

Historic Milestone for Korea's Reunification

This year 2010 coincides with the 65th year of Korea's division forced by foreign forces and, at the same time, marks the 10th 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 14th 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.