

UNDERSTANDING KOREA

9

HUMAN RIGHTS



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1. DPRK's View on Human Rights

The DPRK views that human rights are the rights of man to independence, that the masses of the people are the genuine personification of human rights, and that human rights are precisely the rights of a nation.

2. Human Rights Are the Rights to Independence

Since human rights are literally the rights of man, the nature of these rights should be defined starting from the nature of man.

Independence is the intrinsic nature of man.

Independence is an attribute of the social being to live and develop independently as the master of the world and his own destiny.

Independence is the life and soul of man, the social being.

Only when independence is ensured, can man enjoy life and happiness proper to man, having dignity and value as the social existence.

To realize independence man must have the rights for it—just the human rights.

3. The Masses of the People Are the Genuine Personification of Human Rights

The masses of the people demand the rights to live

and develop independently and creatively free from all fetters of nature and society, that is, the rights to independence, and have also the capability to achieve them.

As historical facts show, all the rights won by the masses in different eras are attributable to their demands and tireless efforts.

The rights which are neither raised by the demands of the masses nor realized by their efforts can never be true rights for them.

The demand of the social collective for independence is a common demand of its members for the existence and development of their collective, and the demand of individual members for independence is the demand they can make as equal members of the collective and they ought to be guaranteed by their collective.

The demand of the masses, the social collective, represents the demand of the social community and coincides with the demand of the individual members of the collective.

Human rights demanded and realized by the masses are genuine human rights that satisfy the demand of both the collective and its individual members.

4. Human Rights Are the Rights of a Nation

When the human rights are regarded as the rights of a

nation, it means the sovereignty of the nation.

People realize their demands for independence with a national state as the unit. The right to realize this demand is just the national sovereignty.

People of all countries in the world exercise their human rights, the right to realize their demand for independence, under the institutional and legal guarantee of the country they are living in.

When a certain country has lost its own sovereignty, it is an empty talk to discuss about the rights of the people in the country and their provision.

This is proved by the past colonial history of Korea and the human rights situations in several countries including Iraq.

5. DPRK's View of the Basic Rights of Man

The West finds the origin of basic rights of man in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen adopted in France on August 27, 1789 and the Declaration of Independence adopted in the US on July 4, 1776.

The former identifies the basic rights of man as “Liberty, Property, Safety and Resistance to Oppression,” while the latter identifies them as “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Some insist that the rights to peace and environment are the fundamental civil rights.

The DPRK views the basic rights of man as his most important rights which serve as the basis and source of all his rights. In other words, without these basic rights, realization of other rights is unthinkable.

6. Basic Human Rights

Basic human rights include socio-political rights and the rights to dignity, existence and inviolability.

7. Socio-Political Rights

Socio-political independence is the life and soul of man, the social being.

Even though he is alive, man is socially as good as dead if he has not socio-political independence.

Socio-political independence is realized through the provision and exercise of the freedom and right to participate in achieving national sovereignty, state administration and socio-political activities, that is, the socio-political rights.

If a man fails to become the master of politics exercising socio-political rights, he cannot be provided with the economic and cultural rights, either.

This shows that the socio-political rights are the basis of all rights of man and the most important rights which enable him to occupy the position and perform the role as masters of the state and society.

8. Right to Dignity

Man is the most dignified and valuable being in the world.

Everything in the world has its value only when it is geared to raising man as a dignified and precious being and serves him.

The dignity and value of man are realized satisfactorily and shine only when he exercises the rights to social and personal equality, to free development of individuality and to treatment proper to a human being.

Discrimination of personality, whatever the reason, is an insult of dignity of man and enslavement of man and application of inhuman and dishonourable morality and compulsion constitutes an infringement upon human dignity, the rights of man.

9. Right to Existence

Economic life is a field of social life indispensable to the existence and development of man.

Only when he has the right in economic life, the right to existence, whose contents are labour and ownership, and freely exercises it, can man maintain his existence as a human being and enjoy his life.

10. Right to Inviolability

Unless freedom of the person is ensured, man cannot

exercise his rights whatsoever.

Only when he is guaranteed the right to the inviolability of the person, which is the right not to be detained or arrested without reason, can man exercise his rights to the full.

11. Standards of Human Rights in the DPRK

The standards which reflect the people's requirements and aspirations for their rights are human rights standards, and those that are accepted by the people are fair and genuine human rights standards. In any country people demand and realize their rights, and they judge and evaluate whether their rights situation is good or bad.

Human rights standards must be set in accordance with the demand of the people of each country, because countries differ one another in political system, history, customs, the economy, the level of cultural development and the way of life.

To set and apply human rights standards in conformity with the requirements of its people and its actual conditions while respecting the human rights standards stipulated in international agreements on human rights belongs to the sovereignty of every country.

12. Establishment of the System of Provision of Human Rights in the DPRK

The system of provision of human rights in the DPRK began to be established after the country was liberated from Japanese imperialist colonial rule on August 15, 1945.

13. Disposal of Colonial Laws That Ran Counter to Human Rights

Many countries, which had formerly been colonies of imperialists, maintained the laws of the colonial days for a certain period or instituted new laws by referring to them.

However, just after its liberation from colonial rule Korea proclaimed that all the laws and regulations which had been enforced under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism had lost validity for ever and any legal order against the construction of a new society and the interests of the Korean people would not be tolerated.

In other words, Korea maintained the principle of completely abolishing draconian colonial laws and of establishing a new legal system, a new legal order for ensuring people's freedom and rights as required by the building of a new society on the basis of the people's democratic and revolutionary consciousness of law.

14. Earliest Laws of Human Rights

Immediately after liberation there was no unified central legislative body in Korea. So it was important to set up an apparatus for instituting laws of human rights first and enhance its functions and role for the establishment of the human rights mechanisms.

Hence, various forms of meetings like mass rallies and neighbourhood meetings were held in all parts of the country, where people elected their representatives according to their will and organized local power organs.

Local power organs thus formed advanced people-oriented and democratic policies for establishing a new, democratic legal order and adopted and executed decisions, directives, proclamations and other legal documents aimed at carrying out these policies.

15. Democratization of the Judicial System

Democratization of the judicial system in Korea was an undertaking to thoroughly destroy the outdated judicial system, which served the realization of Japanese imperialist colonial rule, and build a people-oriented and revolutionary one which would defend the rights and interests of the people.

With the setting up of the Judiciary Bureau in November 1945 in the Ten Administrative Bureaus of

North Korea, regulations on organizing public prosecutors offices and courts at all levels according to the administrative system were framed, the second trial system was applied in the court and the system of people's assessors was enforced.

After the establishment of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea in February 1946, democratization of the judicial system was promoted still further.

Different laws and regulations were enacted and enforced, including the Basic Principles on the Composition and Functions of the Court and Public Prosecutors Office under the Judiciary Bureau of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, Regulations on the Criminal Procedures by the Judicial Organs of North Korea, and Decision on the Election of Judges.

Thus, the basis for a democratic judicial system that would provide rights and freedom for the people and firmly guarantee the building of a new society was laid in a short span of time after liberation.

16. Establishment of Democratic Election Law System

In Korea a democratic election law system was established with the enactment and enforcement by the

Provisional People's Committee of North Korea of laws related with the elections of deputies to the local and central power organs.

These laws comprehensively stipulated all the norms for ensuring a democratic election including the fundamental principles of election, procedure of making voters' list, procedure of election and procedure of confirming its result.

Important features of these laws are that they codified the principles of democratic election by means of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot and took the voters' convenience into maximum consideration.

With the establishment of such democratic election system, 99.6 percent of voters took part in the election of deputies to local power organs held for the first time in Korea after liberation.

And in the election of deputies to the central power organ held in February 1947, 237 deputies from all walks of life, including 34 women, 7 entrepreneurs, 10 merchants, 4 handicraftsmen and 10 clergymen, were elected.

Thanks to the establishment of a democratic election system, a firm legal guarantee was provided for the Korean people to exercise their political rights to the full with state power in their hands.

17. Establishment of Democratic Labour Law System

In Korea the Labour Law was proclaimed by a decision of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea on June 24, 1946.

The Labour Law for the Factory and Office Workers in North Korea, composed of 26 articles, defines the democratic freedom and rights to work and relaxation.

What is particularly important in this law is that it stipulates the enforcement of an 8-hour day for the factory and office workers.

As the result, the remnants of the Japanese imperialist colonial slave labour which forced unlimited working hours and harsh labour conditions were completely liquidated and the road to a new working life was opened.

The law prescribes enforcement of a 7-hour day for workers engaged in harmful and underground labour.

It bans juvenile labour, and puts female workers under special protection.

In addition, it stipulates complete abolishment of the system of colonial starvation wages, enforcement of regular paid leave for factory and office workers and extra holidays for workers engaged in harmful or dangerous labour and enforcement of social security

scheme for factory and office workers like medical assistance for those who were disabled and allowances for funeral services.

18. Establishment of Gender Equality

The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea promulgated the Law on Sex Equality in North Korea on July 30, 1946.

The law proclaimed that the Korean women, who were long neglected in society and lived in misery subjected to humiliation and insult, have equal rights with men in all domains of social life including politics, the economy and culture.

First of all, it grants women the same political freedom and rights with men.

All women became able to participate in the election of deputies to power organs at all levels with equal rights with men and enjoy the right to elect and to be elected.

It also stipulates that women have equal rights to labour and education with men.

Women can enjoy the rights to free marriage and free divorce, lawsuit against the former husband for the expense of bringing up the children and equal right with men to inherit personal and landed property, and the feudal customs of life that trampled upon their rights like polygamy and human trafficking, licensed and

unlicensed prostitution and kisaeng (professional entertainer) system were abolished.

19. Establishment of Democratic Human Rights System by the Constitution

The Constitution was adopted in September 1948, with the founding of the DPRK.

It comprehensively consolidated the democratic freedom and rights which had already been granted to the people by individual laws and regulations.

Declaring equal rights of citizens in all fields of social life, it first stipulates in the political field the right to elect and to be elected, the freedom of speech, the press, assembly, demonstration and association, the rights to organize and join political parties, social and other organizations and the freedom of religious belief and of holding religious ceremonies.

It stipulates the rights of the working people in the sphere of the economic life—the right to be awarded the same return for the same work, the right to material assistance by the social security scheme and the right to run small- and medium-sized trade and industry.

In the field of the social life it defines the right to receive compulsory primary education and education at colleges and universities at state expense, the right to enjoy protection of marriage and family, the right to

inviolability of the person and the right to complaints and petitions.

Proceeding from the principles of internationalism, it prescribes the right of asylum and equal rights of citizens of ethnic minorities.

With the adoption of the Constitution, the problem of the basic law, the most important question in the human rights system, was settled with credit, the legislative basis for enacting laws and regulations on human rights laid, and the system could be developed within a well-knit framework.

20. Maintenance of the Human Rights System in Wartime

It is an unavoidable thing that in wartime the peacetime system of guaranteeing human rights is abolished or exists in name only, a great number of refugees and orphans are produced and the people's standard of living deteriorates; but during the Korean war (1950–1953) unleashed by the US, laws and regulations on ensuring people's rights were stipulated and enforced in succession.

With the adoption of the Cabinet decisions—Decision on Measures for Giving Relief to War Victims and Decision on Measures for Stabilizing the People's Livelihood during the Fatherland Liberation War—and

other laws and regulations, camps, rest homes and orphanages for accommodating war victims including orphans were set up and people were provided with rations, houses and all kinds of conveniences through networks of public catering and commerce.

And such laws and regulations as the Cabinet decisions On Lending Foods for Ensuring Farming to the Disaster-stricken Peasants and On Measures for Providing Houses to Factory and Office Workers were also adopted, so as to ensure living and production conditions for the poor and disaster-stricken peasants, provide stable jobs to those who became unemployed owing to the war and help the factory and office workers feel settled in living. Not only laws and regulations related with stabilizing the material life of the people but also those related with their education and cultural life were also adopted and enforced.

As a result, no one starved to death and was left homeless, and the voice of children reading book rang out continuously even in the severe trials of the war.

21. Development of the Human Rights Provision System in Wartime

During the Korean war, the system of guaranteeing human rights in Korea was not only maintained but also developed.

A typical example is the system of free medical service enforced during the Korean war.

Despite the great burden and difficulties, in November 1952 the Government of the DPRK adopted Cabinet Decision No. 203 on enforcing universal free medical service for the protection of people's life and promotion of their health.

The decision stipulates that inpatient and outpatient treatment and medicine are free at the state preventive and curative institutions and that the universal free medical care for civilians shall be enforced in army hospitals, too.

The universal free medical care system was enforced for the first time in the history of Korea on January 1, 1953, when the war was at its height.

22. Establishment of the Socialist Human Rights Provision System

As postwar reconstruction and socialist revolution were carried out successfully and socialist construction was promoted dynamically, the DPRK was faced with the task for codifying in an all-round way the rights and freedom to be enjoyed by the people living in socialist society and establishing a socialist human rights provision system.

Hence, the Socialist Constitution was adopted in the

1970s and, based on it, laws on human rights in every domain of life were enacted and enforced. In this way, the socialist human rights provision system was established in the main.

23. Socialist Constitution

The Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was adopted in December 1972 at the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

In relation to the fundamental rights of citizens, the Constitution first clarifies the principle of collectivism on which the rights and duties of citizens are based, that the state substantially ensures all citizens the democratic rights and freedom and happy material and cultural life, and that the rights and freedom of citizens are also further amplified with the consolidation and development of the socialist system.

It also defines the rights of citizens in the field of political life such as the right to elect and to be elected and the freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration, religious beliefs, and of complaints and petitions.

It stipulates the rights of citizens in the economic and cultural life such as the rights to work, relaxation, free

medical care and education and the freedom of scientific, literary and artistic pursuits.

It defines those to be put under the special protection of the state and society, women's equal social status and rights with men, protection of marriage and family, the right to inviolability of the person and the home and privacy of correspondence and legal protection of overseas Koreans and foreign exiles.

Adoption of the Socialist Constitution was an event of historic significance in the Korean revolution and construction; at the same time, it set up a milestone in establishing and developing the socialist human rights provision system.

24. Establishment of Human Rights Provision System for Various Fields

In the early 1970s the Socialist Constitution, the basic law which defines all activities of the state and society and the fundamental rights and duties of citizens, was adopted in the DPRK, but it does not define all the codes of conduct for all the fields of social life.

Proceeding from this, the DPRK established the human rights provision system by field by newly enacting and enforcing socialist laws and regulations on human rights.

25. Enforcement of Universal 11-Year Compulsory Education

In the DPRK universal 11-year compulsory education began to be enforced in 1972.

Thanks to its enforcement, all the rising generations that have grown up at state expense were provided with the right to compulsory education.

This surpassed by far the standard required by the international laws and regulations of human rights including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that defines that primary education shall be compulsory.

This system has developed into universal 12-year compulsory education system according to the law adopted in September 2012 at the Sixth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly.

26. Abolishment of Tax System

The ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly, On Completely Eliminating Tax System, was adopted on March 21, 1974.

This was followed by a decision of the then Administration Council on correctly implementing the ordinance.

Enactment of the ordinance and decision was a historic event which made the DPRK the first tax-free

country in the world and completely emancipated its people from the burden of tax.

27. Court Composition and Civil Procedures Acts

The act on court composition defines the duties and authority of the courts and the organs participating in court proceedings, principles of their composition and activities and their work procedures and methods by correctly applying the judicial policy of the state and constitutional principles of judgment.

This act serves as a powerful legal weapon which defends the people's power, socialist system and legitimate rights, lives and property of citizens against all kinds of encroachment and ensures that all the state organs, enterprises, social and cooperative organizations and citizens correctly abide by state laws and fight against all sorts of criminals.

The civil procedures act consists of the main and universal regulations of the civil procedures act, court jurisdiction, litigator, evidence, institution of a lawsuit, juridical preparation, examination of judgment, judgment and decision, second trial, exceptional appeal, reexamination of judgment and execution of decision.

This act provides a legal guarantee for satisfactorily resolving civil disputes in keeping with the socialist principles and the people's demands and interests.

28. Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children

This law was adopted in April 1976 at the Sixth Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly out of the requirements to legally fix the achievements made in the nursing and upbringing of children in the country and further strengthen and develop this work.

This is the first law in defining the basic systems in the field of nursing and upbringing children in the DPRK.

It is a people-oriented and advanced law which enables all the children to receive equal scientific and cultural nursing and upbringing at state and social expense.

29. Land Law

The land law was adopted in April 1977 at the Seventh Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly.

It not only defines the ownership of land, but stipulates that land development should be conducted in a planned way according to the master plan for land development, that land should be protected and managed on an all-people, nationwide basis, and that the fields under cultivation should be actively ameliorated and effectively protected.

As a codification of the programme of the government on land, the law was of great significance in bringing about a great change in the development, protection and management of land and improving the people's living environment.

30. Socialist Labour Law

On April 18, 1978, the new socialist labour law was adopted, codifying the achievements made in the course of carrying out the past democratic labour law and labour policy of the government. It contains the principles and demands of the socialist labour life.

The labour law proclaimed just after liberation was democratic, aimed at liberating workers from the colonial and feudal exploitation and oppression, and the new labour law defines the socialist labour relations aimed at ensuring independent and creative labour life for the working people who are freed from exploitation and oppression.

31. Public Health Law

The public health law was adopted on April 3, 1980 at the Fourth Session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly, codifying the advantageous socialist medical service system established in the country and the achievements made in this sector and developing public

health service onto a new high as required by the developing reality.

It stipulates all the problems related with public health service, including the main principle of public health service, complete and universal free medical service, promotion of people's health by virtue of the policy on preventive medicine, Juche-oriented medical science and technology, material supply to the public health service sector, health workers, health institutions, and guidance and management of the sector.

The law provides a firm guarantee for realizing the people's wish to enjoy a long life in good health by further developing the socialist public health system established in the country and developing public health service to a higher stage.

32. Adherence to the Socialist Human Rights Provision System

When socialism collapsed in succession in several countries in Eastern Europe, including the former Soviet Union, after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, symbol of the Cold War between the East and West, in November 1989, the West described it as the victory of the bourgeois human rights system over the socialist one.

In order to replay the scenario in the DPRK, the US frantically raised a human rights racket against the country.

Under the obtaining situation, the DPRK first conducted the work of formulating laws and regulations for increasing the country's defence capability in every way and further enhancing the role of the people's democratic dictatorship so as to defend the socialist system of providing human rights. It also carried on the work of instituting and enforcing laws and regulations aimed at further intensifying the struggle against anti-socialist crimes and the struggle to overcome non-socialist practices.

The Criminal Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was adopted as Decision No. 6 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on December 15, 1990.

This law demands further intensification of the struggle against anti-socialist crimes to cope with the prevailing situation.

The measures made it possible to smash the anti-socialist offensive of the US and its vassal forces and defend the socialist human rights provision system.

33. Perfection of the Socialist Human Rights Provision System

In the DPRK the work of perfecting the socialist human rights provision system was conducted mainly in the way of enacting laws for various fields or revising

and supplementing some of them.

The medical law (December 1997) and other laws were enacted and enforced, enabling the people to enjoy the benefits of prevention and treatment of diseases under the free medical care system and live in a more hygienic and cultured environment free from any worry about epidemic.

The law on invention (May 1998) and other laws aimed at protecting by law the rights of individuals who made contribution to the development of science and technology were instituted and enforced to establish the legal system for ensuring intellectual property rights, an important item in the international provision of human rights.

As a more detailed application of the Socialist Labour Law, the law on work norms (December 2009) and the law on labour protection (July 2010) were enacted to reward the working people according to the quality and quantity of work done, provide them with safer and more hygienic working conditions and protect and promote their life and health at a higher level.

Adoption of the law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education in September 2012 and its inclusion in the Socialist Constitution and laws related to education made it possible to teach all the students the general elementary knowledge and modern basic technical knowledge through systematic education and

perfect the secondary general education.

The enactment and enforcement of different laws including the law on the care of the elderly (April 2007) opened the way to providing human rights to the specific groups, an important component in the human rights provision system.

The existing laws and regulations related with the provision of human rights have been amended and supplemented.

From the latter half of the 1990s many of them have been amended and supplemented under the slogan “We serve the people!” as a reflection of the developing reality and the people’s growing demand for their rights.

34. Composition of Human Rights Provision System in the Constitution

The human rights provision system is largely composed of the Constitution and the laws based on it, institutions and education.

35. Treatment of the Problem of Human Rights Provision in the Socialist Constitution

The present Socialist Constitution of the DPRK, amended and supplemented several times as required by the changed environment and developing reality, consists of the Preamble, Chapter 1 (Politics), Chapter 2

(The Economy), Chapter 3 (Culture), Chapter 4 (National Defence), Chapter 5 (Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens), Chapter 6 (State Organ) and Chapter 7 (Emblem, Flag, Anthem and Capital).

The people-oriented Constitution with unique system and contents constitutes a firm legal guarantee not only for speeding up the construction of a powerful socialist country, realizing the country's independent and peaceful reunification and developing relations with other countries but also for protecting and promoting the civil rights of the people.

Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 defines the principles of state administration of the political, economic, cultural and defence sectors; they mainly set out matters of principle related with ensuring human rights like policies, conditions and measures.

36. Typical Articles in the Constitution for Providing Human Rights in the Political Field

The sovereignty of the DPRK resides in the workers, peasants, service personnel, working intellectuals and all other working people, and they exercise power through their representative organs—the Supreme People's Assembly and local People's Assemblies at all levels. (Article 4)

The organs of state power at all levels are elected on

the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballots. (Article 6)

As a people-centred system in which the working people are the masters of everything and everything in society serves them, the social system of the DPRK defends their interests and respects and protects their rights. (Article 8)

The DPRK shall champion the democratic, national rights of overseas Koreans and their legitimate rights and interests recognized by international law. (Article 15)

The DPRK shall guarantee the legal rights and interests of foreigners in its region. (Article 16)

The state shall promote unity with people all over the world who defend their independence and oppose all forms of aggression and interference. (Article 17)

As the law of the DPRK reflects the wishes and interests of the working people and is a basic instrument for state administration, the respect for the law and its strict adherence and execution is the duty of all institutions, enterprises, organizations and the citizens. The state shall perfect the system of socialist law and promote the socialist law-abiding life. (Article 18)

37. Typical Articles in the Constitution for Providing Human Rights in the Economic Field

The state shall define and protect the property of the

state and social, cooperative organizations. (Articles 21 and 22)

The state shall protect private property and guarantee the right to inherit it by law. (Article 24)

The DPRK regards the steady improvement of the material and cultural life of the people as the supreme principle of its activities. The constantly-increasing material wealth of society in the country is used entirely to promote the well-being of the working people. The state shall provide all working people with every condition for obtaining food, clothing and housing. (Article 25)

The state shall free the working people from difficult, tiresome labour and narrow down the distinctions between physical and mental labour. (Article 27)

The state shall undertake, at its own expense, the building of production facilities for the cooperative farms and modern houses in the countryside. (Article 28)

The state renders the labour of working people more joyful and worthwhile, so that they willingly work with enthusiasm and creativeness for society, the collective and themselves. (Article 29)

The working day shall be eight hours, and the length of the working day shall be reduced by the state in arduous trades and other special categories of work. (Article 30)

The state shall prohibit the employment of children under the minimum working age. (Article 31)

The state shall draw up and implement the plans for the development of the national economy in accordance with the laws of socialist economic development so that the balance between accumulation and consumption can be maintained correctly, economic construction accelerated, the people's living standard steadily raised and the nation's defence capability strengthened. (Article 34)

38. Typical Articles in the Constitution for Providing Human Rights in the Cultural Field

The state shall make the whole society intellectual. (Article 40)

The state shall oppose the cultural infiltration of imperialism and any tendency to return to the past, protect its national cultural heritage and develop it in keeping with the existing socialist situation. (Article 41)

The state shall develop the universal 12-year compulsory education at a high level. (Article 45)

The state shall develop the regular education system as well as different forms of systems of part-time study while working. (Article 46)

The state shall provide education to all pupils and students free of charge and grant scholarship to students

of universities and colleges. (Article 47)

The state shall maintain all children of preschool age in creches and kindergartens at state and public expense. (Article 49)

The state shall provide sufficient modern cultural facilities, so that all the working people may enjoy a socialist cultured, aesthetic life to their heart's content. (Article 53)

The state shall protect people's lives and improve their health by consolidating and developing the system of universal free medical service and improving the district doctor system and the system of preventive medicine. (Article 56)

The state shall adopt measures to prevent environmental pollution so as to provide the people with a hygienic living environment and working conditions. (Article 57)

39. Typical Articles in the Constitution for Providing Human Rights in the National Defence Sector

The mission of the armed forces of the DPRK is to safeguard the interests of the working people, defend the socialist system and the gains of the revolution from foreign aggression and protect the freedom, independence and peace of the country (Article 59).

40. Fundamental Rights of Citizens Stipulated in the Constitution

The fundamental rights of citizens can be divided into political and civil rights, social, economic and cultural rights and rights of specific groups.

As for political and civil rights, the Constitution stipulates the right to elect and to be elected (Article 66), freedom of speech, of the press, of assembly, demonstration and association (Article 67), freedom of religious beliefs (Article 68), right to submit complaints and petitions (Article 69), right to freedom of residence and travel (Article 75), right to the protection of marriage and family (Article 78) and right to inviolability of the person and the home and privacy of correspondence (Article 79).

As for social, economic and cultural rights, it stipulates the right to work (Article 70), right to relaxation (Article 71), right to free medical care and social insurance (Article 72), right to education (Article 73) and right to freedom of scientific, literary and artistic pursuits (Article 74).

As for the rights of specific groups, it stipulates the right of people who worked with devotion for the country and people to enjoy the special protection of the state and society (Article 76), right of women to enjoy equal rights with men (Article 77), right of

mothers and children to enjoy special protection (Article 77) and the right of foreign exiles to enjoy protection (Article 80).

41. Characteristics of the Fundamental Rights of Citizens Stipulated in the Constitution

The characteristics of the fundamental rights of citizens stipulated in the Socialist Constitution are that, first, they are concrete rights which citizens can possess and exercise in all domains of the state and social life.

Unlike constitutions of other nations which give a general definition for the voting right, Article 66 of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK stipulates in detail that all citizens who have reached the age of 17 have the right to elect and to be elected, irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views or religion, that citizens serving in the armed forces also have the right to elect and to be elected, and that a person who has been disenfranchised by a court decision and a person legally certified insane do not have the right to elect or to be elected.

Second, they are provided to every citizen equally and substantially.

The Constitution stipulates that the state shall effectively guarantee genuine democratic rights, freedom

as well as the material and cultural well-being of all its citizens.

Third, they are steadily amplified with the consolidation and development of the socialist system.

The Constitution defines that the rights and freedom of citizens shall be amplified with the consolidation and development of the socialist system.

42. Laws on Human Rights

The laws on human rights include those on national sovereignty, criminal and civil cases, court, people's security, labour, education, public health, public service, intellectual property rights protection, public welfare and environmental protection.

43. Laws on National Sovereignty

Laws for ensuring human rights in the field of national sovereignty include the law on the election of deputies to the People's Assembly at all levels, law on local power organs, law on nationality, law on complaints and petitions and others.

The Law of the DPRK on the Election of Deputies to the People's Assembly at All Levels defines the principles, procedures and methods to be observed in the elections, and thus contributes to giving full rein to socialist democracy in the elections and making the

masses of the people masters of state power.

The Law of the DPRK on Local Power Organs aims at providing the people with genuine democratic rights and freedom and material and cultural well-being by strengthening local power organs and enhancing their functions and roles.

The Law of the DPRK on Nationality defines the conditions for becoming a citizen of the DPRK (acquisition and change of nationality and denationalization), thus contributing to legally guaranteeing the status of the citizens of the DPRK, overseas citizens in particular, and defending their rights.

The Law of the DPRK on Submitting Complaints and Petitions defines the principles, procedures and methods to be observed in submitting complaints and petitions by citizens and state organs, receiving and registering them and deliberating and handling them by concretizing the right of citizens to submit complaints and petitions stipulated in the Socialist Constitution; it aims at protecting the rights of the working people, encouraging them to participate actively in state administration and improving the work of state organs and public servants.

44. Laws on Criminal Cases

Laws for ensuring human rights in criminal cases

include the criminal law, criminal procedures act and others.

The Criminal Law of the DPRK defines crimes and penalties; the law aims at defending the power of the state and the socialist system and guaranteeing human rights.

The crimes are violations of the power of the state, the socialist system and legal order, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The main penalties are death penalty, indefinite reform through labour, definite reform through labour and training through labour, and the additional penalties are deprivation of the right to vote, confiscation of property, fining, deprivation of a licence and suspension of a licence.

The Criminal Procedures Act of the DPRK, defining problems for strictly establishing system and order in investigation, preliminary examination, indictment and trial, plays the role of defending and ensuring human rights in dealing with criminal cases.

45. Laws on Civil Cases

As laws for guaranteeing human rights in the field of civil affairs, they include the civil law, civil procedures act, family law, law on inheritance, law on damages and others.

The Civil Law of the DPRK, defining the equal and

independent positions in property relations between parties (organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens), provides a legal guarantee for consolidating the socialist economic system and its material and technical foundations and satisfying the people's material and cultural demands.

The Civil Procedures Act of the DPRK contributes to protecting the rights and interests of organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens in civil procedures.

The Family Law of the DPRK contributes to protecting marriage and family and turning the whole society into a harmonious and united grand socialist family.

The Law of the DPRK on Inheritance, dealing with the principles and order of inheritance and donation and in the implementation of inheritances, guarantees correct settlement of inheritance and the rights of citizens related with inheritance.

The Law of the DPRK on Damages is aimed at establishing a strict system and order in compensation for the loss incurred by violation of the person or property to protect civil rights and interests of organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens.

46. Laws on Court

As for the laws on court, there are the law on the

composition of court, law on lawyers, notary public law and others.

The Law of the DPRK on the Composition of Court contributes to correctly trying and settling criminal and civil cases and guaranteeing the right of citizens to fair procedures in judgment by establishing a strict system and order in the composition of court.

The Law of the DPRK on Lawyers aims at protecting the legal rights and interests of organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens and ensuring the correct execution of law by enhancing the role of lawyers.

Lawyers in the DPRK ensure the human rights of citizens and defend the legal system of the state through defence counselling and legal consultancy, and organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens have the right to select lawyers freely for legal proceedings and legal acts.

The Notary Public Law of the DPRK defines the procedures and methods for correctly confirming the facts and documents of legal significance, defending the civil rights and interests of organs, enterprises, organizations and citizens and ensuring security in civil affairs.

47. Laws on People's Security

As for the laws for ensuring human rights in the sector of people's security, there are the citizen

registration law, the road traffic law and others.

The Law of the DPRK on the Registration of Citizens stipulates the system and order by which the state grasps and registers changes in the status of citizens occurred by birth, residence, removal, death, acquisition of nationality and denationalization. It serves as a legal means for protecting the socialist family relations and the rights and interests of citizens and intensifying population administration.

The Law of the DPRK on Traffic on the Road stipulates the principles and order to be observed in road traffic control signal, management of road safety devices and passage of pedestrians and vehicles. It contributes to protecting the lives and safety of the people and ensuring the stability of road traffic.

48. Laws on Labour

As for the laws for ensuring the human rights in the sector of labour, there are the socialist labour law, the labour protection law, law on work norms and others.

The Socialist Labour Law of the DPRK systematizes and defines in a comprehensive and unified way the socialist life and relations of labour of the working people. The law stipulates the systems of compulsory labour, working day, labour distribution, manpower use, improvement of technical skills, labour protection and

relaxation and the state social insurance and social security schemes.

That the state bears full responsibility for and takes care of the life and health of the working people is the intrinsic demand of the socialist system and principled stand of the DPRK.

The Law of the DPRK on Labour Protection is enacted for the purpose of providing the working people with safe and cultured living conditions and protecting and promoting their life and health.

By defining the principles and order arising in work norms, the Law of DPRK on Work Norms contributes to organizing labour in a scientific and reasonable way, raising the efficiency of labour and ensuring the working people's right to receive fair and equal rewards for their labour.

49. Laws on Education

The laws on education and nursing and upbringing of children guarantee human rights in the sector of education.

The Law of the DPRK on Education aims at further developing the socialist education system and satisfactorily ensuring the people's right to education.

It stipulates the main principles to be maintained in education, the universal free compulsory education

system, educational institutions and workers, contents and methods of education, provision of educational conditions and guidance and control over educational work.

On the basis of this law, the Law of the DPRK on Higher Education and the Law of the DPRK on General Education were adopted.

The Law of the DPRK on Nursing and Upbringing of Children defines the system and order by which to bring up children as the future of country, as excellent builders of socialism.

To bring up the children at the expense of the state and society is one of the important policies of the DPRK. It shows all kinds of solicitudes so that the children can grow up happily under the modern conditions for nursing and upbringing.

50. Laws of Public Health

Laws related to guaranteeing the human rights in the sector of public health comprise the public health law, the medical treatment law, the infectious disease prevention law, the food hygiene law and the public sanitation law.

The Public Health Law of the DPRK defines the basic principles the DPRK maintains in consolidating and developing preventive medicine and other sectors of public health, complete and universal free medical care,

protection of health by preventive medicine, the Juche-oriented medical science and technology, material supply for public health service, medical institutions and workers, and guidance and control over public health service.

The Law of the DPRK on Medical Treatment is aimed at developing medical service and protecting and promoting people's health by strictly establishing a system and order in medical treatment.

The Law of the DPRK on the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases is a legal means for eliminating epidemic diseases and protecting people's lives and health by establishing a strict order in the discovery and isolation of the sources of infection, checking of the channels of infection and vaccination.

The Law of the DPRK on Food Security is aimed at ensuring food security and protecting and promoting people's health.

The Law of the DPRK on Public Sanitation defines the system and order in public sanitation, thus contributing to providing people with sanitary living environment and conditions and protecting and promoting their health.

51. Laws on Public Service

Laws on guaranteeing human rights in the sector of

public service include the laws on socialist commerce, food administration, dwelling houses and others.

The Law of the DPRK on Socialist Commerce defines the principles and order to be observed in commercial activities like commodity circulation and public service.

The Law of the DPRK on Food Administration defines the principled matters and order arising in the procurement, storage, processing and supply of food for the people's diet, and thus contributes to improving the people's living standards and developing food administration.

The Law of the DPRK on Dwelling Houses defines matters related to construction, transfer, taking over and registration, allotment, use and management of dwelling houses, legally guaranteeing stable and cultured living conditions for the people.

The state protects by law people's rights to ownership and use of houses.

52. Laws on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

Laws for ensuring human rights in the field of intellectual property rights include the copyright law, the invention law, the industrial design law, the trademark law and the computer software protection law.

The Law of the DPRK on Copyright is aimed at protecting the rights of copyright holder and propelling the development of art and literature, and science and technology, by defining problems concerned with the use of copyrighted works.

The Law of the DPRK on Inventions stipulates specific matters arising in the application for registration of inventions, their deliberation and registration, protection of invention and patent rights.

The Law of the DPRK on Industrial Designs defines problems arising in application for registration of industrial designs, their deliberation and protection of industrial design rights.

The Law of the DPRK on Trademarks stipulates problems arising in application for registration of trademarks, their deliberation and protection of trademark rights.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Computer Software defines matters related to protecting the right of software copyright holders and developing the software technology.

53. Laws on Social Welfare

Laws for guaranteeing human rights in the field of social welfare include the social security law, the law on the protection of the elderly, the law on the protection of

persons with disabilities, the law on the protection of children's rights, the law on the protection of women's rights and the Red Cross society law.

The Law of the DPRK on Social Security serves as a powerful legal instrument for protecting people's health and providing them with stable and happy living environment and conditions.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of the Elderly serves to guarantee the rights and interests of the elderly and fully meet their desire to lead a fruitful and happy life in mentally and physically good health.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities contributes to providing more favourable living environment and conditions for persons with disabilities.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Children's Rights stipulates issues on guaranteeing children's rights and interests to the full in all fields including social life, education, public health, family and administration of justice.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Women's Rights comprehensively stipulates the rights of women. It defines the basic principles for providing women's rights and stipulates their socio-political rights, rights to education, culture, medical service and labour, personal and property rights, right to marriage

and family, and so on.

The Law of the DPRK on Red Cross Society contributes to protecting people's lives and property from various kinds of diseases and disasters and promoting their health and welfare.

54. Laws on the Protection of Environment

Laws on guaranteeing human rights in field of environmental protection include the law on the protection of environment, the law on water resources and the law on the prevention of radioactive pollution.

The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Environment stipulates issues related with the protection of environment.

The Law of the DPRK on Water Resources is aimed at ensuring sufficient supply of water necessary for the development of the national economy and people's living by establishing a strict system and order in the research, development, conservation and utilization of water resources.

The Law of the DPRK on the Prevention of Radioactive Pollution regulates issues on preventing radioactive pollution and protecting people's lives and health and the environment. It defines basic principles for the prevention of radioactive pollution and regulates safe management of radioactive substances and nuclear

facilities, disposal of radioactive wastes, observation of environmental radioactivity, etc.

55. State Organs for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

State organs for the protection and promotion of human rights are the Supreme People's Assembly, the State Affairs Commission, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Cabinet, commissions and ministries, local people's assemblies and people's committees, public prosecutors offices and courts.

56. Organs for International Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

Organs for international cooperation in the field of human rights include the National Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Committee for UNESCO, the National Committee for UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the National Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

57. Human Rights Organizations for Specific Groups

Human rights organizations for specific groups

include the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea, Korea Federation for Protection of Persons with Disabilities and Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged.

58. Human Rights Organizations According to Their Missions

Human rights organizations according to their missions include Korea Society for Human Rights Studies, Korea Education Fund, Korea Committee on Measure for the Victims of Sexual Slavery of the Japanese Army and Forcible Drafting, the Red Cross Society of Korea, the Bar Association of Korea, the Democratic Lawyers Association of Korea, the Family Planning and Maternity and Child Health Association of Korea.

59. Society for Human Rights Studies

The mission of the Korea Society for Human Rights Studies is to study overall issues on protecting and promoting human rights in the DPRK, make proposals to government organs on measures for guaranteeing human rights and conduct research for an international system of protecting and promoting human rights.

What is important in its activities is to survey and research the human rights situation in the DPRK and its implementation of international human rights conventions, and carry out investigations into human rights violations foreign forces committed against the Korean people and take relevant measures.

It also conducts cooperation with international human rights organizations and its counterparts in other countries, and offers convenience to the relevant visitors to the country.

The society comprises well over a hundred legal experts, defence counsels, law-enforcement officials and human rights experts.

60. Human Rights Education and Information Network

The human rights education and information network consists of education through regular educational network, dissemination of knowledge through social education facilities and mass media and the work to enhance the knowledge on the part of law-enforcement officials and officials of social organizations.

61. Education in Human Rights through Regular Educational Network

A well-regulated system of education in human rights

theory and laws has been established in the educational course in the DPRK, ranging from primary school to university.

Primary schools and junior and senior middle schools teach basic knowledge of human rights ideas, theories and laws; at universities and colleges this education is further intensified, and they also teach international human rights law.

The level of the education in human rights laws at specialized law education units such as the Law College of Kim Il Sung University is quite high.

As the graduates who learned human rights ideas, theories and laws in the regular educational network enter various fields of the state and society, the work of protecting and promoting human rights is successful in the DPRK.

62. Dissemination of Knowledge of Human Rights Laws through Social Education Facilities and Mass Media

The Grand People's Study House located at the centre of Pyongyang and other modern libraries built in various parts of the country house large numbers of original texts of law, books and e-publications that help the working people and youth raise their awareness of law and acquire knowledge of human rights laws.

Mass media and publications including the Korean Central TV, Korean Central Radio, *Rodong Sinmun*, *Kulloja* and *Chongnyon Saenghwal* widely deal with the knowledge of human rights.

Especially, they regularly carry articles and writings on major occasions including the day of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and devote a great deal of space to the analysis of the human rights violations committed by the imperialists in the international arena and other serious human rights issues around the world .

63. Work to Enhance the Officials' Knowledge of Human Rights Laws

The state forms the ranks of government officials, judges, defence counsels, prosecutors, people's security officers and other law-enforcement officials and officials of social organizations with truly faithful servants of the people, and regularly organizes for them short courses, in-service training, workshops, seminars and meetings for swapping experiences.

64. Provision of the Right to Elect and to Be Elected

In the DPRK, all the citizens exercise their right to elect and to be elected regardless of sex, nationality,

occupation, period of residence in the country, property status, education level, party affiliation, political view and religious belief.

Election of deputies to people's assemblies at all levels is conducted on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

All the citizens who have reached the voting age exercise the right to elect and to be elected without any limitation and all the voters can participate in the elections on an equal footing and can be elected as a deputy to a power organ. Voters elect the deputies to the people's assemblies at all levels with their own hands according to their own will and the secrecy of the result of balloting is ensured both during and after casting the ballot.

65. Provision of the Freedom of Speech and the Press

The DPRK has more than one hundred kinds of newspapers published at national and provincial levels and at factories, enterprises and universities, hundreds of periodicals printed by scores of publishing houses and several TV and radio channels.

All the citizens freely exercise the freedom to express their views and opinions through publications including various kinds of newspapers, magazines and books and through TV and radio broadcasts.

The right to free writing and creation of works is legally guaranteed, and the right to making proposals aimed at improving the work of state organs, enterprises, organizations and public servants is ensured.

The people are also provided with the rights to obtain, process and transfer information.

66. Provision of the Freedom of Assembly and Association

The DPRK citizens are fully provided with the freedom of assembly and demonstration.

A notice is given to the people's committee and people's security organ in the local area three days prior to holding them.

They are also provided with the freedom of association.

The state provides all citizens with conditions for freely organizing political parties and social organizations of democratic nature.

At present, the DPRK has several political parties and social organizations, such as the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party, the Chondoist Chongu Party, the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Socialist Women's Union of Korea and the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea.

67. Provision of the Right to Freely Participate in State Administration

The DPRK provides everyone with equal and ample opportunities and conditions to hold public office of the state and display their ability.

Anybody with a certain level of knowledge and capacity can become a public servant.

The state makes a regular assessment of public servants' competency for the purpose of correctly assessing and enhancing their competency.

The criteria of the competency assessment are correct understanding of state policies and laws and regulations for the relevant field, expert knowledge, capacity to organize and direct undertakings, achievements in the past, law observance and possession of noble morality and traits.

68. Provision of the Freedom of Thought and Religion

In the DPRK everybody is fully provided with the right to choose and follow their thought and religion according to their own free will.

Through their everyday life and experience and through historical process, the Korean people have realized that the Juche idea is an idea that thoroughly defends and realizes their independence and truly

guarantees human rights, and that when they advance along the road indicated by the idea genuine happiness and prosperity will be achieved.

And they have acquired this idea as an element of their faith and will on their own accord.

They follow the Juche idea and think and act as required by it.

In the DPRK the church and the state are clearly separated, and everybody is fully provided with the freedom of religion.

In accordance with the Constitution, people are free to choose and follow any religion, and can officially or personally, privately or jointly hold religious service, ritual and ceremony. They can also build religious structures or conduct religious education.

At present there exist in the DPRK the Korean Christians Federation, Korean Buddhists Federation, the Korean Catholics Association, the Chondoist Association of Korea and Korean Council of Religionists.

Foreigners resident in the DPRK and expatriates are also given complete freedom of religion.

69. Provision of the Right to Life

In the DPRK, life and health of man are most highly valued and any act of violating them is never tolerated.

Man's life is fully protected from arbitrary arrest and execution by state institutions, organizations and individuals as well as from diseases and natural disasters.

No one is deprived of the right to life, which is guaranteed by the Constitution and the laws and regulations related with criminal cases.

Death penalty is imposed for the most serious crime on an extremely limited basis.

The state guarantees by law the inviolability of every part of human body.

Selling or buying organs of human body, fetuses and blood for the purpose of medical treatment constitute a crime.

The government, in order to prevent damage from contagious diseases, has invested an enormous amount of funds in developing vaccines and importing necessary medicines, and takes positive steps to minimize the damage likely to be caused by natural disasters.

70. Right Not to Be Subjected to Torture

It is strictly prohibited to intentionally torture, that is, to inflict physical or mental pain upon humans and to treat and punish them in an inhuman and degrading manner.

According to the criminal law, it is regarded as a

crime to interrogate suspects in an inhumane manner, especially by torture, exaggerate and fabricate cases, and deliver unjust judgments.

Serious punishment is dealt out to those who inflict a serious injury, cause death or impose penal responsibility upon a person by using torture or other illegal methods during interrogation.

71. Provision of the Right Not to Be Subjected to Slavery

The DPRK regards independence of a human being as his or her life and soul, and never tolerates slavery which deprives him or her of his or her independence.

There exist no such acts as human trafficking, prostitution and forced labour. If such acts are committed, severe punishment is meted out by law.

Those who employ minors under working age are subjected to criminal responsibility.

72. Provision of the Right to Personal Liberty and Security

The DPRK strictly prohibits arresting or detaining a person without a legal warrant.

The citizens are guaranteed inviolability of the person and the home, and privacy of correspondence.

No citizen can be placed under control or be arrested

nor can his or her home be searched without a legal warrant.

In accordance with the criminal law, when a person has been illegally arrested, detained or confined, his or her body or house searched, or his or her property seized or confiscated, the responsible person is subjected to criminal responsibility.

No one is deprived of his or her personal freedom without recourse to the conditions and procedures provided by the criminal law, the criminal procedures act and other regulations.

Anyone, who is to be arrested, is informed, at the time of arrest, of the reason for the arrest and suspicion.

A person who is arrested or detained has the right to stand trial or to be released within a prescribed period.

Those who have suffered damage from illegal arrest or detention have the right to demand compensations.

73. Provision of the Right to Fair Trial

All the people in the DPRK are equal before law and have the right to legal protection on an equal footing without any distinction. They are entitled by law to a fair trial at a competent and independent court organized by law in determining suspicion of any crime.

The state has set up an adequate number of competent and independent courts so as to guarantee the

right to fair trial, and empowered them to settle all criminal and civil cases in a fair and just manner.

All the suspects are presumed innocent until proved guilty by law. Once the suspected are found guilty, they are informed promptly of the charges, given enough time for defence and not examined with undue delay. They have the right to be provided with legal and interpretation assistance free of charge, and call for the presence of witnesses and their examination. They are not forced to give a statement against themselves or to confess. They also have the right to appeal against conviction and to receive compensations for misjudgment.

The state takes strong measures to prevent any institution from violating the independence of a court set up for the settlement of a given case. It also makes sure that unfair verdicts and decisions devoid of the independence of the court do not have legal effect.

74. Provision of the Right to Labour

All the citizens, who have reached the working age, irrespective of sex, nationality and social affiliation, choose their jobs according to their wishes and aptitudes and are provided with stable jobs and working conditions by the state.

When they have reached the retirement age (60 for

men, 55 for women) and are entitled to enjoy the benefits of the social security services, the working people may give up their jobs.

According to the characteristics of the working sectors, the DPRK makes differences of daily working hours into eight, seven and six hours, respectively.

The state has made it a rule to give education in labour safety to the working people who exercise the right to labour.

Newly-enrolled workers, workers who shift to new occupations within their factory and those who have violated or have not abided by labour safety rules and regulations are subjected to intense education in labour safety for five to twenty days in general. In particular, those who are posted to very harmful, dangerous jobs and heavy labour sectors do an internship for three months, receiving education in labour safety.

The country strictly enforces the socialist principle of distribution according to the quality and quantity of work done.

The working people are rewarded equally for the same work done, irrespective of sex, age and nationality.

They fully exercise the right to rest.

The right to rest is exercised through such systems as daily rest after 8-hour work, rest on Sundays and holidays, annual paid leave, supplementary leave,

maternity leave, and accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes at state expense.

75. Provision of the Right to Social Security

The DPRK gives preferential treatment to welfare beneficiaries and systematically increases investment in the social security sector so as to build up its material and technical means.

Relevant organs of the state make a thorough registration of the welfare beneficiaries and periodically pay pensions and allowances to them. They regularly learn about their living conditions and take necessary measures. They also make arrangements to help them and provide them with preferential treatment on several occasions.

In particular, the state makes efforts to establish a proper system of managing and operating such establishments for social security services as rest homes and recuperation centres, and steadily improve their conditions, thus fully ensuring the living conditions of welfare beneficiaries.

Thanks to the measures taken by the state, welfare beneficiaries are fully provided with conditions and environment for living without any inconvenience.

They receive regular health checkups. Should they need special medical care, they are taken to specialized

hospitals in time.

The state provides manpower, fund, equipment and materials necessary for the social security services in a responsible manner.

76. Provision of the Right to Adequate Standard of Living

The DPRK applies such a new form of remuneration as additional benefits by the state and society, together with the reward for work done, thus ensuring the right of the people to adequate standard of living.

Everyone in the country, from birth, has the right to food and is supplied with food grain at prices which are next to nothing.

The state builds dwelling houses for the people through its own investment in capital construction, and house rent is paid at prices which are next to nothing. Farmers are excluded from the payment of house rent.

The country makes efforts to guarantee the right of its people to adequate standard of living on a higher level by increasing agricultural production, developing light industry and bringing about a turn in construction.

77. Provision of the Right to Education

All the children in the DPRK receive compulsory general secondary education until they reach the

working age.

The local government and educational organs are obliged to identify all children at school age in the relevant areas and enrol them in schools. All the parents and guardians of school-age children are also obliged to send them to schools.

The local government organs take necessary measures to ensure that all children get access to compulsory secondary education including those with disabilities and those in remote mountain areas and on far-flung islands.

Education is free and the educational institutions are strictly prohibited from charging parents or guardians of children with fees for admission, lesson, study tour, internship and field trip.

The state grants scholarship to students at institutes of tertiary education, students under the genius education system and at schools for the deaf, dumb and blind. It also provides special scholarship to brilliant students, preferential scholarship to post-graduate students and in-service wages to students who are learning while working.

The state gives special attention to staffing educational institutions, building up the ranks of teachers, improving the contents and methods of education and providing educational conditions.

78. Provision of the Right to Participate in Scientific Activities

The state encourages all the working people to learn science and technology and actively engage in developing them, providing every necessary possible condition.

It encourages them to present inventions and innovative and productive initiatives, and properly evaluates them.

When scientific and technological problems arising in the development of production and upgrading of production lines have been resolved, the achievements are applied in good time to prove their effectiveness.

When a person makes outstanding contributions to the development of science and technology, he or she receives official commendations including honorary titles, even if he or she is a shop-floor worker, and bonus is also given if the achievements have brought economic profits to the state.

Intellectual property rights in the field of science and technology, including the right to copyright, invention, industrial design and trademark, are protected by law.

79. Provision of the Right to Participate in Cultural Activities

The DPRK fully provides the working people with

the right to create artistic and literary works.

The state pursues policies aimed at encouraging writers and artistes to produce works of high ideological and artistic value and the broad sections of the masses to take part in the artistic and literary activities.

National prize contests for art and literature and singing contest for the working people are held on a regular basis.

Sports have become mass-based and everyday life in the country.

Every organ, enterprise and institution has a non-permanent mass sports organization.

Sporting month and day have been designated.

Such places as parks and recreation grounds are furnished with facilities and apparatuses that are necessary for making sports mass-based so that the working people may not experience any inconvenience in getting involved in sports.

80. Provision of the Right to Health

The right of all the citizens to health is fully ensured by complete and universal free medical service and preventive medical care system.

All kinds of medical service—medication, diagnosis, experimental test, treatment, operation, doctors' visit, hospitalization and meals—are provided free of charge.

Preventive medical care including recuperation, delivery, checkup, consultation and vaccination is also free of charge.

The state sees to it that modern hospitals and clinics are evenly distributed in urban and rural areas, factories, enterprises, fishermen's villages and even in remote lumbermen's villages. Maternity, paediatric and other specialized hospitals and sanatoriums have been set up in various parts of the country, and necessary steps are taken to continuously improve the level of specialized medical service so that people can get easy access to medical service anywhere and anytime.

The state makes sure that organs, enterprises and institutions, including public health organizations, promote dissemination of and education in hygiene-related information so that people voluntarily keep sanitary environment, protect and preserve their health with scientific knowledge and take preventive steps against diseases.

In order to protect healthy living environment, measures are taken to prevent pollution, plant trees, increase green areas, and protect the air, rivers, streams and soil from harmful gases and other hazardous materials.

The state supplies labour protection items, including nutrients, as well as hygienic and protective tools to

workers to prevent occurrence of industrial diseases.

Hygiene regulations set by the state are strictly observed in the production and handling of goods including foodstuffs, and preventive measures are taken against epidemics.

Under the district doctor system, hospitals work out a record for every resident as soon as he or she is born. The record keeps his or her health conditions and history of preventive treatment. When a resident moves to another district, his or her medical record is automatically transferred to the hospital of that district.

81. Provision of the Right of Women

Women in the DPRK have equal rights with men and fully enjoy their independent and creative life in all sectors of social life.

They have the right to elect and be elected, and actively participate in the activities of the government organs.

Many of them are working as full-time officials in the ruling party organizations, state organs and social organizations.

The 12-year education system and tertiary education system, which are well established in the country, enable every person including woman to learn.

The free medical service system provides a greater

benefit for women.

The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, equipped with sophisticated and high-end medical facilities, assists women with safe delivery on the highest level. At the same time, it completely cures the inpatients of other diseases so that they can recover their health when they are in hospital.

The country takes measures for the working women on a preferential basis.

It is strictly prohibited to allocate women to the work places that are harmful to their health and unsuitable for their physical conditions. Night-time work is not allowed for nursing mothers and pregnant women.

Female workers with babies are allowed enough time for breast-feeding within the working hours.

82. Provision of the Right of Children

In the DPRK every child is entitled to have a name and receive care from the state and society and their parents from the time of his or her birth.

Children can join children's organizations including the Children's Union. They are free to express their views and opinions through publications and works of art.

Kidnapping and trafficking of children as well as child labour are strictly prohibited.

They have the right to receive the universal 12-year free compulsory education and to develop their talent and realize their hopes.

Children who are not under the care of their parents or guardians are brought up in baby homes, orphanages and boarding schools at state expense.

All expenses for making diagnosis, sample test, medication, inpatient treatment, recuperation and travel expenses to and from sanatoria, checkup, consultation, vaccination and prostheses are paid by the state.

Families duly respect children's opinions, and they are not allowed to commit such acts as ill-treating, remaining indifferent to, cursing, reprehending or beating children.

Violation of their right of inheritance, simply because they are children, is considered to be an illegal act.

83. Provision of the Right of the Elderly

It is a state policy to treat the elderly with respect and look after their life and health in a responsible manner.

The state steadily increases investment in the protection of the elderly, and strives to provide them with a civilized and happy life.

Obligations of supporting the elderly lie on their spouses and sons, daughters and grandchildren, who live together with them or not. Their brothers or sisters can

also be their supporters.

The elderly receive regular pension and allowances of various forms from the state. Even if they have their supporters, they may receive state support according to their wish.

They have the rights to possess and dispose of their personal property, receive regular checkup and treatment from public health organs in charge of them and other medical institutions.

They also have the right to be provided with conditions they need for participating in mass-based sporting activities of various kinds and forms, including rhythmic exercise and Taekwon-Do developed exclusively for them.

Those who are over 100 years old receive benefits the state stipulated separately.

Government organs at all levels have non-standing committees for caring the elderly in order to accurately carry out the policy on protecting the elderly.

The state has established the Fund for the Care of the Elderly and raises fund in various forms and by various methods.

84. Provision of the Right of Persons with Disabilities

The state provides persons with disabilities with

more favourable conditions and environment in medical treatment, education, cultural activities and labour and respects their personalities.

They can receive medical assistance in specialized or comprehensive treatment and recovery organs specially set up for them in necessary places.

Those at school age can learn in a special class organized in ordinary schools or in special schools such as those for the blind, dumb and deaf and for intelligence cultivation according to their physical and mental features and forms of disability.

Persons with disabilities have the right to be provided with special educational materials and equipment and facilities of special schools from the state.

They have the right to select jobs in conformity with the degree of disability, sex, age and physiological characteristics. They can work in enterprises or organizations, established exclusively for them.

They can select and play a sports event conducive to promoting their health and improving their abilities of independent activities. They can enjoy themselves at cultural and recreational centres built for them by the state.

The blind and other disabled persons who have limited independent abilities or have lost them are entitled to use means of public transport such as bus,

trolley bus, commuting train and ferry free of charge.

The state has set June 18 as the Day of Persons with Disabilities and, on this day, conducts a wide campaign to protect and support them.

85. View Related with Ensuring Human Rights at the International Level

In order to ensure human rights at the international level, each country and nation should defend its right to independence.

The issue of international protection and promotion of human rights was brought up by the very forces that infringed upon independence of other countries. The main obstacles to the international promotion of human rights these days are the moves by the US and the Western countries for “human rights protection.”

Every country and nation must never tolerate these schemes on the principles of respecting the right to national sovereignty and non-interference in one another’s internal affairs.

International human rights organizations should enhance their roles to address the issue of human rights at the international level.

Enhancing the role of UN General Assembly is important before anything else.

The General Assembly should make its contribution

to the promotion of human rights at the international level in conformity with the basic spirit of the UN Charter which has committed to respecting and guaranteeing human rights.

The interventionist and bellicose attempts for “human rights protection” committed by the US and the Western countries under the signboard of the UN General Assembly should never be tolerated.

In particular, the UN Human Rights Council, one of the subsidiary bodies of the UN General Assembly, should never be abused as a tool serving the interests of certain countries, and human rights situation in each country should be assessed in an objective and impartial manner.

86. View of and Stand on International Human Rights Instruments

At present, in many cases the US and the Western countries abuse the international human rights instruments as a means to justify their suppression of the rights of their people, and their invasion, intervention and human rights violations against other countries and nations.

As they were adopted representing the aspirations and demands of mankind to achieve their rights, the international human rights instruments must reflect

their interests and respect the opinions of each country and nation.

As the situation, conditions and standards on providing human rights vary from country to country, it is necessary to consider the intentions and requirements of the country concerned in interpreting and applying the international human rights instruments.

Each nation should not allow any violation of their sovereignty by outside forces in the interpretation and application of the international human rights instruments.

87. International Human Rights Instruments the DPRK Acceded to

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (acceded on July 30, 1981)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (acceded on July 30, 1981)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been abused as a tool for imposing political pressure and interfering in the internal affairs of the progressive and developing countries by the US and other Western countries after the Cold War, which attempted to pick a quarrel with the human rights situations in these countries and impose their own “human rights standards” on them.

Especially, at the 49th Session of the UN human rights sub-committee, the US and other Western countries openly attempted to slander and criticize the DPRK and interfere in its internal affairs by abusing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In this regard, the DPRK announced its decision to quit the covenant in August 1997.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (acceded on February 8, 2001)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (signed on August 23, 1990)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (signed on July 3, 2013)

88. International Cooperation in the Field of Guaranteeing Human Rights

The DPRK attaches due attention to the cooperation and exchanges with international organizations and countries in the field of guaranteeing human rights.

It provided convenience to members of Amnesty International, International Association against Torture, UN Commission on the Rights of the Child and Special Rapporteur on violence against women of the then UN Commission on Human Rights: it arranged for them to meet law-enforcement officials

and persons at reform institutions and to visit reform institutions and detention rooms so as to help them inquire into the actual human rights situation in the country.

After the establishment of diplomatic relationship with the European Union, the DPRK's human rights experts participated in all bilateral political discussions to give clarifications to questions raised by the EU.

The country has responded with good faith and tolerance to the questions raised by UN High Commission for Human Rights, human rights conventions implementing bodies and other human rights organizations under the UN and non-governmental human rights bodies.

89. Major Obstacles to the Promotion of Human Rights in the DPRK

The major obstacles to the protection and promotion of human rights in the DPRK are the hostile policy pursued by the United States and other Western countries against the DPRK and their "human rights" racket.

In other words, they are their moves to stamp out the country politically, blackmail it militarily and isolate and stifle it economically.

90. Moves by the US to Stamp Out the DPRK Politically and Their Aftermath

The hostile policy the US has maintained against the DPRK since the first day of the latter's founding constitutes the most serious external factor, the greatest obstacle, checking its people's ardent wish for achieving independent development and peaceful construction and enjoying genuine human rights.

Out of its ambition to occupy the whole of the Korean peninsula, the US has pursued this policy for decades.

Owing to the moves of the US, which regards the DPRK as its enemy and aggravates the situation on the peninsula, the Korean people's right to peace and development has been threatened seriously.

91. Moves by the US to Blackmail the DPRK Militarily and Their Aftermath

The Korean war the US unleashed and the incessant military provocations and war games it has committed subsequently constitute a crime against the right of the Korean people to live and develop in a peaceful and free environment.

The three-year war claimed the lives of 2 470 000 civilians in Korea.

The uninterrupted US moves to ignite a new war for

six decades after the Korean war have turned the Korean peninsula into a hottest spot on the planet.

This constitutes a serious challenge to the Korean people in enjoying their rights, and the country has had to concentrate its strength to defending itself and its people's right to independence.

92. Moves by the US to Stifle the DPRK Economically and Their Aftermath

The economic sanctions and blockade the US, in collusion with its vassal states, has imposed on the DPRK have been unprecedented in their viciousness and tenacity.

These moves are aimed, in essence, at isolating and stifling the country and destabilizing it so as to overthrow its system.

The moves the US resorts to by enlisting even its vassal states are a crime against human rights and humanity, which check the sovereign state's right to development and exert a great negative impact on its people's enjoying of their rights, a crime as serious as wartime genocide.

93. Nature of the Anti-DPRK Human Rights Campaign Led by the US

The US and its followers conduct the anti-DPRK

human rights campaign with an intention to mislead the public opinion and raise the non-existent “human rights issue” in the DPRK as an international issue, thus defaming the prestige of the DPRK in the international arena and toppling its socialist system under the veil of “defending human rights.”

As it has learned that military threats are helpless in bringing down the socialist system of the DPRK, the US is trying to internationalize the anti-DPRK human rights campaign by instigating its followers.

The smear campaign conducted by the US is, in nature, an acme of high-handedness and arbitrariness aimed at ignoring the political mode and social system established in the DPRK and changing them at any cost. It is also a brigandish act of destroying the very foundation of international human rights mechanisms.

94. Prospects for Guaranteeing Human Rights in the DPRK

Despite the continued moves of the US and its followers to isolate and stifle the DPRK, the government advances policies for the protection and promotion of human rights of the people and is making every effort to bring them into effect.

Thanks to the steadfast people-oriented policies

advanced by the government and its continued efforts to perfect the human rights instruments, human rights will be guaranteed on a higher plane in the DPRK.

95. Prospects for the Improvement of People's Living Standards

The genuine features and essential characteristics of a socialist economic giant the DPRK is going to build are not just that the country is highly developed in terms of productivity and national income; it must also be a people's paradise which provides its people with an affluent and civilized life.

The country is resolving all the problems arising in economic construction with the people's demands for and interests in independence as the yardstick. It attaches importance to the development of the sectors that are directly linked to improving the people's living standards, provides the working people with wonderful conditions for labour and material life, and steadily improves the people's living standards through the expansion of the people-oriented policies of the ruling party and the government.

The agricultural sector, fisheries and light industry are striving to increase production with an aim to make breakthroughs in improving the people's living standards.

96. Prospects for the Public Health Service

The socialist public health service system established in the DPRK is the most advantageous system, aimed at making the people work and lead a happy life in good health, free from worries about medical treatment.

The country plans to increase the average life expectancy of the population, reduce the prevalence of infectious diseases and bring other health indices into line with those of the world's most advanced countries, and provide the people with more hygienic living conditions and a healthier environment by developing the public health service.

It also plans to build modern hygienic and anti-epidemic establishments, focus on the prevention of infectious diseases, and encourage all hospitals to provide proper preventive care just as they do at specialist centres to reduce morbidity as far as possible.

It will boost the district doctor system to ensure that medical workers visit households and workplaces under their charge and take preventive steps against all types of disease in consideration of the ages and constitutional characteristics of the residents and working people, thus acting responsibly to protect their health.

Advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment will be introduced widely in keeping with the latest trends in health care. Western medicine and Koryo medicine will

be closely combined, the telemedicine system completed, and high-quality first aid and other medical services guaranteed.

Medical science and technology will be developed rapidly, and the supply of materials to the public health sector improved.

97. Prospects for Education

It is the determination and will of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea to make the DPRK a country of education and talents.

In order to attain this target, the country is building up the education system.

School organization will be further improved so that, in the period of general secondary education, students can be trained into the country's able talents who are equipped with the essentials of a revolutionary world outlook, exemplary general secondary knowledge and at least one modern skill. It plans to give education in various forms and in a substantial way to suit the economic and geographical features of the particular region and the individual character of each student.

Universities and colleges will produce large numbers of world-famous scholars. They will do so by setting up a rational education system that serves the purpose of training both academic and practical talents and by

developing the continuous education system.

In accordance with the requirement that all the people be well-versed in science and technology, the number of part-time institutions of learning, including factory, farm and fishermen's colleges, will be increased and the standard of the education they offer enhanced in order to make higher education accessible to a larger number of working people. In particular, the distance education system will be further improved so as to bring its advantages into fuller play. Education through TV and other mass media will also be of a high enough standard. Then all the working people can use a lifetime of learning to contribute to the country's prosperity.

The material and technical foundations of the education sector will be raised to the world level through a radical overhaul of the educational conditions and environment. The state will prioritize education and increase investment in the sector systematically, and the whole society will give positive assistance to the sector. Universities and other educational institutions at all levels will equip themselves with e-libraries and modern bases for conducting scientific research, experiments and internships, and operate them briskly.

Kim Il Sung University and other leading universities in the country will be developed into centres of education and scientific research and hubs of

international academic exchange, becoming a match for the world's first-rate universities.

98. Prospects for Construction

It is a policy of the government of the DPRK to set up world-class and many other structures that can contribute to improving the people's living conditions, providing the people with conditions for a more affluent and civilized life.

The construction sector is building monumental structures of lasting value, which embody the principle of prioritizing comfort and aesthetic beauty. They will be of the highest standard and built at the fastest pace, with the Workers' Party of Korea's Juche-oriented idea of architectural aesthetics as the guideline. It is also building up central and local design and construction forces, upgrading its means of design, construction equipment and tools, encouraging dry-process fabrication, and widely introducing zero-energy, zero-carbon and intelligent architectural techniques.

The building-materials industry is modernizing its factories and enterprises, ensuring both the specialized and traditional production of goods, and making the most of the latest technical advances, so as to diversify the types and range of building materials and produce them domestically

Construction of large-scale power stations and other capital construction projects are rolling full steam ahead.

Construction of modern dwelling houses and dormitories and construction for improving the conditions and environment for education are also in full swing.

99. Prospects for the Protection of Special Groups

Regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of special groups, including children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities, as an important task, the DPRK government is making strenuous efforts for its implementation.

In order to train all children to be able workers of the country, knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy, it is renovating the camps, palaces and halls for schoolchildren while providing updated teaching conditions and improving the contents of education.

On the principle of taking good care of the orphans in a responsible manner, the state pays attention to the growth, healthcare and education of the children in the orphan's primary and secondary schools and takes all measures necessary for the construction of baby homes and orphanages, the improvement of meals there and the provision of nutritional foodstuffs, clothes, school things, etc to them.

It also helps the Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged improve its work. In particular, it pays greater attention to the elderly with no caretakers.

The Korea Federation for Protection of Persons with Disabilities is expanding the scope of its activities. A number of measures are being taken for the early detection of disabilities and early recovery among children and for the development of art and sports and vocational education for persons with disabilities.

100. Prospects for the Perfection of the System of Human Rights Laws

The DPRK government will make constant efforts to perfect the system of human rights laws to give fuller play to the advantages of the people-centred socialism of the Korean style, on the basis of the experience and lessons gained in establishing human rights mechanisms so far.

It will develop the system of socialist human rights laws by stipulating afresh the omitted parts of the system, amending and supplementing the existing ones and formulating new rights in the direction of raising the effectiveness of human rights legislation to the maximum and fully reflecting the demands of norms of international human rights laws.

It will fully reflect the people's demands and

interests in working out human rights laws and encourage them to actively participate in this undertaking.

Officials in the legislation of human rights laws will be encouraged to have consultation with the masses, give an ear to their voice and accept their good opinions. The system of petition will be used more effectively so that everyone can present his or her opinion on the work of formulating new human rights laws or amending and supplementing the existing ones.

Collection of laws and other books on human rights, divided into several sectors, will be published and distributed on a regular basis to help citizens have a full understanding of the laws and regulations on human rights laws to be exercised in the state and social life.

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