

DPRK and Its 60th Birthday

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea greets its diamond jubilee on September 9 this year.

The founding of the DPRK 60 years ago was a historic event which declared that Korea embarked on the road toward the building of a great, prosperous and powerful socialist nation.

Since its founding, the DPRK has followed the socialist road steadfastly and now developed into a politico-ideological power.

The DPRK government has thoroughly embodied the Juche idea and the Songun idea, authored by President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) in all its state activities: It armed all the members of society with the Juche idea and the Songun idea and imbued the whole society with these ideas. It also employed as its major political mode the benevolent and all-embracing politics under the slogan of "Serve the people!" This has led all the Korean people to unite closely around their leader in ideology, will and moral obligation—achieving the single-hearted unity of the country.

Noteworthy in the whole course of its state activities is the maintenance of the Songun line. The principle of Songun underlies all the activities of the country in ideology, politics, the economy, culture and other fields. The national reunification movement and external activities also embody the requirements of the principle. Songun politics, adopted as a basic political mode, has provided the DPRK with a treasured sword with which to firmly defend the national sovereignty and dignity and assure the building of a socialist power in whatever difficult circumstances.

As it upholds the banner of the Juche idea and the Songun idea, the DPRK, though not so large in territorial area, has proved itself in the present international community as a political power, a country strong in ideology, nobody can ignore.

It has also been turned into a military power by putting great efforts into developing self-reliant defence capabilities.

Adherence to the principle of self-reliance in national defence, implementation of the line of making the entire army into an army of cadres and modernizing it, arming all the people and fortifying the whole country, and the building of powerful defence industry—these are the important requirements the DPRK has met in building the country into a military power.

When the United States unleashed the Korean war (1950-1953) against the DPRK with a history of only two years, the DPRK immediately went over to counterattack and during the three years of the war inflicted a crushing defeat on the US, the first of its kind it had suffered in its history, putting to shame the "strongest" country in the world. The credit goes to the Songun line the DPRK has maintained since its founding.

After the war, too, it continued to hold up the banner of Songun, stepping up the building of a military power. The Korean People's Army, as required by the line of turning the entire army

into an army of cadres and modernizing it, has equipped itself with advanced military science and technology, methods of modern warfare, powerful means for both offensive and defensive, and prepared all the army men for skillful handling of state-of-the-art weapons and combat equipment, thereby emerging invincible. The work to arm all the people and fortify the whole country has been accomplished on a high level, thus preparing the people to be able to deal a smashing blow to the enemy in emergency with arms in one hand and working tools in the other and transforming the whole country into an impregnable fortress with formidable establishments for defence in every part.

Development of defence industry has always been a great concern of the DPRK. With several socialist countries collapsing one after another and the imperialist allied forces focusing their anti-socialist offensive on the DPRK in the end of last century, it put forward an economic line of giving priority to the development of defence industry and consistently implemented it. In the course of this it has prepared a strongest war deterrent.

Eye-opening achievements have also been made in all fields of social life, including the economy and culture.

The government successfully carried out reconstruction after the Korean war, and realized the socialist transformation of relations of production in urban and rural areas in no more than four to five years, thus establishing the socialist system in 1958. It fulfilled the historic task of industrialization in only 14 years, transforming the past colonial agrarian country into a socialist industrial state. The national economy developed into a powerful self-reliant one, capable enough to build the West Sea Barrage and other monumental establishments on its own already in the 1980s. As is well known to the world, it placed its first artificial earth satellite *Kwangmyongsong 1* in orbit in August 1998 at its first launch. The successful launching shook the whole world, for it was a *fait accompli* in the international community that socialist Korea would soon collapse, strangled by critical economic difficulties caused by the extreme blockade and sanctions of the imperialist allied forces and the consecutive natural calamities. The DPRK demonstrated through the event its inexhaustible economic potential, the might of the self-reliant national economy built up for decades.

The DPRK enjoys acclaim of the whole world, as a country where people's well-being is on systematic improvement, nobody knows what tax is, everybody benefits from free education and medical service, and the art enjoys its heyday.

It is the goal and the will of the DPRK government to open wide the gate to a great, prosperous and powerful socialist nation in 2012 marking the centennial birthday of President Kim Il Sung, father of socialist Korea. It will achieve this ambitious goal without fail.

Congratulations on the 60th anniversary of the DPRK!