

## **2010, Year of New Phase for Korea's Reunification**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public its annual joint editorial on Rodong Sinmun and other leading newspapers on the occasion of the new year. The joint editorial put forth the slogan "Let the entire nation united under the banner of north-south joint declarations and achieve national reunification at the earliest date!"

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, a historic milestone for Korea's reunification.

The North-South Summit in 2000, the first-ever event in the history of Korea's division, and the publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration reflecting the will of Korean nation for independent reunification, were a historic event that is of great significance in accomplishing the cause of Korea's reunification. Under the banner of the June 15 Joint Declaration the kernel of which is the ideal of "by our nation itself," a new era of independent reunification has been opened for the Korean nation, and great and unprecedented successes were achieved in the development of inter-Korean relations and the reunification movement. The international community watched with admiration a new era of reconciliation and unity, exchange and cooperation between the north and the south Korea, which had been hostile and stood against each other for half a century. The October 4 Declaration, an action programme for the June 15 Joint Declaration, was published in 2007, bringing a brighter prospect for Korea's reunification.

The previous ten years have clearly confirmed that these declarations are the most reasonable reunification programmes and the ideal of "by our nation itself" is the very national spirit and the one and only ideal in the June 15 reunification era.

Last year the DPRK took active and bold measures and made sincere efforts in order to improve the inter-Korean relations aggravated by the schemes of the separatist forces at home and abroad to thwart the advance of the era of June 15 reunification, and to bring a radical phase in national reunification. Its measures evoked great support and sympathy in and out of Korea and created an atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation between the north and the south.

This year, too, the DPRK holds that the way for improving the north-south relations should be opened. Pyongyang is unshakeable in its stand to improve the inter-Korean relations and open the way for national reunification on the basis of the historic June 15 Joint Declaration and October 4 Declaration.

If the south Korean authorities continue to negate the June 15 Joint Declaration and cling to the policy of confrontation in collusion with the foreign forces the relations between the north and the south will never be improved. They should refrain from committing acts that may aggravate confrontation and tension, and take the road of respecting the North-South Joint Declaration, promoting north-south dialogue and relations between both sides.

The joint editorial also point out that reconciliation should be promoted with the common national interests and given precedence, and cooperation should be encouraged through travel and contacts between the people from all walks of life. The projects for inter-Korean cooperation over the last decades proved in reality that nothing is impossible when priority is given to the common interests of the Korean nation. In order to further vitalize the said projects it is necessary to abolish all sort of legal and institutional mechanism such as the “Security Law” of south Korea that hinder the projects for common interests and prosperity of the nation and fully ensure free discussions and activities of the broad sections of the people.

The unity of the entire Korean nation constitutes a decisive guarantee for Korea’s reunification. The DPRK called on all Korean nation in the north, south and abroad to strengthen solidarity and collaboration to develop the national reunification movement. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo advanced by President Kim Il Sung. On the occasion of these historic anniversaries it is expected that the atmosphere of independent national reunification, reconciliation, cooperation and unity will be built up on a nationwide scale.

It is important to vigorously wage the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in the south stationed by US troops, the main obstacle to Korea’s reunification. The progressive forces of south Korea should hold up high the banner of independent reunification and peace against war to build a reunified country free from outside forces.

The entire Korean nation will crown the year 2010 as a year of opening a new phase of independent reunification by frustrating all challenges of the anti-reunification forces with their concerted efforts and stepping up the grand march towards reunification.

### **Historic Milestone for Korea’s Reunification**

This year 2010 coincides with the 65<sup>th</sup> year of Korea’s division forced by foreign forces and, at the same time, marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication of the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The publication of the historic joint declaration in Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, ten years ago was a historic event which brought about eye-opening changes in the reunification movement of the Korea nation.

### **June 15 reunification era**

The Pyongyang summit between the leaders of the north and south of Korea

held in June 2000 was a world-shaking event.

When it was televised that Chairman Kim Jong Il of north Korea appeared at the Pyongyang Airport to welcome President Kim Dae Jung of south Korea and his entourage, many people around the world, to say nothing of south Koreans, could hardly believe their eyes and gave a good clap and cheers.

The world mass media commented it as the most splendid event signaling the start of a new century, a new millennium.

The international community was also marveled at the result of the inter-Korean summit.

The north and south of Korea, which had been in hostility and stand-off for over half a century, made public the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, the gist of which is that the two sides unite and cooperate with each other under the ideal of “by our nation itself” and make advance toward reunification by the formula of federation.

Its publication began to usher in a new era on the Korean peninsula which would be unexpected in the past. Inter-Korean dialogues and negotiations were held in different fields including politics, the economy, culture and the military. Railways and roads between the north and the south, which had been cut off, were re-linked and the projects for economic cooperation became brisk.

Joint reunification-oriented festival were held one after another in Pyongyang and on Mt, Kumgang resort of the Korean people to achieve national reunification.

The international community clearly witnessed the reunification will of Koreans through sporting events, in particular.

In September 2000, just after the publication of the June 15 Joint Declaration, sports teams from both sides of Korea made a joint the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics with a reunification flag in the van, to the admiration of the world people.

The reunification flag was also fluttered in the venues of the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games and other international competitions, where the north and south of Korea rooted jointly for their sportspersons, catching the public eye.

Reunification of separated families and relations from the north and south of Korea took place continuously together with the wide-ranging projects for humanitarian cooperation.

The June 15 Joint Declaration resulted in such a reality which was unimaginable in the past, thus producing a new term “June 15 reunification era”.

In 2007 the October 4 Declaration was adopted as an action programme for the June 15 Joint Declaration, ushering in a brighter prospect for the reunification movement of the Korean nation.

### **Definite is Korea's reunification**

The reunification movement in Korea is now undergoing harsh ordeals owing to the extreme anti-north confrontation policies pursued by the south Korean authorities.

The south Korean administration, towed by outside forces, is making attempts to flatly negate the inter-Korean joint declarations and undermine the fruits borne by the June 15 reunification era.

However steadfast is the will of the Koreans to achieve national reunification.

Witnessing positive realities in the June 15 reunification era where the inter-Korean relations of confrontation and mistrust in the past have improved into those of reconciliation and unity and both sides pooled their efforts towards the independent reunification, they confirmed that the June 15 Joint Declaration is indeed a great programme for Korea's reunification indicating the road to be followed by them for their country's reunification and the ways to do so.

The South Side Committee for Implementing the June 15 Joint Declaration and other organizations and figures of all social standings in south Korea are unanimous in holding that the said joint declaration was a bold decision to provide a decisive momentum for the independent breakthrough in developing the inter-Korean relations into those of mutual trust and respect, a declaration which marked an epochal turning point for bringing about common prosperity of the nation and a legitimate declaration whose importance has been acknowledged not by the north and south of Korea but the international community including the United Nations.

It has been the general tendency that the negation of the June 15 Joint Declaration comes under nationwide denunciation and rejection. Such being the situation, some of the ruling circles of south Korea, too, are demanding the authorities make clear whether they have the will to implement the joint declaration or not.

The June 15 North-South Joint Declaration is the milestone for Korea's reunification hailed and supported not only by all the Koreans but the international community.

Korea will surely be reunified under the banner of the joint declaration.