

### **June 15 Era and Kim Jong Il**

The June 15 reunification era now prevalent on the Korean peninsula starting from 2000, beginning of a new millennium, is quite inconceivable apart from Chairman **Kim Jong Il** of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. There has been made a new turning point in the inter-Korean relations, providing conditions favourable for reconciliation, cooperation and reunification of Korea that had persistently maintained the attitude of antagonism and confrontation for over half a century,

It is none other than Chairman **Kim Jong Il** who opened and has defended the June 15 reunification era by his Songun politics.

The historic inter-Korean summit meeting and the adoption of the June 15 Joint Declaration, a milestone in the Korean reunification, happened in the most critical days when the United States, the "world's only superpower", was desperately toughening its attempt to stifle North Korea and ignite a new war. The credit sure goes to Songun politics. Had it not been for Songun politics and the overall state power of North Korea with its strong military capabilities impregably fortified by Songun politics, the Korean nation, both in the north and the south, would have been plunged into a vortex of war by the outside forces, far from welcoming such a phase of peaceful reunification as today. And worse still it would have found it hard to keep an existence as a nation. Songun politics of Korea has always neutralized every attempt of the US-led forces at blocking cooperation and exchange between the north and the south of Korea by driving the situation in the Korean peninsula to the brink of a touch-and-go crisis.

The reunification history of Korea will record for ever and ever the achievements of **Kim Jong Il** who administers Songun politics, a sure guarantee of defending the lifeline of the Korean nation and peace on the Korean peninsula.

**Kim Jong Il** has led energetically the successful implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration.

The joint declaration faced a series of challenges of the US and anti-reunification forces of South Korea from the first time of its implementation. But **Kim Jong Il** initiated positive measures that both Korean authorities took to faithfully carry out the joint declaration, overcoming all sorts of interruptions and defiances of the forces against reunification. At some important moments he had special delegations and figures sent to the south, and thus promoted satisfactory settlements in implementing the joint declaration and developing inter-Korean relations. In April 2002 when the north-south relation was being driven into a crisis owing to the nuclear-related propaganda by the Bush Administration, **Kim Jong Il** had a long-time talk with the envoy of the then South Korean president and his party, illuminating the way to break through the difficulties by the efforts of the nation itself. Later in June 2005 he warmly received the South Korean president's envoy and his entourage and persons who had worked for the 2000 inter-Korean summit meeting. On the occasion he gave clear answers to the matters of principle and suggested ways to advance the

north-south relations and achieve reunification by the Koreans themselves. He has always devoted his soul to keeping faith and unity between the north and the south of Korea true to the idea of "by our nation itself, the basic spirit of the June 15 Joint Declaration. He saw to it that the north side's authorities delegation, on a visit to Seoul to participate in the grand national festival for reunification held in August 2005, called at Hyonchungwon where even former South Korean presidents who persistently pursued the policy of anti-north confrontation are buried.

The June 15 reunification era has made its vigorous progress for the past eight years, overpowering all anti-reunification forces at home and abroad, thanks to the energetic leadership of **Kim Jong II**. Kim Dae Jung, former president of South Korea, made an official statement in June 2006 that he was much obliged to Chairman **Kim Jong II** for his successful leadership in implementing the June 15 Joint Declaration.

**Kim Jong II** closely rallied the entire Korean nation under the banner of the June 15, with his ardent patriotism, firm will of reunification, and all-embracing and benevolent politics.

He treated the South Korean delegations and figures who visited Pyongyang with broad magnanimity and passionate compatriotism. In August 2000 he met the South Korean press delegation for over three hours, and gave clear-cut answers to all their questions. His answers showed his outstanding statesmanship, ample knowledge and a great sense of humour. He expressed his expectation that the press companies and men would fulfil their responsibility and missies for the nation.

He has led anyone, regardless of his or her class and social standing, to live a worthwhile life for national reunification. He met Jong Ju Yong, former honorary president of the Hyundai Group of South Korea, and spoke highly of his efforts to make patriotic contribution to the inter-Korean economic cooperation. When Jong passed away, the leader sent a message of condolence and a delegation along with his wreath. Later, when a comprehensive indoor stadium was built in Pyongyang by Jong's patriotic devotion, the leader saw to it that it was named Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Indoor Stadium. And he encouraged Jong Mong Hon, the late president of Hyundai Asan, and his wife and children to take over the patriotic endeavour for reunification, and met all their requests.

The June 15 reunification era, originating from the adoption of the June 15 Joint Declaration eight years ago, has entered a new stage of development with the publication of the October 4 Declaration last year. The Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity, a new concrete and specific milestone of Korean reunification, has reaffirmed to the world that the Korean nation's march toward reunification is a major trend of history that can never be checked by anybody or anything.

It is sure that Korea will be reunified in the near future.