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A Pyongyang city army-people joint rally takes place to vow to carry out the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK in January 2021.



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Front Cover: A scene from the Pyongyang city army-people joint rally held to vow to carry out the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA



Back Cover: The Sobaek Stream in the glow

Photo by Pyon Chan U

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Kim Jong Il's Political Philosophy



Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defence Commission in October 2000.

“SINGLE-HEARTED UNITY IS my philosophy of revolution”—this is what Chairman Kim Jong Il said referring to his political creed. Firmly convinced of the absolute truth of single-hearted unity he steadily consolidated the

single-hearted unity between the Workers' Party of Korea and the popular masses throughout his revolutionary leadership. The following is some of the stories recorded in the annals of his revolutionary leadership. ▶

► Great Foundation of Revolution

One January day in 1985 Kim Jong Il expressed his will to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche by employing the single-hearted unity continuously as the great foundation of the revolution.

He said: Our unity is single-hearted unity. Our Party holds high the banner of single-hearted unity. Single-hearted unity is my philosophy of revolution. It is the solid foundation of our revolution. Today our people live and advance in the spirit of single-hearted unity and emerge victorious from the confrontation with the world's reactionaries on the strength of that unity, stepping up the grand march toward the completion of the revolutionary cause of Juche. Our single-hearted unity is strong enough to turn adversity into prosperity and an unfavourable wind into a favourable one, and break through any obstacles and trials. No force in the world can upset the might of our single-hearted unity.

Comradeship Is Just Unity

One day in 2004 Kim Jong Il said to some officials: When I look back on the past road of revolution, there are many things that evoke memories in me; among them, what I look back on with the deepest emotion are the memories of the revolutionary comrades who have followed the Party invariably through trials and difficulties.

He went on to say: Love between comrades is unity, and there is no power stronger than that of the unity of revolutionary comrades. Love and trust between comrades, unity based on revolutionary comradeship, does

not vacillate whatever the adversity, and demonstrates power that no force can equal. Without revolutionary comradeship, we could conceive of neither the existence and development of our Party, nor our single-hearted unity, nor the victorious advance of our revolution. Revolutionary comradeship is the basis of single-hearted unity, the moral strength of our Party and the driving force of our revolution.

Single-Hearted Unity and Military Might

One day in August 2000 Chairman Kim Jong Il received a delegation of the south Korean mass media.

During the talks he asked a senior executive, “**How many years have you been engaged in journalism?**”

The guest hesitated a while and replied that he had been involved in journalism for several decades.

Kim Jong Il said, “**Then you must have written anti-communist articles for 80 to 90 per cent of your career.**”

Laughter burst out among other guests.

This enlivened the atmosphere of the gathering. Earlier when they had been entreating the officials of the north for an audience with Kim Jong Il, they had pledged that they would never ask him any questions during the talks or luncheon. Now instincts were prompting them to stand up one after another.

Unexpectedly, the gathering turned into an interview.

A member of the delegation raised a question as to where the source of his strength for defending socialism lay.

Kim Jong Il answered: It is military strength. The source of my strength is twofold. First,

there is single-hearted unity and, second, there is military might. Only with a strong military force can one deal with relations with foreign countries from the independent standpoint. We still need this strong force even in the case of having close ties with other countries.

A Giant Tree and Its Roots

One February day in 2009 Kim Jong Il said that officials must become the roots that support the country and the revolution, like the roots of a tree.

He went on to say: For a tree to grow healthy, it must have strong roots. Only when its roots are strong can the tree grow into a giant one. A giant tree is imposing with its thick branches and leaves, because its roots continually provide nutritious elements from underground to the trunk. The giant tree is visible, but its roots are not. There are many people that admire the tree for its size, but few of them think of the roots supporting it. They work underground without rest, whether they are appreciated or not.

He said: In view of our revolution whose mainstay is the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, revolutionaries should be determined to become the roots, that if roots struck deep underground suck nutritious elements properly then the tree will grow vigorously, that likewise, if revolutionaries are prepared firmly and united single-heartedly, the revolution will win one victory after another and the country will become ever more prosperous. I'm going to become the strong roots of the revolution together with you. Let us all work hard in one mind and for the single purpose. □

In Days of Golden Age of Pyongyang



Chairman Kim Jong Il examines the plan of some important projects in Pyongyang in March 1985.

THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIALIST KOREA had periods called Golden Age of Pyongyang. The time of the 1970s and the 1980s turned out to be the heyday of creation and construction thanks to the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Turning the capital city of Pyongyang into a people's city was a dream cherished by Kim Jong Il from his childhood.

When Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation in August 1945, there took place the Pothong River improvement project in Pyongyang the next year. One day in early summer that year Kim Jong Il went to the construction site with his mother. There he said that he would replace the traditional "Eight Scenic Wonders of Pyongyang" with "Eighty Scenic Wonders of Pyongyang" by building many houses for workers and peasants.

The latter half of the 1950s turned out to be a heyday in the history of construction of the nation. Kim Jong Il, too, took part in the project to rehabilitate Pyongyang which had been reduced to ashes during the three years of war.

One day in May 1958 he went up Moran Hill with some of his classmates after having lunch in the construction site. The hill offered a bird's

eye view of Pyongyang under reconstruction. Kim Jong Il said: One day immediately after the war I heard the news that Premier Kim Il Sung convened a Cabinet plenary meeting and made sure a Cabinet decision was adopted for rehabilitation of the city. That evening I saw a miniature of the construction plan of downtown Pyongyang and an article about it in a newspaper. I studied and read them time and again that night. And I decided to build the city into the revolutionary capital replete with the Korean people's revolutionary spirit and into the one of the people which is beautiful and good to live in.

On the occasion he also said that the appearance of the capital was just that of the country, and that the project to rehabilitate and construct Pyongyang into the city of revolution and the people was an important task to demonstrate the authority and dignity of the country. And he said that, true to the intention of the Premier, high-rise apartment blocks had to be built in downtown Pyongyang, canals be built on the Taedong and Pothong Rivers with promenades lined with trees so that people could enjoy their recreational and leisure time to the full, and parks and pleasure grounds be built on Moran, Changgwang and Haebang Hills and ▶

The Grand People's Study House.



- Mt Taesong. It was really an authentic image of future Pyongyang.

With the beginning of the 1970s Chairman Kim Jong Il's idea of the construction of Pyongyang started to develop into reality. The first project was Ragwon Street. The Chairman supervised the construction to form a street by building apartment houses for 3 000 households in Ragwon-dong, Pothonggang District. He understood the state of construction almost every day and often went to the site, solving knotty problems. As a result, the construction of the street finished in a matter of several months by the early October of 1975.

After the completion of Ragwon Street Kim Jong Il proposed another large project of removing an old loop street in the downtown and building a new street there.

Examining a plan of a new loop street in late October 1979 the Chairman said: The formation of the street should be done by a completely new method. It is necessary to develop a Korean-style method of street formation and Korean-type shapes of structures. We should make the new apartments tall and slender, while setting them sparsely so that they could stand high in green foliage with

their own features.

When the construction began, the Chairman inspected the construction site several times, giving meticulous guidance. And when the new loop street (the first stage) was completed in ten months after the groundbreaking, he renamed it Changgwang Street after the nearby Changgwang Hill.

Chairman Kim Jong Il paid close attention to the construction of monumental edifices as well. The first edifice in the Golden Age of Pyongyang was the Mansudae Art Theatre. Examining in detail the elevation of the theatre and the designs of the stage, auditorium, lounge, dressing rooms and other facilities, he indicated the orientation and ways regarding how to perfect the designs. In this way a palace of art went up in a national style and with socialist contents.

Over the following 15 years many streets and monumental structures were built, including Pipha, Taehak, Munsu, An Sang Thaek, Chongchun and Kwangbok Streets, the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, the Changgwang Health Complex, the Ice Rink, the Chongnyu Restaurant, the Grand People's Study House, the May Day Stadium and the East ►

- Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

In the 2000s another Golden Age of Pyongyang was unfolded with the construction of Mansudae Street, sprucing up the capital. Examining a miniature of apartment houses of Mansudae Street in December 2007, the Chairman gave detailed instructions to form the street in a unique way and build the best possible apartments. Thanks to his energetic guidance the construction of the street was finished in a little over a year, and it was followed by the construction of Changjon Street. Meanwhile, the construction of apartments was propelled in different places of the city.

In his immortal classic work *On Architecture* published on May 21, 1991 the Chairman clarified that in the socialist society, architectural creation is the concern of the masses themselves, that architecture is created and developed rapidly drawing on their limitless strength and that architecture is a mixed art.

For its eternal vitality the work remains a valuable guideline in opening up the heyday of construction.

Kim Song Il

The Tower of the Juche Idea.



The Arch of Triumph.



The Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.





Kim Jong Un Sends Letter to All People on New Year's Day

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a letter to all the people, greeting the hope-filled new year, Juche 110 (2021).

The following is the full text of the letter:

Happy New Year.

As we mark the start of the new year, I extend my heartfelt greetings to you all.

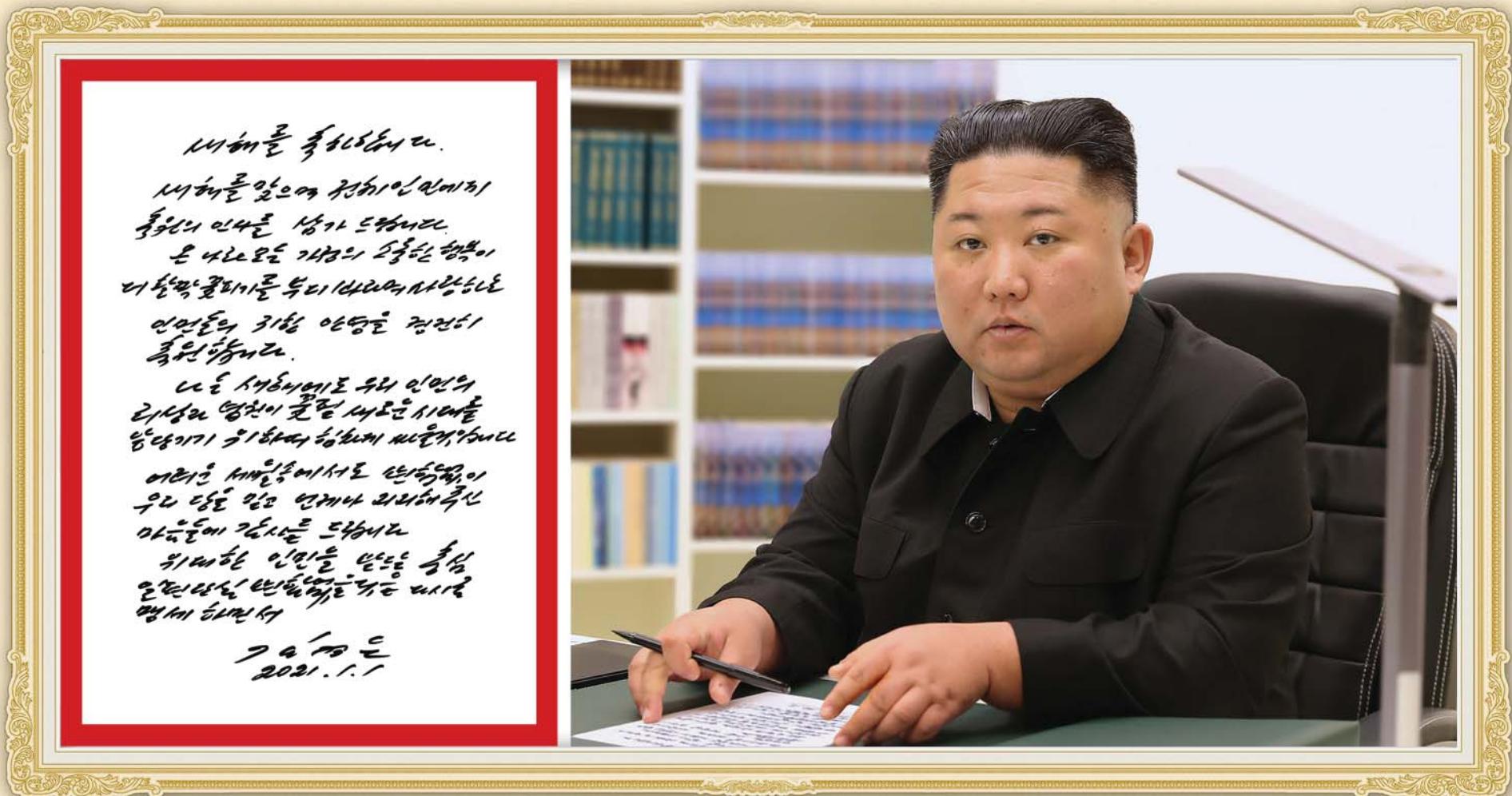
I sincerely wish every family across the country greater happiness, and the beloved people good health.

In the new year I will continue striving to hasten the dawn of the new era in which the ideals and desires of our people will come true.

I offer thanks to the people for the unfailing trust and support you have given to our Party, even in the most difficult times.

Renewing my pledge always to remain faithful to our great people.

Kim Jong Un
January 1, 2021





Congress of Struggle and Advance

THE EIGHTH CONGRESS of the Workers' Party of Korea took place in Pyongyang, the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on January 5-12.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un mounted the platform of the congress together with members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The congress was attended by the members of the leadership body of the Seventh Party Central Committee and the delegates elected by the Party organizations at all levels.

Invited to the platform were the chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, the chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, and the chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-Imperialist National Democratic Front.

Solemnly pledging, on behalf of all the participants in the congress, that the congress would remain thoroughly faithful to the revolutionary ideas and cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the founder and builder of the WPK, Kim Jong Un declared the Eighth Congress of the WPK open.

The congress approved and seriously discussed and decided the following agenda items: First, review of the work of the WPK Central Committee; secondly, review of the work of the WPK Central Auditing Commission; thirdly, amendments to the Rules of the WPK; and fourthly, election of the central leadership body of the WPK.

The congress unanimously adopted the resolution on electing Kim Jong Un as general secretary of the WPK in reflection

of the unanimous will and wish of all the delegates, all the Party members, other people across the country and service personnel of the Korean People's Army.

On the basis of scientific analysis of the trend of the developing revolution and the demands of the prevailing subjective and objective situations, the congress discussed and decided new lines of struggle and strategic and tactical policies for strengthening and developing the Party and making a radical leap forward in socialist construction.

The congress adopted with the unanimous approval of all its participants the resolution "On thoroughly implementing the tasks set forth in the report on the work of the Seventh WPK Central Committee".

Fully convinced that, thanks to the great fighting efficiency, power of unity, extraordinary patriotic enthusiasm and indomitable perseverance of the organizations and members of the entire Party, all other people and service personnel, the strategy and policies put forward by the congress would successfully be carried out and epoch-making progress would be made in the building of Korean-style socialism, Kim Jong Un declared the Eighth Congress of the WPK closed.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK, held at a time of crucial importance in the development of the revolution, was an expression of the Party's definite self-confidence in its capability for leading the socialist cause to another stage of victory, and it is also a noteworthy political event of great significance in the course of the struggle of the glorious Party.

Yom Song Hui





Opening Speech at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea



THE RESPECTED COMRADE KIM JONG UN made an opening speech at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The opening speech is as follows:

Dear delegates,

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, for which millions of our Party members have sincerely made preparations with their hearts burning with patriotism and loyalty and to which they have so looked forward, has been convened at an important and crucial time in the development of our revolution.

First, in reflection of the boundless loyalty of you, dear delegates, and all other Party members, people and service personnel across the country, I pay the noblest respect and greatest glory to the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the founder and builder of the Workers' Party of Ko-

rea and the eternal leaders of our Party, state and people.

Dear delegates,

Five years have passed since our Party and all our people started a new advance to attain the immediate goals and tasks the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth for socialist construction.

In this period the unprecedented, worst-ever trials put great obstacles on the road of advance of our revolution, but our Party achieved great successes through tenacious and accurate practical activities aimed at implementing its fighting programme.

During the period under review our internal force further expanded and strengthened, and the external prestige of the country was raised remarkably. This is a clear signal that an era of a new upsurge and gigantic transformation has arrived for socialist construction.

► The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee held in August last year made an in-depth analysis and judgment of the new trend of our developing revolution and the demands of the prevailing objective and subjective situations, and decided to convene the current congress of the WPK.

The convocation of the congress in the present-day arduous circumstances is a noteworthy political event of great significance in view of the influence it would exert on the change and development of the internal and external situations and of the future struggle of our Party, a socialist ruling party.

When the historic decision on holding this congress was made public, all the people across the country, engulfed by a great emotion, warmly supported it, and it dealt a telling blow to the reactionary forces of all hues, who were hostile to our cause and attempted to check its advance.

It was because the convocation of the highest-level meeting of the WPK was an expression of its definite self-confidence in its capability for leading the revolution to another stage of victory, and constituted demonstration of its ardent will and solemn pledge to live up to the people's great trust and expectations by shouldering the future of the state and fully discharging its responsibilities and duties.

The Central Committee of our Party made it clear at home and abroad that it would make this congress a congress for work, struggle and progress.

This was a promise to the Party members and other people that it would strictly review its work in the period under review, explicitly decide once again the correct orientation and tasks of struggle for achieving fresh victories in building our style of socialism and take substantial measures to this end.

Never small are the successes our Party achieved in the revolutionary struggle and construction work over the last five years of arduous, yet glorious struggle.

By achieving miraculous victories and events noteworthy in the 5 000-year history of our nation after its Seventh Congress, the WPK provided a sure guarantee for reliably defending the destiny

of the country and the people generation after generation and simultaneously won some meaningful and precious successes and foundations on which to promote economic construction and improve the people's standard of living.

However, though the period of implementing the Five-Year Strategy for the National Economic Development ended last year, almost all sectors fell a long way short of the set objectives.

Still existing are the various external and internal challenges that hamper and hinder our efforts and advance for fresh and continuous victories in socialist construction.

The key to breaking through the existing manifold difficulties with utmost certainty and speed lies in consolidating our own strength, our internal force, in all respects.

Proceeding from the principle of finding the causes of mistakes not in the objective conditions, but in the subjective conditions, and resolving all problems by enhancing the role of our motive force, the current congress is going to make a comprehensive and profound analysis and judgement of the experiences, lessons and mistakes we have made during the period under review and, on this basis, define the scientific goals and tasks of struggle, which we can and must accomplish without fail.

The successes we have already achieved are priceless for us, and so are the bitter lessons that have been accumulated.

All these are things that cannot be bartered even for gold, and constitute valuable assets for achieving fresh victories in the future.

We should further promote and expand the victories and successes we have gained at the cost of sweat and blood, and prevent the painful lessons from being repeated.

In particular, we should be bold enough to admit the mistakes which, if left unaddressed, will grow into bigger obstacles and stumbling blocks, and take resolute measures against their repetition.

This congress has been convened on the basis of this pluck and commitment.

If the Eighth Party Congress, a congress for struggle, carries out its work in a substantial manner and puts forth a correct line and strategic and tactical policies, the Korean revolution will greet an



► era of a new leap forward and upsurge.

Also, the WPK's struggle for achieving national prosperity and people's happiness will switch over to a new stage with the congress as a watershed.

Dear delegates,

To make this congress a substantial congress for work, struggle and progress, the WPK Central Committee focused on the following issues over the past four months.

First, it conducted the work of making a comprehensive, three-dimensional and detailed analysis and review of how the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress were implemented and drawing experiences and lessons for future progress and development.

To this end, the Party Central Committee formed a non-permanent central inspection commission and sent it to lower units on a mission to learn about the actual situations there and carefully listen to the opinions of workers, farmers and intellectuals who are Party members and involved in field labour.

The non-permanent central inspection commission conducted the work in the way of dispatching its teams to provinces and, after grasping the actual situations there, dispatching them to ministries and central institutions by direction and sector to make brisk, comprehensive and detailed inspections.

The teams thoroughly examined all aspects of the actual situation including what was wrong, what was neglected among what could be carried out and what was implemented in a profitable way or formalistic way in executing the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress, and if there were shortcomings, what were their causes and what were the defects in Party guidance.

During the days when the Party congress was prepared, departments of the Party Central Committee and other Party organizations across the country submitted to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and the preparatory committee for the congress reports of their work over the last five years and innovative and detailed opinions on the goals and plans of struggle in the future.

In the course of this, we confirmed once again

the priceless truth that the masses are excellent teachers, and were convinced that it was right indeed that we had decided to take heed of the opinions of Party organizations and its members for the preparation of the congress.

What we did is of great significance in making this congress a revolutionary and militant one, both in name and reality, in which the general will of all the Party members will be embodied, and the decisions to be adopted by it become an organizational will of the entire Party.

As part of the preparations for the Party congress, we analyzed and reviewed the finances of the Party over the last five years and studied the measures for improving them.

And we made a profound study aimed at revising the parts in Party Rules, which were a mechanical repetition of the past and outdated or that of others and did not suit the present reality, in conformity with the requirements of the developing revolution and the principles of building a Juche-oriented party.

We also comprehensively appraised the work of the members of the leadership body of the Seventh Party Central Committee, and evaluated how much contribution they made to strengthening and developing the Party and the revolution.

In the lead-up to this Party congress, the basic Party organizations, provincial, city and county Party committees and the Party committees performing the same functions as the latter reviewed the work of their leadership bodies in an effective way and held successful meetings for electing delegates to the Party congress with the main emphasis on selecting the Party members who could play core roles in implementing the decisions of the Party congress in the future.

For the Eighth Party Congress, which would illuminate the road ahead of a new struggle for the Korean revolution, all the Party members and all other people across the country achieved brilliant successes by turning out as one in the 80-day campaign of loyalty after glorifying the 75th anniversary of the Party founding as a great auspicious event through a frontal attack for achieving a breakthrough, thus ensuring its successful opening.

The high political zeal of our Party members and other people, who made sincere efforts to add glory and strength to their dignified Party before its congress, is an eruption of their extraordinary revolutionary spirit which can never be found elsewhere in the present world.

► Last year was a quite difficult year; in the circumstances of the world public health crisis that lasted unprecedentedly long in history, they consistently ensured a thoroughgoing stable situation in infectious disease prevention by stubbornly overcoming the difficulties, maintaining the conscious unity of all the people in the effort and regarding it as a patriotic duty devolving on them; they also rose up in the struggle for recovering from the natural disasters and built more than 20 000 new splendid houses in different parts of the country. This great achievement left another proud page in our Party's record of struggle.

In addition, our Party members and other working people from all walks of life sent to the Party Central Committee the reports full of valuable successes they made at many theatres of struggle across the country.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and militant greetings to all the Party members and other people and service personnel across the country, who firmly defended the Eighth Congress of the Party with burning patriotic devotion and great victory by demonstrating on a higher level the might of their firm unity around the Party in the flames of arduous struggle for overcoming manifold difficulties.

And as I stand at this glorious podium, I would like to extend warm greetings to the organizations of our overseas compatriots, including the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan, and all other overseas compatriots.

On behalf of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, I extend a noble tribute to all the patriotic martyrs, recollecting with deep reverence the revolutionary comrades who devoted their precious lives to the development of the Party, the prosperity of the country, the happiness of the people and the future of posterity, the unforgettable comrades-in-arms who failed to be present here.

Dear delegates,

Now we have gathered at this significant venue at a quite important and crucial moment with a very honourable and sacred mission.

We stand at a great turning point in leading the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered in Mt Paektu to another fresh victory and at a decisive moment of firmly linking the 75 years of ruling history of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea to its 80 years; we are here representing the destiny, future, resourcefulness and wisdom of millions of members of the Workers' Party of Korea and tens of millions

of the Korean people.

We are all entrusted with an important mission to make our country more powerful and wealthy and indicate to our people a shortcut to happiness in this world full of severe challenges and instability.

At this moment, the interest, expectations and hope of all the Party members and other people across the country are very great and high for this congress which will review the revolutionary work of the last five years and decide the line of struggle and strategic and tactical policies for opening up a new road.

We should display the highest sense of responsibility and passion in the work of the congress in order to live up to the great trust and expectations of the people who have always shared their destiny with the Party, absolutely trusted and supported the Party and defended the Eighth Congress with unsparing, devoted efforts.

Attending this congress are 250 members of the leadership body of the Seventh Party Central Committee and 4 750 delegates elected by organizations at all levels throughout the Party.

Among them, 1 959 are delegates of Party and political workers, 801 delegates of state administrative and economic officials, 408 delegates of service personnel, 44 delegates of officials of the working people's organizations, 333 delegates of officials in the sectors of science, education, public health, art, literature and the mass media and 1 455 delegates of hard-core Party members involved in field labour.

Of them, women delegates number 501, accounting for ten per cent.

Present at the congress are 2 000 observers.

Solemnly pledging, on behalf of all the participants in this congress, which constitutes the eighth one in the sacred history of the Workers' Party of Korea, that the current congress will remain thoroughly faithful to the revolutionary ideas and cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il,

Fully convinced that this congress will serve as a stepping stone and a historic milestone in making a radical leap forward in the struggle for strengthening and developing our Party, accomplishing the socialist cause, building up the national strength and improving the people's living standards, and

Hoping that all the delegates will participate in the congress with sincere, responsible and proactive attitude, I declare the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea open. □



On Comrade Kim Jong Un's Report to the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

A REPORT WAS MADE ON THE WORK OF the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) from January 5 to 7, Juche 110 (2021) at the Eighth Congress of the Party, an important political event in the development of our Party and revolution.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un made the report on the work of the Central Committee of the Party.

In his nine-hour report he comprehensively and deeply analyzed and reviewed the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party, laid down a fresh struggle line and strategic and tactical policies for making a radical advance in socialist construction and set forth important tasks for advancing the cause of national reunification and external relations and developing Party work.

The report on the work of the Central Committee of the Party is a great practical programme as it admits the subjective and objective factors checking our advance and serious mistakes under the prevailing internal and external situations, and indicates clear struggle tasks and ways for innovating overall work of the Party and the state and switching the socialist cause to the next stage of victory.

The gist of the report which clearly indicates the path of the Korean revolution at the present stage is that we must boldly overcome the existing threats and challenges, make a new leap forward in the construction of our own-style socialism and make a clear advance by strengthening our own power, our own driving force, in every way.

The report which comprehensively deals with our Party's outstanding ideology and theory serves as a militant banner to be adhered to in the course of the struggle of a new stage for the prosperity and development of our state and happiness of the people, and a revolutionary document which firmly

links today and tomorrow with the historic roots of the cause of Juche.

It is the greatest honour for our Party and people and great encouragement for them that they have received the highly important guidelines for making an overall development of our own-style socialism on the road of indomitably and vigorously carrying on the arduous struggle with a firm belief in the justness of their cause and its victory.

The report on the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK consists of the following parts:

1. Achievements Made during the Period under Review
2. For an Epoch-making Advance in Socialist Construction
3. For the Independent Reunification of the Country and Development of External Relations
4. For the Development of Party Work

Kim Jong Un in the preface of his report outlined the guidance provided by the Central Committee of the Party during the period under review for fulfilling its heavy yet honourable mission given by the Seventh Congress of the WPK.

The Central Committee of the Party took timely measures for implementing the decisions made at the Seventh Congress of the Party by regularly holding major Party meetings including the plenary meetings, and positively aroused the entire Party, the whole state and all the people to their implementation and thus made great achievements.

The report noted that serious mistakes were revealed in the work of several fields including economic work under the grave internal and external situations, but those were deviations made in the stage of new development and in the course of the advance of the socialist cause and were problems ▶



Kim Jong Un makes the report on the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK in January 2021.

▶ which can surely be solved by our wisdom and efforts.

1. Achievements Made during the Period under Review

Kim Jong Un in the first part of his report reviewed with pride the proud achievements made by our Party and people during the period under review.

The WPK organized and waged indomitable offensive struggle for turning every obstacle into great victory for the last five years since the Seventh Congress of the Party, and the victory won in this course can be characterized by that it opened up an era of fresh development, an era of our state-first principle.

As mentioned in the report, the era of our state-first principle is a new era of self-respect and prosperity, which was born as a result that the WPK made all possible efforts for the people and deter-

minedly built up its own force, boldly facing all kinds of challenges of history, as a result of its do-or-die struggle for exalting the dignity and position of the state.

The report firstly reviewed the successes achieved in embodying the politics based on the people-first principle during the period under review.

The biggest success achieved in the last five years of struggle for implementing the decisions made at the Seventh Party Congress is that the politico-ideological strength, the first motive force of our revolution, was radically augmented.

During the period under review the Party Central Committee achieved remarkable successes in consolidating the single-minded unity of the Party and the people as firm as a rock and building up the driving force of the socialist cause and enhancing its role by putting forward the politics based on the people-first principle as a fundamental issue and a main political mode decisive of the survival or ruin ▶



- ▶ of the Party and the victory or failure of socialism and by vigorously and consistently unfolding it.

"Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!"—this was the core of leadership idea to which the Party Central Committee held fast without an inch of deflection and slightest concession during the period under review.

While intensively endeavouring to thoroughly make the people-first principle run through the Party and state activities, the Party Central Committee uninterruptedly carried on the struggle for eliminating all kinds of anti-people factors laying obstacles in realizing it.

The report analyzed the scrupulous political offensive waged by the Party Central Committee to secure the people-first principle as a firm political climate of the state and as a Party climate and national climate.

What was of special significance in the work of the Party Central Committee for consolidating the politico-ideological position was that it carried out more intensively the education in the revolutionary traditions as required by the period of succeeding to and developing the revolutionary cause of Juche.

It is one of the major successes achieved during the period under review that the Party Central Committee ensured that the entire Party and the whole society established a climate of equipping themselves with the great revolutionary traditions created in Mt Paektu and overcoming difficulties and opening up the way of advance in the indomitable fighting spirit based on the traditions, the spirit displayed by the anti-Japanese guerrillas, and thereby ensured that the noble fighting spirit and disposition of the Korean revolutionaries were firmly inherited.

The Party Central Committee staged timely and dynamic political activities for informing the Party members and other people of the demands of the situation, Party's intention and revolutionary tasks and arousing them to a vigorous struggle.

The power of the politics based on the people-first principle of finding the motive force of the development of the revolution in the hearts of the people and arousing them to action was expressed in a concentrated way in enlisting to the maximum the spiritual strength and creativity of the people to deal with the difficulties and the change of the

situation.

The report referred to the fact that the devoted service for the people thoroughly ran through all the work of the Party and the state.

When establishing and putting into practice its line and policies, the Party consistently maintained the principle of respecting the urgent requirements of people in their living and their desire and carrying out all production and construction with their convenience in the first place and with the feedback and assessment from them as a yardstick. It also exerted special efforts to the work of making all the Party organizations and national institutions highly display the spirit of devoting themselves to the people.

It became an important part of politics based on the people-first principle that the Party Central Committee made the People's Army discharge its mission and duty as the driving force of national defence and as a genuine army of the people which firmly protects the country and the people from not only military but sudden nonmilitary threats.

The Party Central Committee has achieved precious successes in uniting our society to be a large family by making sure that all the Party organizations sincerely help the people experiencing ordeals and hardships in their life and lead them to a worthwhile life.

Thanks to the politics of the WPK based on the people-first principle full of trust, devotion, reward and obligation, the political and ideological position of our revolution was firmly consolidated, an unquenchable strength that can break through any obstacles and challenges was built up, and the advantages and vitality of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses were fully displayed.

The report stressed that it is a valuable philosophical principle proved once again during the period under review that it is possible to tackle any unfavourable subjective and objective factors and easily carry out the huge tasks for socialist construction despite any grave situation, manifold trials and latent shortcomings if the politics based on the people-first principle is thoroughly pursued.

Kim Jong Un reviewed the achievements made by our Party and people in the struggle for boosting our own power during the period under review.

The struggle of our Party and people for implementing the decisions made at the Seventh Congress of the Party was a positive offensive for paving a new avenue for socialist construction by breaking through manifold difficulties, holding fast to self-reliance as the lifeline of self-respect and ▶

- ▶ self-development and a powerful engine for development.

The spirit of self-reliance and the policies for its embodiment stressed at the Seventh Congress of the Party were detailed at Party plenary meetings and put into practice. In the course of this, the strategy of our Party for self-reliance was developed into a strategy for offensive for turning the mean sanctions by the hostile forces into a golden opportunity for strengthening our self-development capability and internal motive force and into a political line to be constantly adhered to in socialist construction.

Amidst the all-people struggle for stepping up socialist construction by enhancing the self-development capability, self-reliance developed into a national trait of Juche Korea and the one and only fighting spirit of the Korean revolution.

Although economic construction failed to hit the expected strategic goals, a precious foundation for making sustained economic development by our own efforts was provided, the report said, adding: The greatest of such successes is that the backbone of the self-supporting national economy, the socialist economy, which is the material basis of the existence and lifeline of our own style of socialism, was maintained and its arteries were preserved.

The Party Central Committee built up new potentials for readjusting and developing the overall economy by taking revolutionary measures for strengthening the unified guidance and strategic management of the state over economic work and making sure that the socialist principles were thoroughly observed in the economic field.

During the period under review the Party gave importance to construction as important political work for building up the overall national power and leading the people to socialist civilization, and remarkably changed the appearance of the country by vigorously accelerating the construction work.

The agricultural field waged an intensive drive for scientific farming and high yield despite persistent and severe drought, flooding and all kinds of shortages, and thus brought about an unprecedented increase in grain production.

A breakthrough was made in putting the metallurgical industry and chemical industry, the twin pillars supporting the independent economy, on a Juche-oriented and self-supporting basis and some achievements were made in the technical preparations and laying of foundations for shoring up the sectors of electric power, coal and machine-building industries and rail transport and for developing

teleistics.

Major factories and enterprises in the field of light industry were upgraded to secure potentials for radically boosting the quality and output of consumer goods, and a foundation for increasing production was systematically laid in the fishery sector.

Amid the nationwide and all-people campaign for increasing forest resources of the country, over a million hectares of forests were newly planted and the forces for and means of afforestation and water-conservancy, land and environment protection and urban management were provided.

In the field of science and technology, key national projects were carried out and other valuable sci-tech successes and inventions were made, and in the sector of education, vigorous efforts were made to innovate teaching contents and methods and improve educational conditions and environment.

The material and technical foundations of the public health sector were further strengthened, and a well-regulated working system and foundations were built in the hygienic and anti-epidemic sector through the preemptive and powerful emergency epidemic prevention efforts for checking the inroads of the worldwide pandemic.

Positive efforts were made to put sports on a scientific basis and arouse the zeal for sports, and the work for establishing a national system for disaster prevention and crisis management was pushed, thereby making it possible to flexibly cope with all sorts of disasters including natural calamities.

The successes made in the last five years of struggle for constantly building up our own strength are the fruits of our strenuous exertion and development capacity, which are scores of times greater than any economic construction successes in normal times as they were achieved by our own efforts in the face of protracted wicked sanctions and blockade and awful disasters. And thanks to the enormous power of self-development which was accumulated despite difficulties, the great advance of our Party and people toward a powerful socialist nation will be accelerated more vigorously in greater scope and depth.

Kim Jong Un referred in the report to the successes made in the struggle for consolidating the country's nuclear war deterrent and self-reliant defence capabilities.

To accomplish the great cause of building the national nuclear forces was a strategic and predominant goal that had to be primarily attained by our Party and people without fail in the course of build-



▶ ing our ideal powerful socialist state.

Korea was divided by the US, the world's first user of nukes and war chieftain, and the DPRK has been in direct confrontation with its aggressive forces for decades, and the peculiarities of the Korean revolution and the geopolitical features of our state demand that we press ahead uninterruptedly and forcefully with the already-started building of our nuclear forces for the welfare of our people, the destiny of our revolution and the existence and independent development of our state.

The Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un drew up a forced breakthrough operation for accomplishing the great cause of building the nuclear forces, inspired the entire Party and all the people to the implementation of the line of simultaneously promoting the two fronts, and organized and launched an intensive ideological campaign for preparing the national defence scientists and nuclear scientists as genuine revolutionaries, patriots and death-defying corps.

The energetic and outstanding guidance and activities conducted by the Party Central Committee to safeguard the destiny of the country and the nation wrote a history of miracle—the birth of a strategic weapon of the WPK style.

The report detailed the historic course that led a great revolutionary turn for possessing the completely new nuclear capabilities aimed at attaining the goal of modernization of the nuclear forces.

Under the direct guidance of the Party Central Committee, intermediate-range and intercontinental ballistic rockets of *Hwasongpho* series and submarine-launched and ground-based ballistic rockets of *Pukkuksong* series were manufactured in our own style to meet their unique operational missions. This gave a clearer description of the status of our state as a nuclear weapons state and enabled it to obtain a perfect nuclear shield and bolster its powerful and reliable strategic deterrent for coping with any threat.

During the period under review the already accumulated nuclear technology developed to such a high degree as to make the nuclear weapons miniaturized, light, standardized and tactical and to complete the development of a super-large hydrogen bomb. By succeeding in the test-fire of intercon-

tinental ballistic rocket *Hwasongpho-15* on November 29, 2017, the Party Central Committee declared with pride to the world the accomplishment of the historic cause of building the national nuclear forces and the cause of building a rocket power.

The great cause of building the national nuclear forces, which was impossible to achieve even in 20 to 30 years in terms of existing formula, was accomplished four years after the line of simultaneously promoting economic construction and building up our nuclear forces was set forth and one year after the Seventh Congress of the Party. This is a miracle, which would be wrought never again in history, and an exploit of greatest significance in the history of the Korean nation the Seventh Central Committee performed for the Party and revolution, for the country and people and for posterity.

The Party Central Committee achieved new great victories by vigorously and uninterruptedly leading the struggle for upgrading the nuclear forces even after the great historic November event in 2017.

Recalling that the Party Central Committee decided to develop a global strike rocket with more powerful nuclear warheads and an improved warhead control system and carried out this historic task by relying on the patriotism and loyalty of national defence scientists, the report affirmed that the new-type gigantic rocket on an 11-axle self-propelled launcher displayed during the military parade in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the Party fully demonstrated the ultra-modernity and great striking capability of our nuclear forces.

The accomplishment of the great cause of building the national nuclear forces and its continued development constitute a victory of the organizational and leadership abilities of the Party Central Committee headed by Kim Jong Un and a great victory of the national defence scientists and all other Korean people who waged a death-defying struggle with an indomitable faith in independence and valiant spirit.

The report reviewed the fact that during the period under review new cutting-edge weapon systems were developed one after another in the sector of national defence science to cope with the enemy's desperate arms buildup, thus making our state's superiority in military technology an irreversible one and putting its war deterrent and capability of fighting a war on the highest level.

The national defence science sector developed the super-large MLRS, a hyper-powerful attack weapon the world's weaponry field had never ▶

known, and proceeded to develop ultra-modern tactical nuclear weapons including new-type tactical rockets and intermediate-range cruise missiles whose conventional warheads are the most powerful in the world. This enabled us to gain a reliable edge in military technology.

Our national defence scientists and workers in the munitions industry properly set the orientation of developing the leading tank of our own style following the world's development trends and have begun to enter a new track of development while upgrading production processes. They also achieved such successes as developing world-class anti-aircraft rocket complex, self-propelled gun howitzer and anti-armour weapons.

The report also noted that during the period under review the sector of national defence science was conducting at the final stage the research into perfecting the technology of the multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles, finished research into developing warheads of different combat missions including the hypersonic gliding flight warheads for new-type ballistic rockets and was making preparations for their test manufacture.

The report made public with pride that the standard of the goal in the modernization of the armament of medium-sized submarine was set correctly and it was remodelled experimentally to open up a bright prospect for remarkably enhancing the existing subsurface operational capabilities of our navy, that the designing of new nuclear submarine was finished and was in the stage of final examination and the designing of various electronic weapons, unmanned striking equipment, means of reconnaissance and detection and military reconnaissance satellite was completed, and that other achievements were made in national defence research of gigantic significance in developing the People's Army into a powerful one with the strongest military muscle in the world.

The report evaluated that the bold leap forward brought about in the national defence science and munitions industry made sure that the country ranked high in the world in terms of defence capabilities and, at the same time, it was of great significance in realizing the strategic plan of the Party Central Committee for developing the overall Korean revolution.

The report said that a great advance was made in the work of turning the People's Army into elite forces during the period under review.

Under the leadership of the Party, the People's Army performed miraculous feats on two fronts—

national defence and socialist construction—to faithfully accomplish its revolutionary duty. It also reliably defended the land, the air and the seas of the country and put the provocative threats by the enemy under definite control by means of impregnable guard and full combat posture in the last five years fraught with the most acute and grave trials, thus ensuring peaceful environment for our socialist construction.

During the period under review the Party Central Committee successfully accomplished the great cause of building the country's nuclear forces and brought about a great change in strengthening the state defence capabilities, thereby upraising the country to the position of a world nuclear power and military power in both name and reality and putting an end once and for all to the era in which big powers attempted to make bargain at their own will with the interests of our state and nation.

The most significant and proud victory achieved by the Seventh Central Committee headed by Kim Jong Un in implementing the decisions of the Party Congress is that it made sure that our people and posterity could create prosperity and happiness to the full in a dignified strong country free from the holocaust of war for ever.

In the report Kim Jong Un reviewed that the DPRK's external position was radically raised during the period under review.

After winning the great victory in carrying out the line of simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and upbuilding of our nuclear forces, the Party Central Committee conducted energetic external activities, placing the state's dignity and prestige on a high level.

During the period under review, the external environment for the DPRK was the harshest in its history since its founding, due to the desperate offensive by the US and its followers characterized by frantic manoeuvres to pressure and blockade the country.

In this severest situation, the Party Central Committee resolutely rejected any attempt to hurt the supreme interests and dignity of the country and never made even the slightest concession in its revolutionary principle while adhering more firmly to the principle of independence, which brought the world to the realization that the sovereignty of the DPRK can never be infringed upon and improved relations with it is absolutely impossible without the respect for its sovereignty.

By making a bold switchover in its lines and pursuing offensive strategy, it created a trend to-



► wards peace and atmosphere of dialogue, accepted by the international community, and organized and led adroit external activities to elevate the prestige of the DPRK in the international arena.

By prioritizing the long-standing and special DPRK-China relations, our Party developed the friendly relations with China as required by the new century and opened a new chapter in the DPRK-China relations of friendship with socialism as its core, the report stressed.

The Party Central Committee strengthened strategic communication, promoted mutual understanding and deepened comradely trust between the two Parties through five rounds of DPRK-China summit talks, and thus provided a firm guarantee for fresh development of the DPRK-China relations as demanded by the times that required continuity in the fraternal ties and unity between the Parties and peoples of the two countries which are inseparably bound up with each other in the struggle for their common cause.

Attaching importance to the fresh development of the traditional DPRK-Russia relations, the Party Central Committee also conducted external activities for the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, in the course of which it laid a cornerstone for the expansion of friendly relations with Russia.

Through the DPRK-Cuba Pyongyang summit and the DPRK-Vietnam Hanoi summit, the Party Central Committee developed the bilateral relations, forged and verified in the common struggle for accomplishing the cause of socialism, into special ones between comrades, into strategic ones, thus radically strengthening its unity and solidarity with other socialist countries.

The proactive external activities conducted by the Party Central Committee gave a strong impetus to the socialist cause in the international arena, and demonstrated the prestige and authority of our Party and state, which is steering the new political trend of safeguarding independence, justice and peace.

The Party Central Committee brought about a dramatic turn in the balance of power between the DPRK and the US during the period under review, thereby wonderfully demonstrating the dignity and prestige of our state.

At the one-on-one talks of the top leaders of the DPRK and the US, the first of its kind in the hostile relations between the two countries, the Party Central Committee, with a strong principle of independence, made sure that the joint declaration that assured the establishment of new DPRK-US relations was adopted.

The several rounds of DPRK-US summit talks were an event of the greatest significance in the history of world politics, which demonstrated to the world the strategic position of the DPRK, which defends its independent interests and peace and justice against the superpower.

During the period under review, the Party Central Committee considerably raised the strategic position and prestige of the DPRK by relying on the indomitable and steadfast independent spirit of our people and the great might stockpiled by the country. This symbolizes the dignity and authority of the WPK and the position of our great people.

The report stressed that the rapid rise of the external position of the DPRK, whose territory and population are not so large and which is encircled by the imperialist reactionaries, is a precious fruition of the protracted and hard-fought struggle waged by our Party and people, and it is a great historic miracle born of the great unity of the people who believed and upheld the line and policies of the Party as an absolute truth and rallied more closely around the Party despite the worsening difficulties.

2. For an Epoch-making Advance in Socialist Construction

It is an important task set forth by the Eighth Congress of the WPK to clearly decide on the correct orientation and mission of the struggle aimed at steadily achieving fresh victories in socialist construction and take substantial measures to this end.

In the second part of the report Comrade Kim Jong Un analyzed and reviewed the work of the economic and cultural construction, defence building, state and social administration, and the working people's organizations during the period under review, mainly focusing on the mistakes and lessons, and advanced important tasks for making new progress and development in the future.

He, first of all, made a strict and detailed analysis of the implementation of the five-year strategy for the national economic development and a new long-term plan.

The report severely criticized that the objec-

► tives for the growth of the national economy fell a long way short of implementation and consequently the people's living standards could not be improved remarkably, owing to the failure in the revolutionary improvement of the economic work under the protracted severe external and internal situations and in the face of unexpected challenges. It also dealt with depression in different sectors and its causes.

Analyzing the subjective and objective factors which affected the implementation of the five-year strategy for the national economic development, it pointed out the aftermath of the most barbarous sanctions and blockade by the US and other hostile forces as the first objective factor.

Besides, severe natural disasters that hit the country every year and the world health crisis that broke out last year and became protracted were severe obstacles to the economic work, it analyzed.

The report said that due to such obstacles, state investment and supplies intended to bolster the major economic sectors in the five-year strategy for the national economic development could not be carried out properly.

It gave the Party Central Committee's analysis and appraisal of the cause of non-fulfilment of the five-year strategy for the national economic development during the period under review, seriously pointing out that it could but draw a conclusion that if one ascribes its failure to objective conditions, he can do nothing and the action and role of the driving force will be unnecessary, and it is impossible to accelerate the revolutionary struggle and construction work unless the unfavourable external factors are removed.

The Party Central Committee analyzed the current situation, in which the five-year strategy for the national economic development had not been properly set on the basis of scientific calculation and grounds, science and technology failed to actually play the role of propelling the economic work of the country and the work of readjusting and reinforcing the irrational economic work system and discipline was not properly done.

The report referred to the conclusive lesson that the economy of the country can never be boosted without breaking with the wrong ideological viewpoint, irresponsible working attitude, incompetence and obsolete working manner that have been prevalent so far.

Stressing the need to take steps for decisively switching the overall work of the Party and the state to be oriented to and encouraging fresh innova-

tion, bold creation and steady advance and resolutely getting rid of the outdated work system, unreasonable and inefficient way of work and obstacles disturbing our advance, the report noted that only by doing so, is it possible to turn our struggle for socialist construction, including the one for attaining the future long-term goals of the national economy, into a great revolutionary undertaking aimed at bringing substantial benefits to the people.

The report clarified the strategy for the struggle in the economic field in the coming five years.

It stressed that our Party's economic strategy at the present stage is the one for readjustment and reinforcement aimed at putting our economy on a normal track so that it can run smoothly without being affected by any external influence, by restoring and readjusting the economic work and the organic relations among sectors and pushing ahead with the work for cementing its self-supporting foundations.

The general orientation of the five-year plan for the national economic development is to lay solid foundations for reenergizing the overall national economy and improving the people's standard of living by concentrating efforts on the main links in the whole chain of economic development.

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

The report brought for discussion the new five-year plan which has it as its goal to advance toward sustained economic growth and vivid improvement of the people's standard of living on the basis of the present situation and potentiality of the national economy.

The new five-year plan mainly presupposes that the Cabinet, as the economic headquarters of the country, properly enforces the Cabinet-responsibility system, Cabinet-centred system, for economic work, vigorously accelerates the work of strengthening the essential lifeline and integrity of the country's economy, definitely improves its economic management, actively promotes the normalization of production, renovation and local provision of raw and other materials by dint of science and technology and orientates the external economic activities toward reinforcing the foundations and potentiality



▶ of the self-supporting economy.

And the new plan reflects the demands for perfecting the self-supporting structure of the national economy, lowering the proportion of dependence on imports and stabilizing the people's living by taking the actual possibilities into consideration.

The main seed and theme of the plan are, as always, self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

From the requirements of our developing revolution and from the urgent requirements of socialist construction, self-reliance during the period of the new long-term plan should develop into nationwide, planned and scientific self-reliance.

Kim Jong Un, in his report, referred in detail to the present conditions in the major economic sectors, and the issues related with their readjustment and development.

The report presented the situation of the key industrial fields which form the lifeline of the national economy and which must be propped up on a priority basis for the overall economic development and the improvement of people's standard of living, and ways of their readjustment and development.

The report stressed that the metal industry should technologically perfect our own system of iron making, expand its capacity and radically increase iron and steel production.

It was noted that in order to attain the goal of iron and steel production mentioned in the new five-year plan, scientific and technological problems must be solved to expand production capacity by renovating the existing production lines with advanced technology and building new energy-saving iron blast furnaces in major iron works and steel plants, to invigorate the production of iron ore and to use brown coal in the northern areas for the production of pig iron.

The report also referred to the direction of the development of the core industry of the country, the chemical industry, which can be likened to the lifeline for the construction of the self-supporting economy and the improvement of people's standard of living.

The central task of the chemical industry in the new five-year plan period is to give precedence to building up its own technical forces, step up the improvement of its structure, and drastically increase the production of chemical goods necessary

for economic construction and the improvement of the people's standard of living.

The chemical industry should make sure that the whole process of the struggle for founding a Juche-based chemical industry becomes the process of holding a firm grasp on the know-how of the up-to-date technology and push forward the work of transforming the structure of the country's chemical industry into that of a Juche-based industry that relies on our own raw materials.

The report set it as a precondition for stepping up economic construction and improving the people's standard of living to increase the generation of electricity, key power of the self-supporting economy.

The major task facing the electric power industry during the new five-year plan period is to readjust and reinforce its production foundations as a whole and expand them on a long-term basis while waging an increased production drive for meeting the immediate demand for electricity so as to reliably guarantee the stable development of the national economy and the material and cultured living of the people.

The report mentioned the plans for concentrating the efforts of the state on the construction of tidal power stations under long-term and medium-term strategies and launching in real earnest into the founding of the nuclear power industry to cope with the long-range demands and the subjective and objective changes in the future.

It put an emphasis on important issues for developing the coal industry, an outpost for the development of the self-supporting economy.

Referred to were the issues of boldly unfolding and powerfully propelling the work of intensively supplying equipment, materials, labour and funds to the coal industry, securing more coalfaces by giving precedence to prospecting and tunnelling in the coal industry, putting efforts into the development of the soft coal industry, pushing forward the work of improving the working and living conditions of coal miners as a priority task for increased coal production and taking measures for the effective use of coal.

The report defined the machine industry as an important sector leading and hauling the overall economic sectors, and set forth the immediate orientation of its development after examining the present situation facing the machine industry of the country and its causes.

The basic task facing the machine industry during the new five-year plan period is to make itself ▶

► an industry with solid foundations and switch to an innovative industry.

The machine industry should positively develop and produce modern and high-performance machine products including machine tools, vehicles, building machines, electric machines, mining machines and hydraulic machines.

The report stressed the need to attach importance to the mining industry and shore it up for the sake of the normal development of the national economy.

The basic tasks of the mining industry are to reinforce and expand its production foundations and meet the needs of the national economy for non-ferrous metallic and non-metallic minerals in the main during the new five-year plan period.

To this end, it is necessary to realistically promote the work of building up the geological prospecting forces and effectively developing and using the underground natural resources of the country in a unified way, and to expand the production capacity of the mines, smelters and factories in the mining industry.

The report underlined the need for the forestry sector to strengthen its own material and technological foundations and satisfactorily meet the need for timber of the national economy while keeping the balance of timber production and afforestation.

The orientation of development of the sectors of the key industries mentioned in the report indicates the scientific and innovative way to powerfully leading the overall economic construction by further strengthening the potential and might of the self-supporting economy, and it also provided a firm policy guarantee for promoting the sustained development of the economy whatever the conditions and environments.

The report referred to the present situation in transport and the tasks for bringing about obvious improvement in it.

The basic target of rail transport during the new five-year plan period is to positively promote the modernization of railways, improve transport in a revolutionary way and thus satisfactorily meet the need for rail transport.

The field of rail transport should push ahead in a planned way and staunchly with the work of ensuring the safety of railways, making them heavy-duty, extending the sections of standardized railways and, furthermore, renovating all the railways.

At the same time, the projects for updating the Pyongyang Metro and renovating its stations should be pushed forward, and the level of its man-

agement and operation decisively raised.

The land and marine transport was presented with the tasks of continuing to build large cargo vessels suited to the world trend of development of ship-building technology, building an integrated management system of automotive transport and putting transport command on an IT basis so as to ease the strain on transport.

It is necessary to produce a larger number of means of public transport, including new-type subway trains, trolley buses, tramcars and buses, to promote people's conveniences.

The report evaluated the remarkable development and achievements made in the construction field during the period under review, pointed out a series of deviations and raised new tasks and targets.

The basic tasks facing the construction field during the new five-year plan period are to massively carry out the capital construction including housing construction so as to provide the people with a higher civilized living conditions and radically change the appearances of the country.

The construction field should powerfully push forward the two fronts simultaneously—industrial construction for strengthening the economic foundations of the country and construction for meeting the material and cultural needs of the people.

By concentrating efforts on the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, it should set the annual plans for building 10 000 flats every year, starting from this year, scrupulously organize the construction operation and guidance for implementing the plans and thus basically settle the issue of dwelling houses for the Pyongyang citizens.

We should build 25 000 houses in the Komdok area, a leading nonferrous mineral producer where a large contingent of workers live, and thus build it into a mining city unique in the world.

It is imperative to build strong professional construction units and actively develop and produce equipment, gears and tools necessary for construction at the building machinery factories.

The report raised the tasks for further developing the building materials industry in keeping with the demand of the practical situation in which construction is progressing at an unprecedented speed.

The basic tasks facing the building materials industry during the new five-year plan period is to attain the goal of producing 8 million tons of cement and ensure self-sufficiency of the finishing materials.

It is necessary to renovate the existing cement ▶



► factories and, at the same time, build new large-capacity, up-to-date cement factories in the areas with favourable conditions for materials and electricity supply and transport, and thus further expand the cement production capacity of the country.

It is imperative to work hard to meet the demand for finishing materials determining the appearance of buildings through home production, build up the bases for producing outdoor and other paints with locally available raw materials, raise their quality and develop the technology for producing roofing materials.

It is necessary to steadily push ahead with the preparations for producing building materials under a well-thought-out plan to construct more zero-carbon and zero-energy buildings in keeping with the world trend of architectural development, and provinces should produce various building materials in large quantities by constructing various profitable building materials production bases that rely on their locally available raw materials.

The report set forth the tasks for the communications field to make uninterrupted leaps forward and innovations in positive response to the demand of the times.

The field should step up technical updating of its infrastructure and turn mobile communications into a next-generation one as early as possible by developing the relevant technology.

It is needed to readjust the wire broadcasting and cable TV networks, put the relevant technology on a higher level and provide full conditions for the people in all parts of the country, ranging from cities to remote mountain villages, to enjoy a better cultural and emotional life.

The report raised it as a very urgent issue at present to develop the state-run commerce and preserve the socialist nature of public catering and welfare service, and set forth the tasks for restoring our commerce, true to its name, to public service activities for supporting the people's life and promoting their material wellbeing.

The important tasks to be carried out by our commerce without fail at present are to restore the state's leading role and control in the overall commercial service activities and preserve the nature of socialist commerce of serving the people.

Commercial service units should put their ser-

vice activities on a people-oriented, cultural, modern and diversified basis with a correct management strategy, and thus create a new socialist service culture of our own style.

The report presented land management and ecological environment protection as important affairs for protecting the lives and health of the people and improving the landscape of the country and a work of strategic weight for the future of the country.

The tasks facing the land management sector in the new five-year plan period are to make decisive progress in land development and ecological environment protection, thus steadily pushing ahead with the work of transforming the whole country into a socialist fairyland, a beautiful land as befitting the era of the Workers' Party.

The report pointed out the matters of grasping through surveys the overall situation of the ecological environment including forests, dealing with their seasonal and annual changes correctly and promptly in accordance with the results of the relevant analysis, enacting right laws and regulations for the protection of land and environment and implementing them strictly, preventing natural disasters through an intensified campaign of afforestation and water conservation, continuously making great efforts for road construction and management, and pushing ahead with eastern and western coastal improvement projects in a big way through national mobilization to protect the lives and safety of the people, conserve land and spruce up the country's coastal areas as befits a maritime nation.

The report stressed the importance of urban management which is directly related with the life of the people from A to Z, and set forth relevant tasks.

The field of urban management should take stringent measures for repairing houses, expand the capacity for producing drinking water while improving its quality, and build a larger number of sewage treatment plants to prevent environmental pollution.

It is necessary to decisively enhance the level of landscaping designing, spruce up parks and recreation grounds and plant good species of trees, flowers and cover plants in good arrangement so as to give a facelift to cities.

The report, based on a detailed analysis of the external economic work and the subjective and objective conditions and environment of the country, raised directional issues including those of formulating a scientific strategy for the external economic field and implementing it purposefully. ►

► It raised boosting tourism as an important undertaking for providing our people with a more civilized life and showing the world the ever-improving appearances of our country.

It is necessary to spruce up tourist attractions, improve methods of giving publicity to them and arrange diversified tourist courses and guidance.

Also important is to turn the Mt Kumgang area into a modern tourist resort of our own style.

The report advanced the tasks of removing all the facilities including the Haegumgang Hotel at a wharf of the Port of Kosong and constructing buildings of our own typical architectural style, which will go in harmony with the beautiful scenery of Mt Kumgang and suit the emotional and aesthetic feelings of our people.

According to the master plan for the development of the Mt Kumgang tourist area, the projects to build the Kosong port coastal tourist area, the Pirobong mountaineering tourist area, the Haegumgang coastal park area and a sports and culture area—which will all be of original forms—should be carried out on a yearly basis and in a phased way during the new five-year plan period.

The report set it as an important task to improve economic management.

Our national economy is a self-supporting and planned one that serves the people.

The independent, planned and people-oriented characters of the national economy should be strengthened. To this end, it is necessary to raise the functions of the state that organizes economic affairs, and ensure unified management of products on the principle of making sure that the fruition of the economic activities is channelled into promoting the wellbeing of the people.

The fundamental requirement and direction in improving the management of the socialist economy are to put the masses of the people, the masters of society, at the centre of all considerations and give priority to their demands and interests.

The report also stressed the need to hold fast to reducing cost and improving quality as the key to improved economic management.

Basing themselves on the fundamental requirement and direction of improving the management of the socialist economy, the state economic guidance organs should readjust and reinforce the economy substantially.

The report underscored the need to tighten discipline in ensuring unified guidance of the state in the economic work, strengthen the national system of unified statistics, properly launch the work of

boosting the mainstay of the national economy, and improve the conditions of industrial establishments to carry on their management activities.

Productive forces should be redistributed in a reasonable way so that economic efficiency may increase in the whole realm of the national economy, weak links in the chain of each economic sector identified, and the sectors that are essential for balanced development of the economy reinforced.

It is imperative to improve planning and make proper use of the economic leverages including financial, monetary and price administration so as to ensure rational management of the economy.

The scientific analysis and clear policies the report put forth with regard to the prevailing situation of the major economic sectors and their readjustment and development serve as a powerful weapon of practical importance in consolidating the material and technical foundations of the self-supporting economy and propelling economic construction in a planned and stable way irrespective of the change in the external environment.

Kim Jong Un declared in the report the unshakable determination of the Party to make a breakthrough in solving the people's food, clothing and housing problems at any cost and effect tangible changes and innovations, which will benefit the people in reality, in the new five-year plan period.

The report set forth proactive measures to increase agricultural production so as to decisively settle the problem of food supply for the people.

The central target in the agricultural field in the five-year plan is to unfailingly attain the goal of grain production the Party has already set and to consolidate the material and technical foundations for sustained development of agriculture.

In order to increase agricultural production, it is important to put efforts into seed improvement, scientific farming, increased output in low-yielding fields, cultivation of new land and tideland reclamation, while developing farming, animal husbandry and fruit growing and pushing irrigation and mechanization of agriculture as an important strategic priority.

The report emphasized the policies of taking scientific and technical measures and laying material and technical foundations for securing agricultural increase even in unfavourable climatic and weather conditions, boosting the zeal of agricultural workers for production and strengthening state assistance to the rural economy.

The main targets set forth for the agricultural sector are matters of paramount importance for the



- ▶ state that must be attained whatever the cost in order to ensure self-sufficiency in food supply and thus step up socialist construction.

The report referred to the importance of light industry which holds an absolute share in providing the people with an affluent and civilized life, and to the direction of its development.

The light industrial field should step up its renovation while regarding it as the lifeline and main direction of development to tap locally available resources for raw and other materials and recycle used materials; it should also steadily build itself up by reinforcing the weak sectors and processes and setting up missing ones.

Also stressed were the issues of raising the quality of products on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity, and directing efforts into developing new kinds of products.

The report defined the fishing industry as one of the three fields directly related to the people's diet.

The fishing industry should modernize fishing vessels and implements, put fishing on a scientific basis and build up fishery stations and ship repair yards.

It is necessary to systematically increase seafood production by substantially conserving and propagating the nation's aquatic resources in a planned way and launching a mass drive for aquaculture.

Raised in the report were important policy issues for self-reliant and multifaceted development of cities and counties.

It is the consistent strategic policy our Party maintains in socialist construction to consolidate its revolutionary position and develop the rural economy and other sectors of the local economy and improve the people's living standards with cities and counties as bases.

Cities and counties constitute terminal units for the execution of our Party's policies, regional bases guiding the rural economy and other sectors of the local economy, and strong pillars supporting the overall development of the country.

The general goal defined by the report to build up cities and counties is to turn every city and county into a strategic base of a highly civilized and prosperous socialist state, into a developed region retaining their inherent characteristics.

Cities and counties should set their develop-

ment strategies and long-term objectives in conformity with their regional characteristics and in a realistic way, and persistently and purposefully carry them out in a planned way and on an annual basis.

It is necessary to channel efforts into development of the socialist rural communities, holding aloft the slogan "Forward towards fresh victory!" so as to achieve cultural progress peculiar to rural areas, a new development of our own style.

The long-term objective for rural construction is to eliminate disparities between the working class and the peasantry, the gaps between industry and agriculture and differences between the urban and rural areas by pushing ahead with the three revolutions in the rural areas and thoroughly implementing the theses on the socialist rural question; and the immediate task is to give precedence to the work of transforming agricultural workers on the revolutionary and working-class patterns, boost state support to the rural areas and build up the rural communities in a balanced way so that they have regional characteristics of their own.

The report stressed the need for the Party and the state to pay close attention to the effort for building up the positions of rural hard-core elements.

It raised it as a consistent political requirement to develop the local economy by using the raw and other materials available in relevant areas in accordance with the regional characteristics.

It is also necessary to push ahead with the work of changing the appearances of city and county seats and put great efforts to improving urban management, afforestation, water conservation and environmental protection.

Mentioned in the report was a task for city and county Party committees and people's committees to become a powerful engine propelling the development of their regions, master of the local economy and administrator responsible for the livelihood of the people in their regions.

Kim Jong Un solemnly clarified the revolutionary standpoint that the national defence capabilities, the cornerstone for the existence of the state and a reliable guarantee for defending the dignity and security of the country and people and peace, should be strengthened continuously.

The report analyzed the fact that although our Party and the government of our Republic made well-meant efforts and displayed the greatest patience to prevent the aggravation of the regional tension out of sheer desire to ensure peace and se-

curity of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world, the hostile nature of the American policy towards the DPRK has gone from bad to worse, instead of becoming weakened.

Nothing is more foolish and dangerous than to idle our time away without steadily building up our strength while knowing well enough that the enemy's hi-tech weapons aimed at our state are increasing in volume.

The reality shows that only when we bolster up our national defence capabilities without a moment's halt will we be able to contain the military threat from the US and achieve peace and prosperity of the Korean peninsula.

Stressing that the strong defence capabilities of the state never precludes diplomacy but serves as a powerful means to propel it along the right course and guarantee its success, the report gave the analytical conclusion that the reality in the prevailing situation proves once again that there can never be satisfaction in strengthening the military strength.

As long as imperialism remains on the earth and the danger of war of aggression by the hostile forces against our state remains, the historic mission of our revolutionary armed forces can never be changed and our national defence capabilities must be steadily bolstered along the track of new development.

The report set forth important tasks for the Korean People's Army to develop more firmly into a revolutionary army modelled on the Workers' Party of Korea, a sophisticated hi-tech army and a reliable defender of our state and people by maintaining it as the general task for the army building to model itself on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The report mentioned the core plan and strategic tasks of crucial importance in rapidly developing and strengthening the national defence industry.

It is necessary to develop the nuclear technology to a higher level and make nuclear weapons smaller and lighter for more tactical uses; this will make it possible to develop tactical nuclear weapons to be used as various means according to the purposes of operational duty and targets of strike in modern warfare. And the production of super-sized nuclear warheads should be continuously pushed ahead. In this way we will be able to thoroughly contain, control and handle on our own initiative various military threats on the Korean peninsula, which are inevitably accompanied by the nuclear threat.

The report also set a goal of attaining an advanced capability for making a preemptive and retaliatory nuclear strike by further raising the rate

of precision good enough to strike and annihilate any strategic targets within a range of 15 000 kilometres with pinpoint accuracy.

And the tasks were brought up to develop and introduce hypersonic gliding flight warheads in a short period, push ahead with the development of solid-fuelled intercontinental underwater and ground ballistic rockets as scheduled, and possess a nuclear submarine and an underwater-launch nuclear strategic weapon which will be of great importance in raising the long-range nuclear striking capability.

The report also referred to the need to secure the ability of reconnaissance and information gathering based on operation of a military reconnaissance satellite in the near future, and conduct in earnest the most important research to develop reconnaissance drones and other means of reconnaissance capable of precisely reconnoitring up to 500 km deep into the front.

It defined it as the main task facing the sector of defence science at present to rapidly advance the Korean People's Army from the conventional type into an elite hi-tech one by developing the defence science and technology in every way possible and inventing more advanced weapons and combat equipment.

Making the military equipment intelligent, precise, unmanned, high-performance and light should be set as the priority target of the munitions industry, and research and development oriented to this end.

The report mentioned the profound tasks for completing the preparations for all-people resistance, the matter of crucial importance that should never be neglected in firmly consolidating the national defence capabilities.

The important tasks for strengthening the national defence capabilities put forward by the report are expressive of the iron will and determination to continuously strengthen the country's military capabilities until the vicious cycle of the brink of war and detente, tension and dialogue is removed once and for all and such words as threat and blackmail by the hostile forces disappear on this land, considering the situation in which the international balance of power is crumbling owing to the reckless arms buildup of the US and other hostile forces.

Kim Jong Un set forth in the report tasks for confidently opening an avenue for achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance by promoting the development of science and technology.

Defining development of science and technology ▶



- ▶ as a crucial task and an optimum policy in socialist construction, the report comprehensively analyzed the deviations revealed in the course of implementing the line of attaching importance to science and technology, and indicated the goals for the development of science and technology to be attained by each sector during the new five-year plan period, as well as the relevant ways and means for their achievement.

It is necessary to proactively solve urgent scientific and technical problems arising in implementing the new five-year plan for the national economic development and promote the development of core and advanced cutting-edge technology.

It is essential to establish a proper Party, state, administrative guidance and management system for the development of science and technology, share scientific research findings and vigorously push forward with the work of making all the people well versed in science and technology.

Kim Jong Un pointed out in the report the achievements, experience, mistakes and lessons made and drawn in developing socialist culture during the period under review.

It is our Party's far-reaching goal and ideal to lead our people to civilization of our own style in the new century by opening up a new era of efflorescence of socialist culture.

The report analyzed and assessed the performance of education, public health, art and literature, mass media and sports sectors during the period under review, which play an important role in developing all members of society into powerful beings, in invigorating the advancing revolution and in successfully stepping up socialist construction.

Earnestly reiterated in the report were the general goal of making education the one which can be fully entrusted with our future and the goals and detailed tasks for the development of education for turning our country into an educational power, a talent power, by bringing about radical improvement in education in the new century.

The sector of secondary and higher education should steadily update educational contents and methods and education management system to follow the current trend in the development of education and to meet the pedagogical demand, while

methodologically enhancing the ability and qualifications of teachers who are responsible for bringing about a radical turn in education.

The state should increase its investment in and support for the educational field in order to powerfully conduct the work of renovating the educational conditions and environment including the building of schools.

The report dealt with detailed plans for providing people with better medical benefits by developing our socialist healthcare into the most advantageous and advanced public health.

The public health field should substantially carry out the work of renovating the treatment and prevention institutions and pharmaceutical and medical appliances factories, build up the ranks of medical workers and create a reliable anti-epidemic basis for coping with whatever world health crisis.

The report also made a serious analysis of the work in the field of art and literature, and set forth tasks for ushering in a new era of efflorescence of Juche-oriented art and literature by effecting a radical turn on all fronts of art and literature.

Creation guidance officials, creators and artistes in the field of art and literature should display an enterprising working spirit with high discernment to produce excellent works embodying the Juche character, national identity and modernity, stage characteristic performances, and purposefully carry out the training of reserves on a long-term basis by establishing a proper system and setting development strategy and clear goals.

Tasks were set forth for the mass media to raise the fierce flames of a new revolution in newspapers, news services, radio and TV broadcasting and publishing as required by the new era of drastic change and upsurge in socialist construction so as to wage a vigorous media campaign aimed at deeply instilling into all the people the core of the ideas, lines and policies of the Party Congress and inspiring them to the implementation of the decisions of the Party Congress, and for the field of physical culture and sports to redouble efforts for making our country join the ranks of advanced sports nations in line with the prestige and position of our dignified state.

The innovative orientations for building socialist culture are a reflection of the grandiose plan for creating a new, Korean style of civilization by bringing about a great revolution in all sectors of socialist culture with the successes, experiences, mistakes and lessons gained during the period under review as a springboard for advance and leap ▶

forward.

The report put an emphasis on effecting a revolutionary change in the mental and moral life of the people by pushing ahead with the eradication of non-socialist, anti-socialist practices and thorough establishment of the socialist lifestyle throughout the country as an undertaking involving the whole Party, state and society.

All the people should create and develop a noble and civilized new life of our own style and conduct a powerful mass struggle against the practices running counter to the socialist lifestyle, deeply bearing in mind the faith in socialism and love for and trust in things of their own.

In his report, Kim Jong Un set forth tasks for further consolidating the state social system in response to the reality that witnesses a radical rise of our Republic's position and the revolution entering a new stage.

The report underscored the need to strengthen the people-oriented nature of the state befitting the intrinsic character of our style of socialist system, realize its unified, scientific and strategic control and thoroughly establish a revolutionary spirit of law observance throughout society as required by the building of a socialist rule-of-law state, and called on judicial, procuratorial, public and state security organs to fulfil their sacred mission and responsibility they have assumed for defending the system, policy and people as reliable defenders of the socialist system.

Kim Jong Un, in his report, put forward the important tasks for strengthening the working people's organizations, the links between the Party and the masses and its fringe organizations, into powerful political ones, powerful forces for building socialism.

The report stressed the need for the working people's organizations to hold fast to their internal work in line with their duty as organizations in charge of ideological education to firmly arm all their members with the Party's revolutionary ideas and, in particular, the need to fully prepare the youth league as a reliable successor to and reserve of the Party.

The report, which indicated the road towards dramatic progress in socialist construction, serves as a militant banner powerfully inspiring the people to a new victory in the next stage by giving full play to the advantages and might of our style of socialism in the overall state affairs, including the building of the economy, national defence, culture and science and technology, in the prevailing

situation.

3. For the Independent Reunification of the Country and Development of External Relations

In the third part of his report, Comrade Kim Jong Un mentioned the important issues for the independent reunification of the country and development of external relations.

The report studied the issues concerning south Korea in view of the demands of the prevailing situation and the changed times, and clarified our Party's principled stand on the north-south relations.

As specified in the report, our nation is now standing on the crucial crossroads of whether to advance along the road of peace and reunification after breaking the serious deadlock in the north-south relations or to continue to suffer the pain resulting from division in the vicious cycle of confrontation and danger of war.

It is no exaggeration to say that the current inter-Korean relations have been brought back to the time before the publication of the Panmunjom Declaration and the hope for national reunification has become more distant.

Hostile military acts and anti-DPRK smear campaign are still going on in south Korea, aggravating the situation of the Korean peninsula and dimming the future of the inter-Korean relations.

Judging that the prevailing frozen north-south relations cannot thaw by the efforts of one side alone nor improve by themselves with the passage of time, the report stressed that if one sincerely aspires after the country's peace and reunification and cares about the destiny of the nation and the future of posterity, one should not look on this grave situation with folded arms, but take proactive measures to redress and improve the present north-south relations facing a catastrophe.

The report clarified the principled stand on the inter-Korean relations as follows:

It is necessary to take stand and stance to resolve the basic problems first in the north-south relations, halt all acts hostile toward the other side and seriously approach and faithfully implement the north-south declarations.

The report pointed out the main reason why the north-south relations which had favourably developed in the past were frozen abruptly and brought back to those of confrontation.

The south Korean authorities are now giving ▶



- ▶ the impression that they are concerned about the improvement of north-south relations by raising such inessential issues as cooperation in epidemic prevention and humanitarian field and individual tourism.

They are going against the implementation of the north-south agreement on guaranteeing peace and military stability on the Korean peninsula in disregard of our repeated warnings that they should stop introducing latest military hardware and conducting joint military exercises with the US.

Worse still, they are getting more frantic about modernizing their armed forces, labelling our development of various conventional weapons, which pertains entirely to our independent rights, a “provocation.”

If they want to find fault with it, they should first give an explanation for the chief executive's personal remarks that south Korea should accelerate its efforts for obtaining and developing latest military assets, that it would develop ballistic and cruise missiles with more precision and power and longer range than the existing ones, and that it had already developed ballistic missiles with the world's heaviest warhead. They should also provide a convincing explanation for the purpose and motive in their continued introduction of cutting-edge offensive equipment.

The report seriously warned that if the south Korean authorities continue to label our action “provocation” with a double-dealing and biased mindset, we have no other option but to deal with them in a different way.

A new road toward improved north-south relations based on firm trust and reconciliation can be paved only when the south Korean authorities strictly and properly control and root out any abnormal and anti-reunification conducts.

Whether the north-south relations can be restored and invigorated or not entirely depends on the attitude of the south Korean authorities, and they will receive as much as they have paid and tried.

The report stressed that at the present moment we do not need to show goodwill to the south Korean authorities unilaterally as we did in the past, and that we should treat them according to how

they respond to our just demands and how much effort they make to fulfil the north-south agreements.

It analyzed that the north-south relations may return to a new starting point of peace and prosperity in the near future, as desired by all compatriots, as they did in the spring three years ago, depending on the south Korean authorities' attitude.

In the report Kim Jong Un clarified the general direction and policy-oriented stand of the WPK for comprehensively developing the external relations.

The report made an in-depth analysis of the current international situation and the external environment of the DPRK.

The principal review and conclusion of our Party's external activities during the period under review are that the strategy of power for power should be consistently maintained with regard to the hostile forces unwarrantedly running amuck and the big powers wielding high-handed policies.

After affirming this stance, the report set it as the general direction of the external work at present to comprehensively develop the foreign relations as befitting the strategic position of our state and thus provide reliable political and diplomatic guarantees to socialist construction.

Proceeding from this, it clarified matters of principle to be maintained in the field of external work.

The field of external work should hold fast to the principle of independence in its activities, regarding it as the first mission of the DPRK's diplomacy to defend the dignity of the WPK, enhance the prestige of the nation and champion the interests of the state.

It should wage offensive diplomacy to smash the attempts of the hostile forces to violate our sovereignty, and defend our state's rights to normal development.

It should orient external political activities with the main emphasis put on prevailing over and subjugating the US, the fundamental obstacle to the development of our revolution and our principal enemy.

Noting that whoever takes power in the US, its entity and the real intention of its policy toward the DPRK would never change, the report stressed the need for the field of external work to adopt an adroit strategy toward the US and steadily expand solidarity with the anti-imperialist, independent forces.

It also referred to the need to frustrate the reactionary offensive of the enemy and raise the prestige of the DPRK by enhancing the role of the exte-

▶ nal information sector.

It stressed the need for the field of external work to further develop the relations with the socialist countries, consolidate unity and cooperation with the revolutionary and progressive parties aspiring after independence, and launch a dynamic joint struggle against imperialism on a worldwide scale so as to make the external environment of our state ever-more favourable.

The report expressed the steadfast will of the WPK to reliably defend peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

There is no country in this planet which is always exposed to war threat like the DPRK, and so much strong is its people's desire for peace.

That we have built up the strongest war deterrent and steadily develop them is aimed at defending ourselves and opening up an era of genuine peace free from war for ever.

Now that our national defence capabilities has risen to such a level that it can preemptively contain outside our territory the hostile forces' threat, in the future the worsening of tensions on the Korean peninsula will lead to the instability of security on the part of the forces posing threat to us.

Stating that the key to establishing new DPRK-US relationship lies in the US withdrawal of its hostile policy toward the DPRK, the report solemnly clarified the WPK's stand that it would approach the US on the principle of power for power and goodwill for goodwill in the future, too.

It reaffirmed that the DPRK, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, will not misuse its nuclear weapons unless the aggressive hostile forces try to have recourse to their nuclear weapons against us.

By clarifying the foreign policy and stand of the WPK for strengthening friendship and solidarity with all the countries in the world respecting the sovereignty of the DPRK and for achieving genuine international justice, the report on the work of the Central Committee of the WPK provided strategic and tactical guidelines for further increasing the DPRK's international authority and influence in the new period to be reviewed.

4. For the Development of Party Work

In the fourth part of the report Kim Jong Un reviewed the successes achieved in the work for developing the Party during the period under review and set forth the tasks and ways for improving Party work as required by the times and developing

reality.

The report commented it was a precious success achieved in Party work during the period under review that the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee was firmly established in the entire Party, the fighting efficiency and leadership ability of the Party remarkably boosted and the Party's foundations readjusted and consolidated in a comprehensive and detailed way.

It noted that the WPK faithfully discharged its mission and duty regarding the people-first principle as its political ideal.

When the Party's fighting efficiency and leadership ability are steadily enhanced, the cause of socialist construction can be led to victory with pluck all the time amid the absolute trust of the people despite any obstacles and difficulties—this is the main review and precious experience gained in Party work during the last five years.

The report set forth important tasks and ways for bringing about a radical innovation in Party work in line with the present situation, in which the Korean revolution has entered a period of new development, a period of a leap forward.

It set it as the first task to attach primary importance to the work of establishing the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee and further develop it.

As mentioned in the report, Party organizations and officials should absolutize and staunchly safeguard the authority of the Party Central Committee anytime and anywhere, and they should never tolerate or connive at even the slightest tendency to undermine the authority, but wage an uncompromising struggle against it.

They should consistently push forward with the efforts to defend and glorify the Party's leadership exploits, particularly give a facelift to the units associated with the leadership exploits and the ones inspected by the great leaders, and ensure that they become the model units in carrying out Party policies.

Party organizations should scrupulously organize the work to implement Party policies, fully grasp the progress of their implementation and thoroughly review the results, so as to fully implement the policies.

The report brought it up as an important task to cement the single-hearted unity of the Party and revolutionary ranks in every way by doing the Party's internal work effectively.

The report underscored the need to put major



► efforts on building up the ranks of the cadres, the hard core of the Party and the leading officials of the revolution, to steadily strengthen the education and control of them to prevent them from getting ideologically degenerated and to improve the quality of Party ranks by strictly adhering to Party principle, the principle of rigidly selecting those who are recognized by everyone else as its members, in increasing Party membership.

The report referred to the need to continue directing great efforts to strengthening primary Party organizations and Party cells, the basic organizations of the Party, effectively press ahead with the organization of and guidance over Party life as a main link in the whole chain of Party work and rally the broad masses of people more closely behind the Party by channelling big efforts on the work with them.

The Party's ideological work is one of the main tasks of the Party leading the revolution and an important work, which it should not neglect even a moment in the whole period of leading the revolution and construction.

The report advanced the tasks of strictly adhering to the principle of unitary guidance in Party ideological work, of correcting the deep-seated shortcomings of the Party information sector and of fundamentally improving the form and method of ideological education work in line with the requirements of the developing reality.

It also referred to the task of strengthening Party guidance, policy-oriented guidance, over the revolution and construction and pointed to the matter of properly forming Party committees, the political General Staffs of relevant units, and enhancing their role, the matter of adopting proper decisions by Party organizations and establishing the revolutionary traits of implementing them unconditionally, and the matter of resolving all the problems by the Party method, the political method, by Party organizations while strictly guarding against the practices of usurping administrative authority and tailing after the administrative workers rather than leading them in front.

The report set forth ways of radically improving Party work.

Above all, the irrational Party work system

and methods should be improved in line with the requirements of the developing reality, and Party work should be switched to people-friendly and reality-friendly work true to the Party's idea of "The people are God."

The more thoroughly the people-friendly and reality-friendly characters are applied to Party work, the closer the whole Party will get to fact and truth and the higher the fighting efficiency of our Party will become—these are an important idea of the report.

The report stressed once again that abuse of power, bureaucracy and corruption are what the Party must guard most strictly against and its primary target of struggle at present, and pointed to the need for Party organizations to carry on an uncompromising struggle against even an iota of them.

The report stressed that it is also a way of improving Party work to intensify criticism, ideological struggle and study in the Party, to thoroughly establish the revolutionary discipline of working according to terms of reference and to decisively enhance the level and qualifications of Party officials.

Kim Jong Un said in the last part of the report that through the report on the work of the Party Central Committee, the participants could have an in-depth understanding of successes and shortcomings in their work, their causes and lessons and the orientation and detailed ways of future struggle and that through collective discussion, they became able to confirm strategic and tactical policies based on common opinions.

He expressed his expectation that all the delegates would make an in-depth study and discussion of the issues dealt in the report, based on the leadership ideology of the Party and with a high sense of Party responsibility, and earnestly called on them to vigorously fight on for a fresh leap forward and victory in socialist construction, for our great state and for our great people, rallied closely around the Party Central Committee under the uplifted banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The historic report of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un comprehensively clarifying the important guidelines for bringing about a new upswing in overall work of the Party and revolution received full support and approval of all the participants in the congress, and augurs well for the victorious advance and bright future of our socialist cause. □

Kim Jong Un Elected as General Secretary of the WPK



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE Workers' Party of Korea discussed the fourth item on the agenda "Election of the central leadership body of the WPK".

There took place the election of general secretary of the Party after that of members and alternate members of the Party Central Committee. Delegate Ri Il Hwan cordially proposed to the congress to elect Kim Jong Un general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea. The proposal was fully supported and approved of by all

the participants.

The resolution of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was adopted with the unanimous approval of all the participants. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

On Election of General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea ▶



► The general secretary of the WPK is the head of the Party who represents and leads the whole Party.

For the revolutionary Party, the head of the Party is the top brain of the revolution embodying the organizational intention of the whole Party, and the centre of the leadership and the unity.

To correctly elect the head of the Party comes to be a more important and vital requirement in the period of carrying forward the revolutionary cause and in the period of its fresh development.

The head of the Party vested with the most responsible and important mission by the times and the revolution should possess prominent qualities and capabilities for wisely leading the whole Party.

The current congress fully supported and approved of the courteous proposal for holding Comrade Kim Jong Un in the highest esteem as the general secretary of the WPK.

Comrade Kim Jong Un is the outstanding leader of the Juche revolution and the great symbol and representative of our dignified state and people, who has performed the greatest achievements for the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, with his gifted ideological and theoretical wisdom, extraordinary leadership and noble traits.

Comrade Kim Jong Un readjusted the leadership and fighting efficiency of the Party in a detailed and all-round way, as required by the idea of building the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Party and the developing revolution, and successfully enforced the people-first politics, thus having developed our Party into the powerful general political staff of the revolution, steel-strong elite vanguard ranks and genuine motherly party both in name and reality.

Comrade Kim Jong Un has put the overall national power and position of our Republic on the highest ever level with his outstanding and experienced leadership in a short period of history, the greatest exploit to be markedly etched in the history of the nation.

Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, the great action programmes and strategic and tactical guidelines for the revolution



and construction in our era have been fully provided, the single-minded unity, the greatest national power of Juche Korea, consolidated in every way, the ranks of successors to the revolution firmly prepared and the popular nature of our state and social system made stronger.

Comrade Kim Jong Un tremendously strengthened the armed forces of the Republic into the invincible revolutionary army of the Party and elite powerful army with his Juche-oriented military idea and superb leadership over the army and turned the country into a world-famous military power by successfully accomplishing the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force.

Comrade Kim Jong Un firmly guaranteed the security and future of the country and the people by bolstering our national defence capability through development of powerful physical means for self-reliant defence as insurance against challenges from any aggression forces. This is a peerlessly patriotic feat to be lauded by the nation generation after generation.

Comrade Kim Jong Un wisely led the struggle for readjusting and reinforcing the overall economy of the country and putting the national economy on a self-supporting and modern basis, built a lot of monumental edifices in the country, which are products of spirit of self-reliance and self-development, and thus opened up the era of great leap and innovation in all fields of the revolution and con-

► struction.

Thanks to the devoted efforts made by Comrade Kim Jong Un who made a ceaseless journey of selfless devotion to the people, while regarding the hardships and creation for the people as the greatest pleasure and worth of making the revolution, the most advantageous policies for the promotion of the people's wellbeing and their life and security have been restored and wonderlands for the people admired by the world mushroomed across the country.

Comrade Kim Jong Un, shouldering upon himself the heavy burden of the revolution, accomplished undying feats for the country and nation. Yet, he credited all the successes to the people and put them forward as the great people and thankful people. He is the benevolent father of the people and great sage of the revolution followed by all our people with sincerity.

Comrade Kim Jong Un is defending independence, justice and peace with his outstanding diplomatic strategy and proficient external activities and steering the trend of the world politics to be favourable for our revolution.

It is the solemn demand of the times and history, the general will of all the Party members and the unanimous desire of our people to invariably hold in the highest esteem Comrade Kim Jong Un, the one and only heir to and leader of the Juche revolution, and symbol of the mightiness of our state and

banner of all victories and glory, as the head of the WPK.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK has decided to elect Comrade Kim Jong Un as general secretary of the WPK in reflection of the unanimous will and wish of all the delegates, all the Party members, other people across the country and the service personnel of the KPA for the sake of the development of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Party and fresh victorious advance of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

All the Party organizations and members, other people and service personnel of the KPA will make a vigorous advance towards the implementation of decisions of the Eighth Party Congress and a new victory in the building of a powerful socialist country under the leadership of Comrade General Secretary, keeping deep in mind the great pride and honour of holding in the highest esteem Comrade Kim Jong Un, the outstanding leader of the Juche revolution, as the general secretary of our great Party.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

Holding Kim Jong Un in the highest esteem as the general secretary of the WPK is the greatest fortune and happiest event to the Korean people, and a great political event that ensures a decisive guarantee for the victory of socialism and heralds a bright future. □



Concluding Speech at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

THE CONCLUDING SPEECH MADE BY General Secretary Kim Jong Un at the Eighth Congress of the WPK is as follows:

Dear delegates,

This congress, the eighth of its kind in the history of our Party, presented as its agenda items the immediate fighting plans for opening an era of a new upsurge and gigantic transformation in the revolution and construction and the important tasks in developing the Party, and made an in-depth discussion of them.

The congress first reviewed and analyzed the work of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party in a comprehensive, three-dimensional and detailed way, and made an in-depth discussion of the line and strategic and tactical problems for a new struggle.

The report, speeches and consultative meetings by sector reviewed and criticized in a detailed and severe manner the deviations and mistakes latent in all sectors, ranging from the Party, state and military affairs to the social life, and expressed a solemn determination and will to overcome them.

And an active study and discussion was made for finding the ways of hitting the goals and tasks in the new five-year plan period, and the constructive opinions raised in this course were brought to the committee for drafting the decisions of the Party congress.

Through the discussion of the first agenda item, what and how our Party, state and people must do in the future have become clearer, and our fighting strategies for a fresh victory in our revolution have become more definite.

That our Party at this congress, unlike the previous congresses, reviewed and analyzed its work

from a critical viewpoint, not seeing only its merits, is of no less significance than the successes it achieved during the period under review.

The congress also reviewed the work of the Auditing Commission of the Seventh Central Committee of the Party in a critical and strict way, and adopted decisive measures for putting to rights in our own way and in line with the principles of its building the outdated ones of the past, the ones that did not suit the present reality, which were revealed in Party work and activities.

The Rules of the Workers' Party of Korea were revised by correctly reflecting the principles of Party building and work and the demands of the developing reality, and thus an important framework has been built for strengthening the Party's leadership abilities and fighting efficiency and achieving its sound development.

The congress has built the Eighth Central Committee of the Party with the comrades who are faithful to the Party and the revolution and highly qualified, and established a new discipline inspection system within the Party. This constitutes a drastic turning point for our Party to discharge its mission and role as the capable General Staff of the revolution.

Dear delegates,

At this congress, thanks to the great trust of all of you and other members of the entire Party, I have again been honoured with the supreme leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I feel greatly honoured that you elected me to the important position of the General Secretary of the dignified Workers' Party of Korea, but I cannot but feel overwhelmed with gratitude and feel my heart heavy.

Fully aware of the sacred mission that I am representing and in charge of the great ▶



► Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist party, I solemnly pledge that I will make every effort to implement the fighting programmes put forth by the Party congress and, regarding our great people as the god of my life, work at the risk of my life as a faithful servant of the people on the road of devoted service for them.

The Eighth Central Committee of the Party, elected by the unanimous approval and support of all of you, dear delegates, will demonstrate its correct and seasoned leadership abilities to achieve a fresh victory in the building of our style of socialism and faithfully perform the duty the times have entrusted upon it, true to the high expectations and trust of all the organizations of the Party and its members.

Dear delegates,

The current external environment of our revolution is still grim and acute, and our revolutionary work will not be all plain sailing in the future as well.

But now there cannot be hardships insurmountable for our Party and people who have achieved great victories, which others would not dare achieve, in the worst conditions and difficulties.

With fresh confidence and courage, we must quickly take the road of sustainable advance and development by vigorously waging the struggle for consolidating the strength of our Party, revolutionary ranks and state in every way possible.

Achieving a great fresh victory on all fronts by remarkably increasing our own strength, our internal force, in socialist construction—this is the main idea and main spirit of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In other words, it is the revolutionary will of the Workers' Party of Korea reaffirmed at this congress that we must readjust and rearrange our internal force in a comprehensive way and, on the basis of ▶



- ▶ this, make a frontal attack against all hardships to open up a road of new advance.

The historic heavy tasks facing our revolution require the entire Party to cherish the ideals of "The people are God," single-hearted unity and self-reliance deeply in mind once again and adhere more strictly to them.

Whereas the ideal of "The people are God" reflects our Party's consistent demand that the entire Party must hold fast to the revolutionary Party trait of regarding it as the starting point and absolute and invariable principle of its building and activities to serve the people, the ideals of single-hearted unity and self-reliance embody in a concentrated way the ideological and theoretical viewpoint and political requirements concerning the lifeline and motive force of our revolution.

The ideals of "The people are God," single-hearted unity and self-reliance—herein lie the fundamental key to enhancing the leadership abilities of our Party, the fundamental method for it to strike its roots deeper among the masses and the fundamental and sole guarantee for us to survive and open up our way ahead.

I would like to suggest substituting cherishing our Party's three ennobling ideals of "The people are God," single-hearted unity and self-reliance deeply in mind once again as the slogan of the Eighth Party Congress for putting up a high-sounding slogan.

The entire Party must make a historic, courageous advance in the direction indicated by the Party congress with unexcelled preparedness, self-confidence and enthusiasm for setting out on a new journey.

Above all, we should launch a do-or-die struggle to implement without fail the new five-year plan for the national economic development.

The socialist economic construction is the most important revolutionary task on which we should focus our all-out effort at present.

In order to break through the current difficulties facing us, stabilize and improve the people's

living standards as early as possible and provide a firm guarantee for self-prosperity, we must resolve the economic problems, the knottiest problems, as soon as possible.

First of all, we should fix the right direction for major thrust on the economic front and concentrate our efforts on it.

The central task of the new five-year plan for the national economic development is to substantially promote economic revitalization by holding fast to the metal and chemical industries as the main link in the whole chain of the economic development and consolidating the organic ties among the key industries, and improve the people's living standards onto a new, higher level by enhancing the material and technical foundations of agriculture and increasing the proportion of domestically-available materials in light industry.

We must follow the road of focusing our efforts on definitely putting the metal and chemical industries first back onto their normal track, the track of revitalization, and, based on it, shoring up other sectors all together.

We must efficiently organize nationwide economic work on the principle of giving priority to the development of the metal and chemical industries.

It is important to intensify economic operations and guidance in such a way as to make the most rational use of the national economic capabilities for radically increasing the capacity of steel and chemicals production, instead of dispersing them here and there without any calculation.

We must orient all economic work towards achieving balanced stability and improvement of the people's living standards.

What is important here is to continue to direct efforts to agricultural production and thus solve the food problem of the people in the main.

During the new five-year plan period, the agricultural sector must rise up with redoubled efforts and the state must increase its investment in it, so as to attain the target of grain production without fail.

In particular, in the coming two to three years, the plan for compulsory procurement by the state must be set on the level similar to that in 2019 and implemented without fail and the amount to be pro-

- ▶ cured must be increased in a prospective way, so as to make it possible to put the grain supply to the people on a regular basis.

During the new five-year plan period, the light-industry sector must increase the output of consumer goods by regarding it as the main link to obtain raw and other materials domestically and recycle wastes, and thereby bring about a fresh advance in the effort for improving the people's living standards.

The state should take strong economic and technical measures so that all the sectors supplying the light-industry sector with raw and other materials can normalize their production.

Next, all sectors and units must identify their concrete tasks and ways for executing the new five-year plan for the national economic development, and implement them without fail.

By drawing on the lessons we learned during the period under review, the Party congress made an objective and strict examination of this plan and set new feasible fighting tasks by bringing them to the realities as close as possible.

It is very important that all sectors and units first set out well-worked-out plans by stage and by year while foreseeing the conditions and environments that can be created in the future.

Once their plans are set out, the relevant units must execute them without fail by conducting scientific and concrete operations and command, and the state must establish rigid discipline of strictly grasping, propelling and reviewing the implementation of the national economic plan in all indices.

The success or failure of the new five-year plan for the national economic development depends on how economic management is improved.

The economic departments of the Party Central Committee, the Cabinet, the State Planning Commission, factories, enterprises and all other sectors must work in concert to take decisive measures for improving economic management.

We must push forward energetically with the research and perfection of the economic management methods, which are both suited to our specific situation and geared to optimization and best effectiveness, for example, by combining the methods, which have been developed and introduced on a

trial basis, and the experiences of the units, which are effective in their business and enterprise management.

During the new five-year plan period, the Party and state must direct their effort to restoring and strengthening the system and order by which the economy runs under the unified guidance and management of the state.

Strict sanctions must be imposed on whatever the units concerned if they hamper the unified guidance of the state, claiming their special importance even after this Party congress.

The Cabinet and the State Planning Commission must intensify organization and guidance of economic work so that sectors, factories and enterprises achieve full ties and cooperation in production with a view to strengthening the independence of the national economy and increasing production.

Science and technology must fully guarantee economic construction and improvement of the people's standard of living with its practical development.

Science and technology is the engine of socialist construction and major driving force for the national economic development.

The sector of science and technology must set as its targets the high-priority tasks and other research projects aimed at accomplishing the new five-year plan for the national economic development, and concentrate its efforts on implementing them.

During the new five-year plan period, we must raise the level of the country's science and technology to a higher level and strengthen the creative cooperation among scientists, technicians and producers so as to solve one by one the sci-tech problems arising in economic construction and improving the people's standard of living.

We must lay the foundations for developing the local economy and improving the local people's living standards by promoting the independent and diversified development of the cities and counties.

Now the living standards of the people in the local cities and counties including the rural communities are very low and backward.

We intend to pay attention from now on to developing the local economy and improving the local



► people's standard of living.

The state must press ahead with the work of providing 10 000 tons of cement to every local city and county on an annual basis.

While taking favourable measures for the local cities and counties to have reliable economic foundations of their own and develop in conformity with their own characteristics, state economic guidance organs must provide them with accurate guidance and assistance.

We must vigorously step up the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in the rural communities and increase state support so as to decisively strengthen our rural position, consolidate the material and technical foundations of agricultural production and transform the socialist countryside into a civilized and rich one.

During the new five-year plan period, nationwide efforts must be directed to developing education and public health, so that all the people, whether they live in the capital city or local areas, can enjoy tangible benefits of the socialist educational and public health systems.

We must give precedence to vigorous education and strict discipline in the entire Party and the whole country and amongst all the people, so as to staunchly suppress and control all forms of anti-socialist, non-socialist practices revealed in all fields of social life and all sorts of criminal acts such as the abuse of power, bureaucratism, corruption and imposition of extra economic burdens on the people.

We must regard it as an important task to further strengthen the national defence capability both in quality and quantity.

We must further strengthen the nuclear war deterrent while doing our best to build up the most powerful military strength.

We must continue to give a fresh spur to making the People's Army elite and powerful armed forces, so that it is thoroughly prepared to fulfil its mission and role as the driving force of national defence in the face of any form of threat and emergency.

We must raise the defence science and technology to a higher level and carry out the goals and tasks of munitions production without fail, so as to guarantee the historic onward march of our Party with the strongest military strength during the new five-year plan period.

In order to successfully carry out our responsible and important revolutionary tasks facing us today, we must, first of all, strengthen the Party and enhance its leadership role.

A great heyday of the development of the Party and the revolution will be ushered in when the organizations of the whole Party are built up into loyal vanguard ranks, work in a revolutionary and enterprising manner and satisfactorily perform their role as the political general staff of the relevant units.

By directing their main efforts to their internal work, all Party organizations must put the ranks of their cadres and members on a streamlined basis and develop them into an elite force and intensify the guidance over Party life more than ever before, thereby steadily building up the organizational and ideological foundations of the Party.

We must establish a well-knit system and fresh method of Party work throughout the Party so as to make it a working party, a fighting party, a militant party.

Party organizations must brace themselves to launch organizational and political work in a brave, high-spirited manner to carry out the new line of struggle and strategic and tactical policies, and properly play the role of helmsman in their relevant units' work.

They must eliminate such tendencies as taking administrative affairs upon themselves as they are engrossed only in economic work, and regard it as an iron rule to resolve all problems arising in the revolution and construction strictly in a Party-oriented, political way of giving full play to the spiritual strength of Party members and other working people.

In particular, the Organizational Leadership Department, Information and Publicity Department and other departments of the Party Central Committee should intensify Party-oriented, political leadership meticulously and offensively to im-

plement the decisions of the Party congress.

Officials, the commanding personnel of the revolution, must fully discharge their responsibilities and duties in the vanguard of the advancing ranks.

Their abilities and role decide the destiny of their units and sectors.

The manifold difficulties and trials facing our revolution at present and the great cause of building a powerful socialist country assigned to our generation demand that officials shoulder all the burdens and display extraordinary working ability, enthusiasm and devotion.

This is the very time which badly needs those officials who make painstaking efforts to reduce, even a bit, the concerns and worries of the Party and state, know nothing but the revolution and work and strive to do something for the good of the people, and expedite any tasks.

All officials, with a determination to prove their fidelity to the Party, revolution and people with their working ability and results in practice, must make completely new arrangements from the start of the grand journey after the Party congress.

Always remembering the expectations of the people, they must make redoubled efforts so that they can review their everyday result with pride and conscience.

They must learn with open mind what they do not know, improve their insufficient ability even burning the midnight oil and make increasingly exacting demand on themselves without allowing complacency and inertia, and thus bring about a drastic improvement in their fighting spirit and working style.

All the Party members must play the core, pace-setter role in the effort for implementing the tasks set forth by the Party congress.

If they turn out with redoubled efforts to brave today's hardship in the vanguard, there is no difficulty we cannot surmount nor fortress we cannot seize.

All Party members must play their part in the most difficult and labour-consuming work sites by carrying forward the soul and spirit of the preceding generations who won a great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War with indomitable spiritual strength and heroic struggle and successfully car-

ried out postwar rehabilitation in a short span of time, even tightening their belts.

The heaviest are the duties entrusted to the newly elected members of the central leadership body of the Party and all the delegates here in carrying out with credit the sacred fighting goals and tasks set forth by the Eighth Party Congress.

The newly elected members of the Eighth Party Central Committee must remember the precious trust and expectations of Party members and other people at all times and at all places, and produce substantial results of their work by displaying a high sense of responsibility and devotion in the struggle for implementing the tasks set forth by the Party congress.

All the delegates must throw themselves heart and soul into and stubbornly struggle for making sure that the tasks set by the Party congress, which they personally discussed and decided on, are carried out without fail at their posts and workplaces.

The delegates, who know better than anyone else about the urgent requirements of the Party and the revolution, must deeply implant the idea and spirit of the Party congress in the hearts of the masses and arouse them by setting personal examples, so as to bring about a remarkable development in the work of their sectors and units.

Dear delegates,

We must be prepared to wage a more arduous frontal attack in order to achieve a fresh victory and brilliant advance of our socialist cause.

The hostile forces will try to check our advance more frantically, and the world will watch how the political declaration and fighting programme of our Party are realized.

As long as there are the burning loyalty and invincible might of the single-hearted unity of all Party members and other people and service personnel who support the ideas and decisions of our Party with their consistent actions and practices, we are sure to emerge victorious.

Let us all fight on more vigorously for the brilliant fulfilment of the fighting programme put forward by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, for the development of the glorious WPK, for the victorious advance of the revolutionary cause of Juche, and for our great people. □



Closing Address at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

GENERAL SECRETARY Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea made a closing address at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

The closing address is as follows:

Dear delegates,

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea that has been held in a very crucial period in the course of the strengthening and development of our Party and the building of socialism of our style has made a full discussion of and decision on all items on the agenda thanks to the high enthusiasm of all the delegates and is to wrap up its work.

In the whole period of the congress all the delegates have taken part in all sincerity in the discussion of issues with the highest degree of Party consciousness and the highest sense of responsibility, positively offered their constructive opinions and reached a consensus in their opinions, thereby giving full play to the militant features of our Party that works, struggles and progresses.

There have been many important Party-wide political meetings including conference so far and the participants have shown immense enthusiasm every time as they received the policies and ideas of the Party Central Committee, but I see for the first time such an extraordinary zeal for participation as in the Eighth Party Congress, in which all the participants are so interested and immersed in the discussion of issues.

Every delegate made a positive and serious study of all issues discussed as they racked their brains and felt anxious over the issues by linking them with the success and failure of our revolutionary work and the destiny of themselves and their children and enthusiastically participated in the strenuous work of the congress.

Always conscious of the expectations and hopeful gaze of millions of our Party members and tens of millions of other people who watched the congress and assuming heavy responsibility together for the progress and development of the revolutionary work, all the delegates have devoted their heart and soul to deciding on the most correct and powerful orientation of our struggle and the strategy and tactics. I feel deeply impressed and greatly encouraged by this, and I feel very grateful for this.

The revolutionary line and immediate fighting



plans set by the Eighth Party Congress will instil a great hope in all the Party members and other people for our future, inspire the masses of the people to a new struggle and exploits and bring about a decisive turn in further strengthening our Party organizationally and ideologically and improving its capability of leadership in overall revolution and construction.

Dear delegates,

The current Eighth Party Congress has powerfully demonstrated once again the might of unity and revolutionary passion peculiar to our Party and people, who are firmly united with a single ideology and purpose and make an uninterrupted advance and leap forward towards a new target of struggle even in the face of manifold challenges and ordeals.

All the Party members and other people and service personnel have strived hard at their workplaces and posts so as to defend the Eighth Party Congress and expressed their enthusiastic support and expectations for the Party congress by dint of their unprecedented successful work results.

In the name of the congress, I extend warm ▶

thanks to all the Party members and other people and service personnel for displaying boundless devotion and the revolutionary spirit as they maintained high alert to ensure the success of the Eighth Party Congress.

Dear delegates,

The Eighth Congress of the WPK served as a congress of struggle and progress, which demonstrated the steadfast will of the revolutionaries to achieve the prosperity and development of our style of socialism without fail, with self-confidence in victory and courage and by invariably holding aloft the banner of the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The congress made a close analysis of the subtle changes in the situations at home and abroad and the subjective and objective environment that influences our revolution, and correctly reviewed the work of the last five years. Accordingly, based on the new environment and revolutionary situation, it put forward scientific and correct strategic and tactical policies for readjusting and developing the foundations of the national economy and consolidating the state and social system, thereby clearly indicating the direction of advance of the overall work of the Party and the state.

I am convinced that this congress has provided a fresh motive force for our advance and set up a clear milestone and, therefore, it marked a turning point in powerfully propelling our sacred cause.

The Eighth Congress of our Party is of great significance also in the strengthening and development of the Party.

Having gone through another great process in the course of strengthening and developing our Party, we are now filled with self-confidence and pride in our struggle more than ever before, and deeply feel once again the importance of the responsibility we have shouldered for ourselves.

The decisions of a Party congress are our Party's strategy and tactics for achieving a fresh victory in the building of our style of socialism, a pledge the Workers' Party of Korea makes for the revolution and people and, at the same time, a supreme order our great people give to the Party Central Committee.

Our Party members and delegates to this congress should approach the decisions of the Party congress from such a noble standpoint and accept it seriously and with honour.

The future of the socialist cause hinges on how the tasks set by this Party congress, including the five-year plan for the national economic development, are fulfilled.

We should thoroughly carry out the highly important tasks set by the Party congress without condition so as to bring about another upsurge in our revolution and provide our people with better and more stable living conditions and environment as

early as possible.

We should arrange the study involving the whole Party for implementing the decisions of the Party congress so as to thoroughly accept the tasks and duties of struggle fixed by the Party congress, and wage a determined struggle so as to develop socialist construction onto a new stage.

Therefore, Party organizations at all levels should organize intensive studies for firmly arming the people with the documents and decisions of the Party congress, effectively hold discussions and conduct organizational and political work for implementing them, and work out elaborate tactics and wage a powerful struggle to implement the decisions of the Party congress.

They should galvanize Party members first into action so as to make them lead others to new miraculous feats through their pacesetter role and make all the units and the whole country seethe with the efforts for implementing the decisions of the Party congress.

It is needed to organize the Party-wide study on the newly-revised Party Rules, and Party organizations and members should thoroughly establish a climate of observing the norms stipulated in Party Rules in every process and on every occasion of Party work and life.

Dear delegates,

Innumerable trials and difficulties are still challenging us, but our determination is definite and our future is promising.

As in the past, so in the future, our Party will remain infinitely faithful to the people-first principle and do its best to continue to achieve fresh victory in socialist construction.

As the WPK holding aloft the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as its ever-victorious banner is correctly leading the revolution and construction and there is the invincible might of the single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses, our revolution will make steady progress, overcoming every manner of difficulties.

Let us all advance dynamically towards a fresh victory of the revolution with strong confidence in the victory of the socialist cause, the revolutionary cause of Juche, rallied rock-solid around the Party Central Committee.

Fully convinced that, thanks to the great fighting efficiency, power of unity, extraordinary patriotic enthusiasm and indomitable perseverance of the organizations and members of the entire Party, all other people and service personnel, the strategy and policies of struggle put forward by this congress will successfully be carried out and epoch-making progress will be achieved in the building of our own style of socialism, I declare the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea closed. □



Military Parade in Commemoration of the Eighth Congress of the WPK



Kim Jong Un acknowledges the enthusiastic cheers of the participants in the military parade in January 2021.





Grand Artistic Performance We Sing of the Party in Celebration of the Eighth Congress of the WPK



The grand artistic performance *We Sing of the Party* takes place with splendour in the presence of Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, in celebration of the Eighth Congress of the WPK in January 2021.



Hearty Congratulations to Eighth WPK Congress

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES sent congratulatory messages and letters to the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) on the occasion of its Eighth Congress.

In his message Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, said he, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee and on his own behalf, extended warm congratulations to Comrade Kim Jong Un and the WPK Central Committee on his election as general secretary of the Party at its Eighth Congress, and that he hoped the General Secretary would achieve fresh, bigger success by leading the Korean Party and people, and that his work would go smooth.

Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Bounnang Vorachith, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in their messages, warmly congratulated Kim Jong Un on his election as general secretary of the WPK at its Eighth Congress, and expressed their belief that their traditional friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK would be further consolidated and developed.

Raul Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, in his congratulatory message, expressed his belief that the Korean people would advance the socialist cause under the leadership of the General Secretary true to the instructions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, and wished successful implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in his congratulatory message, hoped the General Secretary and the WPK would always make achievements in the work for the well-being of the

friendly people of the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un received congratulatory messages and letters from leaders of a lot of political parties of the world including the chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the national leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Syrian Communist Party, the general secretary of the PKP-1930, the national leader and the general secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), the general secretary and the international secretary of the Central Committee of the New Yugoslav Communist Party, the general secretary of the Unified Communist Party of Italy, the secretary general of the African National Congress of South Africa, the president of the Communist Party of Australia, the general secretary of the Islamic Coalition Party of Iran and the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus.

He also received similar messages and letters from the vice-president of the Brazilian Communist Party, the deputy general secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana, the vice-director general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, the secretary general of the International Kim Il Sung Prize Council and the International Kim Jong Il Prize Council, the director of the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea, the president of the International Group of Italy, the secretary general of the International Institute of the Juche Idea and other personages of political, public and economic circles in China, Russia, Nepal, Malaysia, Myanmar, Kuwait, Thailand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Turkey, Iran, Japan, Vietnam, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Belarus, Sweden, the UK, Italy, Romania, France, Austria, Spain, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Tan-

zania, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the US, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela and New Zealand, and representatives of organizations for the study of the Juche idea, organizations for supporting Korea's reunification and friendship organizations.

In their messages and letters they expressed their warmest congratulations to Kim Jong Un on the occasion of the Eighth Congress of the WPK, and their belief that the WPK would lead the Korean people along the road of victory continuously under the guidance of the General Secretary.

In its congratulatory message sent to the Eighth Congress of the WPK the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China said that under the new situations the Chinese side is willing to successfully preserve, consolidate and develop China-DPRK relations, together with the DPRK side, guided by the important recognition shared by the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries, thereby providing the two countries and their peoples with greater happiness and making a fresh and positive contribution to achieving regional peace, stability, progress and prosperity. In the message the CPC Central Committee wished the Eighth Congress of the WPK great success.

Meanwhile, the Central Committee of the WPK and the Eighth Congress of the WPK received congratulatory messages and letters from the general secretary of the Mongolian People's Party, the general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, the international secretary of the Serbian Communist Party, the secretary for International Relations of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party and the general secretary and the secretary for International Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela and many other political parties and similar party leaders in the world. □

80-day Campaign Spotlights Eighth WPK Congress

THE 19TH MEETING OF the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held in early October last year adopted a decision on waging an 80-day campaign in order to achieve things great enough to glorify the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea which would mark a historic turning point in the Korean revolution.

Thanks to the high revolutionary enthusiasm of all the people who rose up single-mindedly in response to the appeal of the Party Central Committee, the historic 80-day campaign from mid-October to late December last year was concluded with victory. The Party Central Committee sent a letter to all the Party members numbering millions, which aroused high enthusiasm across the country.

All regions, sectors and units

had assemblies including army-civilian joint rallies to pledge to celebrate the Eighth Party Congress with fine achievements.

Prevention of COVID-19 was defined as the main thrust of the 80-day campaign. A more offensive struggle was waged to check the infiltration of the virulent virus-caused infectious disease which was turning more and more serious with each passing day. A forceful publicity and information drive took place to encourage all the people to keep a high level of voluntary unanimity and devotion in the effort for pandemic prevention. The people played the role of the main agency in the struggle for prevention of the world pandemic, heating the public atmosphere of hard work to keep their state, themselves and their children secure from the danger of the disease.

Some of the new houses built in disaster-stricken areas.



The intensity of blockade and other preventive actions against COVID-19 increased following the 20th enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee held in November last year. Considering the ever-worsening health crisis around the world with the beginning of winter, the country restored the top-class emergency measures which had been employed in the earlier days of the emergency, and an all-out effort was made for their unconditional observation. Proactive endeavours were undertaken to establish a disinfection system of the Korean style including the effort to develop and introduce accurate and effective sterilizing methods.

The campaign for redressing the natural calamities as soon as possible was the front on which the Workers' Party of Korea made an all-out effort. The Party Central Committee organized divisions of the Party members from the capital city of Pyongyang and dispatched them to North and South Hamgyong Provinces. The 12 000-odd members of the divisions conducted a devoted round-the-clock struggle, thus erecting fine villages which can serve as the standard of socialist rural construction in the afflicted areas—South Hamgyong Province's counties of Hongwon, Riwon and Hochon and North Hamgyong Province's Kim Chaek City and Orang County—and carried out other enormous reconstruction projects successfully in a short time.

The Korean People's Army personnel completely changed Taechong-ri, Unpha County of North Hwanghae Province, and severely damaged Kimhwa County of Kangwon Province, Komdok area of South Hamgyong Province and other places.

Fine villages mushroomed in succession in the disaster areas including Kangwon Province's ▶

Cholwon, Phyonggang, Changdo, Ichon, Hoeyang, Phangyo and Kumgang counties, and North Hamgyong Province's Hoeryong City and Musan, Onsong, Kyonghung and Kyongwon counties, letting all the flood victims across the country move into new homes.

The electric power, metallurgical, rail transport and forestry sectors finished their disaster relief tasks in a short period of time, including the reconstruction of flood- and typhoon-hit dams, railways and iron bridges. And agriculture, land and environment protection, urban management and other sectors of the national economy also successfully completed the reconstruction of hundreds of bridges, a thousand and hundreds of broken road sections, many parts of irrigation waterways and structures and river improvement projects.

New remarkable achievements were registered in all sectors of the national economy.

The agricultural sector finished the harvest and threshing jobs throughout the country in the right time, producing a hundred and scores of high-yielding farms.

The workers of the general tideland reclamation enterprises of North Phyongan and South Hwanghae provinces reclaimed large acreages of tideland equivalent to the farmland of a county.

The Myongan Chemical Factory, the Chongjin Chemical Fibre Factory and the Hungsan Mine carried out their capacity expansion projects. The construction of Kumyagang Power Station No. 2 was completed, and the Munak Power Station, Munchon Army-People Power Station and Kowon Taehung Power Station were inaugurated or went into operation while efforts were directed to making effective use of hydroelectric power resources across the country to ease the power shortage.

A foundation was laid to putapatite concentrate production on a normal basis at the Phungnyon, Yongyu and Jungsan mines, while a lead smelting line



A view of the Samjiyon City People's Hospital.

was renovated at the Munphyong Smeltery for a greater availability of domestic materials in production and better protection of the atmospheric environment.

There went up the Pyongyang Electronic Medical Appliances Factory, Huichon Hospital Bed Factory, Unjong Tea Drink Factory, Pyongyang National Musical Instrument Factory and the workers' hostel of the Siniju Textile Mill. The Anbyon Magnetite Mine, Wonsan City Trolley Bus Service Company, Munchon Sodium Carbonate Factory and other assets came into existence, which will be serviceable for local economic development and improvement of the people's material and cultural life.

Scores of the targets on main industrial production indices were attained successfully. The Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes, Chollima Steel Complex, Jaeryong and Unryul mines and other units in the metallurgical industry sector hit their targets for the production of pig iron, steel, rolled steel, iron ore and other major indices ahead of schedule. A lot of establishments in the chemical, electric power, coal mining, extractive and forestry industries reached their targets on major indices.

The machine building industry accomplished the plan of production on some major indices including tractors, hydraulic power generators, rock drills and air compressors before the

set time.

The Sangwon Cement Complex, Sunchon Cement Complex, Chonnaeri Cement Factory and similar enterprises provided timely supplies of cement for disaster relief and other construction projects across the country.

The light industry sector achieved its targets on major indices by holding fast to the recycling policy and the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity.

Scientists and technicians across the country accomplished dozens of major research projects included in the national plan of scientific and technological development while solving sci-tech problems arising in the field of production. A mass-based technical innovation movement made brisk headway and thus more than 7 900 technical innovation ideas were materialized.

The successful completion of the 80-day campaign is the fruition of the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea that ushers in a new period of upsurge of the revolution while surmounting all difficulties by believing in the people and enlisting their inexhaustible resources; it clearly shows the heroic fighting spirit of the Korean people who bring earlier the dawn of a future by launching a dynamic revolutionary march whenever the Workers' Party of Korea decides to hold a congress.

Yun Song

We Won with Songs

I AM 90 YEARS OLD NOW. In retrospect there have been a lot of memorable things in my life, and what is the most impressive is the days of the Fatherland Liberation War from 1950 to 1953. War is a complex of collisions between fires and between iron balls, but it is actually a far more devastating and sanguinary thing than any descriptions in films or fictions. Nevertheless, it is in no way dependent on physical strength alone, that is, the confrontation based on the use of modern arms and equipment like guns, shells, airplanes and tanks. I am sure it is a clash of the faiths of the soldiers and civilians of given nations engaged in the war. It is just a rivalry between ideological and mental preparedness. And such a preparation often takes on the type of art, or songs.

During the Fatherland Liberation War I was a signal corpsman in a communications unit of the Korean People's Army, and I was an active member of an art club. I still have a vivid memory of the frontline performance we gave on heights in flames.

What I am going to relate now happened in mid-October 1951, if my memory is correct. We went to see the soldiers on Height 1211, which was a point of great strategic importance. I heard a dozen fights took place there a day. The local soldiers cut burnt trees to make a makeshift stage for us to give a performance. Starting with the immortal revolutionary paean *Song of General Kim Il Sung*, the programme consisted of songs that had been born of the war, like *Song of National Defence* and *To a Decisive Battle*.

We are honoured
with the Star
As we are dedicating
our hot blood to our country.
Let us brave men of the
People's Army march ahead
To defend the people's country
with our lives.

This is part of *Song of National*

Defence we sang, and the soldiers joined us in a chorus to shake the height with such cheers as they had made in their charges.

Our performance was followed by a singing and dancing party of the soldiers, who, playing guitars, flutes and other instruments they had made themselves, sang and danced merrily. Their optimistic images inspired us to have the conviction that we were almost fighting a victorious war.

Later that day there were several battles on a nameless height near Height 1211. The soldiers ran out of ammunitions except for some grenades.

Towards the sunset the enemy troops began to climb the height. The People's Army men had an open general Workers' Party of Korea meeting to adopt a letter of pledge to our respected Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung. When the last soldier signed the letter, the enemy was already close to the trench. Just before the final decisive battle started, the People's Army soldiers began to chant *Song of General Kim Il Sung*. Even the wounded who were staying in a nearby dugout turned out into the battle singing the song. Shocked by the powerful sounds of singing, the enemy troops were at a loss what to do. Our fighters threw out grenades and launched a deadly counterattack. The frontline music turned out to be so much encouraging.

The singing of high-spirited soldiers was not confined to the frontline alone. Even in the hard conditions of war there took place an artistic festival of the Korean People's Army personnel in the capital city of Pyongyang. This shows how confident and convinced our army and people were of their victory in the war.

Later in the 1990s when our country was having a hard time called Arduous March and forced march, the State Merited Chorus was called the No. 1 bugler of the Songun-based politics, encouraging the entire nation with songs which were as powerful as a volley of heavily-armed



artillery. The members of artistic groups of officers' wives, who were known as the No. 2 bugler of the Songun-based politics, also sang invigorating songs to boost the morale of the soldiers and other people. There have been dozens of art festivals of KPA service personnel since the war. They showed on the stage the unyielding and resilient spirit of the soldiers emulating the war veterans who fought death-defyingly for the Party, the country and the people. Thus they rendered a considerable service to our people's effort to adopt a militant and revolutionary way of life all over the country and bring the Arduous March and forced march to a victorious end.

In this way our People's Army soldiers have fulfilled their mission as the army of the people on the forefront of defending socialism by displaying their revolutionary optimism and militant spirit, whenever the country was in a hard time.

I believe our coming generations will advance unflinchingly for successful building of a powerful socialist country while singing revolutionary songs—just like their older generations did.

Ri Ki Sun, resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 21, Segori-dong, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang

I Sing in Praise of the Party

ONE OF THE FAVOURITE songs of the Korean people is *I Sing in Praise of the Party* which was created in 2010.

*This song in my heart
is as dear
As the pearl lying deep
in the sea.
You're the loving sky
that has given me
The star I yearn after and
trust with my life.
The Party, the dearest bosom
I'm nestling in, is my destiny.
You've given the highest glory
to my life.
I sing in praise of you.*

Since its foundation the Workers' Party of Korea has never been apart from the people, and advanced the revolution while regarding them as God. To the Korean people the WPK is the saviour of their destiny and the reliance of their mind. The course of the revolution and construction they have followed has not been smooth—there have been heartbreaking sacrifices and ordeals. But they have overcome all those things as they kept in mind the Party's love for and trust in them like blood vessels.

In the annals of the revolution and construction the lines and policies set forth by the Party have always been based on the people-first principle. The universal free medical care system can be cited which was enforced during the fierce Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s.

In November 1952 the Cabinet decision "On Enforcing Free Medical Care" was made public. According to it universal free medical care was put into effect from January 1, 1953. Since then the system has been in force invariably, protecting and promoting the health of the people and children reliably.

At that time the country was

hardly in a position to enforce free medical care at state expense. As everything was burned to ashes due to shelling and bombing, the state had to invest a lot of fund in the health sector and provide all relevant conditions. In such hard conditions it took measures to rehabilitate the destroyed and burnt hospitals and clinics, and produce necessary medical appliances and materials. And the medical education institutions accelerated the work to train reserve medical workers.

Other state measures were taken to exempt the inpatients at state-run medical institutions from the doctor's fee and the charge for medicines, and objects of social insurance, welfare recipients, the dependent family members of those working for state organs and cooperative and social organizations, war sufferers and special patients from the charge for medicines. Consequently, the number of beds at hospitals increased two times more than before the outbreak of the war, and the number of medical institutions exceeded that of before the war.

All other popular policies such as the universal compulsory free education and important measures taken for the people have been the demonstration of the WPK's people-first principle.

The reality enabled the Korean people to have the conviction that the WPK is a great motherly party which subordinates all affairs of the revolution and construction to the promotion of the wellbeing of the people. So, whether they were happy or sad, they would turn to the care of the Party, and share their destiny with it.

In recent years the country has been in a hard condition as never before, but the level of civilization the Korean people enjoy has risen. *Mindulle* notebooks, *Haebaragi* school things

and *Sonamu* satchels are supplied to children equally. And monumental streets such as Ryo-myong, Mirae and Unha streets appeared. And various bywords symbolizing new civilization have come into existence in succession, including zeal for horse riding, zeal for skiing and hot spring culture.

Last year the Korean people had to undergo trials owing to the consecutive natural calamities, like those by floods and typhoons, and the worldwide health crisis. The WPK, however, firmly defended the destiny and future of the people in the country with ardent love for and devotion to them. Party meetings were held one after another to discuss and decide matters of crucial importance for the safety and happiness of the people, and the state mobilized and concentrated all its human, material and technical potentialities on the rehabilitation campaign. Thus, new dwelling houses mushroomed in a short span of time.

Today the WPK is pushing ahead with the building of a socialist power, absolutely believing in the indomitable strength of the people, without the help of anyone else. The Party's trust in the people makes them display their ardent zeal. Convinced that their future is rosy as they have the great Party, the people are invariably singing the song.

*Your red flag has brought up
Your sons and daughters
all as heroes.
As the flag reminds me of
mother's skirt,
I sing of your glory,
a lump in my throat.
The Party, the dearest bosom
I'm nestling in, is my destiny.
You've given the highest glory
to my life.
I sing in praise of you.*

Yom Song Hui

