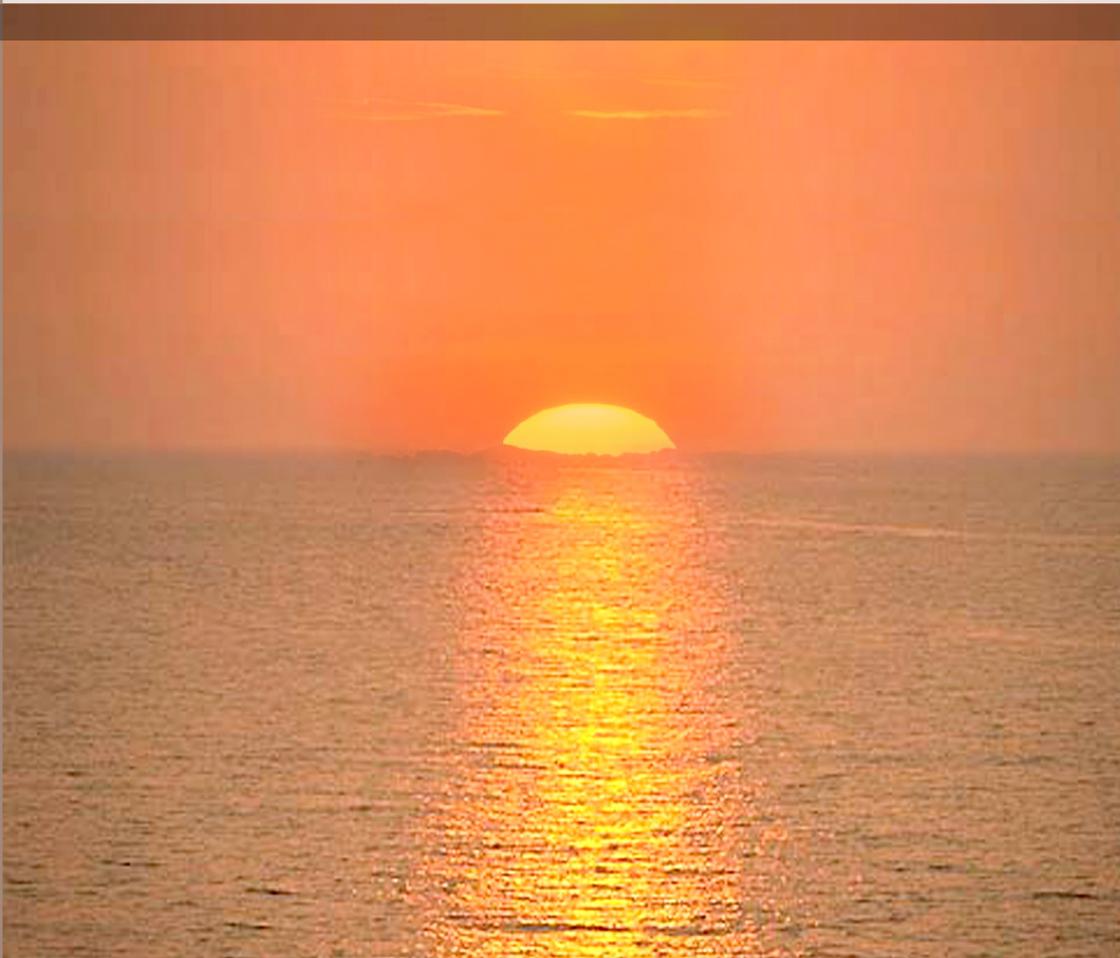


KIM JONG UN

IN THE
YEAR **2018**



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PREFACE

One year is just a moment in history.

However, in just one year, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a new strategic line on concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction was set forth at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and according to it the building of a powerful socialist country was accelerated under the banner of self-reliance and with science and technology as a propellant.

Progress was achieved in the struggle to carry out the line of establishing the Juche orientation of the national economy, and the great potential of the independent economy was displayed in reality by implementing many projects that brought joy to the people and improved the people's standard of living.

In 2018, in particular, there took place dramatic events like the three rounds of inter- Korean summit, three rounds of DPRK-China summit and the first-ever DPRK-US summit.

This created a new current towards reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and in the region that had been running towards the phase of confrontation.

How did such dramatic events which attracted world focus and attention take place?

We are going to find out the answer by following the activities of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un of the DPRK in the year 2018.

We hope this book will be of a help, though small, for the readers in picturing ideals and strength of the DPRK, their realization, and its power.

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1. ALONG THE PATH OF BUILDING A POWERFUL SOCIALIST COUNTRY

On the First Morning of the New Year

On the first morning of the year 2018, Kim Jong Un delivered a New Year Address to all the Korean people.

Recollecting with great pleasure and pride and deep emotion the proud achievements the Korean people performed in the previous year, he said: We are all seeing in the new year with renewed hopes and expectations; I wish families across the country good health, happiness, success and prosperity and hope that the beautiful dreams of all our people, including those of our children in the new year, would come true.

Reviewing the past year's achievements in all sectors of building a powerful socialist country, he noted that all these successes were a triumph of the Juche-oriented revolutionary line of the WPK and a precious fruition of the heroic struggle waged by our people and the service personnel who were firmly rallied behind the Party.

A revolutionary general offensive should be launched to achieve a fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country, he said, and set forth the tasks and ways to this end.

Clarifying the tasks for improving inter-Korean relations and making a breakthrough for the independent reunification of the country, he said: In the future, too, we will resolve all issues by the efforts of our nation itself under the unfurled banner of national independence and frustrate the schemes by anti-reunification forces within and without on the strength of national unity, thereby opening



Kim Jong Un delivering the New Year Address

up a new history of national reunification. I hope sincerely that this year everything would go well both in the north and in the south.

The WPK and the government of the Republic will develop good-neighbourly and friendly relations with all countries that respect our national sovereignty and are friendly to us, and make positive efforts to build a just and peaceful new world, he noted.

He said that the WPK and the government of the DPRK would never cease to struggle and advance until achieving the final victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche by relying on the trust and strength of the people, but surely hasten the future of a powerful socialist country where all the people lead a dignified and happy life, and appealed to all to march forward dynamically towards fresh victory of the revolution under the leadership of the Party.

The resounding voice of Kim Jong Un, delivering the New Year Address with conviction, gave the Korean people confidence in their hope for the future and final victory.

The New Year Address constituted a militant banner that illumined the path to achieving a fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country through a revolutionary general offensive in the year, which marked the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

Birthplace of Self-Reliance and Self-Development

In January, Kim Jong Un visited the State Academy of Sciences as his first field guidance in the new year.

He said: Last year our scientists and technicians made great research findings necessary for economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards; at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee I placed the front of science and technology above all other fronts; the main link in the whole chain of implementing the revolutionary counterstrategy



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the State Academy of Sciences

set forth by the plenary meeting is to give priority to science and technology; the main idea of the plenary meeting is to surmount the prevailing difficulties by giving precedence to science and technology.

He stressed that scientists and technicians should turn out as one in the campaign for creation and research to solve the scientific and technological problems which are of great significance in enhancing the independence and Juche character of the national economy and improving the people's livelihood, fully aware of the mission and tasks facing them.

He then looked around the materials of successes in scientific research displayed in the science exhibition hall.

Today the science exhibition hall is called the treasure house of self-reliance and self-development and the State Academy of Sciences, the birthplace of self-reliance and self-development.

Kim Jong Un's on-site guidance at the State Academy of Sciences demonstrated to the whole world once again the firm determination and will of the WPK to open the road of advance in building a powerful socialist country and accelerate the final victory of the Korean revolution by dint of science and technology.

“Pedigree Farm” for Training Teachers

In January, Kim Jong Un visited the reconstructed Pyongyang Teachers Training College. He familiarized himself with the reconstruction and modernization project and instruction and edification at the college while looking round the room dedicated to its history, education and science exhibition hall and other places.

Our Party attaches importance to teachers training colleges, he said, adding that he wanted kindergarten and school teachers trained by these colleges to be strong roots and sustenance for educating the rising generation, and that the students and graduates

of these colleges should bear this in mind.

Preparing the students as kindergarten and school teachers capable of conducting education of a higher level is the very goal the teachers training colleges should set and attain, and the normal education sector should regard this as an important policy-oriented task and direct primary efforts to it, he noted.

He then continued: The teachers training colleges must conduct efficient work for improving the contents and methods of education; without doing so, they cannot train outstanding talents; they must energetically push ahead with the work of improving the methods of education with the main emphasis put on upgrading the contents of education as required by the developing reality.

With the Pyongyang Teachers Training College wonderfully reconstructed in conformity to the requirements of the new era and its contents and methods of education put on a scientific, IT and modern footing, the DPRK became able to put education of the preschool and primary school children on a new scientific basis.

At the same time with a prototype of college education realized on a high level, it became possible to vigorously accelerate the revolution in education in the new era to make the country a land of education, a talent power.

Setting Forth a New Strategic Line

Under the guidance of Kim Jong Un, the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee was held in Pyongyang in April.

Kim Jong Un delivered the report on the first agenda item. He declared that the historic tasks put forth by the March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee had been fulfilled successfully, and advanced a new strategic line of the WPK on



Kim Jong Un at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK

concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction.

As our Party's line of pushing forward the two fronts simultaneously has emerged victorious, the new strategic line will also prove successful, he said. And he called for redoubling efforts to speed up the victorious advance of the revolution.

In the report on the second agenda item, he referred to the need to bring about a revolutionary turn in science and education, saying that the issue of concentrating all efforts on economic construction, which had been discussed as the first agenda item, was unthinkable separated from their rapid development.

Noting that to develop science and education is an undertaking aimed at carrying on the lifeline of the revolution successfully, he said that in order to develop the country in a sustainable and far-sighted manner, priority should be given to them and efforts be channeled into their development, not content with immediately visible successes.

He set forth the strategic slogan, "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" and specified tasks and ways to put spurs to building a sci-tech and talent power.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee, by putting forward a new strategic line in conformity with the demands of the developing Korean revolution, constituted a historic occasion that set up a new milestone for the struggle to build the country into a prosperous socialist one and bring the independent ideals and happiness of the people into reality.

Primary Efforts Must Be Directed

In July, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at Unit 5 of the Orangchon Power Station.

After acquainting himself with the state of operation of the

generators in the control room, he said that the time had come to manufacture a higher level of generators, stressing the need to introduce state-of-the-art technology used by countries that manufacture high-performance generating equipment.

He continued: North Hamgyong Province should work efficiently with its scientists and technicians; holding fast to the Party's policy on attaching importance to science and technology, it should build up their ranks, equip the producer masses with the advanced science and technology and improve education.

Informed of the state of the year's farming in the province, he said the province should make strenuous efforts to raise the unit-area yield of cereals and this demanded electricity as well.

Stressing that construction of the power station was a project that should be conducted by enlisting all human and material potential of the entire Party and state just like the construction of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, he stressed that North Hamgyong Province should conduct a daring joint operation between civilians and soldiers to finish its construction at an earlier date possible, and that construction of the Phalhyang Dam and Unit 4 of the power station should be finished by next year without fail.

Unit 5 of this power station has put electricity generation on a normal footing by maintaining its equipment in a good state of repair and operating them at full capacity, and is directing its primary effort to solving the problem of electricity of the province.

For a Boom in Offshore Fish Farming

In July, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at the Offshore Salmon Farm and the Atlantic Salmon Pedigree Farm.

Looking round the Offshore Salmon Farm, he underlined the need to positively introduce advanced technology in order to put



offshore and cage-net fish farming on a scientific and industrial basis and to direct big efforts to preserving the uncontaminated ecological environment of the sea at a high level so as to expand the water areas fit for breeding Atlantic salmon and produce the fish in large numbers in many different places.

The level of scientification, automation and modernization in the production of processed salmon should be elevated, the hygienic security and quality be strictly guaranteed and the standardization and specification realized, he said.

Touring the Atlantic Salmon Pedigree Farm, he pointed to the need to put egg collection, hatching and fry breeding on a normal track and intensify research into vegetable feed so as to ensure its mass-production, and to make steady efforts to establish a scientific pedigree preservation system and keep breeding fish from degenerating.

He also stressed the necessity to positively preserve the

marine resources and ecological environment of the country as an undertaking involving the whole Party, the entire state and all the people, carry on offshore farming and freshwater fish farming on an extensive scale and consistently press on with the large-scale stocking of fry.

With Offshore Salmon Farm and the Atlantic Salmon Pedigree Farm wonderfully set up, sufficient material and technological foundations were laid for ensuring its farming in a safe ecological environment.

Fruition of the Spirit of Patriotism

In July, Kim Jong Un visited the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery built by the local people.

Looking round the tree nursery, he said: We should call the entire Party and all the people once again to the forest restoration campaign, a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance, to cover the deteriorated mountains with green woods; Kangwon Province should continue to stand in the vanguard of this campaign; its tree nursery has an important role to play; as I have stressed recently, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and self-development is a propellant for us to develop most rapidly and our most valuable treasure and resource; all the people should hold high the banner of self-sustenance as the people of Kangwon Province do, and display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance so as to build a prosperous and powerful socialist country on this land.

Standing on the observation platform, he spoke highly of the view of the tree nursery, stressing that it was a fruition of the spirit of patriotism of the officials and working people of Kangwon Province who had built it by their own efforts with the belief



in their own strength, and that all other people should learn from the mettle of struggle and way of work of this provincial population.

To Take the Lead in the Country

In July, Kim Jong Un visited the Songdowon General Foodstuff Factory.

The factory, which began operation in January 2010, is producing 150 kinds of confectionery and processed foodstuffs favoured by the people.

Noting that this factory was gaining popularity recently and that the increasing popularity and demand for its products meant that the factory was working efficiently, he said that the officials and other employees of the factory should vigorously push forward with

putting its production on a regular footing and its management on a scientific and modern footing so as to enrich the people's life and prove the validity of Party policy.

He continued: As I have already said, Kangwon Province must not yield the first place in the efforts for implementing Party policy; the spirit of this province is a spirit of our days, which can be likened to the Chollima spirit that produced the era of Chollima in the days of postwar reconstruction; the essence of this spirit is self-reliance and self-sustenance; and its core is the view that Party policy must be implemented without any conditions attached and the stand that one must carve out one's way by one's own efforts with the attitude that no others can take one's place in implementing Party policy.

He stressed that Kangwon Province should always take the lead in the country in the political, economic, cultural and all other fields.

Today the province is setting examples in all these fields, and the whole country is emulating it.

To Provide the People with Delicious Fishes

In August, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at the Yonphungho Fish Stocking Station.

Lake Yonphung has favourable conditions for raising mandarin fish, so a breeding base for mandarin fish egg hatching and fry raising was built there.

Kim Jong Un said that in line with its mission as a breeding base, this station should mass-produce fry of mandarin fish and other fishes and release them into Lake Yonphung.

Stressing that protecting and propagating the aquatic resources



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Yonphungho
Fish Stocking Station

in the country is an honourable, patriotic undertaking for the coming generations, he said that fish breeding bases like this station should be built and managed efficiently, and a mass campaign for protecting and propagating aquatic resources should be conducted by relying on advanced science and technology.

If stocking and fishing is activated in natural water areas, we can supply our people with large amounts of fishes of high quality like mandarin fish after a few years, he said, and continued:

Cage-net fish farming should be encouraged in the reservoirs created after the construction of the tiered power stations on the Chongchon; provinces, cities and counties should be efficient in building fish breeding bases according to their specific situations and in releasing fry; only then can they steadily protect and propagate aquatic resources and improve the people's living standards.

After looking around the station he said the officials and other employees of the station should vigorously advance bearing in their minds the plans and intentions of the Party, so as to bring earlier the day when the lake would be full of mandarin fishes.

The officials and other employees of the station expressed their determination to increase the aquatic resources true to the Party's policy of protecting aquatic resources, so as to supply the people with larger amounts of delicious fishes.

As an Exemplary of the Medical Appliances Factory

While providing field guidance at the Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory in August, Kim Jong Un acquainted himself with the actual situation of public health service, and set forth the tasks and ways for developing public health work.



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Myohyangsan
Medical Appliances Factory

He said: The socialist public health system of our country is the legacy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung; improving public health work should be regarded as an important political issue to give full play to the advantages of the socialist system and the people-oriented policy of the country; we should ensure that these advantages are fully displayed by strengthening material supply to hospitals and the pharmaceutical and medical appliances factories and activating them.

After looking around the factory, he encouraged the officials of the factory, saying: Today I have come here to acquaint myself with the actual situation of the medical appliances industry and have necessary measures taken; backward things must be demolished to be replaced with advanced ones so as to outstrip others; you need not be pessimistic about your backward things.

He continued: I think it would be a good idea to renovate the Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory as a prototype for the factories of this kind in the public health field in order to modernize other medical appliances factories; after that we should make all the other medical appliances factories follow its suit.

He emphasized several times that the officials and other employees of this factory should take the lead in the public health sector and the medical appliances industrial sector of the country riding Chollima which he would send them.

As the Most Important University

In September, Kim Jong Un visited Kim Chaek University of Technology that marked its 70th founding anniversary.

After posing for a photograph with the teachers and researchers of the university, he said: The mission and duty of Kim Chaek



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at Kim Chaek University of Technology that marked its 70th founding anniversary

University of Technology is very important; the university is a “pedigree farm” and centre of training sci-tech talents of our country; our revolution advances when the graduates of the university play their proper role on all sites of economic construction, scientific research and technological development; the university should play the role of a locomotive and backbone in the revolution in the IT industry of the new era as befits its mission and duty, and become the most important university in training the driving force of our revolution.

While illuminating the tasks and ways for improving the conditions and environment of the university education, he said: In the future universities like this one should actively wage exchanges with the most prestigious universities of other countries; this university should raise the quality of education to a higher level, clearly set up objectives for the immediate sci-tech research work and achieve them; in this way, it can make the 70th anniversary of its founding an occasion for bringing about an upsurge in education and sci-tech research.

All the teachers and researchers of the university made up their minds to train a larger number of sci-tech talents who would shoulder the future of Juche Korea and bring about new leaps forward and innovations in the struggle to capture the fortress of cutting-edge science by cherishing great trust of the Party.

2. LEAVING IMPRINTS OF AFFECTION FOR THE PEOPLE

Even at the Cost of a Huge Sum of Money

In January, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at the Pyongyang Pharmaceutical Factory.

The country's pharmaceutical industry is now backward, but as we have strong sci-tech forces and a foundation of the chemical industry, we can bolster up the sector if research to obtain at home raw and other materials needed for the production of medicines is pushed ahead with and the pharmaceutical factories are provided with them, he said.

We should improve socialist public health service, the work for the promotion and protection of the people's health even at the cost of a huge sum of money, he noted, adding that this was not just a policy-oriented task facing the public health sector but the demand of our revolution.

Stressing that only when the people enjoy the tangible benefits of socialist public health service can they believe the Party's people-oriented policy on public health, he said that public health service occupies the first place in making them realize the advantages of the Party's people-oriented policy.

Renovation of the factory should be made an important occasion for developing the country's pharmaceutical factory, he said. He underscored the need to turn the factory into a model, standard factory in the country's pharmaceutical industry and to ensure that all other such plants in the country emulate it.



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Pyongyang
Pharmaceutical Factory

The officials and other employees of the factory, extending thanks to their Supreme Leader for visiting their workplace and showing close concern for the people's health by putting forward a higher target of modernization, made up their minds to brilliantly carry out the militant tasks he set forth.

For Solving the Problem of Passenger Transport in the Capital City

In January, Kim Jong Un inspected the renovated Pyongyang Trolleybus Factory.

The factory can save labour and electricity by realizing remote control of the trolleybus assembling lines and automating the production lines.

As a fine sci-tech learning area and designing room were laid out, the employees can not only train themselves to be skilled, intelligent workers with high sci-tech knowledge but also design trolleybuses of a high cultural level.

Kim Jong Un said solving the problem of passenger transport in the capital city was a very important undertaking to sustain the original features of people-centred socialism of our style and give rein to its advantages, and means of mass transport such as tramcars and trolleybuses should be modernized so as to make traffic more convenient for citizens of the capital city and spruce it up.

Seeing a new trolleybus standing in the factory yard, he said that it looked nice, and examined its exterior and interior.

Several days later, in the middle of the night, he took the trolleybus to look round the city.

Looking at the officials, he said that some days ago he saw the new trolleybus but could not figure out the performance and that he should try it otherwise he would be worrying because it was for the people.

He suggested examining its performance in detail in the people's stand whether there were any defect while riding the bus, and then got on it.

It is a great thing that we have built such a trolleybus by our own efforts, he said, and continued: On the bus made by our working class I really feel proud and I feel as comfortable as in my home.

Today I tried on the trolleybus of a new model and feel very satisfied with it, he said. He added that though there were some defects, he valued all the things, and that whenever he saw such creations made through self-reliance, he felt most pleased.

On August 3, Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Trolleybus Factory again.

After acquainting himself with the production and renovation of the factory, he said that we should struggle to pluck the stars from the sky if the people want us to do so and that was the program of our Party.

Then he went to the Songsan Tramcar Station to see a newly-built tramcar.

While looking at the inside of the tramcar, he highly appreciated the Guidance Bureau of Passenger Service in Pyongyang, the Pyongyang Trolleybus Factory and the Bus Repair Factory for having done a very worthwhile thing for the people.

After getting off the tramcar, he walked a little and turned back, saw it again, and repeatedly expressed his satisfaction, saying that it was built well, and that it looked handsome.



Kim Jong Un inspecting a new type of tramcar



Kim Jong Un guiding the test run of a new type of tramcar

That night he oversaw the test run of the new trolleybus and tramcar.

In the tramcar he said that we had built a new type of tramcar holding high the banner of self-development first, adding: It is quite a wonderful thing; how good self-reliance is; we should actively work to fully solve the problem of passenger traffic, the problem of mass transport.

In the trolleybus he carefully looked at its interior, and said that both the tramcar and trolleybus looked attractive, and the day was the happiest for him that year.

Today newly-built tramcars and trolleybuses are running on the streets of the capital city, demonstrating the might of self-reliance.

Base of Public Welfare Service Representative of Pyongyang

In June, Kim Jong Un looked round the newly-built Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant.

Furnished with different sizes of indoor tanks teeming with freshwater and sea fishes, dining rooms of various forms and counters selling processed fish, the restaurant cooks and serves on the spot various kinds of dishes of delicious fishes according to the order of visitors.

Saying that he had appreciated the design and building work on receiving the report on the construction of the restaurant from the sector concerned and that he came to see it with his own eyes, he spoke highly of the restaurant and named it the Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant.



Kim Jong Un looking round the newly-built Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant

Looking round different places of the restaurant, he expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the soldier-builders did another good thing for the people. He said that another public welfare base representative of Pyongyang like Okryu Restaurant made its appearance.

Looking at sturgeon, Ryongjong fish, salmon, rainbow trout and other delicious fishes swimming in indoor tanks and counters selling processed fish, he said the people would be delighted if they were served with delicious and nutritious dishes made with live fish and processed fish in all seasons.

While looking around a family dining room, Korean restaurant and others, he instructed that the facility should ensure that our working people enjoy foreign foods as well as traditional foods with their families and the foreigners on a visit to our country enjoy themselves there.

The Taedonggang Fish Restaurant is bringing pleasure to the people as a public welfare service facility.

Our Own Things Should Be Developed

In June, Kim Jong Un visited the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory.

Exchanging greetings with the factory officials, he said that he had longed to visit the factory renowned for its *Pomhyanggi*-brand cosmetics, but came only that day.

I have found time to come here on receiving the report that the factory has recently made a good achievement in production, he noted.

Then he continued: In recent years I have stressed the need to improve the quality of cosmetics and boost their production; the

cosmetics industry should regard it as its primary task to develop cosmetics by relying on our technology and raw materials and intensify research work to this end, thus developing new products competitively; in this way, each factory should sustain the characteristics of cosmetics it has developed.

Noting that the demands for cosmetics are different according to region, as well as age and gender of the people, he stressed that the Sinuju Cosmetics Factory should produce good basic cosmetics that suit the people's hobby by age and gender, and that it should build up what was weak and continue to develop what was good by comparing its products with those produced at home and abroad.

Saying that a product is appraised not only by its quality but by its famousness, he emphasized that such appraisal by the people is a reflection of their general psychology, and that if the factory improves the quality of its products, packages them in a diversified way and advertises them in an efficient way the people would prefer them to



foreign cosmetics.

Noting that we should make sure that the people reject worship of things of others and feel attachment to the things of our own making, he stressed that we should, however, not merely say our things are best but criticize those that are not good, and only then can we develop our own things.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory, improving the quality of its products and increasing their kinds in conformity with the preferences, ages and physical constitutions of the people, is playing a leading role in opening up a new golden age of the cosmetics industry of the country.

Major Goal of the Factory

In June, Kim Jong Un visited the Sinuiju Textile Mill.

The textile mill, which began operation in September 1959, has a long history and tradition in producing cloth necessary for the people's living.

The major goal in renovating the mill as suited to the new century is to turn it into a labour-saving enterprise, he said, adding that we should develop light industry so as to ensure that our people enjoy a happy and abundant material and cultural life to their heart's content.

He stressed that we should raise to a higher level the artificial fibre industry based on reed, saying improving this industry was of great significance in developing our light industry into a self-supporting and Juche-oriented industry.

He personally selected a site for the dormitory of the workers of the mill, and took measures for mobilizing competent construction forces.

To Turn Samjiyon County into a Model Cultured Mountainous Town

In July, Kim Jong Un gave on-site guidance at various places of Samjiyon County.

The first leg of his tour was the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory.

Stressing that factories that would produce potato farina should be built in the potato cultivation areas, he said: I tasted the farina produced by the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory, and it possessed the taste unique to potato; the demand for potato farina is quite high across the world and the demand would also increase in our country.

He inquired about the year's potato farming, and said that if the potato farina factory was to put its production on a normal track, the county should increase potato production, and that to this end the county should increase per-hectare yield by sowing seeds properly in season and tending the fields scientifically and technically.

While giving guidance at the Junghung Farm in Samjiyon County, Kim Jong Un looked round potato fields of workteam No.1 of the farm.

After acquainting himself with the mechanization rate of farm work, he said: You should first build up this farm as an exemplary unit of comprehensive mechanization and, on that basis, turn all other farms in the county into models for the country, where comprehensive mechanization is achieved on a high level and their working people's ideals have come true; you should not carry out this work with old standards; there should be new standards in line with the requirement of the era.

He continued: You should realize the wish of General Kim Jong Il, who was so concerned about potato farming in Ryanggang Province,

by actively introducing advanced technology and scientific farming methods while creating new methods that suit your county.

He repeatedly emphasized that Samjiyon County should make a phenomenal success in potato farming

The next leg of his tour was the construction sites in Samjiyon county town.

He said: Construction of Samjiyon County is a phase of a leap forward, revolution in the field of construction; now construction in local areas has not freed itself from the conventional method; with this project as a momentum, such type of construction should make a complete change; the on-going construction of Samjiyon County is a turning point in developing local construction.

He stressed the need to maintain the principle of thoroughly assuring the conveniences of the people and developing the characteristics of the mountainous area in the construction of the county.

Saying that the entire Party and state should pay due attention to the county construction, he noted that the county should do its share in the project as the master and that the county should not lose independence and the spirit of self-reliance on the plea that the construction project was undertaken under the nationwide support.

In August, Kim Jong Un visited the construction sites in Samjiyon County again.

He expressed great satisfaction, saying that it was only 40 days since he had come there, and that in the meantime a majestic town had begun to take shape in the county thanks to the strenuous efforts the builders had made with pure loyalty true to the Party's intention to facelift Samjiyon County into a wonderful mountainous town in the era of the Workers' Party.

He underscored the need to build up a modern town epitomizing

our socialist civilization just at the foot of Mt Paektu.

Feasting his eyes on a panoramic view of the seething construction sites, he said: We are hastening the great era with the really good people; I would go anywhere in the world with them without fear.

Then he asked the relevant officials to give his comradely greetings to all the builders.

Encouraged by this, the builders made miraculous achievements and innovations day after day with the determination to build up a civilized mountainous town, a people's paradise, just at the foot of Mt Paektu true to the intentions of their Supreme Leader.

In October, Kim Jong Un paid the third visit to Samjiyon County.

Looking round houses, service facilities and public buildings newly built in the county town area, he said: It is only a little over two months ago when I was here and saw their frameworks under construction, but now most of them have entered the phase of completion; I am greatly pleased to see that the county has taken on a wonderful look as a model cultured mountainous town.





Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Samjiyon
Potato Farina Factory



Kim Jong Un looking round newly-built houses, service
facilities and public buildings in Samjiyon County seat

He said that as he had always stressed, they should never emphasize speed alone out of subjective desire, and that like in all other undertakings, if quality was neglected particularly in a construction project, they will be subjected to criticisms for ever from the people and coming generations. He stressed that all buildings should be built as monumental edifices of lasting value in the era of the Workers' Party.

That day Kim Jong Un inspected the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory again.

Seeing a heap of potatoes that filled the storehouse to the full, he highly praised the county for having reaped a high yield despite the unprecedentedly adverse climate conditions that year.

He said in keeping with the mass production of potato farina, wide publicity should be given to its advantages and effectiveness and the method of making various foods with it among the people, so that they could actively use potato farina in their diet.

Highly praising the fact that the county had carried out the task he gave when he had visited the county in July to produce potatoes in large amounts in the native land of General Kim Jong Il in the meaningful year that marked the 20th anniversary of the Party's setting forth the policy of bringing about a radical turn in potato farming and to give a report on it to the General, he sat on the heap of potatoes to have a photo taken with leading officials of the province and the county and officials of the factory.

Initiative To Build a Large-scale Vegetable Greenhouse Farm

In July, Kim Jong Un, with a plan to have a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm built in Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, North



Kim Jong Un guiding the preparation on the spot for the construction of the Onpho greenhouse farm at Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province

Hamgyong Province, inspected the area where it would be built, before setting forth a far-sighted plan for its construction.

Seeing the vast fertile land, he said that it would be wonderful when a 100-hectare vegetable greenhouse farm was built there, and that such an area would fully satisfy the needs of the provincial people. He added he was very pleased when he did something worthwhile for the people one by one.

As it is a gigantic vegetable farm construction project, the first of its kind in the country, the Korean People's Army should take full charge of it and finish it at a lightning speed, he said. He underscored the need to ensure construction speed and quality at the same time and build it on the highest level as it was a farm the Party was going to have built with determination by making investment unsparingly for the people in North Hamgyong Province.

He called for building also farmers' residential quarters and cultural and welfare facilities in a modern and cultured way so that the farm village could be a model in the construction of the socialist rural culture, a socialist paradise, good to live and work in.

In August, Kim Jong Un came to the spot again to acquaint himself with the preparations for the construction of the Onpho Greenhouse Farm.

Given the huge area of the farm, he noted, it is needed to turn the area into one that embodies the Party's people-oriented and patriotic policies by setting up a modern tree nursery as well, which was similar to that of the Kangwon Provincial Tree Nursery.

He underscored the need to deeply study the world's trend of science and technology and advanced sci-tech materials on greenhouse farming so as to work out the most reasonable plan that would suit the specific conditions of the country and build the greenhouse farm at the highest level.

He said that the province should give priority to building up the ranks of the farm management personnel, technicians and employees alongside the construction of the greenhouse farm and tree nursery so as to prepare them to start production and operation immediately after the completion of the project.

To Make Quality Products

In July, Kim Jong Un visited the Wonsan Honoured Disabled Soldiers' Bag Factory.

Noting that bringing up the rising generations as dependable heirs to the revolution is a consistent policy of the WPK, he said that the Party had advanced the idea of attaching importance to educating the rising generations and has been making efforts to provide the children and students across the country with our school things, uniforms and bags in the face of difficult conditions just to ensure that they grow up to be the pillars of the country enjoying the benefits of the socialist system to their heart's content.

We should ensure that our children and students use things of our own making and everything needed for educating the rising generations should be provided even at state expense, he said, adding that this has an important bearing on implanting the spirit of patriotism in the people from their childhood.

He continued: Bearing deep in mind the Party's intentions, officials should devote much effort and work in a responsible way to improve the quality of school bags; they should make these bags as the children's and students' mothers would do; it is a wish of parents to give their children with good bags; it is the Party's intention that all bags should be made with the feeling of mothers.



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Wonsan Honoured Disabled Soldiers' Bag Factory

He said that as most of the factory employees were honoured disabled soldiers, good conditions and environment for living and working should be provided, stressing that the honoured disabled soldiers who are working with their former spirit of defending the country should be given preferential treatment in society so that they can devote their warm feeling for the rising generation in a worthwhile way.

After his on-the-spot guidance, the factory brought about innovations to produce more school bags of better quality.

Respect to the War Veterans

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, Kim Jong Un visited in July the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

Kim Jong Un paid a silent tribute to the memory of fallen KPA soldiers who dedicated their precious lives to the sacred war for the Party, revolution, country and people.

Saying that the indomitable fighting spirit and heroic feats of the martyrs who defended the Party, revolution, country and people at the cost of their lives would go down in the history of the country for ever, he expressed his conviction that all the service personnel, Party members, working people and younger generations would reliably carry forward the history and tradition of invincibility of powerful and dignified socialist Korea.

Kim Jong Un met with the participants in the Fifth National Conference of War Veterans in front of the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

He made a deep bow to all the war veterans, and said that thanks

to the immortal exploits of the defenders of the country of the 1950s who had brought about the victory of July 27 by fighting bravely with fervent loyalty to the Party and country and passionate patriotism, the DPRK had been able to make a dynamic advance towards the high peak of a socialist power, demonstrating its might as a dignified country of the people.

He expressed his expectation that the war veterans would be as spry as ever and add brilliance to every moment of their life as excellent teachers and edifiers who implant the spirit of defending the country and revolution, which had been cherished by the heroic soldiers of the 1950s, in the hearts of younger generations, before having a photo session with the participants in the conference.

Farm with Great Profitability

In August Kim Jong Un visited the Samchon Catfish Farm.

The officials and other employees of the farm had spruced up their enterprise and overfulfilled the annual production plan by giving free rein to the fighting spirit of self-reliance based on modern science and technology.

He noted: This farm is the frontrunner in the country's catfish breeding; General Kim Jong Il had it built to supply plenty of fish to the people and service personnel in the early period when he opened up a new history of catfish culture; the farm should demonstrate the honour as a farm that contributes actively to improving the dietary life of the people and service personnel and as a farm that substantially gives benefits to them, by producing catfish every year at full capacity, now that it has been renovated by the Party with much care.

Seeing the blocks of frozen catfish in the cold storage, he said that



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Samchon Catfish Farm

they looked like stacks of gold ingot, repeatedly praising the farm as a real treasure farm. He stressed that all the officials and other employees of the farm should greet the 70th anniversary of the DPRK with proud achievements by boosting production while burning their hearts with one mind to defend and implement the Party's policy on fish culture.

The farm is waging a vigorous struggle to overfulfil the target of catfish production upholding the banner of putting catfish breeding on a Juche-oriented, scientific, intensive and industrial footing.

Treasure House on the West Coast

In August, Kim Jong Un inspected the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory.

He had initiated building a factory producing pickled fish in an industrial way for the first time in the country, and guided its construction at Kumsanpho.

Looking at the trial products in the exhibition room of products, he said that there were so many kinds of pickled fish, and that some of them were made from the same fish. He highly appreciated that they were packaged well and diverse in form enough to bring water to one's mouth, saying that he could see profound research had been made for pickling fish.

Seeing the pickled products that filled the storehouse, he said that it was really a wonderful scene and that at first he had been worried about whether the factory would be productive as it was the first fish pickling factory in the country, but now he felt confident as he saw the pickled products in heaps. He added that he felt pride and dignity at the thought that the products would contribute even a bit to improving the people's dietary life.



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory

Looking round the storehouse for a long time, he said that the factory was a treasure house on the west coast for the betterment of the people's dietary life, highly appreciating the feats of the officials and other employees of the factory, who had added glory to the 70th anniversary of the DPRK with proud achievements in production and given encouragement to the Party by making devoted efforts by dint of the spirit of self-reliance and of science and technology, and offered thanks to them.

As a People's Resort

In August, Kim Jong Un provided field guidance at the hot spring area in Yangdok County, South Phyongan Province.

High in temperature, rich in sulfur content and extremely small in radon content, the county's hot springs have been estimated not only as ones with considerable amounts of gush and great pharmacological actions and treatment efficacy but also as uncontaminated ones free from ammonium, nitrous acid, nitric acid ion and pathogenic microorganisms.

So the country, with a determination to develop this area into a comprehensive recuperation and recreational resort, directed great efforts to the project.

Kim Jong Un went round the hot springs in the Onjong-ri area, climbing high and low mountains and steep passes despite pouring shower, to learn about the amounts of gush and the surrounding environment.

Yangdok County is a place appropriate for building a health resort for its high mountains with lush and fresh verdure, clean air and beautiful scenery as well, he said, designating the site for a hotel. He



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the construction site of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort in South Phyongan Province

also pointed to the need to build individual lodgings and different kinds of modern welfare service facilities around the hotel and outdoor bathrooms for diverse hot spring services.

Only when the service personnel of the People’s Army, creators of the people’s happiness and pioneers of civilization, undertake the development project of the area, can the project make a fast progress as intended by the Party, he said, adding that the KPA should take full responsibility for the project and present it to the people.

In October, Kim Jong Un again provided field guidance at the construction site of the hot spring resort in Yangdok County, South Phyongan Province.

Expressing his satisfaction on hearing the report that the service personnel who had arrived at the construction site were on standby with all preparations for the project made in high spirits, he said that he felt relieved as the project planned by the Party was entrusted to the combined unit of the KPA, which was powerful and experienced.



He encouraged the officers and men of the unit famous for their a–match-for-a-hundred combat efficiency to be in the spotlight by demonstrating their mettle once again in the construction of the hot spring resort without fail and to live up to the Party’s expectations and trust.

We are undertaking a number of projects for the cultural and leisure activities of the people and this is not because we have especially advantageous conditions or are rich, he said. Each of them is a creation that is being set up in the face of all difficulties according to the firm determination and strong will of the Party to put our people who are best in the world on the peak of socialist civilization at an early date, he noted, adding that the service personnel should wonderfully build another structure for the people as the one that we can be proud of in the eyes of the world, as befit their admirable sons and daughters and the creators of their happiness, bearing deep in mind the trust of the Party which entrusted to them the whole project, the first of its kind in the history of the country.

Cherishing the trust of the Supreme Commander in mind, the service personnel turned out as one to accelerate the completion of the project.

Gift for the People

In October, Kim Jong Un gave on-site guidance at the near-to-inauguration Samjiyon Orchestra Theatre.

The Moranbong Acrobatic Theatre, with the longest history among the theatres in the country, had been renovated as the one for the Samjiyon Orchestra with a perfect natural acoustic auditorium and without changing its unique architectural style.

Looking round the exterior and interior of the theatre for hours, he



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the near-to-inauguration
Samjiyon Orchestra Theatre

listened to the rendition by the Samjiyon Orchestra in various places of the auditorium and compared the acoustic characteristics.

He said that the sound in the auditorium was so wonderful and the natural sounds of musical instruments were sustained without any change, adding that the rendition of orchestra was heard clean and delicate and it gave emotionally comfortable feelings thanks to good sounds, which also added up to the elegance of the orchestra. He expressed great satisfaction, calling the theatre an innovative and successful one in terms of architectural acoustics.

Saying that the theatre would be another wonderful gift for the people who were greeting the 73rd anniversary of the WPK, he congratulated all the artistes of the orchestra on receiving a new theatre.

The officials and other employees of the theatre made up their minds to maintain the theatre, a precious treasure and property of the people, in a proper way and conduct service activities on the highest level, thereby giving fuller play to the advantages of the people-centered socialist system of their country.

Calling on the Pioneers Who Created the History of “Gold Seas”

Kim Jong Un gave field guidance at the fishing stations in the east coastal area in November.

First he inspected the May 27 Fishery Station.

Saying that he was receiving every day a report on fish catching by the fishing stations in the east coastal area in the intensive winter fishing campaign, and that he came to meet the fishermen to encourage them as he had been greatly pleased on receiving the report that they had caught a large amount of fish in a short span of time, he personally

got aboard Hwanggumhae-014, and congratulated its captain and fishermen who had returned with a big fish haul.

Expressing great satisfaction at the sight of the unloading of fresh fish from vessel and the fish streaming out to an outdoor area, he called the fishermen and other employees, saying that he wanted to have a photo taken with them against this wonderful scenery.

Seeing the fish blocks that filled the freezing storehouse, he said they looked like a “treasure mountain” and “gold ingots” and the storehouse had almost been filled with fish in a few days of the intensive fishing campaign. He said that if the fish were caught as it was now, the storehouse would not be large enough to store the caught fish, and underscored the need to increase the quick-freezing capacity 2-3 times on an annual basis.

He then inspected the August 25 Fishery Station.

This fishery station is the birthplace of Tanphung fishing vessels and of the history of “gold seas.”

This station was the one where the Party had kindled the first flames of a campaign for making a breakthrough on the fishing front when the country’s fishing sector fell into stagnation, and since the first departure of Tanphung fishing vessels here the fierce flames of a new mass-based innovation campaign flared up in the fishing sector of the People’s Army and the history of “gold seas” began.

Looking round the freezing storehouses, he expressed great satisfaction over the fact that each of them was filled with thousands of tons of fish.

He expressed his expectation and conviction that the officials and other employees of the station would continue to follow the course of making the history of “gold seas” as befits the pioneer, model unit, that kindled a new torch in fish catching, before having a photo taken with them.



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the fishery stations in the east coastal area

The last leg of his tour was the January 8 Fishery Station.

The station was set up to supply fish on a regular basis to the children in all baby homes, orphanages, students of primary and secondary schools for orphans and the elderly of the old people's homes across the country.

Noting that when the January 8 Fishing Station was set up he gave a task to supply 300g of fish every day to every child in all baby homes and orphanages, every student of primary and secondary schools for orphans and the elderly of the old people's homes across the country, he said it should increase the daily supply to 400g by waging a vigorous struggle.

Saying that he gave top priority to the station, he expressed his expectation and conviction that the station's officials and other fishermen would work a new miracle and innovation, standing in the vanguard of the country with a high sense of dignity and pride in carrying out the honourable task.

Kim Jong Un's on-site guidance at the fishing stations in the east coastal area encouraged their officials and other employees to lead the fishery sector of the country by continuing to write brilliant chapters in the history of "gold seas."

Into a Leather Shoes Factory Well Known All over the Country

In December, Kim Jong Un inspected the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory.

Exchanging greetings with the factory officials, he said that he was so pleased to hear the report that this factory had won the first place at the recent national shoes exhibition, and that *Maebongsan*-brand



Kim Jong Un giving field guidance at the Wonsan
Leather Shoes Factory



shoes presented by the factory had been very popular. He added that a small local factory had become well known all over the country as an iconic factory leading the shoe-making industry of the country.

Looking round the shop floors of the factory, he stressed that in order to meet the daily-increasing people's demands, it was necessary to keep pushing forward the effort of attaining the world level in quality with an emphasis put on ensuring diverse forms, decent colours, lightness and durability while meeting the aesthetic tastes of our people.

Noting that he looked round the factory with satisfaction, he said that he had come to the factory without prior notice but saw a "bumper harvest" of shoes, and that he was very satisfied and pleased to see the production put on a normal track and cascading good-quality shoes.

Today the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory is making strenuous efforts to produce more shoes, which people favour and seek before others, upholding the banner of self-reliance.

3. WRITING A NEW HISTORY OF INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

As an Auspicious Event Common to North and South

In his New Year Address for 2018 Kim Jong Un said: This year is significant both for north and south as in north the people will greet the 70th founding anniversary of their Republic as a great, auspicious event, and in south the Winter Olympic Games will take place; in order to celebrate these great national events in a splendid manner and demonstrate the dignity and spirit of the nation at home and abroad, we should improve the frozen inter-Korean relations and glorify this meaningful year as an eventful one that will be significant in the history of the nation.

He continued: The Winter Olympic Games to be held soon in south Korea will serve as a good occasion for demonstrating our nation's prestige, and we earnestly wish the Olympic Games a success; with this in mind, we are willing to dispatch a delegation and take other steps as necessary; with regard to this matter, the authorities in north and south can meet soon; since we are compatriots of the same blood as the south Koreans, it is natural for us to share their pleasure over such an auspicious event, and help them.

With this as an occasion, inter-Korean high-level talks took place on January 9 at the House of Peace on the south side at Panmunjom, which sincerely discussed the principled matters in making the 23rd Winter Olympics in south Korea a success and improving inter-Korean relations and then adopted a joint press release.

In February a high-level delegation of the DPRK participated in

the opening and closing ceremonies of the 23rd Winter Olympics to celebrate the great event of the nation, and the participation of the north's delegation of National Olympic Committee, sports team, cheering group, Taekwon-Do demonstration team and press corps in the Olympics drew attention from home and abroad.

In particular, the congratulatory performance by the art troupe of the north side, ceremony of entering the sports village by the women's brass band of the cheering group, joint entrance to the venue of the opening ceremony by the sportspeople of north and south with the One Korea flag at the head amid the playing of *Arirang* and demonstration by the Taekwon-Do players furthered the atmosphere of the Olympics and fully displayed the Korean nation's ardent desire and strong will for reunification before the world.

On February 10, when he met the north's high-level delegation at the Blue House, south Korean President Moon Jae In said he extended his sincere gratitude to Chairman Kim Jong Un for providing the present meaningful seat, adding that the current visit of the north side's delegation kindled the fire for improvement of inter-Korean relations and peace on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that the issue of inter-Korean relations had to be settled by the responsible parties as Chairman Kim Jong Un had said in his New Year Address, he expressed his will to advance step by step towards common prosperity of north and south in close cooperation with each other.

Setting Forth the Direction of Improved Relations

On February 12, Kim Jong Un met members of the high-level delegation of the DPRK who had visited south Korea.

He was reported in detail about their activities including the participation in the opening ceremony of the 23rd Winter Olympics,

visit to the Blue House, result of contacts with President Moon Jae In and other high-ranking figures and the intention of the south side and the tendency of the US side which had been grasped during the period of visit.

He expressed his satisfaction at their report. He stressed the need to continue to produce good results by further elevating the atmosphere favourable for reconciliation and dialogue that had been produced by the burning desire and common will of north and south on the occasion of the Olympics, set the direction of the future improvement and development of inter-Korean relations and gave the concerned sectors instructions on taking practical measures to this end.

He also met members of the Samjiyon Orchestra who had returned after giving a successful congratulatory performance for the 23rd Winter Olympics in south Korea, and warmly congratulated them on their success in performance that had conveyed the warm minds of the people in northern part of Korea who wished success in the 23rd Winter Olympics and the unity of the nation and made the south Korean people happier.

Following the road of reconciliation and unity opened by the lofty will of Kim Jong Un to vigorously advance inter-Korean relations by pooling the efforts of the Korean nation, a south Korean presidential mission and art troupe came to Pyongyang one after another.

A Historic Meeting

The historic third inter-Korean summit was held at the House of Peace on the south side at Panmunjom on April 27, which opened a new era of reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity of the nation by alleviating the bitter pain of the nation with the warm wind of spring and bringing joy and hope to the whole nation.

Chairman Kim Jong Un crossed the demarcation line at Panmunjom and had photographs taken with President Moon Jae In

against the background of the Panmun House of the north side and the Freedom House of the south side, respectively.

The top leaders crossed the line back to the north side and took another handshake before heading for the House of Peace, the venue of talks in the southern area of Panmunjom.

As the first of its kind in the national history, the emotional scene of their free coming and going to north and south hand in hand struck the world with wonder and admiration.

It was the historic will of Kim Jong Un to put an end to the protracted division and confrontation, an outcome of the cold war era, as early as possible, to open a new era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity with determination and to improve and develop inter-Korean relations more positively.

At the talks Kim Jong Un, referring to the very meaningful meeting with Moon Jae In at Panmunjom, symbolic of national division and confrontation, said that such a meeting at that special place would constitute an occasion for bringing hope and dream for the future again to all the people.

Noting that he felt once again the sense of mission and duty before the nation to put an end to the history of division and confrontation and usher in a new era of peace and reunification, he said: Today I have come here with the feeling of firing a signal flare at the starting point of writing a new history.

President Moon Jae In said that the weather was fine as if congratulating their meeting, adding that Panmunjom had turned from a symbol of division into that of peace the moment Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission crossed the demarcation line.

Prior to the talks, Kim Jong Un wrote on the visitors' book of the House of Peace in commemoration of the summit:

“A new history starts now. At the starting point of the history, an era of peace.

Kim Jong Un, April 27, 2018”



Chairman Kim Jong Un crossing the demarcation line at Panmunjom with President Moon Jae In



Chairman Kim Jong Un unveiling a marker with President Moon Jae In after commemorative tree planting

Kim Jong Un planted a pine tree, symbolic of “peace and prosperity,” together with Moon Jae In at Panmunjom, once a land of confrontation and tension, in commemoration of their historic third inter-Korean summit.

They jointly mixed soil from Mts Paektu and Halla and poured water from the Taedong and the Han, prepared by the north and south sides, respectively, over the tree.

Kim Jong Un meaningfully suggested properly cultivating the trend of hard-won inter-Korean rapprochement with the tree as a token, out of a determination to sacrifice themselves like compost and soil that would fertilize it and cover its precious roots and to become the windbreak that protects it from rain and wind, and carving out the future with a concerted effort in the spirit as strong as the evergreen pine tree.

A marker was erected beside the tree in the name of Chairman Kim Jong Un and president Moon Jae In, which reads: “Peace and prosperity are planted.”

Chairman Kim Jong Un signed with President Moon Jae In the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula, and exchanged the documents and made a joint presentation on it.

The declaration reads that north and south will make an all-round and epochal improvement and development in their relations so as to reconnect the severed blood vessels of the nation and bring earlier the future of co-prosperity and independent reunification, work together to ease the acute military tension and substantially remove the danger of war on the Korean peninsula, and closely work together to build a permanent and durable peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

North and south shared the view that the proactive measures taken by north were very important and crucial for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and agreed to fulfil their own responsibility and role and to work hard to win support and cooperation from the international community for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The two leaders agreed to frequently have a serious discussion of matters of national importance and build up trust through regular talks and hotline, and to make concerted efforts to further expand the favourable trend towards the sustainable development of inter-Korean relations and peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The historic Panmunjom Declaration brought hope for reunification once again to the entire Korean nation.

The south Korean people from all walks of life said: While watching the inter-Korean summit on TV, I shed tears before I knew it; it was a moving scene; the door to peace is open; it was a very exciting historic moment; 70 years of separation could not divide the soul of the Korean nation; we pay our sincere tribute to the heads of both north and south for the agreement worthy of note in the history of the world.

Various political parties and civic organizations made public statements and talks, saying that the Panmunjom Declaration further advanced the inter-Korean relations by cutting the rings of division and discord of 70 years, and that they would do their best to implement it.

Leaders of various countries unanimously expressed their welcome to the Panmunjom Declaration: Very good things are taking place; it is a positive news; we expect detailed measures.

Major mass media of the world reported: Chairman Kim Jong Un visited the southern part for the first time as a north Korean leader; it was an unbelievable moment, an unprecedented scene.

At Panmunjom Again

On May 26, 29 days after the third inter-Korean summit, the fourth north-south summit took place like lightning at the Thongil House in the north side area of Panmunjom.

At the talks there was an in-depth exchange of views on matters, which should be resolved to quickly implement the Panmunjom

Declaration agreed upon at the third north-south summit, realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and achieve regional peace, stability and prosperity and those north and south were faced with, and on the successful holding of the upcoming DPRK-US summit.

Kim Jong Un thanked Moon Jae In for his great efforts for the DPRK-US summit scheduled for June 12, and expressed his firm will to hold the DPRK-US summit.

He suggested working positively together to improve DPRK-US relations and build a lasting and durable peace regime on the Korean peninsula.

The fourth north-south summit was recorded as another historic event in the history of the Korean nation.

Inter-Korean Summit in Pyongyang

Chairman Kim Jong Un warmly greeted south Korean President Moon Jae In, who came to Pyongyang for the historic fifth north-south summit, at Pyongyang International Airport on September 18.

Along the streets, more than 100 000 Pyongyang citizens welcomed with compatriotic feelings Moon Jae In and his party, and Kim Jong Un guided the south Korean President and his wife to the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse.

The historic fifth inter-Korean summit took place on September 18 at the office building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

At the talks there was an in-depth exchange of views on various matters for further accelerating the inter-Korean relations by implementing the Panmunjom Declaration in a comprehensive way.

On September 19, Kim Jong Un visited the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse, where south Korean President Moon Jae In was staying, to hold the second-day talks.

The talks reaffirmed the will of both sides to implement the

historic Panmunjom Declaration to the letter, formulated important matters to be maintained in implementing the declaration and detailed measures as well, and agreed on a series of immediate practical steps to be taken by north and south.

The top leaders had an in-depth discussion of ways of steadily taking measures, which meet the requirements of the era of reconciliation and cooperation and fully guarantee the current development of relations, on the basis of the precious successes and experiences they had gained as they dramatically reversed the inter-Korean relationship of extreme hostility and confrontation and brought about startling changes and fruits by making sincere efforts with the viewpoint and attitude of pooling minds and intentions and respecting and trusting each other.

On September 19, Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Moon Jae In shared the understanding that the Pyongyang summit would mark an important historic turning point, and signed the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration.

The declaration reads as follows: The north and the south decided to lead the termination of military hostility in the areas of confrontation including the Demilitarized Zone to the substantial removal of the danger of war and fundamental eradication of hostility in the whole of the Korean peninsula; the north and the south decided to take practical measures to further boost exchanges and cooperation and to develop the nation's economy in a balanced way on the principle of mutual benefits and common interests and prosperity; the north and the south decided to further promote humanitarian cooperation for the fundamental settlement of the issue of separated family members and their relatives; the north and the south decided to actively promote cooperation and exchanges in various fields so as to stoke the atmosphere of reconciliation and unity and demonstrate at home and abroad the stamina of the Korean nation; the north and the south shared the view that the Korean peninsula should be turned into a peace zone free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat and necessary practical progress should be made as early as possible to this end; Chairman



Chairman Kim Jong Un greeting President Moon Jae In at Pyongyang International Airport on the latter's visit to Pyongyang



Chairman Kim Jong Un posing for a photograph with President Moon Jae In after signing the historic September Pyongyang Joint Declaration

Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission agreed to visit Seoul in the near future at the invitation of President Moon Jae In.

As for the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, Kim Jong Un said that the declaration reflected the mind of the nation full of new hope, the spirit of the fellow countrymen burning their hearts with the strong will to reunify the country and the dream of all of us which would come true before long.

And he expressed his determination to always take the lead in the sacred journey toward peace and prosperity hand in hand with President Moon Jae In.

Moon Jae In, affirming in his statement that inter-Korean relations would make steady progress, expressed his joy over the fact that the seeds of peace and prosperity had been sown on the Korean peninsula last spring and the fruits of peace and prosperity were being borne in Pyongyang this autumn.

On September 19, Chairman Kim Jong Un saw a grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance together with President Moon Jae In at May Day Stadium.

Amid the playing of the melody of *Arirang* that left deep imprints in the history and culture of the Korean nation, a large One Korea flag was hoisted and a special act was presented to welcome President Moon Jae In.

The stadium was brimming with enthusiasm for national reconciliation and unity when the background screen showing significant moments of Panmunjom summit highlighted the great significance of the April 27 Declaration once again.

After the performance was over, Kim Jong Un said that he had reaped another fruit representing a fresh landmark in the development of north-south relations at the meeting with President Moon Jae In and expressed thanks for his tireless efforts.

Moon Jae In extended his sincere gratitude to the Pyongyang citizens for warmly greeting him and his party and according them cordial hospitality with compatriotic feelings, and expressed his



Chairman Kim Jong Un walking along the shores of Lake Chon with President Moon Jae In



Chairman Kim Jong Un strolling along Lake Samji with President Moon Jae In

determination to improve the inter-Korean ties in an all-round way so as to bring earlier the peaceful future.

On September 20, Chairman Kim Jong Un climbed up Mt Paektu, sacred mountain of the Korean nation, together with south Korean President Moon Jae In.

On top of Janggun, the highest peak of Mt Paektu, the two leaders feasted their eyes for a long time on the beautiful and magnificent peaks, the thrilling view of the shores of the crystal-clear Lake Chon and a sea of forests stretching extensively.

Moon Jae In expressed his strong impression of the sacred mountain associated with the soul and spirit of the Korean nation and his expectation and conviction that the day's first step would lead to a new era sought by all the fellow countrymen.

The top leaders and their wives had a photograph taken to cherish the memory of the moment, descended to the shores of Lake Chon and exchanged their impressions of the ascent to the mountain as they strolled.

On the lakeside figures from north and south posed for a photograph by group.

Kim Jong Un hosted a luncheon for Moon Jae In by Lake Samji commanding a view of Mt Paektu and had a pleasant conversation as they strolled along the lakeside.

The mass media of the north side reported this event as follows:

“It is a megaevent in the history of the nation that the top leaders of north and south climbed up Mt Paektu, symbolic of the Korean nation, together and left vivid imprints in the development of inter-Korean relations and the new era of peace and prosperity.”

The three rounds of inter-Korean summit held in 2018 showed a new appearance of dialogue, during which the two sides escaped from the old inertia of the past filled with mistrust and argument and solved problems in good faith and cooperation, and constituted a historic turning point that converted the era of long-standing confrontation and discontinuity into a new era of dialogue and cooperation.

4. EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES IN THE LIMELIGHT OF THE WORLD

DPRK-China Relations on a Higher Stage

Chairman Kim Jong Un paid an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China between March 25 and 28 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, President of the PRC and Chairman of the Central Military Commission.

A ceremony took place at Beidating of the Great Hall of the People to welcome him.

The Chinese President warmly welcomed the DPRK leader who visited China as his maiden foreign visit.

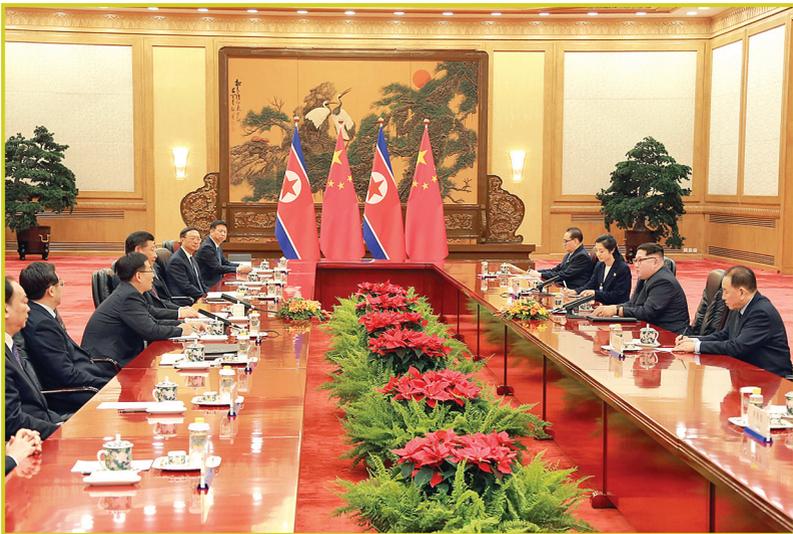
Kim Jong Un, conducted by the Chinese President, reviewed the honour guard of the three services of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Talks were held on March 26 between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People.

The DPRK leader said that it was a firm determination of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to carry forward the precious traditions of friendship between the two countries, which had been provided and strengthened by the leaders of older generations of the two countries, and take it to new heights as required by the developing era. He pointed to the need to meet often Chinese comrades including Xi Jinping to build up rapport and strengthen strategic communication and strategic and tactical cooperation so as



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China



Chairman Kim Jong Un at the talks with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China

to consolidate the unity and cooperation between the two countries.

Xi Jinping said that the current positive change in the situation on the Korean peninsula was a fruition of the strategic decision made by Kim Jong Un and the efforts exerted by the WPK and the DPRK government.

On March 26, Kim Jong Un attended a banquet that Xi Jinping arranged at the Great Hall of the People in welcome of his historic visit to China.

Prior to the banquet, the participants watched a video showing the activities of the leaders of the two Parties and countries who had provided and nurtured the roots of the friendship between the two countries.

At the banquet Xi Jinping made a congratulatory speech and Kim Jong Un addressed in reply.

At the banquet there was an artistic performance Chinese artistes had specially prepared to welcome the DPRK leader.

On March 27, Kim Jong Un was invited to a luncheon Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan arranged at Yangyuanzhai of the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

He expressed thanks to the Chinese leader for arranging and inviting to a special luncheon in a family atmosphere, and had a meaningful talk with the Chinese President.

The Chinese leader and his wife introduced Chinese tea culture to the DPRK leader.

Between May 7 and 8 Kim Jong Un paid a visit to Dalian in China, and met again with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Talks were held between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping on May 7.

Kim Jong Un said he was very happy that DPRK-China relations had greeted a new heyday and were currently making a rapid development.

He highly appreciated the close high-level visits between the two Parties and the two countries and the strategic communication between the two supreme leaderships.

He reviewed the drastically changing situation around the Korean peninsula, and referred to how to get to grips with the strategic opportunity and boost the bilateral tactical cooperation proactively and closely.

Xi Jinping spoke highly of Kim Jong Un's visit, saying it showed the DPRK leader's sincere willingness to set much store by the relationships between the two Parties and the two countries, to trust him and the Chinese Party and to put into practice the agreements reached between them.

He was happy with the positive development of the bilateral ties and the Korean peninsula situation that had been made since Kim Jong Un's first visit to China in March, and expressed appreciation again of his second visit designed to communicate and coordinate with the Chinese counterparts.

As a friendly neighbour, he noted, China has been deeply interested in the developments on the Korean peninsula and made strenuous efforts to ensure regional peace and stability. And he highly appreciated the crucial decision and measures taken by Kim Jong Un recently, and reiterated full support for them.

Xi Jinping hosted a grand banquet in honour of Kim Jong Un.

In his congratulatory speech, Xi Jinping said that this visit fully showed that Chairman Kim Jong Un and the Central Committee of the WPK attach great importance to bilateral ties, especially the strategic communication between the two Parties, and that they are determined to implement the joint agreements vital to both sides. This has demonstrated the traditional and solid China-DPRK relationship to the whole world once again, and it will inevitably have a significant impact on bilateral ties and the Korean peninsula situation, he stressed.

In his speech Kim Jong Un said he was very pleased to get together again with Xi Jinping and other Chinese comrades in 40-odd days and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the CPC Central

Committee for its kind-hearted hospitality and close concern.

He stressed that he felt proud and dignified again of having such a great neighbour as China and such reliable and true friends as Chinese comrades, and reassured that he would join hands with them on the historic long journey towards peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia and a new world, fair and just.

On the morning of May 8, Kim Jong Un met again with Xi Jinping and talked without reserve while strolling the seaside, and was invited to a luncheon arranged by Xi Jinping.

Before the luncheon Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping appreciated the skills showing China's tea culture, and talked about important issues.

After the luncheon, Kim Jong Un expressed once again his gratitude to Xi Jinping for according him gracious hospitality during his stay in China and for giving him sincere and valuable advice on crucial work.

From June 19 to 20, Kim Jong Un paid the third visit to the People's Republic of China.

He held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People on June 19.

Kim Jong Un expressed appreciation to the Chinese Party and government for rendering proactive, sincere support and fine assistance to ensure the successful holding of the DPRK-US summit.

He said he felt quite happy with and held dear the current reality that the two Parties had promoted strategic collaboration and built up confidence in each other, and voiced his resolve and will to continue to seek closer ties of friendship, unity and cooperation between the Parties and peoples of the two countries.

Xi Jinping highly appreciated Chairman Kim Jong Un's role in leading the DPRK-US summit to success and in putting the Korean peninsula situation on the track of dialogue and negotiations, a track of peace and stability, and offered his sincere congratulations to him.

He said China would keep playing the constructive role, expressing



Chairman Kim Jong Un talking with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China while strolling the seaside



Chairman Kim Jong Un appreciating the skills showing China's tea culture with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China

full support for the DPRK's stand and decision for the Korean peninsula denuclearization.

On the evening of June 19, Xi Jinping hosted a banquet at the Great Hall of the People in honour of Kim Jong Un.

In a congratulatory speech, warmly welcoming Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to China, Xi Jinping said that the visit had fully demonstrated the Chairman's firm will to set great store by the strategic communication between the two Parties and promote the traditional China-DPRK friendship, and that it also demonstrated to the world the invincibility of the ties between the two Parties and countries.

He confirmed that China and the DPRK as close friends and comrades would learn from each other, consult each other, unite with each other and work together to shape a brighter, rosier future of the two countries' socialist cause.

Kim Jong Un said he felt quite glad to meet again with Xi Jinping and other dear Chinese comrades at a time when a new landscape was on the horizon on the Korean peninsula and beyond in the wake of the successful DPRK-US summit, and expressed appreciation to his Chinese counterpart for his cordial hospitality despite his tight schedule.

He said that currently the DPRK and China were sincerely helping and cooperating with each other while sharing weal and woe like family members, adding that such an image clearly demonstrated to the people at home and abroad that the traditional relationship between the two Parties and countries was developing into an unprecedentedly special one beyond the traditional ties. He continued that he would value personal relationship and rapport with Xi Jinping more than anything else and exert every possible effort to take the bilateral ties to a new level in a steady manner.

At the banquet, Chinese artistes gave a specially prepared artistic performance.

Chairman Kim Jong Un met again with Chinese President Xi

Jinping at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on June 20.

Before luncheon Kim Jong Un had a one-on-one talk with Xi Jinping.

The two leaders shared serious views on the current situation and urgent international issues, and discussed how to boost the strategic and tactical collaboration between the two Parties and countries in the new situation.

After the luncheon, Kim Jong Un expressed appreciation to the Chinese Party and government for according warm reception and hospitality with particular sincerity each time, saying he was able to pay a wonderful and satisfactory visit to China thanks to the meticulous concern and care of Xi Jinping.

On June 20, Kim Jong Un visited the State Agricultural Sci-tech Innovation Institute under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science.

He made the rounds of the general demonstration centre of modern agricultural technology, leaf and fruit vegetables cultivation technology research centres, urban agriculture research centre, demonstration centre for agricultural application in residential areas and other places, and highly praised the researchers for their great achievements that were conducive to China's agricultural development.

He made an entry in the visitors' book to mark his visit to the institute, which reads, **“I deeply admire your brilliant achievements in research. Kim Jong Un. June 20, 2018”**

The institute presented to the DPRK leader flowering plants it cultivated.

Kim Jong Un visited the Beijing Rail Traffic Control Centre that afternoon.

He listened to the explanation of the general director, who conducted him to the Beijing subway construction museum, subway control centre and automatic ticket sale and inspection system monitoring centre. Saying that he admired the centre's high level of automation



Chairman Kim Jong Un visiting the State Agricultural
Sci-tech Innovation Institute under the Chinese
Academy of Agricultural Science



Chairman Kim Jong Un looking round the Beijing
Rail Traffic Control Centre

and excellent integrated control system, he wished the centre further development into a world-level traffic nerve centre.

On September 9, Kim Jong Un met with Li Zhanshu, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, who was on a visit to the DPRK as a special envoy of Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and President of the PRC, in the office building of the Central Committee of the WPK.

He said that General Secretary Xi Jinping had sent Li Zhanshu as his special envoy and a Party and government delegation to the celebrations of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK, which served as a great encouragement for the Korean people. He warmly welcomed the delegation's visit to the DPRK and extended warm greetings to Xi Jinping and the Chinese Party, government and people.

Noting that it was a due moral obligation and a duty for our Party, government and people to accord special hospitality with utmost sincerity to valuable comrades from our most trusted and friendly neighbour, he said that the DPRK visit by Li Zhanshu, special envoy of Xi Jinping, which was made on the occasion of the greatest national holiday the Korean people were celebrating with great joy and pride, would constitute an occasion in demonstrating once again the invincibility of the DPRK-China friendship that was strengthening and developing daily in the new situation.

Li Zhanshu said that the China-DPRK friendship forged and developed by the leaders of the older generations of the two countries had further been deepened on the basis of the special intimacy of the top leaders of the two Parties after overcoming changes in the regional situation and turns and twists of history, adding that invariable was the firm stand of the Chinese Party and government to steadily and



Chairman Kim Jong Un at the welcome banquet in honour of chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China

stably develop and promote China-DPRK relations no matter how the international situation may change.

Kim Jong Un arranged an artistic performance and a banquet on September 10 in honour of the Chinese Party and government delegation led by Li Zhanshu.

The three rounds of DPRK-China summit and visit to the DRRK by the delegation of the Party and government of China left indelible imprints in the history of the friendship between the DPRK and China which is developing day after day.

To Develop the DPRK-Russia Friendship in Line with the Demands of the New Era

On May 31, Kim Jong Un met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who was on a visit to the DPRK, at the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse.

Lavrov conveyed a personal letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin to the DPRK leader.

Kim Jong Un expressed gratitude to Putin for sending a warm-hearted and wonderful letter and asked Lavrov to convey his thanks to Putin.

Both sides exchanged the opinions and views of the top leaderships of the DPRK and Russia on the development and prospect of the situation on the Korean peninsula and beyond that was in the limelight worldwide. They also discussed how to bolster up bilateral political and economic ties and promote cooperation.

Lavrov highly appreciated the fact that the DPRK had properly steered relations with south Korea and the US and adopted substantial measures to take the peninsula and regional situation to a phase of stability. Russia fully supports the DPRK's decision and stand related to the upcoming DPRK-US summit and the denuclearization of the



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting with Russian Foreign Minister



Chairman Kim Jong Un posing for a photograph with chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council

Korean peninsula and hopes for good results in this regard, he said.

Both sides agreed to promote high-level visits, boost exchanges and cooperation in different fields and hold the meeting of the top leaders of the two countries that year, which marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, in a bid to further develop the strategic and traditional relationship in the interests of both sides and in line with the demands of the new era.

Kim Jong Un met Valentina Matvienko, chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council, on her visit to the DPRK to join the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.

The chairwoman expressed thanks to him for showing a deep concern for her schedule of stay, although he was busy, and sparing his precious time to meet her.

Kim Jong Un expressed deep gratitude to President Putin for sending greetings and a wonderful personal letter on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK, and conveyed warm greetings of the WPK, government and people of the DPRK to the President and the people of Russia.

At the talk with her, he listened to the view and stand of the Russian leadership on the situation on the Korean peninsula and in the region, exchanged broad views for the stable development of the situation and shared with her the view on the need to promote close cooperation and concerted action between the two countries in defending lasting and durable peace and security on the peninsula and in the rest of the world.

Also expressed at the talk were the stand and will of the supreme leaderships of the two countries to invariably maintain and develop in a sustained and constructive way the strategic and traditional DPRK-Russia friendly relations provided by the leaders of the older generations, keep closer overall bilateral ties including cooperation between the two parliaments and expand and develop them.

Cuban Envoys

On November 4, Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, arrived in Pyongyang to visit the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un warmly greeted him at Pyongyang International Airport.

On the afternoon of that day, the top leaders had one-on-one talks.

Warmly welcoming the Cuban President to the DPRK, who came all the way across the continents and oceans, Kim Jong Un said that the current visit by the Cuban delegation would offer an occasion for demonstrating the invincibility of the traditional fellowship, trust, friendship and solidarity of the peoples of the two countries and serve as a manifestation of support and solidarity to the Korean people's just cause.

The two leaders informed each other of the achievements and experiences gained in Party and state activities in their countries for building socialism to suit the specific conditions of each country and expressed full support and solidarity with each other. They discussed the issues of further expanding and developing cooperation and exchanges in various fields in their common interest.

There was an in-depth exchange of views on the crucial issues of common concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Communist Party of Cuba and on the international situation and a consensus of views was reached on all issues at the talks.

That day Kim Jong Un hosted a grand banquet to welcome the Cuban leader.



Chairman Kim Jong Un reviewing the honour guard of the Korean People's Army with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba



Chairman Kim Jong Un waving back to the welcoming people together with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

In his speech Kim Jong Un said that the meeting with the Cuban President marked a watershed in demonstrating the will to eternally carry forward the bilateral friendship.

Saying that the two countries are in the same trench in the struggle for defending sovereignty and dignity of their countries and safeguarding international justice, he expressed invariable support and encouragement to the Cuban people who are building a powerful and prosperous country.

He expressed thanks to the friendly Cuban Party, government and people for extending absolute support and encouragement to the DPRK's efforts for the building of socialism and the independent reunification of Korea, as well as his will to consolidate and develop the strategic and comradely friendship with Cuba.

On November 5, Kim Jong Un invited Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez to the office building of the Central Committee of the WPK to talk and dine with him.

The leaders of the two countries briefed each other on the situation of their countries, exchanged successes and experience gained in the socio-economic development and shared honest and sincere views on various issues in the field of Party activities and socialist construction in the two countries, the situation on the Korean peninsula and the international relations.

They also discussed in depth the ways to vitalize cooperation and exchanges in various fields.

On the evening of November 5, Kim Jong Un saw the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* together with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez.

On November 6, Kim Jong Un came to the airport to see off Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, who was leaving Pyongyang after successfully rounding off his visit to the DPRK.



Kim Jong Un said that he would look forward to meeting him again and wished him good health and happiness and continued success in his work. He added that no matter how the world may change, he and the Party and the people of the DPRK would always stand by the Cuban people and Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, wishing him safe journey.

The leaders of the two countries had firm hand-shaking of farewell and warm hugs, promising to keep holding hands raised under the banner of socialism and keep advancing socialist construction in the two countries along the road of victory.

The visit to the DPRK by the Cuban leader constituted a historic watershed in invariably carrying forward and developing the fraternal and traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Cuba through centuries and generations, and in consolidating the militant unity between the two Parties and peoples

of the two countries in their struggle for the common cause upholding the banner of socialism.

Visit to Singapore

Kim Jong Un paid a visit to Singapore for the first-ever DPRK-US summit, and met with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the presidential palace on June 10.

He expressed his thanks to the Singaporean government for its sincere cooperation by providing all conditions and convenience for the DPRK-US summit, saying he was honoured to visit what he called a wonderful and beautiful country.

Lee Hsien Loong said he was honoured by the DPRK's choosing of his country as the venue for the DPRK-US summit, and was hopeful that the unprecedented summit would mark an important occasion in ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

Both sides agreed to maintain the fine relationship and promote rapport between the two countries and to boost broad exchanges and cooperation, so as to develop bilateral ties in a wide range of fields.

Kim Jong Un inspected different places of Singapore on June 11 while staying in the city state.

He looked round its iconic Great Flower Garden, the Sky Park atop the world's renowned Marina Bay Sands building and the Port of Singapore.

Feasting his eyes on the nocturnal view of the city at the observation platform of the Marina Bay Sands, he said that Singapore is as clean and beautiful as it is known, with each building characteristic, and that he would like to learn a lot from its fine knowledge and experience in various fields.



Chairman Kim Jong Un talking with the Singaporean Prime Minister



Chairman Kim Jong Un visiting different places in Singapore

On his way to the Port of Singapore he stopped on Jubilee Bridge to be briefed about the future city layout and the Durian Theatre.

He said that day's inspection helped him have a better understanding of Singapore's economic potential and development and a good opinion of the country as well. And he expressed appreciation to the Singaporean officials for accompanying him till late at night to provide kind guide and introduction.

Epoch-Making Meeting That Ushered in a New History of DPRK-US Relations

On June 12, Kim Jong Un met with US President Donald J. Trump on Sentosa Island, Singapore, to hold the DPRK-US summit for the first time in history.

Kim Jong Un posed for a photograph with Trump before heading for the conference hall talking with the latter.

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

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

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

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

Noting that he was glad to sit together with President Trump and other members of the US delegation, Chairman Kim Jong Un highly

appreciated Trump's willingness and passion to seek a negotiated, realistic settlement of the issues despite the past history of hostility between the two countries.

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

Many issues have stemmed from the deep-rooted distrust and hostility between the two countries, Kim Jong Un said, noting that both countries, with an understanding towards each other, need to promise to refrain from antagonizing the other party and take legal and institutional measures to guarantee it in order to ensure peace and stability on the peninsula and denuclearize it.

He accepted on the spot Trump's request for recovering the remains of American soldiers and repatriating those already identified and gave an instruction on taking a step to address the issue as early as possible.

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

Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump signed a joint statement of the Singapore summit.

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

Kim Jong Un and Trump had a photograph taken as a token of the adoption of the momentous document.



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting with the US President



Chairman Kim Jong Un signing the DPRK-US Joint Statement with the US President

Kim Jong Un invited Trump to visit Pyongyang at a convenient time and Trump also invited Kim Jong Un to visit the US.

They accepted each other's invitation with pleasure, believing that such invitation would provide another chance to improve relations.

The first-ever DPRK-US summit aroused strong emotion and storm-like reaction.

The whole world, to say nothing of the DPRK, estimated the summit and the joint statement as "creation of a new era," "historic event," "tete-a-tete between the DPRK and US leaders that stopped the clock of the world for 35 minutes" and "historic statement signalling a new start."

Governments, political parties and organizations of many countries of the world estimated the summit as a historic event of epoch-making significance for achieving peace, security and prosperity of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world, making public statements and talks that read, "resolute action that has opened the way to promoting peace on the Korean peninsula and more positive development of the situation in the region," "measures taken by the DPRK government recently are an expression of its will to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula," and "congratulations again on the respected Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission and the Party, government and people of the DPRK."

KIM JONG UN IN THE YEAR 2018

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