

Thriving DPRK



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PREFACE

Photos, clips and other information about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are going viral these days, drawing interest around the world.

Many are admiring the extremely rapid progress and sea change that have been brought about in the DPRK under the great leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un over the past five years since the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in January 2021.

An impressive array of new streets in the capital city of Pyongyang, new rural houses built across the country which are cosy, beautiful and characteristic, newly built modern regional-industry factories, the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area, Pyongyang General Hospital and so on—all these are enough to spark their curiosity and impulse to know more about the country.

The Editorial Board publishes this book, titled *Thriving DPRK*, to help the readers have a better understanding of what the DPRK has achieved over the five years.

1. Dear Father

All was not plain sailing in the DPRK over the past five years.

The conditions and environment were unprecedentedly unfavourable—challenges by the hostile forces, global health crisis and frequent natural disasters.

Always in the hearts of the Korean people, however, was their dear father who defended and led them while taking good care of them.

Parental affection, benevolence and devotion of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un flowed into their minds like sunshine to become their spiritual pillar that helped them overcome hardships, and they were a source of great strength for transformations.



Legendary Tales (1)

Promotion of People's Wellbeing

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was held in Pyongyang in January 2021.

In his report to the congress Comrade Kim Jong Un laid out a new line and strategic and tactical policies aimed at making a dramatic progress in socialist construction, as well as the tasks to be carried out during the period of the upcoming five-year plan for national economic development.

The major tasks of the new five-year plan were to focus investment on metal and chemical industries, taking them as key links, so as to normalize production in all sectors of the national economy, to consolidate the material and technical foundations of the agricultural field, and to supply enough raw and other materials to light industry for increased production of consumer goods.

The report referred to the task to build 10 000 flats every year starting from 2021 by concentrating efforts on the 50 000-flat project in Pyongyang and to construct 25 000 flats in the Komdok area to turn it into an unheard-of mining town.

It set forth tasks to regenerate tourism so as to provide the people with a more civilized life.

Comrade Kim Jong Un declared the unshakable determination of the Party to make a breakthrough in solving the people's food, clothing and housing problems at any cost and effect changes and innovations so tangible as to be felt by the people in reality in the new five-year plan period.

He pointed to important policy measures to turn every city and county into a strategic base of a highly civilized and prosperous socialist state

and a developed region retaining its inherent characteristics.

Another immediate task, he stressed, was to give precedence to the work of transforming agricultural workers on a revolutionary and working class pattern, boost state support to the rural areas and build up the rural communities in a balanced way so that they have regional characteristics of their own.

He elaborated on the goals for the development of education and detailed tasks for turning the country into a country of education and a country with many talents, as well as plans for providing the people with greater medical benefits by developing the socialist healthcare into the most advantageous and advanced public health.

Excitement built up across the country after the congress. But no one could imagine yet how grandiose the tasks set forth by the congress were and what significance they would have in bringing a great change to their lives and their country.

In the follow-up plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, Comrade Kim Jong Un initiated programmes for promoting the public wellbeing and achieving national prosperity.

It was in February 2021, less than a month after the congress, when the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee was held in Pyongyang. The meeting dealt with tasks to be carried out by each economic sector in 2021, issues concerning the building of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang and regional-industry factories in Kangwon Province's Kimhwa County, and other detailed tasks.

Comrade Kim Jong Un ensured that a new childcare policy on supplying dairy products and other nutritious foods to the children across the country at state expense was adopted at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee in June 2021.

There were other tasks assigned by the Party's plenary meetings and other important events.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee unveiled the programme for effecting the rural revolution in the new

era which would lead to housing boom across the countryside and a sustainable and drastic increase of agricultural output.

The fourth and eighth plenary meetings adopted decisions on setting it as a consistent policy of the Party and state to provide the students across the country with uniforms and school things at state expense, supplying new styles of quality uniforms and school bags to all the students and taking drastic measures to reshape the country's educational structure in such a way as to give advanced education and improve and strengthen the educational work decisively. The eleventh plenary meeting set an ambitious goal of pushing ahead with the renovation and modernization of schools—a task that takes the lion's share in laying the foundation for education—through a nationwide campaign and sprucing up all the schools around the country in the coming decade.

The 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Party Central Committee adopted a historic decision on dynamically propelling the Regional Development 20×10 Policy designed to bring the material and cultural living standards of the entire population onto a higher level. Less than a year later, the 11th Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee included it in the Party's new regional development policy to build advanced healthcare facilities, leisure complexes and grain storage facilities in parallel with regional-industry factories, bringing great excitement to the whole country.

The historic Eighth Congress of the WPK and the action programmes set forth by the consequent plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee illuminated the road ahead for the Korean people to follow in their struggle and made them convinced of a rosier future.

But it is noteworthy that all these hard-to-make decisions, lines and policies, and all the results achieved through the arduous and painstaking struggle, were completely attributable to Comrade Kim Jong Un's devoted service to the people.

New Childcare Law

In mid-June 2021, the Third Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held in Pyongyang in the presence of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

At the meeting he suggested adopting it as a Party policy to supply dairy products and other nutritious foodstuffs to the children across the country at state expense, and indicated detailed tasks and ways to this end.

His suggestion won the unanimous support and approval of the participants in the meeting, and a decision was adopted to implement it.

The Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, held in February 2022, adopted the Law of the DPRK on Childcare.

Looking back, the DPRK had already set up a public childcare system, embracing the nurseries and kindergartens around the country that are run on state budget.

The law on the nursing and upbringing of children, the first of its kind in the DPRK, was adopted in 1976, well before the law on socialist labour in 1978 and the law on public health in 1980. After its introduction, the number of nurseries nationwide in the 1970s boosted by 4.6 times, and the number of their children by 3.6 times as compared against the 1960s, the DPRK ranking first in the world in terms of the absolute number of nurseries.

Later, the law was amended and supplemented in 1999, 2010, 2013 and 2014.

The new childcare law as a subsidiary of the Law of the DPRK on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children of 1976 defines the order concerning the production and supply of nutritious foodstuffs for children and the provision of conditions for their upbringing.

The law consists of 61 articles in four chapters. One paragraph reads

that the state shall establish a well-knit system of producing and supplying nutritious foods for the children and supply all of them with such foods including dairy products for free and in a regular way, and provide the best possible conditions for their upbringing.

The law also specifies such details as using raw materials whose quality is guaranteed in the production of powdered milk and producing powdered milk that conforms to the national standards by modernizing the production lines and equipment and developing processing techniques; strengthening public support to nurseries and kindergartens by designating every August and September as a nursery-supporting period and every March and October as a school-supporting period; selecting building sites for childcare centres; and creating works of literature and the arts for children as suited to their psychological features. Even prescribed in the law are matters like supplying necessary equipment and fixtures, musical instruments, toys and drinking water to childcare centres, ensuring appropriate temperature in their rooms, providing power and fuel needed for heating and cooking, and protecting and caring children.

Comrade Kim Jong Un once said that if the children who were born and grow up on this land are well fed and raised healthily in a good environment, our society will be overflowing with vitality and vim in 20 or 30 years and our country's national power will grow further.

The adoption of the childcare law is, indeed, fruition of his political creed that any loss to the state incurred in doing things for the benefit of children should not be counted as loss, and that the larger sum of money the state pays for the children, the brighter the future of the country will be.

Eternal State Policy

There is a policy consistently maintained in the DPRK, despite the lapse of many decades. It is a socialist policy dedicated to schoolchildren.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held in late December 2021 set supplying school uniforms and things to the students across the country at state expense as a consistent policy of the Party and the state, set forth a task for supplying all the students with quality uniforms and bags of new forms, and took an important measure of the Party Central Committee for implementing it.

From its early days on, the DPRK has channelled great efforts into developing education. Free education has been enforced from preschool education to tertiary education, with the schooling period increased in a steady manner in line with the trend of educational development.

Adopted was a decree on enforcing the universal 12-year compulsory education in 2012, which has been in force nationwide since 2017. Meanwhile, every possible measure has been taken to constantly improve the educational structure and environment in pursuit of an ambitious goal of turning the country into an educational powerhouse, a country abundant in talents.

Comrade Kim Jong Un saw to it that sufficient conditions were provided to all students across the country so that they could be engrossed in studying without inconvenience. He visited the newly-built Mindulle Notebook Factory in April 2016 and the modernly-equipped Pyongyang Bag Factory in January 2017. And he gave field guidance at regional bag factories in 2018.

In August 2020, while giving the task of remodelling the uniforms for students, he gave instructions on working out designs of new school uniforms, and took time to examine the uniform designs. On New Year's Day in 2022, when the whole country was enveloped in festivity, he went over the sample uniforms and gave detailed instructions on making and

supplying new styles of uniforms to students around the country. Later, saying that the uniforms should be made to fit well, he made sure that a new guidebook to body measurement was made and issued.

He said at a plenary meeting of the WPK that to supply uniforms to students is a policy of our Party and an eternal state policy that should be implemented unconditionally as a top priority task, not a thing that is done only under favourable conditions but may not be



done under unfavourable conditions.

As a result, a set of school things including new styles of uniform and bag, notebooks and textbooks came to be supplied to every student, ranging from primary school children to university students.

The work for the schoolchildren is a political undertaking that guarantees the bright future of the country before it is an economic and practical undertaking and the children's bright smile is just a symbol of

the socialist system and the image of Korean-style socialism—this is the unshakable will of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Today all the Korean schoolchildren are being provided from the state with different kinds of school things such as closely fit uniforms with their name tags, shoes and bags, and their hearty laughter and beaming faces are adding more to the scenery of the streets and villages.

Ninety-odd-day Anti-epidemic Campaign

The spread of COVID-19 left the whole world in disarray. For several years the malignant virus harassed the people around the world, even taking many lives. It was really a global health crisis.

It is necessary to recall those days when the pandemic broke out.

With the pandemic spreading worldwide, there was complete mayhem in many countries. Confronted with the prospect of long-term isolation and quarantine, people thronged into shops to buy things in bulk. Amid the growing fear of the pandemic, rich people made fortunes taking advantage of the drop in stock prices, whereas many of the general public were left out of work or forcibly suspended from their jobs. Some of the rich took refuge on islands in the ocean and posted on social media platforms photos and videos about their living in clover, sparking off public furore.

The world community was not united in coping with the crisis. There were such appalling acts as putting individual interests above all. A country even stole a cargo of anti-epidemic articles bound for other countries. Not a few people refused to wear a mask claiming about individual freedom, and held gatherings overtly against social distancing and other health measures. As a result, a great number of people were infected, troubled and even dead.

But what happened in the DPRK? All its people readily accepted the state's measures and voluntarily observed regulations and restrictions.

They acted like one and responded immediately to the measures taken by their government. Herein lies the secret behind the failure of the pandemic in infiltrating into the country for two years and three months.

However, the most serious state emergency incident occurred in May 2022, breaching the anti-epidemic barrier that had been kept steady for years. On May 8 the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters and relevant units examined the results of gene arrangement analyses of the samples collected from those with fever in a unit in Pyongyang and concluded that they were identical with omicron mutated virus BA. 2.

Surprisingly, however, the spread of the virus was brought under control in a matter of over 90 days, with the mortality rate at 0.0016 %, the lowest in the world.

The world community marvelled at that, describing it as an “epochal mystery” and “unbelievable reality.”

What then made it possible?

When it was known that the pandemic landed on the country, everyone was upset and at a loss.

At this critical moment Comrade Kim Jong Un took up the gauntlet before others; sometimes worried as he was, he convened a series of meetings of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee to provide detailed solutions to so many problems and visited sites of the epidemic prevention work to set out clear-cut strategies.

After the infiltration of the pandemic was confirmed, he called the Eighth Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK on May 12, in which he took a measure of switching the state epidemic prevention work to the top emergency system. When he decided to launch an emergency anti-epidemic campaign, he believed before anything else in the strong organizing ability with which the Party, government and people are single-mindedly united, and everyone’s high sense of political awareness and self-consciousness that had been fostered and cemented during the prolonged epidemic prevention struggle.

He thought that if we tried to follow the spread situation so as to take

measures to control the pandemic, we would never get out of passiveness in the epidemic prevention work and that we needed to take the initiative by proactively locking down areas, quarantining persons with fever, treating patients in a responsible manner and leaving no room for the spread.

On the night of May 15, 2022, he inspected some pharmacies in Pyongyang.

When he stepped into a pharmacy, the shop assistants were taken aback, for it was not long after they had been cured of the pandemic, and they were still suffering from the aftereffects.

In spite of the risks of infection, Comrade Kim Jong Un approached them closer to learn about what kinds of medications were supplied, if they were stored well as they should be, if the pharmacies switched over to a 24-7 service system, what kinds of antifebriles and antibiotics they kept, and what medicines the residents wanted most and how much they cost.

And at the consultative meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee held on the same day, he ensured that a special order of the Central Military Commission of the WPK was issued for committing a powerful task force from the military medical field of the Korean People’s Army.

Accordingly, nearly 3 000 medics were dispatched to hundreds of pharmacies in the capital, where they set about delivering and supplying medicines and treating patients.

During the 90-odd-day top emergency anti-epidemic period he examined as many as 22 956 pages of 1 772 documents concerning the anti-epidemic work. In those days, while he himself was racked by high fever, he was most worried about the people’s safety and their sufferings.

He expressed his determination and will over and over to win a great victory in the anti-epidemic campaign without fail, saying: The time has come for our Party Central Committee to prove its leading role once again in the face of the trials of history. It is time for us to more deeply realize for what we are needed and for whom we have to fight

at the cost of our lives. Our Party will bravely discharge its important responsibility and duty and take full responsibility for the security and wellbeing of the country and people by displaying infinite loyalty and devotion.

Though every area was strictly locked down, according to the measures taken by the state, baby formula and powdered rice were supplied to every family with young children on a regular basis and vans ceaselessly carried fish to baby homes, orphanages, primary and middle schools for orphans and old people's homes across the country.

On May 14 he saw to it that the household medicines prepared by his family—out of his resolve to always throw in his lot with the people and his earnest hope that peace and laugh would settle again in the families all over the country—were sent to the needy families.

These tales would probably be unheard of in the world.

The whole country was out for the combat against the pandemic true to the intention of their leader.

During the top emergency anti-epidemic campaign, more than 71 200 health workers and over 1 148 000 hygiene activists were mobilized across the country every day to screen and test families and employees and to identify and treat fever cases, while thousands of former medical workers volunteered for this effort.

From May 12, when the virus proved to have infiltrated into the country, regions, work units, production units and residential units in all cities and counties across the country were completely isolated from one another and patients began to be quarantined for treatment amid intensive examination and checkup of all residents. Medical workers in charge of households, medics dispatched to help them, and students from universities of medical sciences visited every home several times a day to identify infected cases. Special mobile service teams took charge of the supply of foodstuffs to the quarantined families.

All pharmacies began to work round the clock and the national reserve medicines were urgently released and supplied to residents. A

month later, the daily number of fever cases dropped to less than 90 000, showing signs of constant decrease until no suspect case or patient under treatment was reported since July 29. Those who had died in this period numbered 74 in total—the lowest fatality rate the world health circles had ever seen.

Impressions from Women's Clothes Show

The Women's Clothes Show-2022 was held in Pyongyang from late October to early November 2022. This was the first time that an event dedicated exclusively to women's clothes was held on such a large scale though previously there had been held many shows and exhibitions in the capital. This show tells a story.

Show Brought to Leader's Attention

Holding a women's clothes show, not something like an event devoted to economic development and achievements, in the capital city of Pyongyang highlighted the particular public attention to women.

The Women's Clothes Show-2022 was initiated and guided by Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Once when he gave instructions on issues concerning the light industry sector, he stressed the need to make clothes to fit women in favour of their body shapes. While seeing artistic performances, he paid close attention to the costumes worn by the artistes. He was greatly pleased to see women in dresses and other different types of clothes in the photos from a unit, saying they look terrific. He said that women play an irreplaceable role in assisting their husbands in the latter's work, bringing up their children as reliable pillars of the country, and keeping their families amicable and harmonious. He keeps in his mind an aspiration for putting forward the women most beautifully, brightly and proudly in the world.

He guided the preparations and holding of the show. He made sure that

the planned clothes show was dedicated to women, and gave a detailed orientation that the event should focus on seasonal clothes for women in their thirties and forties. He also learned about the venue of the event, the number and proportion of the kinds of the clothes to be displayed, the participating units, assessment, supply of materials and lodging of the participants, as well as the layout of the venue, the logo of the show, sign designs and ways of running the show.

Developing Clothing Culture

The show was of significance in that it gave a glimpse of the development of the country's clothing culture.

The venue, arranged in a three-dimensional way to meet the formative and artistic features of the show with a large electric screen at the centre, was on a par with those of the world-famous clothes shows in terms of scale and contents. The hall resembled a full-blown flower; each corner was decorated with petals, and the logo represented a butterfly flying over a flower. Every main corner covered 200m², and the event brought together more than 540 units. Clothes for different seasons on display numbered over 60 000 pieces—a fact telling the scale of the show.

The show also had corners for handbags and other accessories such as hairpins and brooches that go well with different seasonal clothes. Some corners were devoted to a range of cosmetics. Arranged in the venue was a mirror for AR experience, which helped visitors choose pieces to their likings in a short time—instead of trying on them.

During the show the participants shared experience and discussed their views.

After visiting the show, those from foreign embassies in Pyongyang expressed their impressions, saying: The show is dazzlingly gorgeous and the mode of display is unique. The styles were so fresh and original that we mistook them for world-famous ones. The show gave us a chance to feel the progress of the DPRK. The Korean women are fortunate because they live in a country that holds such a big and wonderful show for them.

Train Crosses Makeshift Railway Bridge

House-moving ceremonies began to be held every year since 2021 at mining villages in the area of Komdok, the country's leading mineral ore production base.

Each year thousands of flats in low- and multi-storey blocks that vary in architectural styles and boast unique forms mushroomed along the deep gorges in the area.

Not until a few years ago had anyone imagined that such a wonderful mining town would spring up in the area dotted with old houses that had been built on the hillsides.

In October 2020 the world saw on TV and online a train running on a temporarily repaired railway bridge in the DPRK. The train was carrying Comrade Kim Jong Un on his inspection tour of the reconstruction site in the flood-stricken Komdok area.

Early in September 2020 typhoon No. 9 heavily hit North and South Hamgyong provinces in the eastern part of the country. Heavy rain and high wind battered over 2 000 dwelling houses near the coast in the two provinces, and not a few public buildings and farmlands were inundated. The Komdok area took the brunt of the damage.

In response to the crisis, Comrade Kim Jong Un convened the Sixth Enlarged Meeting of the Seventh Central Military Commission of the WPK on September 8 to take nationwide emergency measures for reconstructing the afflicted area as early as possible. He ordered that new houses take shape and roads and railways be restored by October 10 at the latest and all the damage be undone 100 percent by the end of that year, and tasked the Korean People's Army with the reconstruction project.

Soon the project was kicked off.

A month later, he inspected the reconstruction site.

At the time there were some vulnerable places on his way since the

railways and roads were under reconstruction. The biggest challenge was a railway bridge that was temporarily built on piers with stones piled up in wooden frames. But it did little to reverse his decision to go to the area where a new cradle was being built for the locals.

Upon arrival at the site, he expressed satisfaction over the fact that the project passed the 60 percent mark of the total workload. He highly praised the soldier-builders for building every structure scrupulously and with much care. He said he was pleased to hear that the victims in the afflicted area could move into new houses by the end of October, and asked officials to take good care of them.

His train travel across the temporarily repaired railway bridge was of particular significance as it marked a historic event that opened up a new chapter of history for the Komdok area.

That day he was so unhappy at the sight of single-storey houses standing in a haphazard, cramped way on a hillside, while crossing a pass on the way to the reconstruction site.

He said:

It is really a pity that we could not demolish those houses and rebuild them as well this time. At present, only when natural disasters occur to knock down old houses do we build new houses belatedly. We should not do regional construction this way. As I said recently, it is necessary to set the goal for regional construction in a planned manner and carry it out in a prospective way.

He outlined his plan and blueprint for turning the Komdok area into a mining town without parallel in the world, the first-ever gorge town to be envied by all people, by building 5 000 houses every year—25 000 in total—during the period of the five-year plan (2021-2025) to be set forth in the Eighth Party Congress.

Today modern flats built as decently as he planned have unfolded a spectacular scene in the gorge town.

The locals are all living in those modern houses, and the mines in the area are boosting production with the new modern equipment that took

the place of the lost old ones.

In the course of the transformation of the area, the WPK and the government further enriched their experience in regional construction. Just to this end, Comrade Kim Jong Un must have risked travelling along the vulnerable railway bridge.

Legendary Tales (2)

Always among the People

The WPK was always the first to visit and take care of the people who suffered damage by flooding and typhoons.

There are not a few governments around the world that usually claim they work for the people but, when the latter are really in difficulties, they take little care of them or turn away their face on the pretext of conditions and money.

But the WPK and the DPRK government have always visited the people ahead of others and approached them closer, the more difficulties and hardships they have encountered.

Upon receiving a report on the flood in Taechong-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, Comrade Kim Jong Un got behind the wheel and drove through the rough and muddy roads to the afflicted area ahead of others. Such image reminded the people of the affection parents show their children that experienced a tragedy.

When floods struck North and South Hamgyong provinces, he wrote an open letter to all the Party members in the capital city, earnestly requesting them to come forward and join in the reconstruction work.

Upholding his intention that the Party Central Committee should always be with the people in both good times and bad, officials of the Party Central Committee went to the typhoon-stricken areas and waged the rehabilitation campaign, sharing weal and woe with the victims—an

occasion that made the world community realize once again what the WPK's spirit of devoted service really means.

In late July 2024 flooding swept some border areas in North Phyongan Province, the northwestern part of the country, leaving many island residents in the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County trapped in the zones to be inundated. A crisis was looming on the horizon. Yet the residents could not realize what a great helping hand was being stretched out to them and what operations had been launched.

According to the assignment directly given by Comrade Kim Jong Un immediately after the crisis occurred, senior officials of the Party, government and the military were rapidly dispatched to the areas, and helicopters of the Air Force of the Korean People's Army and lifeboats of the Navy and a maritime guard formation of the Border Guards were promptly committed to the operations for rescuing the residents.

Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the scene of the rescue operations through the flooded roads. Declining an umbrella offered by officials



and exposing himself to heavy rain, he directly oversaw the rescue and evacuation operations. When the airlifted people saw him at the airport exposed to heavy rainstorm to their surprise, they burst into cheers with tears of gratitude and emotion.

In another development, the inaugural ceremony of the third-stage



10 000 flats in the Hwasong area was held in April 2025.

Among those who were honoured to meet him at the event was an old woman who was to move into a new flat.

She attended the event with the aid of a walking stick. When meeting him, she said that she was more pleased to see him than she was to live in a new house and that her lifelong dream came true and she had no regrets now.

But Comrade Kim Jong Un told her that he was sorry to provide these modern apartment houses belatedly and that he was even more

determined to take upon himself more tasks for the people as he saw the citizens full of emotion and joy today. And he wished all of them a happy life in good health in the new houses.

The leader devotes his all to the people and the latter long to see the former and try their best to bring his intention into reality—this tie of kinship is the single-minded unity in Kim Jong Un’s era.

Emotion-charged Tents

In late July 2024 flooding wreaked havoc on the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County, North Phyongan Province, displacing many residents and forcing them to stay in tents.

Cheers of hurrah came out of their tented camp on August 8, 2024.

Comrade Kim Jong Un paid a visit to the camp. When he came to their tents, the flood victims, though they had not wept in the face of the severe calamity, broke into tears and expressed their gratitude to him.

He sat knee to knee with them and took meticulous care of their living, asking whether they had anything inconvenient, how their meals were provided and if there were any sick ones.

They felt sorry for having him, whom they had always longed to see even once, come to a rather terrible place on such a day. For the persistent heat made them sweat even if they sat still in the tents.

Though he was wet with perspiration, he turned the electric fan to the dwellers and warmly said he felt sorry that they were suffering from heat.

They told him that they felt nothing inconvenient as all living conditions were provided thanks to him and the whole country turned out to help them.

He said:

Why should it not be inconvenient for you to live away from home? Endure a little longer, please. Let us proudly build a paradise on the ruins left by the natural disaster and lead a better life. I’d like to thank

you for invariably believing in the Party. As there is your deep trust, rehabilitation is no problem.

Who could imagine that they would see him again, in their temporary shelter at that, as he had driven through the flooded roads to the stricken area and taken measures for a long time to rescue every one of them and even waited for them at a rainy air base before calling an emergency enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee on the spot to plan a reconstruction campaign for providing new houses for the flood victims as early as possible?

In the tents there was an air of intimacy and kindness that made the dwellers open up their minds to him without reserve as casually as though they would do when their own father visited their home. His charming personality, sentimental and warm-hearted, won their hearts and minds.

The tents were “hot” with warmth and affection between the leader and people, and the parental care shown by him.

Yet they could not know what important measures would be taken for them.

“My Beloved Children, I Welcome You Here.”

The flood victims from the northern border areas of the country had a great time in Pyongyang enjoying the best service at the well-equipped April 25 Hostel from mid-August to the end of 2024, until modern new flats were built for them in the afflicted areas. Moreover, the children continued to receive education at excellent classrooms under the guidance of the best teachers in the capital.

There was a touching story behind it.

Many countries and regions on the planet are affected by flooding and heavy rains. The DPRK is no exception. But the children in the afflicted areas in the country received special treatment under the utmost concern of the state.

Some parts of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces were stricken by unprecedentedly devastating flooding in late July 2024. Comrade Kim Jong Un immediately made sure that a state measure was taken to commit a powerful construction workforce to building decent houses for the flood victims, incomparable to their previous ones. But it would take several months to bring their life to normalcy, given the extent of the damage.

The biggest concern of the WPK and the DPRK government in the period was to take care of the flood victims as best as possible. More importance was given to keeping students and children educated and brought up.

According to preliminary statistics, preschoolers and students numbered 2 198 and 4 384, respectively, among the flood victims.

On August 8, Comrade Kim Jong Un visited again the stricken area in Uiju County, North Phyongan Province, to take crucial measures for the rehabilitation project. He also met flood victims and consoled them at their makeshift tents. Giving the children confectionery he brought with him and helping them put on pretty clothes, he said that he felt really encouraged to see the children and that he came to learn more seriously for what we should struggle and for what we should become stronger to defend.

The following day he met the flood victims in Uiju County again to clarify the stand of the Party and the government related to reconstruction and the crucial measures.

He said in a consolatory speech before them:

The biggest bottleneck in the period of two or three months before the housing construction is completed and their living stabilized is the living and teaching for students and other children in the circumstances of the afflicted area. Needless to say, children will find it quite inconvenient to live in tents or others' houses until the completion of the restoration work, and, in particular, this will have a serious impact on their education. Nursing, edification and education of students and

other children are the most important of all state affairs never to be abandoned even if the sky may fall in.

He then made public such an important measure as to put into operation an emergency system whereby during the restoration work the students and all other children of the afflicted families were brought to Pyongyang and provided with a safe and comfortable environment for care and education, entirely at state expense.

Later, children, as well as the elderly, nursing mothers and honoured disabled soldiers, in different stricken areas near the border and in the northern region got on the train bound for Pyongyang.

After they arrived in Pyongyang, Comrade Kim Jong Un visited their lodging quarters to see them.

In a welcome speech he said:

“And you, students, my beloved children, I welcome you here.”

He dropped in at the dining hall for children in which he warmly said to those children unreservedly moving into his arms that they should take foods heartily and grow up healthily to become happy children adding to the laugh of their families and country.

His affection for the schoolchildren was boundless. At a resting site of the hostel, he met some children who were pleased to be provided with new school uniforms and things. He helped them shoulder their schoolbags, and said with satisfaction that in new school uniforms they all looked so cute, and that their mothers who came up to Pyongyang with them would be glad. He earnestly requested them to study harder and train themselves to bring delight to their families and country.

The following day he watched a demonstration lesson for a class of primary school students, which was organized as part of the preparations for new-term teaching of the schoolchildren from the flood-hit areas. He acquainted himself in detail with the provision of the educational equipment and school fixtures and saw school things for the students. Looking round temporary classrooms for junior and senior middle school students, he earnestly called for paying special attention and sincerity to





the students so that they can attend to their studies with diligence as all of them who were to study there were those the people in the stricken areas had left in the care of the Party and the government, placing their wholehearted trust in them.

Thanks to the benevolent care of the leader, who cherishes such an absolute creed that it is needed to pick even a star from the sky for the younger generations, and deep state concern, the children from the flood-stricken areas came to keep receiving education while enjoying their stay in Pyongyang as they had a good time at the Munsu Water Park, the Rungna People's Recreation Ground and other leisure and amusement facilities.

Decision Made on Rubber Boat

July 29, 2024 was the day after Comrade Kim Jong Un directly oversaw at an air base exposed to heavy rainstorm the operations for evacuating more than 5 000 people who were trapped in places to be flooded.

That day the train he took pulled up in the middle of the flooded, deserted place.

He suggested looking round the flooded areas on a rubber boat.

In fact, he was better aware of the flood damage than anybody else as he had overseen the rescue operations on the spot. He had seen the aerial photos and received detailed reports on the situation of the afflicted areas. However, he got aboard a rubber boat, unable to feel relieved before



he experienced the pains of the people who had lost their dear homes associated with their beautiful life and memories and before he took on the spot rehabilitation measures to alleviate their misfortune.

His rubber boat was slowly moving along the unfathomably-flooded areas. Once the boat suddenly swayed, driven by a rippling whirlpool, with upper twigs of submerged street trees projecting in disorder ahead of it. Caring little about it, he asked to have the boat go ahead. The accompanying officials did not yet know what he had in mind.

He was preoccupied with the thought about the people, who had lost their happy life to the natural calamity and were looking forward to the decision to be made by the WPK soon.

The more he thought about the honest and truthful people who had cheered him in tears though they had lost everything to the flood and who would be suffering inconvenience without their dear homes in such midsummer days when heavy rains still fell sporadically, the more he felt heartbroken.

For him not only the people's lives but also small details of their life were never, ever to be lost.

So worried about the sufferings of the flood victims, he hardened his resolve to bring greater happiness to them without fail. He made an important decision with such affection and devotion that a father risks his life without hesitation to relieve their children of their pains.

That day it took him nearly two hours to look round the flooded areas on the rubber boat. Sailing around the afflicted areas, he pictured a blueprint for the socialist fairyland and facelifted island villages that would write a new chapter of history in the transformation of the country.

A few hours later, the 22nd emergency enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held at a conference room in his train that stopped on a partially inundated paddy field just before a makeshift barrier to the flood.

At the meeting he set forth tasks and ways for the restoration work,

such as those of urgently supplying the reserve materials for emergency disaster relief to quickly stabilize the living of the people in the flood-hit areas, and made public important measures for rapidly stockpiling essential equipment and apparatuses for rescue operations when disaster occurred.

Accordingly, a powerful construction workforce was mobilized, and the reconstruction projects proceeded apace.

As a result, ideal cultured rural towns, beautiful villages epitomizing modern civilization, sprang up to greet the significant time of completion in the flood-hit areas of North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces.

In his speech delivered in celebration of the inauguration ceremony of houses in North Phyongan Province, Comrade Kim Jong Un said:

Today we have held a meaningful inauguration ceremony while reviewing the proud result of more than 130 days of the arduous campaign of rehabilitating the disaster-stricken areas by building durable embankments and houses for the local people. This gigantic transformation makes us realize once again how proud our Party was in having made a



correct decision and conducted a worthwhile undertaking, as well as how wonderful the socialist ideals are and how sacred and honourable our cause is, which we are advancing while overcoming the difficulties by our own efforts and by dint of fortitude.





2. Achieving Prosperity

Never before in the history of the DPRK spanning nearly 80 years have such miraculous achievements been made in so short a time simultaneously in all the fields of social life including politics, the economy, culture and national defence.

Comrade Kim Jong Un set forth struggle tasks, made courageous and timely decisions, and carried them through to the end, which was the main factor behind a new era of comprehensive national rejuvenation, great transformation unprecedented in history.



City of Happiness and Glory

Long-term Capital City Construction Programme

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in January 2021 marked a turning point in bringing about a revolution in capital city construction.

At the Congress Comrade Kim Jong Un set forth a long-term task of building 10 000 flats every year in Pyongyang during the period of the five-year plan (2021-2025) so as to basically solve the housing problem for the citizens.

At the time deciding to build 50 000 flats was not that easy. A pandemic was sweeping around the world and the country was in economic difficulties.

Moreover, given that a system of building dwelling houses at state expense and allocating them to people for free is in place, housing construction was literally a “below-cost investment premised on no returns” in the eyes of outsiders.

Meanwhile, the hostile forces were creating tension in the region by waging war games relentlessly in their desperate attempt to check the advance of the DPRK.

In these circumstances, however, Comrade Kim Jong Un made a bold decision to ensure that 10 000 flats were built every year. Building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang was something he said the WPK had long intended, prepared for and aspired to, in order to provide the citizens with more cultured and stable living conditions. It was also an ennobling undertaking to turn into benefits for the working masses the state's assets and the fruits of their creative labour in their entirety.

In fact, when the housing construction programme was unveiled at the Eighth Congress of the WPK, many could not yet fully understand its bright prospects. But they came to feel in reality what a grand and long-term plan the Party's capital city construction programme was while

seeing Comrade Kim Jong Un attending the groundbreaking ceremony of the 10 000-flat construction project every year to deliver a speech and a large group of modern structures coming into being the following year without fail.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony in March 2021, he announced that the 50 000-flat construction project to be launched now is an undertaking for creating modern, large-scale residential streets while expanding the urban areas of Pyongyang to the east, west and north. At the event held in February 2022 to start the 10 000-flat project in the Hwasong area, he outlined the plan to build in the area within three years wonderful streets consisting of tens of thousands of flats, public buildings and neighbourhood-serving amenities.

According to his far-reaching capital city construction programme, the 10 000-flat project was launched in Pyongyang every year since 2021. As a result, Songhwa Street was inaugurated in the area of Songsin and Songhwa in 2022, followed by Hwasong Street in 2023, Rimhung Street in 2024, the third-stage project for 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area in 2025 and the fourth-stage project for 10 000 flats in the same area in 2026.

Besides, in addition to the 10 000-flat project, the 800-flat Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District was built in 2022, a residential quarter in the Taephyong area in 2023, and 4 100-odd-flat Jonwi Street with an iconic 80-storey apartment building in 2024.

You should not understand the 50 000-flat capital city construction programme as a project designed only to transform the looks of Pyongyang.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of the 10 000-flat project in March 2021, he said that the project must go ahead unconditionally, however massive it was, since it would have a direct impact on the life of the citizens and since it was an important political undertaking in the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress unfailingly. He expressed his conviction that the project would serve as an occasion for displaying to the full the power of the state and the creative strength of the people once again.

He foresaw that while a fierce struggle for grand construction was under way, vacillation and lack of ability would be overcome, courage and wisdom displayed, backwardness and stagnation eliminated, progress and innovations achieved, and the power of the state and people to shape the future further increased.

The course of the transformation in the capital can be seen as part of the ongoing construction boom in the DPRK.

Earlier he clarified his plan and intention to usher in a new age of prosperity by bringing about a heyday of construction to make history in this sector and by making the torchlight of innovation in this sector flare up as the flames of a great leap forward on all other fronts of socialist construction.

As a matter of fact, construction is a hallmark of progress and renovation and an investment in the future. Only when we give precedence to construction and push ahead with it audaciously can we create fresh potential for sustained economic growth and expand the foundations for cultural progress, and thereby bring about substantial changes that will be welcomed by people in every realm of state and social life. This is what he has in mind.

And he views that when this sector advances dynamically ahead of all other sectors, leading the contemporary civilization, the people's zeal for struggle can be steadily heightened, people-centred socialism can make vigorous progress, and the dawn of a prosperous country will come earlier.

In reality, the boom in construction has brought about radical progress in the sector itself, and many modern structures have been built across the country. The architectural development in turn has given an impetus to the growth in different sectors such as building-materials, metallurgical, machine-building and electric power industries. Many industrial facilities have been built to add more to the country's economic foundations. Recreational and amusement facilities that are no inferior to the world standards have sprung up, resulting in a remarkable improvement in the people's civilized life.

More importantly, such tangible achievements have fully demonstrated

the advantages of the WPK's people-first politics and the socialist system. And they have given them an intuitive understanding of the criteria of creation and the beautiful future the WPK aspires to, thus leading them to the civilization of a new era, and they have inspired all of them to devote themselves to the socialist patriotic cause, filled with confidence in a better future.

Such stirring reality has proved before the world that the great advance and development of the DPRK is true and real.

Majestic Groundbreaking in the Songsin and Songhwa Area

In March 2021 the groundbreaking ceremony of a 10 000-flat construction project in Pyongyang took place in the Songsin and Songhwa area, an eastern gateway to the capital city, which would mark another milestone in the history of capital city construction.

This was a starting point for the gigantic undertaking of building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang during the period of the five-year plan according to the decisions of the Eighth WPK Congress held in early January 2021 and the decisions of the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the ceremony and delivered an enthusiastic speech charged with ardent love for the people and great trust in the builders.

In the speech he said:

Building 50 000 modern flats in the capital city of Pyongyang is something our Party has long intended, prepared for and aspired to, in order to provide its citizens with more cultured and stable living conditions.

This large-scale house-building programme is not designed for the pursuit of financial profit; it is an ennobling undertaking to turn the state's assets and the fruits of the creative labour of the working masses into the benefits for them.

Today we are breaking the ground for this project, and in several



months' time a brand-new street for the people, a splendid architectural group we can all be proud of, will be built here. Nothing is more worthwhile, honourable, or happier, for us than to dedicate our sweat and passion, without hesitation, to building an ideal street that will be a warm cradle for our people, who are the best and greatest in the world.

He then earnestly called for making great efforts for the future of our more beautiful and magnificent capital, for our parents, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who will create and enjoy here a new, more cultured life to their heart's content, and for the brilliant implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress.

In fact, building 10 000 flats that year was not an easy decision to make.

It was an uphill, massive task to be carried out in such circumstances as were entirely different from when the country had started building Ryomyong Street five years before; the amount of work to be completed in a limited time was many times greater than it had been back then and, moreover, it had to be done under the global public health crisis.

But Comrade Kim Jong Un expressed his firm determination to push ahead with the project which he thought has a direct impact on the life of the citizens of the capital and is an important political undertaking in the first year of implementing the decisions of the Party Congress.

As such, the construction programme got into a good start.

The unfailing holding of groundbreaking and inaugural ceremonies



every year has added more to the people's happy laughter, self-confidence in their own strength, and their enthusiasm to make big strides towards a brighter future.

Thanks to the people-first politics administered by Comrade Kim Jong Un who gives top priority to satisfying the demands and interests of the people, the capital city of Pyongyang has greeted a new heyday of civilization.



Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District

The Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District, called Kyongru-dong (Jade Pavilion), gives a glimpse of what the DPRK intends to create in Kim Jong Un's era and how.

The district is a complete harmony of buildings and surroundings and an organic and scientific distribution of the living space and ecological space with the natural environment remaining intact.

Having conceived a plan for building a characteristic residential district along the shore of the Pothong, Comrade Kim Jong Un ensured that it was carried out in 2021, separately from the construction of 10 000 flats in the capital. He went over at least 240 designs in slightly over a month, giving advice on how to highlight the features of the houses as luxurious ones and on how to diversify the distribution and forms of the buildings.

Under his guidance, a new bus line was set up and the residential quarters were expanded to accommodate shops and other neighbourhood-serving amenities. Walkways to bus stops were laid out for the convenience of the residents, landscaping in and around the residential quarters was done on a high level and the parks along the riverside were spruced up.

Thus, the terraced houses district was completed as a luxury residential area that combines modernity with convenience.

The DPRK intends to build such modern residential districts in different parts of the country in the near future.

In pursuance of this plan, the capital city pushed ahead with the project for building 50 000 flats between 2021 and 2025, and the regions including rural areas are also stepping up housing construction.

In this light, the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District was of great significance for the DPRK, which consists mainly of mountainous areas. The appearance of the capital city and the regions would be fundamentally changed in the near future based on the successes and experiences gained in building this district.

Although only 800 families of exemplary working people in different sectors were provided with those luxury houses, it is the plan and determination of Comrade Kim Jong Un to make all the people throughout the country live in such houses in the future. This is the reason why he visited the construction site several times and led the builders to create a new example for building residential districts in sloping and mountainous areas.

Today his plan is being translated into reality amid the construction of decent houses like Kyongru-dong in rural villages up and down the country.

The Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District is greatly inspiring the Korean people in their patriotic and creative efforts to make their country more beautiful by their own efforts.

New Streets Showcasing Civilization and Development

The new streets built in Pyongyang's Hwasong area over recent years are attracting the attention of every foreign visitor as they showcase modern civilization and the remarkable progress in the country's architecture.

With the completion of the third-stage project, the Hwasong area is now able to perform political, economic and cultural functions as fully as a single administrative district does, and it is ready to play a role as a centre and model capable of leading the other areas of the capital city to civilization and efflorescence. This is a development meaningful enough to be called the birth of a new urban district making modernized Pyongyang of today present a striking contrast with itself of the past which had undergone changes for several decades since the founding of the state.

As many as 30 000 flats sit on an area of over 320 hectares, presenting a magnificent spectacle.

Each of the streets built at three stages has landmark buildings that are of vital importance in the overall architectural composition, influencing the colours and shapes of other structures and highlighting the artistic and formative mix of skyscrapers and high-rise and low-storey apartment houses. The design of neighbourhood-serving amenities on the stylobate is stylish and peculiar. In particular, the Hwasong Taedonggang Beer House and the overpass with a chain of neighbourhood-serving amenities are so impressive.

Each street in the area is distinctive in terms of architectural style and artistic and formative features, and it is three-dimensional and deep in the light of architectural space. Also varied are the roof styles, external decorations and landscaping.

Hwasong's per-capita wooded area is almost equal to that of eco-friendly cities in the world. Foreigners say that it is no exaggeration to say it is a model of modern urbanity as it incorporates practicality, diversity, connectivity, and formative and artistic quality into one.

They are surprised at the fact that those flats, each probably worth hundreds of thousands of US dollars in other countries, were given free to ordinary working people.

They also admire the way the Korean builders have built a new street with 10 000 flats each year over the recent four years and the fact that



Saeppyo Street and the fourth-stage 10 000 flats have been built to add to the scenery in the Hwasong area.

Comrade Kim Jong Un meticulously guided the whole course of the construction so that modern skyscrapers and high-rise apartment houses embodying an ideal harmony of architectural formative and

artistic beauty and advanced civilization and distinctively iconic commercial and public catering facilities were built. His energetic guidance has resulted in the brilliant socialist paradise in the area, a historic monument which represents the happy life of the Korean people and the rosy future of their country.

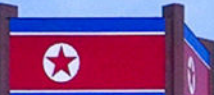
He is also credited with Jonwi Street built by young builders in the northern gateway to the capital.



The attractive, distinctive structures in Pyongyang are fascinating many netizens.

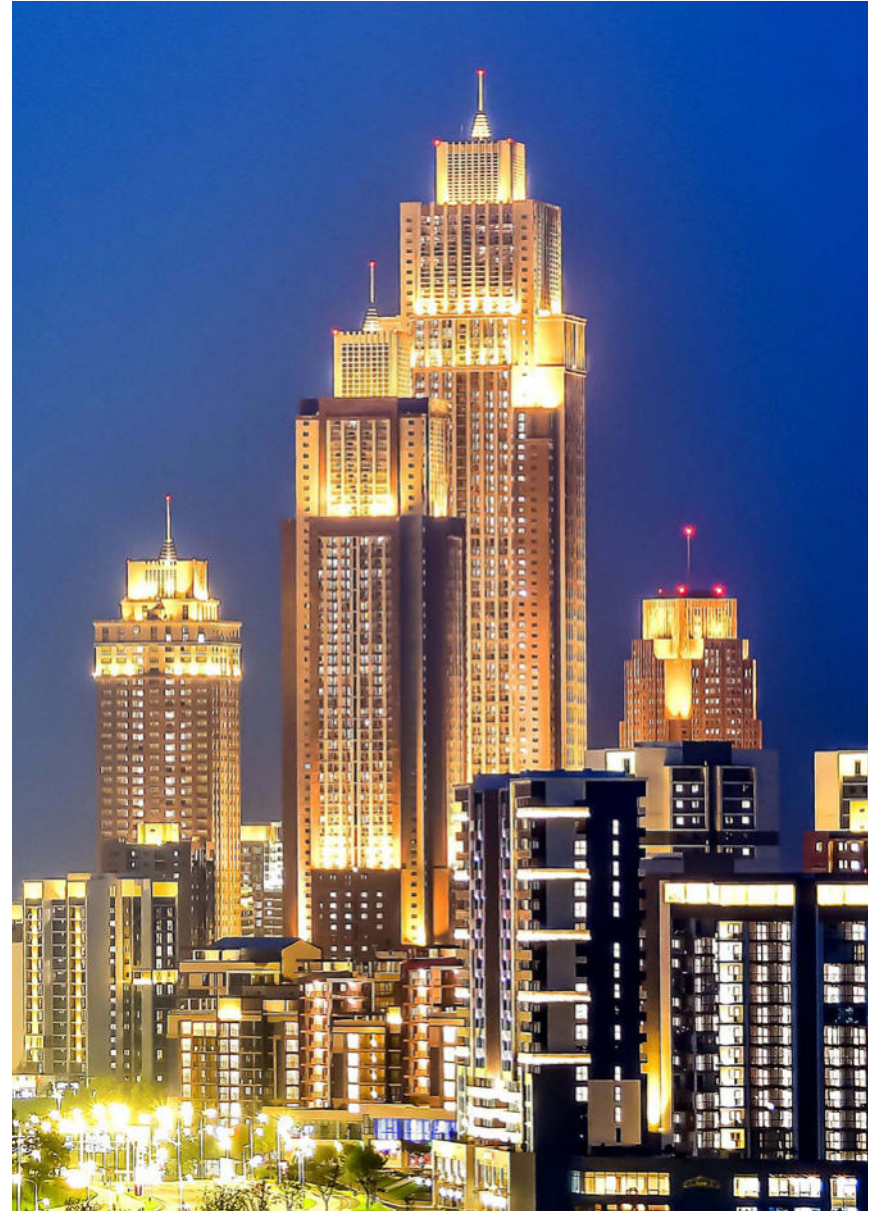
“Pyongyang is far more modern than many cities of other countries free from sanctions.”

“Pyongyang is likely to emerge as the best city in Asia, more impressive than Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo. Long live Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, a great star in the East!”



자력부강

자력번영



Rural Villages Turning into Rich, Civilized Fairylands

From Military Bases into Greenhouse Farms

The US and its followers, unhappy with the advance of the DPRK, are hell-bent on nuclear war games and military provocations against the latter in a bid to stifle it militarily at any cost. So military bases are of great importance for the DPRK in defending its peace and stability.

Nevertheless, the country has transformed three major military bases into large-scale greenhouse farms.

Always much concerned about how to sufficiently supply a variety of fresh vegetables to the people in North Hamgyong Province all year round, Comrade Kim Jong Un conceived a plan for replacing a major military base in Kyongsong County's Jungphyong area with a large-scale greenhouse farm and visited the place to unveil a blueprint for its construction. In a month he inspected the place twice to select the site for the farm and ensured that the Korean People's Army units were dispatched as part of his energetic guidance to the farm construction. At the inauguration ceremony he cut the tape and said that there are no distant or close people in his mind though there are geographically distant or near places and that he would have nothing more to desire if the greenhouse farm can contribute to improving the diet of the locals in North Hamgyong Province.

This was another fruition of the people-first politics of Comrade Kim Jong Un who spares nothing for the wellbeing of the people.

The Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm inaugurated in December 2019 was the largest and most modern one that had ever been built in the DPRK. It took a little over a year to finish the project.

A total of 320 hydroponic and soil greenhouses including semi-arched, double PVC-sheet-covered ones were built on an area of 200 hectares, as well as a tree nursery and hundreds of houses. Greenhouse management



and vegetable cultivation were then on a very high modern level.

Large-scale greenhouse construction did not stop here.

In fact, already in April 2019 when the project for the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm was in full swing, Comrade Kim Jong Un was planning another new project. He had inspected the area around Ryonphori, Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, with a determination to have a greenhouse farm built there, larger and more modern than that in Jungphyong.

He saw to it that a major military base was also removed. Afterwards, he gave instructions on the project several times and oversaw the designing.

While making a field survey of the designated construction site, he stressed that it was necessary to refer to and reflect all merits and demerits found in the already-built Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm in designing the new greenhouse farm so that it could be more advanced in sci-tech and management aspects.

He entrusted the project to the Korean People's Army units which had

already gained rich experience in building the Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm, and took measures for selecting and training technicians and other employees and supplying vegetable seeds, farm machinery and other farming materials in parallel so that the farm could be operated in the following year immediately after its construction.

Thanks to this energetic leadership based on future-oriented vision, meticulous plan and scientific push, another project for building a greenhouse farm could be launched.

On February 18, 2022, he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for building the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm in which he made a rallying speech, shovelled the first spadeful of earth and pressed the button for blasting.

The project was completed in a little more than 230 days, and during the top emergency anti-epidemic period at that.

Sprawling on the vast swathe of 280 hectares are over 850 hydroponic and soil greenhouses, in which production is put on a modern, intensive and industrial footing, and more than 1 000 dwelling houses, schools, hall of culture and leisure centre. As all these preserve regional features and



all sections go well with each other, the area has been turned into a large farming area that showcases civilization of a new era.

Through this project, Comrade Kim Jong Un created a new standard for rural construction.

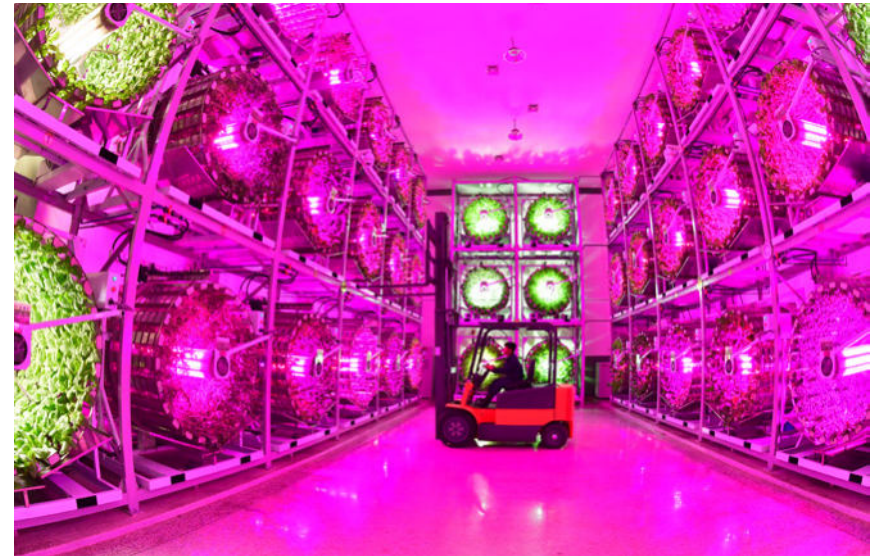
It was his intention to have the greenhouse farm built as a base with a production capacity of tens of thousands of tons, as a practical education farm for diffusing advanced agricultural technology, as a new base for creating rural civilization of a Korean style and as a cultured socialist farm good to work and live in both in name and reality, and to push ahead with the country's comprehensive rural development more dynamically and confidently with the farm as the standard.

Attending the splendid inauguration ceremony of the farm on October 10, 2022, he was greatly pleased that the construction of the large-scale modern greenhouse farm would make it possible to supply fresh vegetables on a regular basis all year round to the working class and scientists in Hamhung and other people in South Hamgyong Province, who were striving hard to play a major role in the development of the country's economy and its science and technology.

Later, there came into being in the Kangdong area, a suburb of the capital, another huge greenhouse farm that is far larger than the previous ones in scale and production capacity. It was also built on the site of a removed military base.

The Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm inaugurated and commissioned in 2024 is featured particularly by modern glass hydroponic greenhouses that are favourable for putting vegetable cultivation on a scientific, intensive and industrial basis and are of great economic profitability. Its area is several times as large as that of Jungphyong or Ryonpho.

During the construction of the farm, Comrade Kim Jong Un reportedly went over more than 300 design plans including the master plan and artist's impressions and as many as 3 280 technical drawings. In a little over a year after the groundbreaking, more than 1 050 vegetable greenhouses of different types, production and public buildings and dwelling houses with a total floor space of nearly 1.2 million square



metres were built on an area of 260-odd hectares.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm and a vegetable science research centre took place with splendour in the country's northwestern border area on February 10, 2025. It was attended by officers and men of the Navy and Air Force units of the Korean People's Army and commanding officers and members of the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade who would undertake the project for regional transformation.

The project, the fourth of its kind in recent years, was an important state affair that was performed thanks to the ennobling intention of Comrade Kim Jong Un to turn this island area, where only sandy dust floated by the strong river wind, into a socialist paradise where the people will lead a highly civilized and affluent life.

According to his plan and intention, not only different types of vegetable greenhouses, vegetable processing factory and storage facilities but also a vegetable science research centre, trial cultivation greenhouses, hundreds of flats, hostel and neighbourhood-serving amenities have

sprung up simultaneously in this area vaster than any of the large-scale greenhouse farms built in recent years.

Given that the farm is put on a modern, intensive and industrial footing and the modern houses stand in rows on the shore of the Amnok River, it can be said that this island area is a characteristic base of regional development with its own strong potentials of development.

Top Priority in Rural Construction

It is the plan and intention of the WPK and the DPRK government to transform all the rural areas of the country into rich, cultured rural communities that keep abreast of modern technology and civilization.

Accordingly, construction of modern new rural houses is in full swing in different parts of the country. Stylish houses have mushroomed as great efforts are made to renovate rural villages to preserve the socialist features and regional characteristics and provide the locals with a wonderful living environment.

The agricultural workers, who have received free of charge new decent houses that were built at state expense, are now leading a stable, cultured life in those houses.

Such reality is hard to be seen elsewhere on this planet.

The following happened when Comrade Kim Jong Un was giving field guidance to the project for renovating the city of Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province in the northern part of the country on November 15, 2021.

Looking round Phothae-dong, he learned in detail about how many houses there were and how much cement it had taken to build a house. Having received a report, he told officials to aim high and make strenuous efforts in pursuit of an ideal and ambition to create modern civilization.

In fact, officials had yet to see what an ennobling intention he had in mind.

Together with officials, he calculated the amount of cement each ri had consumed in the previous construction of rural houses, and stressed

that what mattered most now was to provide agricultural workers with modern houses by stepping up the socialist rural construction.

He took the improvement of the agricultural workers' living environment as an important policy-oriented task to boost yields.

To build dwelling houses is the top priority in rural construction, he said, adding that it is one of the WPK's priority tasks to improve the cultural living environment in the countryside.

He noted:

It is necessary to build all rural houses in such a way that they can preserve regional features in plain and mountainous areas. If 10 000 tons of cement is supplied to each city and county every year to build rural houses as decently as those in Samjiyon, the rural villages across the country will have become developed and cultured ones with their own original features in three or four decades. It is needed to first improve the environment of the houses and workplaces of the agricultural workers in order to prepare them to be intelligent workers, enjoyers of developed civilization, and innovative workers who create an original, peculiar rural culture of our style. We should speed up rural housing construction at any cost to build all rural houses, be they in mountainous areas, on coasts or on islands, on the level of the houses at Phothae-dong in Samjiyon. Then our country will surely turn into a paradise, and the agricultural workers will be the first to enter communist society. We should work hard to bring earlier the day when all the rural villages in the country will be transformed into socialist cultured ones.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held in late December 2021, he stressed that it is our Party's policy on rural construction to make all rural villages in the country as modern as those in Samjiyon or ideal socialist villages, both rich and cultured, in the near future.

Afterwards, he clarified the orientation and ways of building rural houses, such as preserving the regional and local features in designing, fixing the proper order of priority in construction, directly supplying cement necessary for construction, and building a powerful construction workforce in each province, city and county, and took

important measures to this end. He personally went over thousands of designs for rural housing construction.

This guidance has brought about an epochal change in the rural villages of the country. Modern houses were built in different parts of the countryside irrespective of geographical positions, and spectacular scenes of agricultural workers moving into new homes were witnessed all year round.

According to the information available, as many as 80 000 houses in over 1 500 villages were built and provided to the farmers free of charge over the three years after the new programme for rural revolution was set

forth, and numerous rural houses are under construction. Those built in 2025 exceeded 32 000, and the total number in the past four years reached at least 110 000.

Amid the ubiquitous house-moving events held across the country, a family at the Munam Farm, Pujon County, received as many as 12 house licences, and it has become commonplace that members of a family receive two or three house licences.

In some countries a rural house costs thousands of US dollars per square metre. It means a house of about 60 square metres will probably cost hundreds of thousands of US dollars.





By the way, the DPRK plans to provide a new modern house free of charge to every rural family, not content with 110 000 houses.

For a tree to grow healthy, its rootlets should be healthier than its main roots. Likewise, it intends to start rural construction in the out-of-the-way mountain villages or the farms with the most unfavourable conditions so that cheers for socialism can be raised from the remote areas.

The current rural transformation is a result of the consistent policy of the WPK and the DPRK government designed to ensure that more social benefits are diverted to farmers and they lead a happy life in a cultured environment.

Today single-, low-, multi-storey and terraced houses that meet the regional and local features are springing up across the countryside, and an increasing number of rural villages are turning into ideal ones.

The consecutive house-moving events in the countryside are a clear manifestation of the people-oriented character of the WPK which steadily adopts policies for the sake of the working people and spares nothing for their wellbeing.

Machines at Full Blast, Bumper Crops in the Fields

Structure of Grain Production Changed

In his policy speech at the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held in September 2021, Comrade Kim Jong Un outlined his plan to change the country's structure of grain production and switch to wheat and barley farming, together with rice farming, in the future. In order to do this, he said, it is important to take measures to expand the paddy and non-paddy fields for cultivating rice and to ensure that the areas of wheat and barley cultivation across the country are more than double the size of the existing ones.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK in December, he reiterated his plan to change the country's structure of grain production.

In response to his plan, the rural communities began to raise wheat and

barley as earlier crops with a vengeance in the autumn of 2021.

Until then the main crops of the country were rice and maize. In particular, maize made up a huge chunk of grain output as the intermediate and mountainous regions account for a larger part of the country's territory than plains.

But Comrade Kim Jong Un saw that it was needed to change the structure of grain production in order to decisively increase the grain output and improve the diet of the people in a more civilized way. Thanks to his plan and determination, the country's agriculture could usher in a turning point in its structure of grain production.

The new agricultural policy of the Party geared to changing the grain production structure and focusing on rice and wheat farming contains scientific ways of boosting the output in a stable manner even in the face of disastrous weather conditions. It helped many farms increase per-hectare yield by more than two tons than when they planted maize, and some even gathered over 10 tons of wheat on average in each hectare.



As farms have reaped bumper wheat harvests, they have increased the area of wheat cultivation year on year.

A typical example is the city of Tokchon in South Phyongan Province, in which the wheat cultivation area has soared from 90 hectares to over 450 hectares in a few years after the new policy was adopted. 2024 witnessed a nationwide increase of tens of thousands of hectares in wheat farming area over the previous year, and 140-odd farms harvested over six tons per hectare with a drastic boost in per-hectare yield.

In 2025 the wheat cultivation area expanded by over 30 000 hectares as against the previous year, and the number of high-yielding farms reached 664 with a growing number of high-yielding workteams, sub-workteams and farmers.

Scientific Farming Brings about Remarkable Change

It was in 2024 that such remarks as “the greatest since the founding of the state” and “the first time since our farm was organized” were heard from farms around the country.

In 2024, grain production was hundreds of thousands of tons higher nationwide than that in 2023, and the grain production target was overfulfilled by seven percent. It is noteworthy that high-yielding farms and workteams increased over six times, and the high-yielding sub-workteams more than 11 times over the previous year.

The land, the heavens and the farmers were the same. The moves of the hostile forces that do not want the DPRK to be rich and powerful got more vicious and the impact of the disastrous weather conditions was not less than in the previous years.

The secret behind such remarkable success lies in the fact that the country's agriculture has been put on a definitely scientific and technological basis.

Comrade Kim Jong Un often discussed agricultural issues at major meetings, giving detailed instructions on the issues arising in consistently maintaining the scientific farming-first principle and the ways of implementing it. As great efforts were put into seed improvement under his guidance, significant progress was made in developing and introducing high-yielding species that are resistant to unfavourable conditions, and noticeable development took place in the establishment of a scientific



farming system with which to cope with extreme weather conditions, and also in the renovation of farming methods.

The issue concerning the introduction of farming methods that help save lots of materials and labour and offer higher yields was adopted as a decision of a plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee. Amid the strenuous efforts to implement it, nutrient cold-bed rice seedlings were introduced to 42% of the paddy fields across the country in 2024, with an increase of per-hectare yield by more than one ton in those fields.

The rural communities turned out to adopt different advanced farming methods such as mulching cultivation, seedling cultivation in greenhouses, early drying of fields and applying superior sci-tech products like seed-coating material *Phungnyonmo-1*, electrical pulse-based water treatment device and phytosin, thereby producing good results.

Throughout 2024 there were over 30 000 workshops, technical courses and demonstrations, as well as 6 800 Q&A sessions via *Hwanggumyolmae*, an online agricultural platform.

A remarkable improvement has been made in the way of guidance over farming, and the struggle for eliminating subjectivism, empiricism and defeatism and turning to scientific farming convinced the farmers that they can reap high yields on their own efforts.

2025 also saw a steady increase in grain output, recording more yields than the previous year.

In particular, 32 counties and lots of farms, workteams and subworkteams produced high yields, with 11 farms and 170-odd workteams yielding 8 or so tons of wheat per hectare on average.

State Investment on the Increase

In his report to the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, Comrade Kim Jong Un set it as an important way for the rapid development of the agricultural productivity to purposefully increase state investment in the agricultural sector, irrespective of the given circumstances and conditions.

State investment in the countryside is aimed at independent

development of agriculture.

The state is systematically increasing investment in agriculture to improve and reinforce the country's irrigation system as a whole, supply sufficient amounts of fertilizers and highly effective agrochemicals, ensure an adequate supply of modern power equipment and electrical machines, obtain new land and reclaim tidal flats.

Comrade Kim Jong Un said that it is an intention of the Party Central Committee to develop the Kumsong Tractor Factory into a comprehensive one capable of producing high-horsepower tractors and various other high-performance farm machines and completely renovate the farm machine industry of the country by concentrating investment on major farm machine factories and research field, and had a special measure taken to this end.

He stressed the need to focus efforts on South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province of the country.

In September 2022, he ensured that new farm machines, numbering 5 500, were supplied to the farms in the province.



The first-stage renovation project of the Kumsong Tractor Factory was completed in early November 2022, followed by the inauguration of the second-stage renovation project in February 2025. The factory has produced a great number of modern farm machines so far.

Between 2023 and 2024 over 4 200 irrigation facilities were built or restored, and over 7 000 pumping stations for dry-field irrigation newly built. The irrigation system was completed for over 460 000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields, with over 5 900 km of irrigation pipes laid and dykes fortified in nearly 30km-long sections and repaired in 110km-long sections, respectively.

In addition, 10 000 hectares of non-paddy fields were turned into



paddy fields, and irrigation was made available for over 30 000 hectares of paddy fields dependent on rain or prone to flooding, thus making it possible to boost grain output there by tens of thousands of tons a year.

New Era of Regional Development

Model of Modern Mountainous City

The sea change in the city of Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province, in the northern part of the country shows the height of civilization the Korean people are striving to attain.

Samjiyon is situated 1 300m above sea level.

Before its renovation most of the houses there were one-storey buildings. But now the city has changed beyond recognition.

Low-storey and multi-storey apartment houses of peculiar styles,



numbering 4 000, were built on an area of hundreds of hectares, in place of some 200 old buildings. Also built were more than 380 public and industrial buildings including hospital, hall of culture, schoolchildren's palace, gymnasium, sci-tech library, bog bilberry drinks factory, bean paste and soy sauce factory and souvenir factory.

Practicality, diversity and formative and artistic beauty have reached a high level in the formation of the urban area.

The structures go well with the natural and geographical features of the northern alpine region, and the houses and neighbourhood-serving amenities are harmoniously arranged to ensure artistic connection and compatibility. The road facilities, landscaping, visual aids like slogans and catchphrases, and illuminations are all on a high level.

In a word, the city has turned into a model of modern mountainous

city that epitomizes the ideals of the people and modern civilization.

After looking round the city, a European businessman said: I have visited a number of countries developed in the economy and culture, but I have never seen such a wonderful mountainous city. What is more surprising is that the buildings are all the houses and service amenities for the ordinary people.

It is Comrade Kim Jong Un who brought about such a reality.

When officials and builders were thinking of renovating the city for form's sake after he proposed transforming it, he instructed them to rebuild it completely, once efforts were put into the project, as required by the new century, and clarified matters of principle to be adhered to in the project. He visited the construction site several times—three times in 2018 and twice in 2019.

The inauguration of the transformed seat of the then Samjiyon County took place in December 2019 in his presence.

The city was given a facelift later on. Over 10 dong and ris in the suburbs of the city and farms were renovated with thousands of houses, public and production buildings, educational facilities, water supply and drainage systems, roads and power lines built.

After his visit in November 2021, in July 2024 Comrade Kim Jong Un visited Samjiyon which had been transformed into a model of modern mountainous city and an exemplary regional city.

He set forth important tasks for further renovating the city to be a newer and more innovative cultured city in view of the growing requirements of the reality.

Unveiling his plan to develop it into a typical mountainous city in the northern part of the country, a characteristic four-season mountainous tourist resort, to meet the cultural and emotional demands of the people on the highest level and revitalize international tourism, he said:

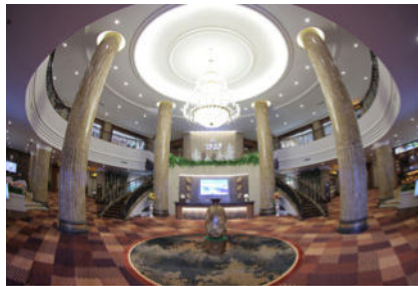
The grand nature of the Mt Paektu area consisting of mountains and primeval forests is our precious resource, of which we can feel proud. We should build in this area a tourist resort to be frequented

by our people and foreigners and make tourism a major driving force of the development of the region. It is necessary to develop mountain tourism into a highly promising industry in conformity with the natural and geographical features of our country, in which the mountain areas account for almost 80 percent of the whole territory. At the same time it is important to perfect legal and institutional mechanisms for protecting nature and the environment.

In December 2025 ceremonies were held in the city to inaugurate Ikal, Milyong, Sobaeksu, Potnamu and Chongbong hotels, which can be said to be significant structures signalling the appearance of a large-scale tourist area ranging from Mt Paektu to Mts Pukphothae and Namphothae.

Thanks to the outstanding and seasoned guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Un, who continuously plans to bring a new thriving reality day after day while working heart and soul to blaze the trail for the happiness of the people and the prosperity of the country, Samjiyon will be turned in the near future into a perfect mountain resort.





Regional Development 20×10 Policy

Dynamic efforts are being made to carry out the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, bringing great delight to the people across the country.

The policy set forth in early 2024 is geared towards drastically improving the material and cultural living standards of the entire population by building modern regional-industry factories in 20 counties every year, or in all cities and counties in ten years.

The initial plan concerning this policy envisaged building regional-industry factories in some cities and counties with favourable conditions while stepping up preparations for the construction of such factories in other cities and counties. However, Comrade Kim Jong Un resolutely rejected such a passive approach.

Back in October 2020, while giving field guidance at the reconstruction site in the flood-stricken Kimhwa County, Kangwon Province, he said that in keeping with the change in the county, it was necessary to modernize its regional-industry factories on a yearly basis and revitalize production so as to improve the county's economy and steadily raise the material and cultural living standards of its people.

In March 2021, speaking at the first short course for chief secretaries of city and county Party committees, he put forward orientation and tasks concerning the construction of regional-industry factories. He said: We need to build modern regional-industry factories on an experimental basis in Kimhwa County and let them set an example by operating themselves on a normal basis and in their own way so that we can examine the effectiveness, profitability and possibility of that measure. On the basis of this, we should ensure that similar factories are built in all the other cities and counties to improve the basic material and cultural living standards of the locals and open up a new heyday of regional development.

Delivering a policy speech at the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held on January 15, 2024, he said: An important issue arising in improving the people's living standards at present is to tackle the differences between the capital city and regions

and the imbalance between regions. There may be differences between regions in their geographical setting, resources, economic potentials and living environment, but there should be no backward region in the aspect of the people's living in the territory of our Republic. I am going to name this policy of our Party, aimed at developing onto a higher stage the basic material and cultural living standards of regional people across the country at the earliest possible date by pushing forward with the regional industrial development, **Regional Development 20×10 Policy**, and have its implementation pushed ahead with forcefully. I am going to propose this crucial issue to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and make it a policy.

Several days later, the 19th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held, and it adopted with unanimous approval a resolution on strongly promoting the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

When he visited the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County in early February 2024, Comrade Kim Jong Un stressed the need to set the level of modernization and the architectural styles of the regional-industry factories to be newly built higher than those in Kimhwa County.

At present, the DPRK is pushing ahead with large-scale housing construction projects every year in the rural communities across the country as well as in the capital city, while ceaselessly building up its self-reliant defensive strength to protect its national sovereignty and the safety of its people and readjusting and developing all sectors of the national economy. In this context, launching another massive project to open up a new phase of development for the country's regional industry is evidently an ambitious plan that cannot be put forward with usual decision. Over recent years alone, large-scale Jungphyong Greenhouse Farm, Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm and Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm were built, and ceremonies took place in rural areas one after another to celebrate moving into new houses. Besides, other huge projects are under way to improve the living standards of the regional people. Yet, Comrade Kim Jong Un thought that it was still insufficient to improve their living. It was his firm intention that the Party and the state should bear heavier

burdens to bring about a substantial change in the people's living and that they should not wait for conditions and environment to be provided.

In late February 2024 a groundbreaking ceremony signalling the start of the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy was held in Songchon County, South Phyongan Province, a typical intermediate, mountainous area in the country.

Addressing the event, Comrade Kim Jong Un said:

Though this is a gathering held on an empty place with only an artist's impression unfolded, it will proclaim the beginning of an important revolutionary undertaking aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the regional people, and this amply proves the historic weight of the undertaking. Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life

under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail.

He shovelled the first spadeful of earth at the event. After that, similar events took place in 19 cities and counties one after another.

Afterwards, the drive to implement the regional development policy gathered momentum. Comrade Kim Jong Un convened on-site consultative meetings, in which he advanced strategies for the successful promotion of the policy and the transformative development of the regions and took relevant measures. And he gave energetic guidance at the construction sites of the regional-industry factories in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, in North Phyongan Province, and in Jaeryong





County, South Hwanghae Province. Thanks to his painstaking efforts, in 290-odd days after the groundbreaking, modern regional-industry factories that suit the regional features and put production on a highly automatic and scientific basis sprang up in Songchon County.

On December 20, 2024, a ceremony of inaugurating those factories was held with splendour in the presence of Comrade Kim Jong Un. It was followed by similar events in other cities and counties with the beginning of 2025. In addition, groundbreaking ceremonies were consecutively held in another 20 cities and counties in 2025, followed by inauguration ceremonies in the same year.

Consultative Meeting Held in a Tent for the Future of a “Rich City”

A consultative meeting of great significance in the history of the WPK was held in a tent on the seashore in the city of Sinpho, South Hamgyong Province, in 2024.

The seaside city once thrived on fishing and was well known across the country. However, as marine resources dwindled due to various factors and the land was naturally infertile, the city’s economy grew weaker and weaker, making its people feel the pinch.

It was in these circumstances that an important measure was taken that marked a turning point in the city’s development.

Comrade Kim Jong Un had given special instructions that the Central Committee of the WPK took direct charge of and push forward with the work for setting an example for all coastal cities and counties to promote their development in a characteristic way as suited to their specific conditions by making the best use of marine resources. Accordingly, Sinpho, a typical coastal city with a small area under cultivation compared to its population, was set as a model and preparations were made.

On July 15, 2024, Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Phungo-dong area in Sinpho, and looked round the site of an offshore farm to be built, acquainting himself with the work plans. He then convened a consultative

meeting of officials concerned in a tent set up on the spot.

The meeting discussed the issues arising in building the Sinpho City Offshore Farm into a new fine model for shallow-sea culture, generalizing its experience to bring about a substantial improvement in the economic development and the people's living standards in coastal cities and counties, and more dynamically pushing forward with the Party's regional development policy.

Comrade Kim Jong Un made an analysis of the importance and significance of effective exploitation of the economic potentials of the seas and their resources by the coastal cities and counties in successfully bringing about an epochal change of regional development, and set forth practical tasks and ways to this end.

He said that only when each region and area create an atmosphere for balanced and competitive growth by building up the foundations for their independent and sustainable development, will the regional economy develop, and the more the regional economy develops, the greater the motive power of the overall economy will become, contributing to the strategic economic growth.

The consultative meeting heard the data on the economic profits and effectiveness of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm.

Saying that if it conducts scallop and kelp farming well in the waters off the Phungo-dong area, Sinpho, a city with infertile land and weak economic potentials, can become richest among the cities and counties in the country in three or four years, he expressed his determination to successfully build up the Sinpho City Offshore Farm into a model of aquaculture in the new century and present it to the people in the city as a gift.

He tasked the Korean People's Army units with the project for the Sinpho City Offshore Farm.

The meeting took relevant measures after specifying practical tasks, including those for the senior city and county officials to comprehensively investigate the natural and geographical features and economic potentials of the regions under their charge and conduct a scrupulous study and organizational work to fully exploit them, to perfect the legal and institutional mechanisms to make the preferential measures for regional

economic development prove effective, and to direct efforts to training core technicians and skilled workers in all cities and counties.

The soldier-builders involved in the project for the Sinpho City Offshore Farm produced an amazing outcome on the eastern coast only in several months, while the offshore farm provided a firm sci-tech guarantee for production growth.

In late December 2024 Comrade Kim Jong Un attended the inauguration ceremony of the offshore farm to cut the tape. Addressing the event, he said:



Our country with a long coastline has a number of coastal cities and counties, and our seas are clean and their ecological conditions are very good, so it is necessary to conduct farming and culture on a large scale in coastal areas by utilizing these favourable conditions. The creation of new experience in large-scale aquaculture in Sinpho, which had been famous as a leading city in fishing, gives confidence that it is possible to develop the fishing industry of the country with offshore farming as its

major sphere in the future.

The Party policy on regional development and the decision of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK called on cities and counties in the coastal areas to develop fishery to suit the physiographical features of the country flanked by seas on the east and west so that they could build up the foundations for the independent growth of their own economy and promote the livelihood of the locals. Accordingly, another project was launched to build an advanced offshore farm in Ragwon County as well.

In February 2025 a groundbreaking ceremony of an offshore farm was held in Ragwon County, South Hamgyong Province. The farm was planned to be advanced and to conform to the local conditions, in order to seek a more development-oriented goal of restoring the fishing industry of the country with aquaculture as its major sphere and fundamentally improving the material foundations of the regional economy and people's livelihood. Comrade Kim Jong Un chose the site of the farm personally. He said with pleasure that he would present the most beautiful fishing village in the world to Ragwon County by building a modern offshore farm and flats sustaining the characteristics of the coastal area, and that it would be a good idea to call the fishing village Ragwonpho in the future.



That day he dug the first spadeful of earth in celebration of groundbreaking.

The grand groundbreaking ceremony demonstrated the steadfast will of the WPK to turn all the cities and counties across the country into highly-civilized and rich places, self-supporting and developed in a diverse way and good to live in, and the mettle of the country that is making a steady leap forward towards a prosperous future with ennobling ideals and a grand ambition.

A grand inaugural ceremony of the Ragwon County Offshore Farm and a modern fishermen's residential district was held on August 30, 2025.

Comrade Kim Jong Un cut the inaugural tape, looked round the offshore farm and visited families of its employees who were excited to receive new houses.

The seafood production base of a characteristic style equipped with modern production facilities and processing lines, and hundreds of modern houses in the fishermen's village, unique in terms of convenience, aesthetic beauty and formative art while in harmony with the surrounding natural scenery along the undulating mountains, sprawl over Ragwonpho. This was an entity of change that vividly shows what a socialist paradise is like and what an advanced development and happiness the regional







development policy in the new era brings to the people.

The inauguration of Ragwonpho proved that the WPK's regional development policy, less than two years into its implementation, is confidently switching over on a nationwide scale from satisfying the basic demands of the people for their living to bringing about a sure transformation in more fundamental and comprehensive realms.

The port, once merely a sandy beach, now miraculously turned into an ideal cultural fishing village greeting a paradise of happiness in a little over 190 days. This remarkable speed of development is a proud epitome representing present-day socialist Korea, where not only the people but also nature change beyond recognition, and clearly indicating the future of the DPRK which will prosper forever.

Three Additional Projects

Comrade Kim Jong Un constantly thinks about how to provide the people across the country with better living conditions and environment, and makes painstaking efforts to this end. This has brought new changes, substantial and qualitative, to the regions, giving impetus to the building of a civilized, prosperous nation.

In August 2024 he took a series of new measures to develop the regions drastically and hasten comprehensive rejuvenation.

He set forth a new policy of accelerating regional development by pushing ahead with the construction of public health facilities, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain storage stations, simultaneously with the ongoing construction of regional-industry factories, in order to hasten the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

Some days later, he convened in a tent in a region a consultative meeting for the work of regional development, in which he clarified all the principles to be adhered to in building advanced city and county hospitals, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain storage facilities.

The policy for regional development in the new era should not be confined to the construction of light-industry factories but should be a

comprehensive policy dealing with public health, science and education. Only then can it make a genuine contribution to the improvement of the regional people's material and cultural life and radically improve the efficiency of regional development. This was what he thought.

That day he said that it is his cherished desire to build city and county hospitals to greatly contribute to improving the regional healthcare, which is relatively inferior, and protecting the lives and safety of the regional people and promoting their health.

In the speech titled *Let Us Make Redoubled Efforts for the Prosperity of Our Great State* delivered on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the DPRK on September 9, 2024, he said:

We are going to build the sci-tech dissemination bases, which were already intended as an additional project, into comprehensive leisure complexes. We should build in cities and counties bases that not only are equipped with modern IT means for sci-tech learning but also serve multifunctional and complex cultural purposes, so that local residents can see films or play sports and amusement games there; and commercial outlets and various other welfare facilities are also to be furnished in them.

Always in his mind are the regional people, and it is his cherished desire to put an end to the age-long backwardness of regions and hasten the historic cause of regional development. That is why at the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee he took a special measure to include in the new regional development policy the construction of advanced public health facilities, scientific, educational and leisure facilities and grain storage facilities, from which the local people will greatly benefit, and clarified the ways of implementing it.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of a hospital and leisure complex in Kangdong County for the Regional Development 20×10 Policy in early February 2025, he said:

The construction work for 2025 is now beginning with the construction of a hospital and leisure complex here in Kangdong County. This can be called a starting point of our efforts to achieve the ideals and ambition of the Party and government to guarantee the people their rights and interests, promote their health and build a brighter and rosier future

for them. But as I have greeted the moment when the construction of the projects, which we have long aspired to implement for the precious people of this country and their vibrant beautiful life, has finally been put on the stage of execution, my heart beats with delight at the thought that we have decided on and made preparations for a truly worthwhile and proud task. Through this historic groundbreaking ceremony, we are making a meaningful start to accelerate the building of a civilized and prosperous country by instilling hope and optimism in the people across the country that they will receive advanced medical services and enjoy a civilized material and cultural life in their own regions, as well as by bringing about substantial and new qualitative changes in the regions.

The ceremony was followed by similar events for building hospitals, leisure complexes and grain storage stations in other parts of the country including Ryonggang County and the city of Kusong.

Model facilities were built in 2025 to accumulate experience. According to the plan of the WPK, regional-industry factories and the three additional facilities are to be set up unfailingly in every 20 cities and counties each year from 2026.

Comprehensive Development of Socialist Construction

It was noted at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK in late 2023 that the Party and people got convinced through the past three-year stubborn struggle that they could certainly fulfil the five-year plan aimed at laying the foundations for the development of the national economy and advancing towards the sustained development and could feel confident that they had overcome the most difficult and extreme points in the struggle to carry out the tasks set forth by the Party Congress. It was also announced that the Korean revolution opened up an era of comprehensive development of socialism during the term of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

This can be proved by the following facts and figures.

In 2023 the Korean people made a dynamic advance in all the sectors of socialist construction. They attained all of the 12 goals for national economic development with the production targets met at 103 percent for grain, 100 percent for power, coal and nitrogenous fertilizer, 102 percent for rolled steel, 131 percent for nonferrous metal, 109 percent for timber, 101 percent for cement and ordinary cloth, 105 percent for marine products, 106 percent for rail freight transport and 109 percent for houses under construction. And the overall economy achieved a significant production growth, such as 220 percent for motors, 208 percent for transformers, 121 percent for bearings, 140 percent for electric zinc, 121 percent for lead, 113 percent for paper, 110 percent for salt, 109 percent for cosmetics, 100 percent for plate glass and 104 percent for magnesia clinker.

Compared with the total economic growth in 2020, the year before the Eighth WPK Congress, the production in 2023 largely went up in major indices, especially 3.5 times for iron trioxide, 2.7 times for pig iron, 1.9 times for rolled steel, 5.1 times for machine tools, 1.4 times for cement and 1.3 times for nitrogenous fertilizer, and the GDP grew up 1.4 times.

Such remarkable achievements were also made in 2024, proving that the overall national economy was showing a clear sign of growth.

According to the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee, the 12 major goals for national economic development including housing construction were all attained in 2024; the production plans were carried out at 127 percent for rolled steel, 106 percent for nonferrous metals, 103 percent for nitrogenous fertilizer, 101 percent for power, 110 percent for coal, 101 percent for cement, 104 percent for timber, 101 percent for marine products, 108 percent for rail freight turnover, 101 percent for cloth and 107 percent for cereals.

In 2023 alone, the Kwangchon Chicken Farm was built as a standard and model for the modernization of the poultry sector; modern wheat processing factories were built in Sariwon, Haeju and Nampho; the Hwangju Kindung waterway project, the desalination project of Lake Kangnyong and the building of the surface setups in the tideland covering thousands of hectares were completed; and solid foundations were laid for attaining the goal of reclaiming 300 000 hectares of tideland.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex built large compressors. The construction of the energy-saving oxygen blast furnace and the installation of oxygen plants with a capacity of 15 000 cubic metres per hour at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the project for building an induction furnace at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the construction of a vertical furnace for oxidizing roasting pellet at the Chongjin Steel Plant, and the development of the Sohaeri branch mine under the Unnyul Mine were completed and went into operation, thus making 2023 a year of big strides in putting the metallurgical industry sector on a Juche-oriented and modern basis.

In 2024 projects for readjustment and reinforcement such as the second-stage project for modernizing the Kumsong Tractor Factory and the installation of energy-saving oxygen blast furnace at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex were successfully pushed forward. The agricultural sector implemented the second-stage project for the construction and restoration of irrigation system by April, further consolidating the material foundations for production, and other great successes were achieved across the country.

Fresh progress was made in the cultural sector as well: a revolution in the new century was pushed forward in education for building the country into an educational powerhouse, a country of talents; the Pyongyang General Hospital was near to completion as part of the efforts to build up the material and technical foundations of the public health sector; and achievements were made in the international sports competitions.

Amid the construction boom, transformations are made both in the capital city and in regions.

It is well known that 10 000 flats have been built in the capital city of Pyongyang every year in recent years. At the same time, great efforts have been made since 2022 to renovate the rural villages across the country. Tens of thousands of flats have been built in the Komdok area, giving birth to a mountain gorge town and a mine town. According to the Regional Development 20×10 Policy geared to simultaneous, balanced and drastic development of the whole country, the project for building modern regional-industry factories in every 20 counties every year for a

decade is proceeding apace.

Changes are being witnessed in the ideological and spiritual aspect of the people, as well as in cities, villages, mountains and rivers.

Mass-based patriotic movements have gathered fresh momentum amid the unusually growing patriotic enthusiasm among the people across the country. Such movements centre on boosting the production of coal and fertilizer and assisting major construction projects. In particular, an increasing number of young people have volunteered to work at the challenging sectors of socialist construction. According to information, the number of volunteers exceeded 100 000 in 2023.

The 13th Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK in December 2025 reviewed the successful attainment of the economic development goals for 2025 and the completion of the five-year plan. According to the review, in spite of various challenges and difficulties, the major industrial sectors of the national economy carried out their highly-set production plans in a responsible manner through the vigorous campaign for increased production and economy, the agricultural sector recorded higher grain yields than 2024 and a lot of major construction projects were successfully completed.

The modernization of major sectors of the national economy and the reinforcement of technical infrastructure reached the final stage, thus providing the possibility and guarantee for more confidently entering into the fulfilment of the long-term goals for the next stage. The particularly important success was that proud results were achieved in realizing the ideal and wellbeing of the people and the simultaneous development of the state was demonstrated to the full by launching and completing the projects specified in the more expanded and advanced regional development policy within 2025.

The plenary meeting clarified the intention of the Party Central Committee to take a revolutionary step to transform the newly organized or the most backward farms among the tideland farms on the west coast into modern and civilized ones symbolizing the new transformation of rural development, and set forth a task of additionally forming another new front to direct nationwide efforts to the transformation of coal mining villages.

3. Present and Future

During the past five years the Korean people have opened up an era of comprehensive development of socialism by carrying on a heroic struggle firmly rallied around Comrade Kim Jong Un, and they are now striving to achieve a higher stage of development at a very high speed.

The current reality is a window through which to see what will come in the future—the appearance of the country that will undergo another sea change during the term of the Ninth Central Committee of the WPK.



Strong Impressions Created by a Song

In 2024 *Dear Father* went viral, setting social media platforms ablaze.

The song portrays that the Korean people trust and follow Comrade Kim Jong Un as their dear father as he embraces all the people and takes warm care of them as kindheartedly as the mother and as benevolently as the father. What made the song so popular around the world?

Many foreigners expressed their impressions as follows:

“It is a fine song that shows how the Korean people feel proud of their leader.”

“Under the leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, the DPRK is making progress with the greatest and most mysterious potentials that have ever been shown before. God knows what will be built next, what kind of song will be created and what will be developed in the country. In a word, it is changing rapidly.”

“Bravo. The song makes me feel an impulse to visit the DPRK.”

Some netizens even said that while listening to the song, they came to think of emigrating to the DPRK.

Many around the world say that there are no people on the earth like Koreans who describe their leader’s embrace as that of their father and mother.

Why not?

When he met children, Comrade Kim Jong Un was so kind he lent an ear to what they said in whisper. During his visits to industrial establishments, he first acquainted himself with the living conditions of workers before learning about their production activities. He was the first to visit a flood-hit area as he drove through muddy roads still submerged by flood, and during his inspection tour of an afflicted area he gave an order without hesitation that his train crossed a makeshift railway bridge whose piers were built with logs.

As it gives a vivid, not rhetoric, description of what the people are

feeling in their everyday life, the song helps foreigners take a look into the reality of the DPRK.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony in Songchon County, the first of its kind for the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, he kindly said “**How do you do, beloved people in Songchon County?**” He attended the inauguration ceremonies of new streets to cut the tape and wish the working people a happy life in their new houses. And he oversaw rescue operations in a flood-stricken area while watching helicopters airlifting residents throughout the operations. Such images made the people feel as if they caught hold of the warm hands of their father. This feeling gave birth to *Dear Father*.

A fine song needs no explanation to find favour with the audience.

Listening to the song, an increasing number of people around the world have had a positive opinion of the reality in the DPRK, and they are envying the Koreans their happy life in the embrace of the dear father.

The song makes the audience keenly realize the unusual personality of Comrade Kim Jong Un who has deep affection for his people and reminds them of what a leader of the people is like. They envy the Korean people the happy life their leader has provided to them. And they are sure that as the Korean people are led by him whom they call the dear father, they will as ever enjoy every blessing in the future.

Dwellers of New Homes

A luxury residential district was built along the riverside near Pothong Gate in Pyongyang. The Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District called Kyongru-dong has 800 flats which were allocated to the exemplary working people in the capital city. They are persons of labour feats and merits, scientists, teachers and writers who have performed distinguished services for the state.

Among them is Ho Myong Gum at the Ryonmot Trolley Bus Station.

She has worked as a driver for decades since her middle school graduation. Her husband, Choe Hong Gi, is her co-driver at the same station. By the time they received the new home, the couple's running distance had amounted to a total of two million kilometres.

Ho Myong Gum loved her job as she had an unusual pride in providing convenience to citizens on the road. Rain or shine, she readily drove from Pyongyang Railway Station to Ryonmot-dong without missing her shift over the decades.

There was a hard time in her career. In the late 1990s the DPRK had to undergo the Arduous March due to the unprecedentedly harsh policy of the hostile forces against it and their moves to stifle it, tough sanctions and consecutive natural disasters. This even affected the normal running of trolley buses. But she did not leave her bus. She regarded her post as a workplace the country had entrusted to her and her job as the duty it had assigned to her. With this in mind, she pulled herself together and tried her best to remain faithful to her duty.

In fact, it is easier said than done for a woman to drive a bus for three decades. But she would find her pride and worth of life in seeing passengers getting on and off with a bright smile and driving by streets that were given a facelift one after another. Her pure conscience and unselfish, patriotic mind associated with her unassuming service and accident-free running won the hearts of all.

July 19, 2015 was a Sunday and on this day the election of deputies to the provincial, city and county people's assemblies was held.

Ho Myong Gum was a candidate deputy at sub-constituency No. 102 of constituency No. 107 for the election of the deputies to the Pyongyang Municipal People's Assembly. She felt very grateful for being nominated as a candidate, and never in her wildest dreams did she imagine the head of state would visit the polling station to vote for her.

On the election day Comrade Kim Jong Un came to the polling station.

He congratulated her upon her candidacy, and appreciated her for serving long in one job, saying that he heard she had driven a trolley bus over three decades since her maidenhood. As a deputy of the people, you should work harder to live up to their expectation and to build our socialist country into a paradise of the people, he told her encouragingly.

He received a ballot from the chairperson of the election committee and cast it for her. Before leaving, he asked her again to devote herself to the good of the people in the future, too.

The state did allocate to this woman worker a luxury flat, in which only rich people can afford to live in other countries.

It is just the WPK's intention to make all the people live in those fine houses. The employees of the Ragwon County Offshore Farm have settled in the fishermen's residential district as wonderful as the luxury flats in Kyongru-dong, and ordinary farmers have moved to new rural houses built across the country. Industrial and office workers have also received modern flats built in the capital for free.

Self-reliant Defence Capability Seen through Military Parade

A paradise of the people does not come of its own accord. Moreover, given the DPRK is constantly under military threat of hostile forces, it is imperative for it to build a powerful defence capability in order to guarantee a peaceful environment for its development.

A military parade serves as an important occasion in demonstrating national defence capability of a country. But in the DPRK it is more a large political festival than a simple demonstration of military strength. The event showcases what the single-minded unity of the DPRK is like and how firmly it is determined to build a rosier future, riding out all sorts of challenges and hardships.

Military parades have been held scores of times in the country since the first one the Korean People's Army had on February 8, 1948, the day when the army was born as regular armed forces of a new Korea.

In particular, more than 20 military parades were held under the direct guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Un over the past ten or so years. Of these, the first-ever midnight parade on October 10, 2020 struck the world with admiration.

Commenting on the parade, world media and experts described it as an unprecedented midnight parade and an unimaginably surprising event. A commentator said that the holding of the parade at midnight was aimed at showing the courage, pluck and will of Comrade Kim Jong Un to surmount challenges by all means, and suggested that the light cast by the WPK was piercing the darkness.

Several parades were held at midnight later on, each one offering a fresher look in scale, form and content.

The acme of perfection came with the parade held on April 25, 2022 in celebration of the 90th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, which was prepared from A to Z under the guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Un.

At the beginning of the parade the honour guards carrying the flag of the DPRK came out of a column of women representing a red star when it had reached the section in front of the rostrum, and paratroopers performed a group skydiving through the night air.

A dozen of paratroopers dived at the speed of 50 metres a second from the altitude of 4 500 metres above Kim Il Sung Square, a stunt foreign experts said the DPRK successfully tried for the first time in the world.

A variety of illuminators and laser projectors produced beautiful and dynamic effects such as instant blackout, floodlight, spotlight, rhythmic wave-style illumination and scintillation.

Unlike in previous parades, the columns of the frontline corps, navy, air force, strategic forces and special operation forces marched following their respective colours and those of their sub-units.

Squadrons of fighter jets decorated with LED lights hedgehopped over Kim Il Sung Square, sending off trails of sparks and performing other stunt movements flawlessly.

Comrade Kim Jong Un had suggested that it would be quite an idea if a squadron of fighter jets lowered the altitude immediately after passing the Tower of the Juche Idea before nosing up from the bank of the Taedong into a crescendo in the shape of a fan, encouraging the pilots to have a try with courage.

Another spectacular scene was a squadron of 20 fighter jets and five choppers flying over the square forming the pattern of a star and setting off red fireworks.

The scene was so impressive that many foreign netizens who saw it posted messages, recommending that the Korean pilots be awarded the title of world champions.

Comrade Kim Jong Un paid close attention to the demonstration of the cutting-edge military hardware and gave detailed instructions even on how to make the formation of the columns, so as to clearly demonstrate the true value of the absolute might of the DPRK.

The parade held in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the KPRA that came under the media spotlight around the world became a creative event to go down in the world history of military parades thanks to Comrade Kim Jong Un's unusual wisdom and leadership.

Three years later, in 2025, the world community came to have another opportunity to see the accelerated development of the DPRK's armed forces through the parade held to celebrate the 80th founding anniversary of the WPK.

The columns of the elite forces marched in an imposing manner through the brightly-lit square, followed by other columns of modern-type main battle tanks equipped with tremendous striking capability and reliable self-defensive system, 600mm multiple rocket launchers, long-range strategic cruise missile systems, drone TLs, surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missile systems, hypersonic gliding missile

systems, hypersonic intermediate-range strategic missile systems, and Hwasongpho-20 ICBMs, the most powerful nuclear strategic weapon system of the DPRK. This highlighted the validity and vitality of the WPK's line on ensuring self-reliance in national defence.

Such parades prepared under the guidance of Comrade Kim Jong Un demonstrated to the world that no force can check the advance of the Korean people in their efforts to defend their national sovereignty and development interests and achieve affluence and prosperity for posterity.

Pyongyang Getting Younger and More Beautiful

A groundbreaking ceremony to build another 10 000 flats took place in Pyongyang's Hwasong area on February 16, 2025, an annual event that has repeated itself without fail over the past four years. That project marked the final phase of the 50 000-flat construction programme for Pyongyang that has been strenuously carried on since the Eighth Congress of the WPK in 2021.

Looking back upon the past five years, Pyongyang has remodelled itself into a more wonderful city year on year to instil great confidence and courage in the people across the country, who have greeted a period of massive transformations.

In this period, despite the persistent difficult conditions facing the country, housing construction in Pyongyang became the most stable and rapidly growing sector, with the perfect and unconditional fulfilment every year of the ambitious plans that, in consideration of the long-term requirements, were added to the goals decided on at the WPK Congress; in 2024 the growth rate in this sector reached a striking level of 391 percent as against 2020.

Indeed, this period witnessed transformations great enough to bring the phrase *groundbreaking accompanied by inauguration* into common use.

The fourth-stage project in the Hwasong area included various modern amenities as well as 10 000 flats. As the Hwasong area with new wonderful flats was furnished with these immaculate amenities, it was being turned into model urban quarters, a beautiful and magnificent place where the formative and artistic beauty and advanced civilization are in good harmony.

Inaugurated in the Hwasong area on February 15, 2026, was Saeppeyl Street dedicated to the bereaved families of the martyrs who demonstrated the dignity and honour of the DPRK in overseas military operations.

In the street high-, medium- and low-storey apartment buildings perfect in light of formative and artistic beauty, practicality and convenience are in ideal harmony with public buildings such as commercial and neighbourhood-serving amenities. These unique architectural groups were an outcome of the noble moral obligation and fervent love of the WPK which is determined to glorify the bereaved families as well as the country's much revered heroes and enable them to enjoy to the full a beautiful life in





the motherland the martyrs protected at the cost of their lives.

The following day a grand ceremony was held to inaugurate the fourth-stage 10 000 flats in the Hwasong area, marking the successful completion of the 50 000-flat project in Pyongyang, a task set forth by the Eighth Congress of the WPK. Approximately 60 000 flats and public buildings were built in the Songsin, Songhwa and Hwasong areas alone to form new ideal streets of the people, and the Hwasong area turned into a single modern urban administrative district, thus greatly overfulfilling the five-year plan for capital city construction.

Pyongyang's transformations would not stop here.

A groundbreaking ceremony of the fifth-stage construction project in the Hwasong area took place on February 18, 2026.

With the beginning of the fifth-stage construction project, the DPRK's capital city construction has switched over to a higher phase.

In other words, the capital city construction that was basically aimed at solving the housing problem is switching over to a new phase of





transforming the overall appearance of the capital city on a large scale.

Addressing the event, Comrade Kim Jong Un stressed the need to develop Hwasong District into an area perfect in every aspect as it has already acquired the qualities needed for a modern-day city, and then model the underdeveloped areas of the capital city after the district. While making constant efforts to push ahead with housing construction, he said, we should pursue steady progress to open a newer phase of civilization and this is the target we have to achieve in the coming stage of capital city construction.

Recent years have witnessed considerable improvement in the living conditions of the citizens of the capital city, but we are not to feel content with this in any way; we should push ahead with housing construction in the capital city with a long-term plan and without interruption by taking into account not only the families who are experiencing the trouble of sharing houses and those who are living in outdated houses but also those who are expected to come—this is what the WPK intends to do.

Along with this, some projects are planned to open new service realms more extensively to meet the growing cultural needs of the citizens and set up advanced bases everywhere to this end, thus making a facelift of the whole city and improving its function.

Our capital city should be most beautiful and greatest in the world. This is the firm will of the WPK.

True to that will, Pyongyang is taking on more beautiful and younger looks, and a great era is on the horizon.

An Era of Capital City Being Envious of Regions

The DPRK has channelled great efforts into construction projects such as those for rural houses, regional-industry factories, three additional facilities, the largest-ever greenhouse farm and vegetable

science research centre, and offshore farm. These projects are designed to turn all the regions into a paradise for the people and ensure that the locals enjoy the same material life as the citizens of the capital city and lead a happy life in good health in cultural and hygienic environment as that in the capital city.

There is an important reason why the WPK has set it as one of its immediate tasks to build modern healthcare facilities and multifunctional, cultural amenities in cities and counties, after setting forth the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

It has found a key solution to comprehensive regional development in helping the regions build up their own self-sustaining capabilities in every way while providing state guidance and assistance to them. In other words, the state should provide sufficient material and technical foundations and conditions to the regions so that they can stand on their own feet and, on this basis, let them build up their own forces and potentials strong enough to achieve steady and sustainable development.

This requires cities and counties to train their own forces that can lead regional economic and cultural development, to prepare their people in spiritual and cultural aspects. It is necessary to have well-qualified economic and technical forces in order to ensure good operation of the modern regional-industry factories which are now under construction in earnest; it is also necessary to train talented personnel systematically in order for each city or county to make effective use of their own characteristics to pave varied and unique roads for their development.

Therefore, it is needed to build a multifunctional leisure complex which will serve as a fertile land and a cradle for training the regional people to be well-qualified masters capable of running modern industry on their own, by providing them with latest science and nourishment of civilization without interruption, and for identifying and training talented people.

The new leisure complex will be furnished with IT means and databases of various up-to-date sci-tech achievements, and it will go a long way towards helping the regional people, youth and children

in particular, approach closer to modern science and civilization and acquire the insight and qualifications needed to lead their regional economic and cultural development. It will also encompass facilities for the people to see films and enjoy sports and cultural activities, commercial outlets with a clean sanitary environment, as well as various other welfare service facilities, which will help them enlighten themselves, develop rich emotional feelings and become pioneers and creators of a new culture.

The same is true with the construction of hospitals in cities and counties.

In general, a hospital is a functional building that requires technical compatibility of the lowest units of infrastructure with every one of its medical equipment and devices. Building it is dozens of times costly than erecting an apartment block or an industrial facility. Setting up an adequately-equipped hospital is not so easy because it requires advanced building techniques, expensive materials and large funds.

But Comrade Kim Jong Un made up his mind to build modern hospitals in all cities and counties in order to ensure all the population lead a healthy life.

As a project for guaranteeing our people's life and safety and promoting their health, this should naturally take the top priority among all other projects which our Party has planned and pushed forward to transform the regions and build a cultured, prosperous state. This is his intention. He views that it is nonsensical to talk about the strength and development of a state and advertise the advantages of its system, if that state is unwilling and unable to take responsibility for its people's life and health.

Starting from this point of view, a hospital was scheduled to be built in 2025 in Kangdong County, Ryonggang County and the city of Kusong respectively on a trial basis—each different in size—to set examples and accumulate experience in doing so. Then, from 2026, it is to be built in 20 cities and counties simultaneously, without fail, on an annual basis.

In November 2025 Kangdong County Hospital was inaugurated,

followed by Kusong City Hospital, Kangdong County Leisure Complex, Jongphyong County Leisure Complex, Kaepung District Leisure Complex and Ryonggang County Hospital. The successive inauguration ceremonies of regional-industry factories in 20 cities and counties brought great delight and excitement to the people across the country, who were convinced again that their dream and ideal are soon to come true, while looking round modern hospitals and well-furnished leisure complexes and regional-industry factories with local characteristics.

To make the capital envious of the regions, to make regional development represent the progress and development of our state and to make the true image of our style of socialism mirrored on the ideal appearance of the regions—this is the WPK's plan for the new era.

Today the Korean people are striving to build all the regions of the country into ideal places as planned by the WPK.









Pyongyang General Hospital and Future of Socialist Public Health

The DPRK works to develop socialist healthcare into the most people-oriented and advanced one that assumes full responsibility for protecting the life of all its people and promoting their health.

Pyongyang General Hospital, located in an ideal place on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River, is a modern medical centre Comrade Kim Jong Un long planned and aspired to build.

As he addressed the groundbreaking ceremony of the hospital in March 2020, he said: In recent years, modern ophthalmic, dental and other specialist hospitals, as well as a children's hospital, have been built in Pyongyang. However, we cannot be satisfied with these achievements. Now, with the mindset that we are starting everything from scratch, we should take the first step in building our public health service into one that



is people-oriented and advanced.

The hospital is another priceless asset for better protecting the health and safety of the people. As a central base from which the country's public health sector can achieve a significant leap forward, it will serve as a springboard for consolidating and developing the socialist public health system.

The hospital has emergency department, specialized treatment departments, general operating theatre, conference hall, service facilities and even a helipad. In particular, the general operating theatre with 30 modern rooms is so fully furnished that it can ensure the best public health and sanitary conditions and scientific accuracy and effectiveness of treatment, as befitting the most important core medical facility.

Comrade Kim Jong Un said that whether or not this wonderful hospital provided by the state contributes to promoting the people's health entirely depends on the medical workers' thoroughgoing spirit of serving the people and specialist qualifications. And he called for the public health sector to decisively strengthen the medical forces, effectively conduct the



work of raising medical science and technology to the world's advanced level, and ensure that all doctors and nurses devote their utmost sincerity to medical treatment with warm humanity.

An engine, pacesetter and assistant in the modernization of public health, the hospital will provide all other hospitals—three city- and county-level hospitals like Kangdong County Hospital built on a pilot basis and similar healthcare centres to be erected in 20 cities and counties every year starting from 2026 in line with the Regional Development 20×10 Policy—with scientific, specialized and systematic guidance and human, material and technological assistance.

Transformed Wihwa Island Tells What

An inauguration ceremony of the Sinuiju Combined Greenhouse Farm was held with splendour on February 1, 2026. The farm was one of the largest projects carried out during the eighth term of the WPK Central Committee and a wonderful achievement of creation presented by Korean young people to the Ninth Party Congress.

The farm encompasses different types of modern greenhouses numbering well over a thousand, a vegetable science research centre, houses for hundreds of households, public buildings such as hostel, neighbourhood-serving amenities, nursery and kindergarten, and various leisure centres, all in good harmony with distinctive landscape. This means the Wihwa Island in the northwestern border area, where the local residents had suffered from flooding generation after generation regarding it as their fate, has turned into a new model of regional development with great potential.

Comrade Kim Jong Un worked out a grand plan to build the largest-ever combined greenhouse farm at the time when it was regarded as a miracle only to build thousands of flats and a solid embankment in the stricken area, and entrusted this gigantic project to solid-builders and young people. It was by no means because the country lacked workforce to build the greenhouse farm. It was his intention to encourage

young people, the masters of the future, to grow up in the course of the construction project to be reliable successors to the revolution who are strong in self-sustenance and full of patriotic enthusiasm and confidence in their own strength.

True to his intention, a large number of young people volunteered to work at the construction site. Well aware of why the motherland was calling them to the grand construction site, they opted for pains and training as a worthwhile choice of youth instead of enjoyment and comfort, and they cultivated a strong will and passionate spirit as they learned how to overcome difficulties, how to make innovations and how to love their country in the course of the gigantic construction.

Every time he visited the construction site, Comrade Kim Jong Un paid primary attention to training the young builders into the fighters with an indomitable spirit of overcoming difficulties and iron mettle and fighting spirit. When the groundbreaking ceremony of the farm was held, he made a stirring speech to encourage the young builders, and on his inspection tours, he made sure that they worked, studied and lived in an energetic and passionate way. On his trip in September 2025, he gave special thanks to them saying that they were very powerful as they were turning the island area into a “treasure island” with considerably great potential.

He was pleased that the far-reaching plans and tasks set forth by the WPK were being carried out one after another with the result of increasing assets of creation, but he was more than happy that the young people were growing to be giant trees of patriotism through the struggle. The new generation of this country grew to be an army of patriots who place their motherland before anything else and find the worth of revolution in overcoming trials. This was the pleasure and pride of the Party and people that was of incomparable value.

That's why he headed for the far-flung northern tip of the country soon after a state event on New Year's Day in 2026 to extend his warm new year greetings to the young builders. He said with great satisfaction: Witnessing the soaring spirit of our young people and seeing every creation associated with the passion and sincerity of our young generation,





our people are picturing in their mind their motherland that will prosper forever; and seeing your vigorous growth, they are assured that our style of socialism is being succeeded.

In his congratulatory speech at the inauguration ceremony he said: Along with the patriotic march of our brave pioneers, our proud builders for both today and tomorrow, the land of our country will be richer and more beautiful, and our ideals and determination will surely result in achieving steady advance and victory. And he had a photograph taken with the builders.

The transformation of the Wihwa Island area demonstrated to the world that the future of the DPRK is bright and rosy and the beautiful future will surely be brought earlier as the country has such successors to the revolution, a large contingent of genuine youth patriots who regard the life devoted to national prosperity as their greatest honour and seek the worth and happiness of youth in the struggle for creating the people's wealth.

Livestock Farm Foretells Future of Countryside

The Samgwang Livestock Farm came into operation on February 2, 2026, as a new model of socialist rural construction and livestock farming development in the new era.

Comrade Kim Jong Un told the inauguration ceremony that it is needed to put rural development onto a new qualitative transformation stage. His remark is so meaningful.

Over the recent years new modern rural houses have been built across the DPRK, and changes have begun to be made in all realms including grain production structure, mechanization, irrigation, farming methods and the level of consciousness and civilization of the agricultural workers. But Comrade Kim Jong Un warned against getting satisfied with the current situation, saying that by going on this way it would be impossible to carry out the tasks of the rural revolution programme in the new era

set forth at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee. He sees that only when the agricultural workers enjoy all the benefits of modern science and technology and civilization in all aspects, can the rural development policy be proved successful.

In this light, the Samgwang Livestock Farm is probably a standard entity that intuitively showcases the future of the country's rural community.

This farm has introduced the method of raising goats and milch cows indoors to produce milk regardless of seasonal change while economizing on labour and land. The keepers conduct tending of each animal, like feeding and anti-epizootic work, in a scientific, technological and industrial way while operating the control system in modern animal sheds.

Milking, conveying and processing lines are fully automated; feed processing and production and most of the other lines are done as they are at an industrial factory. The farm runs a modern stockbreeding research branch and has achieved the definite integration of science and technology with production, the realization of a food production cycle based on animal husbandry and crop farming, and the establishment of an intelligent integrated production system capable of real-time monitoring, analyzing and controlling the state of production and management.

The farm produces cheese, butter and other dairy produce.

In the seat of Samgwang-ri, sections for education and leisure activities and residential quarters are distributed in an orderly way, and the buildings of all branch farms and workteams and processing places as well as such public facilities as school, kindergarten, hospital, pharmacy, shop, hall of culture and neighbourhood-serving amenities have been perfectly built.

The land in all sections except the land under cultivation has been carpeted with cover plants in harmony with good species of trees. Afforestation and water conservation have been carried out well to cover the surrounding mountains with thick forests and turn the shores of the reservoir and river into places, into distinctive parks, for recreational activities, and power-generating facilities relying on solar energy have been set up. Literally, Samgwang-ri has been turned into an ideal

rural farm.

It is the intention of Comrade Kim Jong Un to switch over to a phase of qualitatively transforming the entire countryside like the Samgwang Livestock Farm, not content with building new rural houses, raising the level of mechanization and improving the farming methods as in the past few years.

The farm's inauguration serves as a new starting point, innovative criterion, conducive to defining a future development orientation of the countryside, more specifically livestock farming.

He plans to readjust and fully improve the land, roads, irrigation facilities and the electric supply system on a nationwide scale, which are directly linked to agricultural production, in a neat and efficient way, step up the comprehensive mechanization of farm operations in keeping with the topographical features, and actively introduce into them the automation and AI technology. Workteam buildings, greenhouses and other bases for production activities, production facilities, will be built in a neat way and for multiple purposes.





Efforts will be directed to making the rural villages urbanized, civilized and advanced. The gap between towns and the countryside is to be reduced by promoting the convenience of the agricultural workers as much as possible and ensuring that they enjoy modern civilization in reality, while constructing rural houses and all the other buildings to be perfect in quality. The three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—are expected to be stepped up to make agricultural workers full-fledged masters of a modern countryside who are prepared ideologically, spiritually, culturally and technologically. In order to fully develop the country's animal husbandry into a world-level modern livestock farming, it is essential to hold fast to the five key factors in developing livestock farming—to obtain superior breeds, supply sufficient feed, adopt a scientific approach to rearing, ensure comprehensive veterinary services and put production and management on an informatized and intelligent basis. The ultimate goal is to put the livestock farming on an IT, intelligent, intensive and industrial footing, while encouraging and expanding indoor breeding, given that the country has a limited area of grass fields.

Today not only the agricultural workers but also the other people everywhere are convinced through the striking development of the Samgwang Livestock Farm of the future of the socialist countryside to grow more well-off and civilized.

Thriving Socialist Civilization

True to the far-reaching plan of the WPK to bring about shining efflorescence of socialist civilization on our land in our own way and with our own resources, entities for a new life and for new wellbeing are being created one after another in different parts of the country. In these days of rejuvenation, the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area has emerged on the Kalma peninsula, famous for its beautiful coastal scenery, as a masterpiece of Korean-style tourism.

Hundreds of buildings of modern beauty and different styles sprawl along the coast in harmony with its scenery that has long brought it to





prominence, achieving a perfect artistic compatibility and connectivity. The area is a coastal resort of a Korean style in name and reality. The hotels in the resort can accommodate nearly 20 000 tourists and satisfy their different tastes. A wide variety of facilities for sea-bathing and sports, amusements, commercial and public catering service and for cultural and leisure activities are so fully equipped with necessary conditions that they can offer the tourists an opportunity to enjoy the real taste of the east coast.

It can be said to be an epochal transformation that the Kalma peninsula with an excellent ecological environment has assumed a new elegant and modern appearance. It is a symbol of the great dignity and wellbeing of the people, an outcome of the Party's people-first politics and the Korean-style socialist system. Herein lie the true meaning of the coastal resort and the charm peculiar to it.

Comrade Kim Jong Un energetically led the grand construction project, ensuring that it was pushed ahead with as a national undertaking. While going over thousands of design plans, he gave detailed instructions on how to complete all the structures in the resort at a high level.

The resort has opened to the public conveying his benevolence. A large group of people have spent a good time in the wonderful resort since the first day of its operation. Among them were working people from Kangwon and South Hamgyong provinces and the young and old, men and women from Pyongyang, plus North Hamgyong, Ryanggang and Jagang provinces in the northern part of the country, and cities and counties in the provinces in the western part of the country.

Tourists are mesmerized by the magnificent and gorgeous resort in which more than 400 buildings with distinctive formative and artistic beauty line up along the beach and in good harmony from the gatepost, blending in well with the nearby landscape. While enjoying sea-bathing, sports and amusement games, shopping and dining, the tourists relish the new height of tourist culture that is thriving in the era of the WPK.

The 4km-long stretch of the beach is crowded with people who are enjoying bathing, driving speed boats through rolling waves, riding motorbikes on the beach and taking selfies to capture the moments of enjoying their time. The crowd-puller is the Myongsasimni Water Park. A

constant stream of laughter and thrill come out of the park equipped with steep slide, sledge-shaped slide, bowl-shaped rapid slide, surfing and other kinds of water amusement facilities. Commercial and catering facilities provide good services to tourists, adding more delight to their stay.

The inauguration of the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area has opened up a new vista for tourism in the DPRK.

There are many tourist attractions in the country such as Mt Myohyang, Mt Kumgang and Majon Bathing Beach, which are equipped with hotels and service facilities. But this is the first time that the DPRK invested so heavily in building a comprehensive tourist resort. In the country with diverse and rich tourism resources and political stability and institutional durability peculiar to it, the tourist industry is of great prospective significance as a motive force for promoting the efflorescence and development of the cultural sector and the advancement of the relevant regions and for contributing to the growth of the national economy as a whole.

In January 2026 the Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp





was built with well-furnished facilities for hot spring treatment and recuperation and comprehensive service bases forming a unique architectural group. Comrade Kim Jong Un set it as an important principle in the construction of the holiday camp to preserve the natural environment and paid close attention to making its landscape contribute to the promotion of the people's health and their recreational life. Thanks to his guidance, the holiday camp boasts beautiful scenery peculiar to it such as the walkways leading to the thick forests and a stream meandering through the area of the camp in all seasons. And all the sections of the camp are serviceably arranged to go well with each other and all the elements of architecture are formed in good harmony with the natural surroundings.

With the inauguration of the holiday camp, fresh progress has been made in the efforts to continuously expand and create various scopes and spaces of cultural life to contribute to the promotion of the people's health and the improvement of their wellbeing. In another development, the Yombunjin Coastal Park was open to public in the same month. The



park is located in the coastal area of Yombunjin, a scenic attraction on the East Sea of Korea. The Yombunjin Haeyang Hotel, a landmark in the park resembling a large cruise ship, can accommodate hundreds of guests and has a wide variety of service facilities such as cinema, shop, electronic recreation hall and wading pool. The park will serve as another coastal resort in which visitors can enjoy sea bathing and other recreational activities to their heart's content.

Through the construction of the Wonsan Kalma Coastal Tourist Area, Onpho Working People's Holiday Camp and other resorts, the DPRK has accumulated precious experience in building tourist industry, and it is now pushing ahead with projects to build large-scale promising tourist resorts and holiday camps in different regions in the shortest time possible. With the drive for building civilization gaining further momentum in the future, it will fully satisfy the local needs for recreational activities.

CONCLUSION

All the achievements made by the DPRK over the past five years are precious results of the painstaking efforts they have made united with a single and patriotic mind under the seasoned leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Through the five-year hard-fought struggle, they have become ever more strengthened, and nothing has been able to check their steady advance.

Now they are full of pride and self-confidence in their own strength, and they are more determined to advance towards a new, higher goal in high spirits.

Thriving DPRK

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