

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

LET US STRUGGLE MORE BRAVELY FOR A BEAUTIFUL TOMORROW AND THE HONOUR OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF KOREA

Speech at a Conference Commemorating the 80th Founding
Anniversary of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League
January 16, 2026

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Young people of Korea, who are a source of this country's strength and dignity,

Reliable volunteers, who are devoting their beautiful youth to the patriotic struggle,

Steadfast and vigorous officials of the youth league, Comrades,

I congratulate the young vanguard who are attending this commemorative conference as representatives of the most resourceful, courageous and patriotic younger generation.

On this important occasion, we are looking back on the glorious history of the youth league and looking forward to its bright future, and I feel truly delighted and joyful to be sharing it with you, who are brimming over with such refreshing mettle and burning enthusiasm.

As the first national-level event in this significant year when the Ninth Congress of our Party will be held, we have arranged this large-scale gathering of young people to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the youth league.

The basic objective of this event is to encourage and give wide publicity to our young people, who have always made more efforts than others in every realm

of our cause, as well as to inspire them to make fresh, redoubled efforts and achieve innovations.

It is significant that the youth league, a loyal vanguard of our Party and a powerful organization of patriotic youth, is commemorating the 80th anniversary of its founding in this grand way in the lead-up to the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As we are to review our remarkable struggle and foresee new prospects for socialist construction, the whole country is celebrating together with you your holiday in a significant way, praising the youth league's brilliant history and exploits.

This is an expression of its great affection for and desire to encourage our young people, as well as its great appreciation for the youth league's 80-year history.

The Korean youth movement that has demonstrated its fame through a heroic struggle and legendary feats will greet the glorious Party congress. Such an honourable moment is not something that comes of itself with the passage of time; I believe it is part of the proud journey undertaken by the youth organization that has shared its ideology and ideals with our Party and faithfully supported its cause.

I would like to avail myself of the opportunity when the youth league is commemorating its 80th anniversary

to pay noble tribute to the glorious struggle history of the Korean youth movement that has invariably supported our revolutionary cause, and to extend warm congratulations to all the young people, youth league organizations and their officials who, loyal to the Party and their country, are leaving noble and beautiful imprints of their youth at their workplaces, military posts and school campuses.

Comrades,

So sacred are the youth league's origin and traditions and so brilliant is its record of succession and development that it would be too much for me to recount its 80-year chronicles.

The history of the youth movement of Korea is so honourable, and the exploits it has performed generation after generation are so enormous.

Since it emerged in the first days of nation building as the banner of unity for young people from all walks of life who were aspiring after a prosperous and powerful nation, the youth league has followed a protracted course. In doing so, it has written the most proud and glorious pages in its chronicles, thanks to the faithful and patriotic aspirations cherished, and the powerful strides made, by the ranks of young people.

Our young people are always full of vigour and

ambition for achieving progress and innovation, and the flag of the youth league has guided them in their struggle to advance straight ahead along the path indicated by the Party; they have been a source of strength for us in achieving breakthroughs and transformations in the face of all manner of challenges and trials of history.

The youth league has trained its members as the reliable main force of socialist construction and national defence, who have recorded in the annals of history their indelible traces as an advance party and their remarkable feats as the vanguard in creation and construction.

Our young people are fully aware that their country means their motherly embrace and the cradle of their life and wellbeing, which they should defend and care for from one generation to the next. United as one under the banner of patriotism, they have made strenuous efforts against all odds to help build theirs into a prosperous country with a strong army.

In the 1950s, the members of the democratic youth league defended their country amid the flames of war, and the pioneers of the Chollima movement rehabilitated this land on the war debris; in the grim period when the destiny of socialism was at stake, your parents' generation defended their country, their social

system. In this way, all the generations of our Republic have left behind legendary tales and structures, signs of their exploits, which are symbolic of their youth and which are named after their generations.

All these achievements are illuminated by the feats performed by the youth league in implanting in young people the sense of duty and obligation that befits the successors to the revolution and in firmly maintaining the Korean youth movement's tradition of purity, patriotism and loyalty.

The journey taken by our revolution has been beset with challenges and obstacles that could not have been overcome with high spirits and youthful vigour alone; and the wind of temptation aimed at undermining our younger generation has been relentless. Nevertheless, the red flag held by our young people, instead of fading with the passage of time in the face of the historical ups and downs, has flown ever higher and more strongly, as it has been empowered by pure and thoroughgoing succession.

The change of generations in the ranks of young people has continued, along with the advance of the revolution. But our state's mainstay has remained steadfast, since it has successors who have always been faithful to their mission as the vanguard class fighters

and pillars of socialist construction and to the duty the times have assigned to them; the world of love and noble virtue created by them has added more beauty to our society.

In the vigorous struggle for the revolution and construction, our young people have never misspent their youth. Instead, they have grown up beyond recognition in their ideological and spiritual aspects.

The youth movement has responded to the country's call with a heroic struggle. In the proud course it has covered under the banner of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, it has united the millions of young people behind the Party more firmly and trained them into honourable builders of socialism, opening a brilliant chapter of a new era of transformation by dint of their inexhaustible strength.

We were deeply impressed by the genuine attitude of the young successors, witnessing their heightened zeal for volunteering which swept across the country after the Eighth Congress of the Party.

In their days full of dreams and ambition, our young people are preserving the original features of young Koreans and faithfully performing their mission as successors by dedicating their precious youth in responding to the call of the times and their country.

Among them were the young people in Nampho who were the first to volunteer to work in the socialist countryside. They were followed by tens of thousands of other young people in the capital and other cities who volunteered to go to mountain, rural and island villages and to join difficult and labour-consuming sectors, invariably and steadily following the road of patriotism.

They had the right to enjoy life and must have cherished precious dreams. Yet they translated their laudable decisions into practice, devoting their pure conscience and great sincerity to their motherland.

If they had not had a warm heart desiring the country's prosperity or a firm faith in and ardent aspiration for socialism, they would not have been able to make such an admirable decision and, moreover, remain faithful to it.

This is an inspiring story which can be explained only through the noble ideological and spiritual traits of our young people.

There is more.

Ours is a heroic era filled with transformation, which is shining more brilliantly thanks to the exploits performed by the hundreds of thousands of young people who, in hearty response to the Party's call, have

volunteered to work at the sites where new streets and other grand construction projects are being built.

In looking back, the revolutionary ideology and ideals of our Party have always become those of the young people and the course of our state building and development has always coincided with the course of young people leading a worthwhile life. But there has not been such an era as today when the young people across the country are giving full play to their might at the many places where the grand blueprints of the Party are being translated into brilliant reality.

Our Party appreciates more highly than any other successes and wealth, the record of victories achieved and all the monumental structures set up by young people. This is because they are permeated with our younger generations' fervent affection and enthusiasm for their socialist country, and reflect the unshakable pledge and will of the successors.

The annals of history of our glorious Party and country are adorned with page after page written by young people with their blood and sweat; one tale of the revolutionary spirit and heroic feats of young Koreans after another is being produced, along with the numerous transformations being brought about on this land. These are clear proof of the ideological and

spiritual inheritance that runs through the history of the Korean youth movement as its bloodline.

In the whole course of the Korean revolution, beset with unprecedented difficulties, the young people have never been a burden on their country or tarnished their revolutionary nature.

In the present world, your peer group is in the centre of an unprecedented bloody catastrophe.

In various places, young people, steeped in extreme misanthropy, the money-is-almighty poison, moral depravity and pessimism, are the source of serious social problems and the heartrending tragedy of bloodshed and discord. This is an undeniable reality in the present world.

It is something that we can be proud of before the world that we have such trustworthy, stout young revolutionaries who, mindful that it is a source of honour for them to bear the appellation of successors, are tempering and perfecting themselves by braving trials together with the Party and their motherland.

Present here are young soldiers who have recently been defending the dignity and honour of their country in the overseas special military operations by displaying the excellence, heroism, self-sacrificing spirit and character unique to their fellow people.

These young soldiers and their numerous comrades-in-arms are devoting their youth without hesitation on battlefields in a foreign land in order to remain faithful to the orders of their homeland, with no expectation of any reward.

Rather than any reward, their simple desire is that their homeland should prosper.

No one in the world will ever be able to find such soldiers as ours who, without any thought of reward or of their personal interests, go to battlefields to fight to defend their country's honour and their own self-respect and to execute in good faith the orders given to them.

It is only Koreans, only young Koreans, who can do this. The world is yet to appreciate their spiritual world.

Our soldiers were once unremarkable, but having been dispatched to engage in the overseas operations, they have fully demonstrated how wonderful is the character of young Korean people, the sons of the Korean people. This is something unique on this planet. They have set a noble example to be respected and followed by all the young people of future generations.

Having such young people is a source of pride for our state, incomparable with anything else.

The youth league's 80-year history of struggle is

being reviewed in the light of the socialist ideals, noble patriotism, passionate sense of justice and pure spiritual world which you and all the other young people across the country cherish as part of your faith and mental qualities. This again elevates the position and fame of our young Koreans to the highest level.

Linking our state's proud past with its glorious present, and building a rosier future by wonderfully preparing the next generation who will carry forward the baton of the revolution—this is an historic exploit and victory by the Korean youth movement, which cannot be compared with anything else nor be achieved by anyone else.

I would like to avail myself of this meaningful occasion to once again extend warm tribute to our Republic's younger generations who, by braving every manner of hardship and trial and by even sacrificing their youth and lives, have defended their motherland and, by performing noble feats and miracles, have brought prosperity to our country, as well as to the proud 80-year history of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

Comrades,

We can now talk about the invincibility of our revolution because its youth organization is strong,

and our era is one of transformation because its young heroes have high ideals, a strong sense of self-respect and soaring revolutionary enthusiasm.

The revolutionary cause to be accomplished from one generation to the next still demands that the youth league and young people carry out their important mission, and that the steps of succession they have taken decade after decade continue.

In the future, too, the youth league should orient all its activities to training our young people into a powerful force capable of opening up an era of transformation; it should make unstinting efforts to rally as one the millions of young people on the strength of patriotism.

Together with the Party members, all the young people should, as they have done before, form the main tide of our revolution, enlarge and enrich the gains of socialism through a vigorous struggle, and be braver than others in aspiring after the new, stepping up change, abolishing backwardness and accelerating progress.

The sturdy growth of young people is a core aim of our Party's current struggle to develop our state, as well as a big step forward towards the future.

As we respectfully remember the days of youth of your grandparents and parents who braved so many

difficulties for the sake of the country and the revolution, you should ensure that the coming generations do not fail to remember the worthwhile days of your youth.

Comrades,

Your motherly country has decided to confer the Order of Kim Jong Il, one of the highest orders of our state, on the Socialist Patriotic Youth League as an expression of its greatest appreciation for the steady succession to our cause the youth league has ensured by safeguarding its traditions and remaining faithful to its sacred obligations and duty over the past 80 years.

This will be a source of the greatest honour and dignity for all the young people of Korea.

Today, in the expectation that our resourceful and brave young people will continue to record their shining names and feats in the glorious history of the Party and the country and firmly propel the succession and advance of our revolutionary cause in the future, too, I will pin the order on the flag of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

You should advance vigorously towards a brilliant new era which will shine thanks to your resourcefulness and great might, proudly writing new pages in the annals of socialist development and loudly singing the songs of creation and struggle.

The dream of Korea, the future of Korea, is calling
our young people.

For the eternal prosperity of our motherland,

For our beautiful tomorrow, and

For the honour of the young people of Korea,

Let us struggle more bravely and more dynamically.

Long live the Democratic People's Republic of
Korea!

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