion to provide the soldiers with an affectionate life base. By an affectionate life base, I mean a company where the soldiers can find eldest brother- or sister-like officers and dear comrades, as well as rich foods and comfortable beds. If soldiers serve the army in such a base, they will have an attachment to their units and sub-units and do military service well, cherishing the pride and dignity of standing at the posts of national defence. Availing myself of today's opportunity of meeting with you, commanding officers of the People's Army, I eagerly request you to take better care of the soldiers, and I

believe you will certainly comply with this.

Listening to him, the officers hardened their determination to work as faithfully as he wished.

Birthday List

Several years ago, Kim Jong Un visited a unit of the Korean People's Army.

He watched the soldiers training for a long time despite the cold wind. After that he went into the daily ration store.

The store was filled with various kinds of non-staple foods.

He looked round the store with satisfaction before approaching a place.

He was carefully looking at a note there. It was the soldiers' birthday list.

Wearing a broad smile on his face, Kim Jong Un said:

The soldiers' names are written with their birthdays, and I believe it is for preparing birthday spreads.

An officer replied that though the soldiers were provided with rich diet on ordinary days, they received a special meal on their birthdays.

Laughing, Kim Jong Un said:

Birthday is something very strange. Everyone knows their birthday after their parents tell them when it was. On this day they think more of their parents and siblings, as well as of a special dish. So they will be happy if they receive spreads on that day. I can see it is a soldier's birthday today. You should prepare his birthday spread well. It is better to prepare separate spreads for those with the same birthday. Even triplets do not like having their wedding parties together.

It is true that after sending their sons and daughters to the posts of national defence, the parents feel anxious, when the birthdays of their sons and daughters come round, about whether they have rich food and sleep on comfortable beds as they would do at home.

Once Kim Jong Un visited an island-defending unit and, looking at the birthday list of the company soldiers, said:

Preparing birthday spreads for the soldiers appears to be a trifling matter, but it is important. If they receive birthday spreads and congratulations from their comrades-in-arms, they can lead a better service life.

On another occasion he said:

Company political instructors should ensure that their soldiers receive birthday spreads without fail. They should carry a handbook recording the birthday, favourite food, habit,

talent and physical weak point of every soldier under their charge.

All these instructions embody his love for the soldiers.

Hairpins on Display

In January 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the Mirae Shop on the bank of the Pothong River, which was about to be inaugurated.

Seeing various goods displayed on every corner of the shop, he felt satisfied and said that he seemed to be in a wonderful supermarket.

After seeing household goods, he went to the daily necessities corner. At the front counter were jewelry hairpins of various shapes and colours.

Seeing the hairpins, he said:

Our women favour *Cosmos*-brand hairpins. The shop should make a survey of the shape of hairpins our women like and order them to the factory. It is important for a shop to apprehend occasionally which shape the customers prefer among the same brand.

The following day he called some officials and broached

the subject of the *Cosmos*-brand hairpins he had seen at the Mirae Shop.

Recalling that General Kim Jong Il had stressed the need to raise the quality of *Cosmos*-brand hairpins after seeing the hairpins produced domestically, Kim Jong Un said:

The hairpins in the shop would not go well with the women in advanced ages. They should cater to the tastes of not only young women but also those in advanced ages.

A few days later and in late February that year, he stressed again that the hairpins should be made well in various shapes and forms to suit the characteristics of age groups.

When he visited the National Industrial Art Exhibition held in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, he saw the *Cosmos*-brand hairpin designs and pointed out that the number of their kinds was still small, before saying that further development was needed with the change of the world trend. When he dropped in at the counter for *Cosmos*-brand hairpins while looking round the modernized Pyongyang Children's Department Store, he said that even an accessory should be made to suit the aesthetic feelings of the times, as well as those of the people.

Later, the *Cosmos*-brand hairpins have been diversified in kinds and colours, enjoying a good reputation among women.

With the Sailors

One February day in 2012 Kim Jong Un visited a naval unit.

Saying that he had long wished to come here, he gave an automatic rifle and binoculars to the sailors before posing for a photograph with them. Then he looked round the bedrooms, education room and mess hall of a company subordinated to it. After that, he suddenly asked the commanding officer if he could mobilize vessels now.

The officer answered that he could do at any moment.

Hearing his answer, Kim Jong Un said he would sail on a torpedo boat.

Officials accompanying him blocked his way as it was very dangerous to sail due to extremely bad weather conditions at sea.

Kim Jong Un, as if he had understood why they were so stubborn, did not say anything for a while.

But then he said:

I know your mind, but if I am with my sailors, I am safe.

Then he got aboard the boat, looked at the sailors and

encouraged them to sail the boat as fast as possible.

The boat left the naval port and started to gain speed. It dashed through enormous waves.

To see Kim Jong Un standing on board and guiding the tactical manoeuvring, the officials were strained.

But Kim Jong Un asked the course, speed and rate of rotation of the engine, and, when the boat sped, he said:

Today it is cold and windy, but sailing on a torpedo boat with the sailors, I feel refreshed.

And when the boat returned to the port after long tactical manoeuvring, he said:

It would be difficult to moor the boat today, when strong winds blow and waves rage.

Then he helped the captain moor the boat safely.

A few days later an official of the Party Central Committee told him about the people's reflection after seeing the news on TV about his sailing on the rough sea on that wintry day.

Kim Jong Un looked out of the window for a while and said in a low voice:

It is a road I must follow rain or shine. It was the road of revolution President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il followed throughout their life, and I will follow this road to the end.

Trust Shown in an Officer

One April day in 2012 Kim Jong Un visited the army unit defending Ryo Island, an eastern gate to the country.

That day one of his primary concerns was the supply service for the soldiers.

He looked round several supply service and welfare facilities including service complex and non-staple food store. When he entered a PVC sheeting-covered greenhouse, he wore a broad smile on his face as he saw a sea of vegetables like crown daisy and lettuce.

The commanding officer of the unit and some other officials reported to the Supreme Commander that they had built the greenhouse by their own efforts, true to his instructions, so that the soldiers could benefit from it throughout the winter.

You must have taken much trouble, Kim Jong Un said, before continuing:

How good it is to have built such a greenhouse.

An official said that the commander of the unit served there for dozens of years, fortifying the island, and was awarded the title of the DPRK Hero.

He deserves the award, Kim Jong Un noted, before continuing:

I am the happiest to meet such a conscientious officer like you today in this unit. I feel thankful to you for making devoted efforts to perfect the combat preparations and improve the soldiers' living for dozens of years on this far-flung island. As you are serving here, I don't feel worried about this island.

Then, seeing his wrinkled face, he said:

There are many wrinkles on your face. They are called mother's wrinkles. You must have taken much trouble. You have a true heart.

Patting the commander on the back, he spoke highly of him several times.

With a broad smile on his face, he looked round many places of the island before asking the age of the commander and until when he would want to work as the commander.

The commander answered that he would carry out the instructions given by President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il to the defending unit until the end of his life.

Kim Jong Un thanked him before continuing:

You should work as the commander of the unit until you are 70 and you should be resolved to work with me for ten more years after training an excellent one as your successor

and handing your position over to him. I need an officer like you.

On another occasion when he visited the island again, Kim Jong Un praised the commander as an enterprising, assiduous officer and a model to be emulated by other commanding officers of the army. Then he suggested conferring the title of Labour Hero on the commander, already a DPRK Hero, and his political commissar.

When the commander was in a critical condition due to an acute disease, Kim Jong Un sent a helicopter to the island for his revival. He also sent a spread for his birthday and conferred a higher military rank on him, so that he could continue to work faithfully for the Party in good health wearing military uniform.

Show Held at Night

It was on the evening of May 16, 2013, when Kim Jong Un called officials, who had accompanied him on his visit that day to a foodstuff factory of the army.

He offered seats to them and said:

I looked round the factory with satisfaction. As I saw all the machines running at full capacity and foodstuffs coming out, my belief in socialism has become firmer.

Then he said to an official sitting next to him:

I told you to bring some of the products the factory produced today. Have you brought them with you now?

The official said he had brought various foodstuffs including soybean sauce, soybean paste and monosodium glutamate.

Kim Jong Un requested the officials to have a try.

The officials felt surprised at first for they could not understand why Kim Jong Un called them in the evening. Then they recalled what had happened when they had visited the factory. Kim Jong Un had looked round several places of the factory to acquaint himself in detail with its production, and said that he would have a taste of its products.

This was why that unusual show took place to assess the quality of the condiments to be supplied to the soldiers.

Kim Jong Un looked at the officials, saying that the extruded biscuit he tasted when visiting the factory seemed insufficiently flavoured.

An official reported the sugar content of the biscuit, and Kim Jong Un said:

Some more sugar should be added.

He tasted monosodium glutamate, and said:

It tastes fairly good. When I was at the workshop producing it, the product's quality seemed to be low as it was too fine like wheat flour, but it is not. It is good that such a product is supplied to the soldiers.

Then after tasting the soybean sauce, he said:

It does not taste good. It tastes only salty.

An official said it might be so because starch syrup was added to the sauce.

After thinking for a while, Kim Jong Un said:

It may be one of the reasons, but I think improper ratio of the ingredients is also a reason.

The night wore on, but he continued to taste various foods and assessed them while giving instructions on how to improve their quality and put their production on a regular basis.

When he tasted canned pork, he praised that it tasted good and urged the officials to have a try, before saying that a study should be made of how to add something like a ring on the cover of the can so that it could be easily opened.

After learning about raw materials supply to the factory, he said pork should be supplied to the general processing workshop so that it could put its production on a regular basis. Then he took detailed measures there and then.

Inverted Pride

One May day in 2013 Kim Jong Un inspected an army unit.

After making the rounds of several places of its headquarters with satisfaction, he went to the residential quarter of the officers. Following him, an officer of the unit felt very strained.

*Whose house will the respected Supreme Commander visit?
My house or ...*

As if he had read his mind, Kim Jong Un pointed to the officer's home and asked whose house that was.

At the moment, he became dumbfounded, so the commander of the unit answered that it was the officer's.

Kim Jong Un moved his steps to the house.

The officer felt as if he were in a dream.

Kim Jong Un looked carefully at the drawing room and kitchen with parental care. In a living room he saw the photos on the wall, which the officer had taken with Kim Jong Un and other participants in conferences, and said that he had participated in two conferences and asked when and where he had been serving in those days.

Listening to the answer, he, pointing to a photo, asked him where he was in the photo.

Unexpected happiness made him fail to find out his own face easily.

Looking at him with a beaming smile, Kim Jong Un said he could not find out where he was in the photo.

The officials burst into laughter.

When the Supreme Commander took necessary measures after estimating the height of the drawing room, and went outside, the officer, who had been at a loss how to find out his face in the photo, courageously held him by the arm to say his earnest request that he wanted to boast to his son who was serving the army, by sending him the happy news that the respected Supreme Commander visited his home and posed for a photo with him.

With a beaming smile on his face, Kim Jong Un said it is usual that children boast to their parents, not the other way round.

It was really an inverted pride, which caused a great laughter among the officials.

After a good while, Kim Jong Un took the officer's arm and said:

Then, in memory of the visit to your home, I will pose for

a photo with your family members. If you send your son a family photo taken with the Supreme Commander, he will be pleased.

“Thank you, Comrade Supreme Commander,” the officer said.

This was how his family members had a photo taken with Kim Jong Un.

Not long after, a letter of the father’s pride was sent to the son.

For the Scientists

On January 14, 2014 Kim Jong Un, soon after his visit to the State Academy of Sciences, resumed his field guidance trip without any break. This is widely known, but no one knows fully how much effort he devoted on this trip.

That day he made the rounds of the academy for a long time.

After he left, the senior official of the academy, enveloped in solemn feeling, stood motionless.

Suddenly an official called him and took him somewhere. It was a railway station that he was guided to.

Kim Jong Un, who had been waiting for them, motioned them to join him.

He had called the official of the academy to select together the site for a holiday camp for scientists to be built.

At the time the official grew happy as he would go in company with the leader, but he could not imagine how rough the road ahead was.

Some time later, the train arrived at a railway station.

Kim Jong Un left the station by car. It was following a

road not worthy of the name—rugged and dusty. Whenever the car stopped, he saw the map and taught the driver the direction. Finally he got off the car.

The official of the academy could see all the cars covered with dust, the neighbouring mountain slopes with snow and valleys with fallen leaves. He could never see any path.

Looking round for a while, Kim Jong Un told the accompanying officials to take a shortcut across the shrubbery to save the time. He was in the lead of the party.

Where the party arrived after a while was the picturesque shore of Lake Yonphung. All of them were fascinated by the scenery.

Kim Jong Un took a stroll on the shore of the lake, enjoying the surrounding scenery, and took out a portfolio with several artist's impressions of a holiday camp.

He called an official in the design sector to point out in detail the merits and demerits of the impressions, and tasked him with completing the design based on the best artist's impression.

Then he said to the senior official of the academy:

I have taken you to this lake to show this site for a holiday camp of scientists. Do you like this place?

The official looked forward again. A panoramic view of the

lake and surrounding scenery of forest thickly wooded with pine and other species of trees—this is a prime site of a holiday camp, he thought. He answered that as the leader showed great concern for the scientists, he was at a loss how to thank him.

Kim Jong Un said:

I made the rounds of Lake Yonphung by ship twice last summer to choose a prime site of a holiday camp for the scientists. Finally I discovered this place.

All the accompanying officials were moved as they had had no idea about this fact.

He continued:

This is a prime site. When I came here in summer, fresh air and thick forest added more to the majestic scenery. The scenery in winter is no less beautiful than in summer. When building the holiday camp, the road here should be paved. When we provide enough conditions for relaxation for the scientists, they will achieve greater successes in their work. We should provide everything for the scientists on the highest level.

Today the holiday camp is called a “gold cushion” for scientists and technicians.

Concerning Himself with Farming at a Celebration

Kim Jong Un always pays close attention to agricultural production of the country to provide the people with a more affluent and happier life.

One day in May 2014 he called a senior official of a provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Saying about a celebration organized at a place, he told the official to be there in the morning.

Before the start of the celebration, Kim Jong Un exchanged greetings with the officials. And he recognized the official of the provincial Party committee.

Enjoying a panoramic view of the venue of the celebration, Kim Jong Un asked an official what the weather would be like that day.

It will be sunny today and rain some days later, the official answered.

With his face beaming with pleasure, Kim Jong Un said that the rain of those days could be called tonic rain as it was urgently needed for the growth of crops.

Seeing him so concerned with farming, the senior official of the above provincial Party committee renewed his sense of responsibility for his province's farming.

In fact, in spring, though it rained several times in the province, the following drought had a negative impact on sowing the seeds. Despite unfavourable weather conditions, the farmers in the province successfully completed the sowing, decisive of the success in the farming of a year, by following the farming processes tenaciously.

The spring rain fell enough just in time in the whole area of the province, providing good conditions for the crops to strike their roots.

With such a thought, the official said to Kim Jong Un:

It has rained as much as 20mm on average in my province, so the dry soil was mixed with the wet one and the crops have begun to revive. This is giving a good effect on their early growth.

Expressing satisfaction with the fact that it rained in the province more than in other regions, Kim Jong Un said:

The spring rain of 20mm on average is good. It is good that the present rain makes the soil mixed and the crops free from the drought.

The official expressed his determination to ensure that

his province farmed well that year to fulfil its plan for grain production without fail.

Kim Jong Un said earnestly:

Your province must fulfil its plan for grain production this year without fail by farming well. We should do farming well at any cost this year to solve the problem of food supply for the people.

Jangsan Restaurant Tells

On October 28, 2014, Kim Jong Un visited the then Kunin (Service Personnel) Restaurant before its inauguration.

Enjoying a panoramic view of the restaurant, he said with deep emotion that the restaurant was associated with the immortal leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il more than any other units.

In a dining hall he said it was as fine as a state banquet hall.

Looking at an official of the restaurant, he continued:

In this excellent restaurant, you should improve the quality of noodles and ensure better service for customers. To improve the quality of noodles, you should build up the ranks of cooks and decisively put their technical skills on a high level.

Then he added:

Go scouting in Okryu Restaurant or Chongnyu Restaurant. Scouting is important in battles.

Merry laughter burst out in the hall.

He asked for noodles, saying that he wanted to have a taste of the noodles the restaurant would serve for the service personnel. After tasting the noodles served in the stock prepared

for the service personnel, he gave detailed instructions on how thick the strips of noodles should be, what should be the proportion of buckwheat and starch in making noodles and other problems for improving the taste of noodles.

He continued:

You should make noodles well. You should make the service personnel attracted to this restaurant by the quality and taste of noodles, not simply for a meal. I will soon have a noodles contest arranged. This restaurant should compete with Okryu Restaurant on its own terms by improving the quality of noodles.

Before leaving the restaurant, Kim Jong Un emphasized again that the restaurant should further improve the quality of noodles and serve them to make itself a place haunted by the service personnel, adding that he would arrange a technical transfer for its chefs.

Later, famous chefs went to the restaurant to teach how to improve the taste of noodles.

To estimate how much the chefs had improved their skills, Kim Jong Un had a taste of the noodles they prepared, and said:

The noodles are very delicious. Now I feel relieved. I hope the restaurant will be one that makes the best noodles in

Pyongyang.

Later, in order to make the Pyongyang citizens enjoy noodles in the restaurant, he took measures for setting up its branch, and named it Jangsan Restaurant in the sense that it should compete with Okryu Restaurant on fair terms.

At present, the restaurant is a haunt of the people as well as the service personnel.

Changing the Air Route for Sightseeing Flight

One July day in 2015, Kim Jong Un, while giving instructions on the work of the then Air Koryo Administration at an airport on the east coast, told the senior official of the administration to arrange a sightseeing flight, saying:

President Kim Il Sung organized a sightseeing flight over Pyongyang for our people even in the difficult conditions after the war. We must rearrange the flight not only to realize his desire but also to live up to the creed of our Party that makes selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people and gives top and absolute priority to their interests. When they enjoy in the sky the majestic appearance of Pyongyang, capital city of the revolution, changing day by day, the people will feel greater national pride and self-esteem.

He then tasked him with submitting a document related to the problems arising in arranging the flight.

A few days later, he called the official again and said:

The Air Koryo Administration should set up the route for sightseeing flight again. I have seen the document submitted

by it. I have conducted a simulated flight along the route fixed by the administration, and found that you have failed to map out a proper air route.

In fact, the administration had mapped out the route along the outskirts of Pyongyang in consideration of the security of the capital city and economic calculation.

As if he had read the official's mind, Kim Jong Un continued:

The flight route should be mapped out for the planes to fly over downtown Pyongyang so as to make our people enjoy the panoramic view of the capital city. Other routes over the West Sea Barrage and several scenic spots including Mt Kuwol in good seasons should be planned, so that the people can feast their eyes on the beautiful scenery of their country to their heart's content.

When the official said remorsefully that they had been short-sighted, Kim Jong Un told him:

As this is an undertaking that we are doing with determination for the people, we should arrange more air routes for the people's enjoyment.

Some days later, when he visited the Air Koryo Administration again, he broached the subject of air route, saying:

It will be a good idea to map out the route along the Taedong River. As a number of monumental structures have been built recently along the banks of the Taedong River, our people can enjoy the ever-changing appearance of Pyongyang.

He also gave instructions on selecting the type of plane for the flight, advertising the sightseeing flight, taking detailed measures for management of the interior and exterior of the planes and for their good maintenance, studying how to help the people feel greater delight and pleasure by organizing a trial flight by senior officials of the administration, and serving the tourists with traditional and other famous dishes after the flight.

On the evening before the start of sightseeing flight, an official reported to Kim Jong Un that everything was ready for sightseeing flight over Pyongyang as planned.

Looking out of the window and admiring the brilliantly-illuminated streets of the capital city, Kim Jong Un said with deep emotion:

The sightseeing flight over Pyongyang can be called inheritance of President Kim Il Sung's people-oriented policy. Even in the difficult postwar reconstruction period, he arranged sightseeing flight over Pyongyang for our people. Today we have nothing insufficient for carrying on such an excellent

policy. When the sightseeing planes fly over Pyongyang, the elderly may shed tears thinking of the President.

On November 8, 2015, the first sightseeing plane flew over Pyongyang.

In Pyongyang Metro

On the night of November 19, 2015, Kim Jong Un came to the Kaeson Underground Station, where a trial run of a underground train newly built by the Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex was to be conducted, as he had promised.

Entering the station, he shook hands with the relevant officials and said he came to take the indigenous underground train.

He was very pleased as he saw the new automatic entrance turnstile installed for people's convenience.

In the central part of the staircase linking the corridor and the platform, he looked round the platform.

At the time the underground had not a few defects as it had been built long ago and repair and renovation were not conducted in time.

After looking at the dome-shaped ceiling for a while, he said that the high ceiling should be made lower, adding:

The design of underground platforms should be rectified. The heights should be lowered, benches put between pillars and TV sets installed as in an airport terminal.

His words reminded the officials of the terminal of the refashioned Pyongyang International Airport that had been inaugurated some months before.

Gateposts of the traditional style, halls and service amenities conforming with international standards, underground parking lot and flyovers ...

Kim Jong Un shuttled between the Kaeson and Yonggwang stations on the new underground train, and gave instructions on further improving the performance of the train and management of the underground.

The underground train carrying him entered the Kaeson Underground Station after its trial run.

He dropped in at the driver's cab to see the interface of the touch screen and said:

The underground train should be made on a world level. We should join the advanced ranks in the world in producing underground trains.

Standing before the automatic entrance turnstile out of the

escalator, he stressed again that the turnstiles in all underground stations should be remodeled as those in the airport terminal.

Afterwards, smart entrance devices were installed in all stations and a blueprint was completed for a long-term plan to renovate all underground stations.

On the occasion of May Day, the international holiday of working people all over the world, in 2019, the Kaeson station of the Pyongyang Metro welcomed people with their facelifted appearances and new looks, followed by other stations one after another.

Cheers in the Northernmost Part of the Country

In 2016 the water level of the Tuman River rose 2.5 times higher than the dangerous level, following the heaviest rain and the strongest wind ever recorded since the start of meteorological observation after the country's liberation.

This caused great damage in several cities and counties in North Hamgyong Province; roads covering hundreds of thousands of metres, railways and bridges were severely damaged or buried by landslides and houses numbering tens of thousands and public buildings collapsed, leaving a lot of people homeless.

When the Korean People's Army soldiers and shock brigade members began to conduct a vigorous emergency campaign in the disaster-stricken areas, Kim Jong Un ensured that the design forces were reinforced for the recovery projects.

The design sector was the busiest of the sectors in the campaign as all the houses and public buildings, water supply and drainage systems and even the school, kindergarten and nursery fences and their window frames

waited for their designs.

When the designers were keen on carrying out their huge tasks as soon as possible, Kim Jong Un stressed that however gigantic their tasks were, they should design the structures so that they would be impeccable, even by the standards of the distant future. He went over the designs almost every day, sometimes 46 designs a day, and presented his opinions.

It happened in early November when the news of his inspection of an army unit was broadcast. The designers thought that he would be very busy that day as he was on his inspection trip on the frontline. But busy as he was, he went over the designs overnight. The designers redoubled their efforts.

There was a principle he set forth in turning the disaster-stricken areas in the northern part of the country into a socialist paradise and the cradle of people's happiness—all designs should reflect the aspirations and needs of the people in the areas.

Seeing their houses nearing completion, the locals, feeling very pleased on one side, requested that built-in furniture be installed in their single- and several-storey houses. Kim Jong Un saw to it that the pieces of furniture were arranged in suitable places of each house as they wished.

When they also requested that the chimneys of houses and public buildings be moved to other places, and said that the sizes of ovens to be placed in the kitchen were too small, he ensured the residents' opinions, big or small, including those, were never neglected.

The designs he went over for the rehabilitation of the affected areas of North Hamgyong Province totaled more than 920.

Drawing designs was nothing but the first step for the projects.

Kim Jong Un formed a powerful construction workforce soon after the damage occurred, took emergency measures for supplying equipment and materials including cement, steel, timber, fuel and finishing materials, and saw to it that the victims were provided with all necessary articles for living such as foods, cooking oil, underwear, padded clothes, kitchen utensils, sanitary goods and confectionery.

Fairyland villages were built in the areas in a matter of two months and ceremonies for moving into new houses were held in six cities and counties in North Hamgyong Province in November.

Senior officials of the Party Central Committee took part in the ceremonies together with local residents, builders and

officials in relevant regions.

House licenses were awarded to the residents by the senior officials.

After the ceremonies were over, the officials visited new houses to inquire about the residents' living conditions and hand over daily necessities they had prepared, sharing joy with the residents.

It was thanks to the measures taken by Kim Jong Un that the ceremonies had been held.

A few days before the ceremonies were held, Kim Jong Un spoke highly of the fact that excellent new streets and new villages had been built in the areas swept by unprecedented disasters, and instructed that senior officials of the Party Central Committee should take part in the ceremonies, adding that they should visit the new houses with household goods they had prepared to congratulate the residents and conduct political work among them.

When the blessed people in North Hamgyong Province were enveloped with an ecstasy of being masters of their new houses, Kim Jong Un was giving on-site guidance at a port on the east coast.

Watching on TV in their new houses their leader sitting on the ledge of a fish pickling tank and seeing with delight

the fish to be supplied to people, the residents in the formerly disaster-stricken areas raised hearty cheers.

At an Airport Terminal

It was a cold winter day of December in 2016 when Kim Jong Un inspected the newly renovated Terminal 1 at Pyongyang International Airport.

Being shown around the immaculately decorated building, he was very pleased.

He commented: Terminal 1 at Pyongyang International Airport is wonderful. Both designing and building work have been completed to a high standard. We set great store by this project. Seeing this nice terminal, I am sure our decision was right.

As he was gazing at the new terminal, a local official talked of what they could see after the renovation project was over. In earlier days such a thing had hardly been visible, the official said.

Kim Jong Un grew curious and asked what it was.

The official began to explain how young couples on their wedding day toured the capital city by plane and posed for a

photo in and around the terminal.

Kim Jong Un said that he was pleased to hear about the happy people.

He paused for a while, before resuming:

Among the construction projects we have carried out with so much effort are this airport terminal and new streets. What are these for? They are for the wellbeing of our people, whom President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il entrusted to us. I am determined to make our people the best off in the world.

Listening to him, officials were reminded of how much he had been concerned about the construction of the terminal. While the construction was in progress, he visited the site and suggested novel ideas about it. One day, he made a phone call to an official and talked about flight service. The other day, he told officials about the five major aspects of terminal service. And while being guided around the construction site, he pointed out the defects of the spiral staircase leading to the third floor, saying that the zigzag stairs were too narrow and they should be re-designed for the convenience of passengers.

Hours passed, and officials were worried that he might be tired from a long walk around the terminal.

Suddenly, he asked an official if the restaurant on the

top floor was in operation. Commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery, it was a facility catering for passengers at the airport, which was added to the renovation project as instructed by him.

The official said yes, and Kim Jong Un led the way up to the restaurant.

Viewed from above, the airport presented an impressive sight.

As officials were enjoying the panoramic view of the area, Kim Jong Un suggested that it would be a good idea to set up an open gallery on the ceiling of the terminal. Taking soft drinks on the gallery while seeing airplanes taking off or landing would be a good relaxation for passengers, he said. Then he told officials to consult designers about this.

You are overworking yourself by taking such a long walk around the terminal, a local official said.

Kim Jong Un smiled, saying that he was alright and they should work harder to improve flight service and offer more convenience to the people.

On a Running Train

It happened on a sweltering day of August in 2018 when Kim Jong Un was on a train bound for Yangdok County.

His entourage requested him to have a rest, but he was anxious about the damage done to farming in the hot season.

While his train was running towards the Sokthang Onchon Station, he looked out through the windows and saw maize fields passing intermittently.

After a long while, he asked an official about the total area of maize fields affected by the bad weather.

Being briefed on the situation, he underlined the need to take necessary steps for coping with the sultry weather. Also, he asked a senior official from Yangdok County about the per-hectare yield of maize.

He specified the yield target they should reach in the county, adding that they could do so by introducing advanced farming methods, adopting scientific techniques and improving seeds.

Listening to what he had to say, the official felt guilty. In fact, this was what Kim Jong Un said quite often about farming. However, the official had clung to the “tactic of

manpower,” instead of directing the farming processes by scientific methods to increase the per-hectare yields.

Kim Jong Un pointed out that the “tactic of manpower” was not the way to boost the per-hectare yield of cereals, underscoring the need to update farming methods and improve soil fertility amid the fierce flames of scientific farming and to ensure enough supply of fertilizer and other essential materials.

Reiterating the necessity of adopting scientific farming methods, he went on:

It is of decisive importance for all farms in the country to adopt scientific farming methods so as to increase the per-hectare yields of cereals to the levels demanded by the Party. In doing so they should take into account the specific conditions of their regions.

After a pause, he said to the county official:

You should not try to imitate the way of farming in the lowlands on the west coast and other places with favourable conditions. Natural, geographical and climatic conditions vary from region to region in our country, so the per-hectare yields of cereals in a given region can be increased by adopting a scientific farming method as suited to the regional characteristics. What is important in this regard is to plant the seeds that are best suited to the local conditions. To this

end, it is necessary to actively introduce superior strains that are appropriate to your own region, and also to develop the existing seeds into high-yielding ones. In other words, you should conduct the seed revolution.

The official could now understand how much he was concerned about agriculture to resolve the problem of food for the people. He hardened his determination to do his best to radically boost the county’s agricultural production true to Kim Jong Un’s intentions and thus fulfil his responsibility for the livelihood of the local population.

Human Waves Sweeping the Sandy Beach

The following happened one August day in 2018 when Kim Jong Un inspected the construction site of the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Resort.

Greeting him under the scorching sun, officials were worried about his health.

He spoke highly of the soldiers and other builders for making notable progress in the project, adding that the area was considerably transformed in less than three months after his previous visit.

He then enjoyed the scenery of the area—Myongsasimni, a sandy beach stretching long along the east coast, new service facilities, etc.

After a long while, he commented that Myongsasimni was a scenic spot without parallel in the world.

One of the officials said that it was located in an ideal place.

He continued:

We think that when the construction of Kalma Airport was underway, you planned to have an excellent coastal resort for

the people built here.

Much longer before that, said Kim Jong Un.

He went on:

Our country is surrounded by sea, so we must naturally become a marine power. The hallmarks of a marine power are various, among which are a large number of ships and an advanced level of sea transport. As considered from another perspective, they include how much the people benefit from the natural and geographical features of the sea-girt country.

Looking at the officials one by one, he stressed:

I have since long ago studied what needs to be done for our people, who live in a sea-girt country, to enjoy cultural benefits from its seas. So, I made up my mind to have a world-class cultural resort built for our people in Myongsasimni on the Kalma peninsula, a scenic spot immaculate in all aspects.

Having long been exposed to the highest temperature on record in the hottest season of the year, he was sweating all over.

Despite the blazing heat he continued going round the construction site, specifying how the service personnel should push ahead with the construction project befitting the architect of people's happiness and the pioneer and guide for a cultured life, as well as what should be done to ensure high

quality of construction and keep landscaping in parallel with construction work.

He gazed admiringly at Myongsasimni for a good while, saying that after it was built into a world-class coastal resort, human waves would sweep the sandy beach.

Again in the hottest season of 2024, while looking round the construction site, he said:

This will be a maritime park which counts among the world's best resorts—one of our country's most famous tourist destinations and its priceless national treasures. Myongsasimni will soon become a pride of Wonsan, a charming resort where human waves roll in.

Called a land of golden tapestry for its beautiful mountains and limpid rivers, the country is being turned into a paradise for the people under his leadership.

Torch of a Revolution in Regional Industry

On October 1, 2020 Kim Jong Un visited Kimhwa County, in which a campaign was well underway to restore damage caused by the recent flooding.

He spent hours walking along muddy paths to make the rounds of the affected areas.

A senior official of the county Party committee accompanying him was happy to see new houses going up.

Quite unexpectedly, Kim Jong Un asked the official how many regional-industry factories the county had.

Being briefed on the operation of the factories, he said that the county should put emphasis on developing its regional industry to improve the local population's material life. Regional-industry factories are major assets for running the county's economy, he added.

He went on:

I will assign necessary tasks to a senior official of the Kangwon Provincial Party Committee. Now that the county town, every seat of ri and villages are being transformed into

cultured communities, the Kimhwa County Party Committee should focus on rebuilding regional-industry factories under an yearly plan to improve the local people's material life.

He said to another official in his company:

You should ensure that teams of relevant economic officials come down here and draw up a budget for rebuilding regional-industry factories.

After taking other necessary steps to this end, he told the county official that he would throw his weight behind the rebuilding project. Then I will feel a little relieved, he said.

The latter said that the county would carry out the project by itself.

Kim Jong Un said that it did not need to do so, underlining the importance of improving the people's material life as soon as possible. He reiterated that he would throw his full weight behind it, adding that the factories, if rebuilt, would bring significant benefits to the local people.

The official thanked him for his care.

Kim Jong Un said:

The state faces difficulties at the moment. It is still running short of what it needs. Yet, it invests in building houses and rebuilding factories. You should be effective in educating the local people so that they will work efficiently to run the

county's economy well, being conscious that they are masters of the county.

It is with such ennobling affection for his people that Kim Jong Un ushered in a new era of comprehensive development of socialism and set forth the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

Under his leadership modern regional-industry factories are going up in different parts of the country.

140 Days and 140 Years

One rainy day of August in 2021, some months after the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District, Kim Jong Un inspected the construction site.

Briefed on how the construction was going, he said that he was happy to learn about the substantial progress.

Officials in his company recalled how meticulous he had been about this project to make it serve as another occasion for radically developing the country's architecture—giving advice on the distribution of terraced houses and the artist's impression, going over more than 240 designs, etc.

While walking along the road in front of the construction site, Kim Jong Un indicated the point where a mountain slope began, and said:

The residential area is by the Pothong River, and new houses are distributed by making the most of the undulations. This is impeccable, but the problem lies in the greening of buildings. Trees should be planted on the slopes and between buildings, and the retaining walls should have decorations.

Seeing some rocks jutting out in several places of the slopes, he advised:

Even if it may be hard, you should bring large rocks, both nice-looking and ornamental, and put them there to match the surrounding scenery.

Being guided into a flat, he took a look at the study and the bedroom of the host and hostess, and then sat on a chair in front of the dressing table. He commented that the interior decorations were really nice.

An official agreed, commenting that all was wonderful and it was on a par with a hotel room.

Smiling at him, Kim Jong Un said:

Now the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District has taken on an overall appearance. There was nothing like this

modern residential district here, 140 days ago. Just as we have built this modern district from scratch in the period, we should make every decision for our people's wellbeing in a responsible manner with an eye to 140 years in the future.

140 days and 140 years—this was a meaningful comparison mirroring his ennobling view of the people and the future.

Thanks Conveyed to the People in North Hamgyong Province

One September day in 2023, Kim Jong Un's train left the Tumangang Station in the northern part of country for Pyongyang.

He looked out of the windows, appreciating the picturesque scenery that looked as if welcoming him back from his successful official visit to Russia.

Fields of ripe rice, rural houses of diverse shapes, green forests—all of these were calling up vivid memories of the past.

As the train was approaching the city of Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, flowerpots came into sight at each station. Arranged in fine array within the compound of railway stations, the flowers came in all colours.

This reflected the local people's wish that Kim Jong Un would relax even for a moment looking at the beautiful flowers.

He was on his way back home when all the people, filled with pride in having celebrated the 75th anniversary of the

DPRK, were fully ready to make a more dynamic advance towards new victory.

In those days everyone got up early in the morning, reading the newspaper *Rodong Sinmun* and listening to news about their leader's foreign trip.

Whenever they saw his photos in the newspaper and on TV, they talked about his trip in Russia—Khasan Railway Station on the border between the two countries, Vostochny Cosmodrome, Komsomolsk-on-Amur Yuri Gagarin Aviation Plant, Vladivostok City and so on. In doing so, all yearned for their leader day and night.

The same was the case with the citizens of North Hamgyong Province, who were achieving innovative successes wherever they worked—iron and steel complex, Cholsan Hill, Orangchon Power Station, etc. Their province lying on the border area which Kim Jong Un's train would cross first on his return trip, they arranged tens of thousands of flowers in the province's thirty or so railway stations.

On the 20th, one day after arriving in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un made a phone call to a senior official of the provincial Party committee and said:

I have heard that the people in North Hamgyong Province, anticipating my return from the Russian

Federation, decorated Chongjin Youth, Kyongsong and Orang railway stations with flowerpots. I appreciate them for their sincerity. Please convey my thanks to the people in the province.

The news about this call spread rapidly across the province.

5. For the Younger Generation

Charter Flights for Children's Union Members

In 2012, some days before the 66th anniversary of the Korean Children's Union, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un telephoned a senior official of the then Air Koryo Administration. He informed him of the fact that, amid the great interest of the Party and the people, grand celebrations would be held in Pyongyang to mark the above anniversary, emphasizing that he should arrange charter flights to bring children from Ryanggang and North Hamgyong provinces and the city of Rason with unfavourable traffic conditions.

The official said yes, adding that such arrangement was unprecedented in the country's history.

Kim Jong Un said:

We have nothing to spare for our children. This was the view cherished by Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il on the younger generation and the future. They entrusted our children to me. I am determined to ensure that they grow up free from worries, so that we can be proud of them before the world. You should make good arrangements for the flights to bring the Children's Union delegates.

Inquiring again about the availability of planes, he told the official that they should work in a responsible manner and arrange the flights flawlessly for the safe transportation of young delegates.

This was how the charter flights were organized for the children in faraway regions.

Informed of the news, all—not only the children but also teachers, parents and officials—raised loud cheers for their benevolent leader.

That evening Kim Jong Un made another phone call to the above senior official.

He was still thinking about the children, watching TV. On the screen the young delegates were arriving at Pyongyang by plane.

The official described how happy the children had been.

Kim Jong Un said that he was very pleased to hear it, and asked if there had been any problem with the flights.

The official replied that there had been no problem and all the delegates had arrived as scheduled.

Kim Jong Un said:

You have done a good job. I appreciate the Air Koryo Administration for helping me fulfil my desire for our children this time. After the celebrations are over, you should arrange flights to carry the delegates back home.

He thanked the official again, stressing that they should be careful in guiding the children and looking after those who might feel airsick.

On the evening of June 8, after the end of the celebrations, he telephoned the official to ask about the weather conditions at the airports.

After listening to his detailed account, Kim Jong Un stressed the need to ensure absolute safety, saying that he should arrange flights in a responsible manner according to the weather conditions.

Going Over the Design for the Renovation of a Children's Camp

One May day in 2014 Kim Jong Un made a phone call to a senior official of the South Phyongan Provincial Party Committee, informing him that there was going to be a formal event at an airport and he should come there in the morning.

The official went to the airport in a hurry.

After the event was over, Kim Jong Un summoned him and gave instructions about the provincial committee's work.

Then he changed the subject to the renovation of the Yonphungho Children's Camp.

He said:

The existing building is old, and it should be used as an accommodation block. I think new buildings are necessary for the campers' diverse activities. You should conduct a comprehensive review of the design for the renovation of the children's camp, and submit a plan involving competent experts in Pyongyang going down to the spot and appraising the design.

Listening to this, the official was reminded of the summer

day in the previous year when Kim Jong Un had come to Lake Yonphung to fix the location of the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp.

He could now understand why the leader had gazed at the nearby children's camp at that time, realizing that he had already conceived of the children's camp renovation project.

He recollected how the children's camp had been built.

President Kim Il Sung had fixed its location in an ideal place on the shores of the lake and resolved all the problems arising in the construction; General Kim Jong Il, upon being informed of its completion, named it Yonphungho Children's Camp and took steps for providing it with acoustic equipment, musical instruments, bedding, sightseeing boat and vehicles needed for the management and operation of the camp.

Thinking of this, the official became convinced that under Kim Jong Un's close concern the children's camp, as befits an ideal facility for extracurricular education, would be renovated to be no inferior even in the distant future.

On May 13, some days later, Kim Jong Un called the official after inspecting a factory in the province.

Perusing a document, he said that there seemed to be some irrational points in the design prepared by the Paektusan Institute of Architecture for the renovation and repair of the

Yonphungho Children's Camp.

This morning I submitted a document concerning the problems with the design, said the official.

Kim Jong Un said that he was reading the document at the moment, pointing out that since the design was problematic, he had been spending much of his time reviewing and correcting it.

We should be meticulous about the renovation and repair of the Yonphungho Children's Camp and other children's camps in the country, he stressed, adding that it was important to prepare good designs for the purpose.

On several other occasions, despite his tight schedule for field guidance, he went over the design and gave advice on how to improve it.

This is how the smart children's camp went up on the shores of Lake Yonphung, adding beauty to the surrounding scenery.

Children Sleeping in Cradles

Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage on New Year's Day in 2015.

He said to the officials there:

I have come here straight after delivering the new year address to enjoy New Year's Day together with the orphans who long for parental affection. As I wished all the dear children across the country a brighter future in my new year address, I wanted to see the children of the Pyongyang Baby Home and the Pyongyang Orphanage more than ever.

He first went to the baby home to see babies.

Then, he made his way to the orphanage. After looking round the bedroom of junior class No. 3, he dropped in at junior class No. 2, where orphans were singing songs to a teacher's organ accompaniment.

Kim Jong Un, with a broad smile on his face, looked at them singing of their happy life.

Suddenly, he asked the principal if it was the time for the orphans to have a nap.

When she answered that they would not have a nap as he

came to see them, Kim Jong Un asked her to make them have a nap. Then, the orphans said that they would continue to sing songs and that they would not have a nap.

Looking at them, Kim Jong Un asked the principal again to make them have a nap and moved to the bedroom, saying that he wanted to see them in cradles.

After a while, he asked her whether the orphans could recognize their beds.

When she answered yes, he affectionately told the orphans to go to their own beds.

The orphans rushed to their beds and covered themselves with quilts.

Seeing them drifting into sleep, Kim Jong Un smiled. The principal was deeply moved to see him who looked so happy. She thought of what had happened at the baby home. Kim Jong Un had embraced the triplets and asked their nurses to put them to sleep as it was the time to have a nap.

It was not a big problem for children to skip a day's nap as it was their daily routine. And it was a holiday and Kim Jong Un, whom they had missed so much, came to see them.

But Kim Jong Un wanted to ensure that his visit would not affect the growth of the orphans. He affectionately feasted

his eyes on the orphans sleeping in their beds and quietly moved to other places, including a wading pool, courtyard and playground.

He made the rounds of the orphanage to learn in detail about the orphans' living. At that time, the orphans were in a sound sleep, dreaming a good dream.

That day, Kim Jong Un said:

Today I feel relieved of all the accumulated fatigue at the sight of the smiling children. Though we have made painstaking efforts, how happy we are to see their bright smile. We work so hard for the revolution, just to ensure that they smile happily all the time.

Shock Brigade Members Transported Back for an Inauguration Ceremony

In October 2015, preparations for a military parade in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea were in full swing in the capital city of Pyongyang.

Among the paraders who were practicing hard were over 300 members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade.

They had left the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station before its inauguration for Pyongyang according to the measure taken by Kim Jong Un, who saw to it that a column of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade would participate in the parade.

One day when they were in training, all the shock brigade members and their commanding officers were instructed to arrive at Pyongyang International Airport quickly. They thought that they would move to another place for training. But when they arrived at the airport they were surprised to receive air tickets to Samjiyon.

They could not understand why they had to return to Mt Paektu just several days before the parade.

A senior official explained to them.

Several days after they had arrived in Pyongyang to participate in the training for the event, Kim Jong Un told officials about them while giving instructions concerning the military parade.

He adopted measures for taking them to the inauguration ceremony of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and bringing them back to Pyongyang by air.

The commanding officers and other members of the shock brigade were moved to tears to hear the story.

They recalled what Kim Jong Un had said, looking at the giant dam during his visit to the construction site of the power station nearing completion.

He said:

When looking up at the dam, I feel as if seeing the soaring spirit of our young people and when viewing it from afar, I feel as if seeing a huge contingent of young people forming a fortress and shield to defend the Party Central Committee. The construction of the power station eloquently proved once again that the decision of the Party precisely means reality and practice and the young Korean people are performing the role of vanguard in implementing the Party's decisions. Their might is quite tremendous.

He called on them to complete the project perfectly as it was not long before the 70th birthday of the WPK and stage a grand chorus of soldiers and other young builders as a declaration of victors. He promised to watch it without fail and have a photo taken with them against the background of the dam of Unit 1 of the power station.

This was how the shock brigade members, who had been mobilized for the parade, participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and posed for a photo with Kim Jong Un.

Special Treatment for Members of Itinerant Art Squad

One day in September 2015, a bus left for Pyongyang, carrying the members of the itinerant art squad of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade.

During his visit to the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station nearing completion, Kim Jong Un had watched their performance and spoken highly of them, inviting them to Pyongyang.

Looking out of the windows, they looked back on his visit some days before.

That day Kim Jong Un looked round the power station and spoke highly of the young people who had carried out the task assigned to them by the Party by working strenuously in the face of biting cold. And he watched a performance *Song of Faith Sung by Young People in Paektu* given by the members of the itinerant art squad.

The members recited poems and sang songs.

When the performance was over, Kim Jong Un said that it was excellent and praised the itinerant art squad for having

created the youth culture of Paektu.

He continued:

A few days back, I saw a performance of high educational value given by the central youth artistic motivational team. Today the itinerant art squad of the shock brigade, too, gave a performance as good as that. In particular, it vividly represented the ennobling mental world of our young people who are resolved to follow only our Party to the end.

In fact, they had practiced singing to the accompaniment of an accordion during a break in labour. And that day they performed by playing harmonicas, not any fabulous musical instruments. So, their performance was unpretentious and simple in comparison with those given by professional art troupes.

But Kim Jong Un highly praised their performance as he could feel their deep yearning for and loyalty to their leader.

After posing for a photo with them, he said they should be brought to Pyongyang to give a performance there.

Several days later, he gave officials detailed instructions on the inauguration ceremony of the power station.

At that time, he said:

When giving performances in Pyongyang, the members

of the itinerant art squad of the shock brigade should be treated as heroes.

Later, he saw to it that they were sent to the rehabilitation site in the flood-hit city of Rason to give an inspiring performance with songs, which had resounded in the Paektu area, for the service personnel of the Korean People's Army.

His intention was to ensure that the flames of the legendary tale of heroic youth of Mt Paektu swept through the rehabilitation site in Rason and the whole country vibrated with youthful enthusiasm.

True to his lofty intention, they vigorously encouraged the young people in the capital city and the soldier-builders in Rason with the songs of faith and struggle as befit the creators of the legendary tale of heroic youth of Mt Paektu.

Request Made at Mindulle Notebook Factory

The following happened one day in April 2016 when Kim Jong Un visited the newly-built Mindulle Notebook Factory.

That day he expressed great satisfaction, saying that he was very happy to see the notebooks produced at the factory and felt like dancing to think of children and students who would be pleased to have the quality notebooks.

He was pleased to see the fairytale animals printed on the front cover of notebooks for primary school pupils and a timetable on the back cover. When he went to the section of drawing paper, he said that the quality of paper was very good and that the children would like it very much.

In the designing room he praised that the front page was designed well as suited to children's mentality and underscored the need for the employees to be fully aware of the importance of their factory.

He said:

The future of our country is pictured on the notebooks

produced by the Mindulle Notebook Factory. The future thriving Korea belongs to our children who will grow up into the pillars of the country using the notebooks produced by this factory.

And he stressed that when the sound of production continued in this factory the country would continue to prosper, the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* would resound loudly throughout the country and the socialist system of the Korean style would remain steadfast.

Noting that the failure of production at the factory would mean that the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* resounding through the country stopped, he made a request that the factory not stop its production even for a moment for the bright smile and happiness of Korean children.

Graduation Ceremony Postponed Twice

The following happened one day in August 2022.

Officials, teaching staff and students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School were full of joy, with the 75th anniversary of their school approaching.

However, the graduates, who were told that the graduation

ceremony was due before the anniversary, felt regretful as they would not participate in the celebrations.

All of them wanted to leave the school after the celebrations.

But there was no other option for them, since the graduation ceremony was to take place according to the educational programme.

At that time, the officials of the school were told that Kim Jong Un, upon learning that its graduates would leave the school before the anniversary, took steps for postponing the graduation ceremony so that they could participate in the celebrations.

They were deeply moved to hear that.

Accordingly, the splendid celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School took place on October 12 in the presence of Kim Jong Un amid the blessings of the whole country, and the graduates also participated in the event.

That day the graduates, as well as other students, posed for a photo with Kim Jong Un.

On the 16th, four days later, the graduates were to leave the school for their new posts.

When he attended the celebrations of the above anniversary,

Kim Jong Un had promised he would visit it again in the weekend.

As he had promised, he came again, and all the teaching staff and students raised loud cheers for him.

That day, he made the rounds of the school to learn in detail about its education. He saw the graduates' martial arts exercises and live firing. Whenever they hit the targets accurately, he was the first to clap, and taught them the knack of marksmanship. He really looked like their benevolent father.

He posed for a photo with the participants in the live firing.

That day, he said that as the graduates were soon to leave the school, they should be given the photos before their departure. Noting that he would have beef from the Myonggi Cattle Farm sent to the school, he asked its officials to see that its students had beef before going on vacation or graduating from the school.

Accordingly, their graduation ceremony was postponed again.

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