

WPK's 65th Anniversary

The Worker's Party of Korea was founded on October 10, 1945, in less than two months after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation(1905-1945) on August 15, 1945.

It set the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution as its immediate task and next year, enforced such democratic reforms as the land reform, nationalization of major industries and equal rights for both sexes, leading the Korean people to the building of a new society. It developed the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, which had waged the 15-year-long guerrilla warfare against Japanese imperialism to liberate Korea, into the Korean People's Army, a regular armed force, and founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the first people's democratic state in the East, on September 9, 1948. Korea, once a backward, colonial semi-feudal society, underwent a radical change in a short period after liberation.

The Korean war(1950-1953) provoked by the United States, however, threw grave roadblocks in the progress of the WPK. The allied forces of the US and its 15 vassal states attempted to nip the young DPRK in its bud. The WPK aroused all the Party members and the people to turn out in the righteous war in defence of national freedom and independence and inflicted an ignominious defeat on the US, which had boasted of its being "the strongest" in the world, for the first time in history, honourably safeguarding the sovereignty and dignity of their country.

After the war the WPK led its people to the post-war rehabilitation and the laying of foundations of socialism.

It advanced the basic line of economic construction on giving priority to the growth of heavy industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture and led the work to its implementation. Under its guidance the agricultural cooperation and the socialist transformation of private handicraft and capitalist trade and industry were carried out successfully in Korea in a brief span of time, resulting in the establishment of the socialist system in August 1958. The WPK turned the DPRK into a socialist industrial state in a short period of 14 years by effecting an all-people revolutionary upsurge, which was called the “Chollima Movement”.

Since the 1970s the WPK, based on these achievements, promoted onto a new higher level the three revolutions-ideological, technical and cultural--for the complete victory of socialism. The flames of the three revolutions brought about heydays in all fields of politics, the economy, culture and others. With the abolition of taxation in 1974, the DPRK became the first tax-free country in the world. It has since 1975 enforced in a comprehensive way the universal 11-year free compulsory education, the highest standard in the world. The Sixth Congress of the WPK held in October 1980 put forward the fundamental tasks of socialist economic construction in the 1980s and its ten long-range objectives. If they are attained, the DPRK will be able to join with flying colours the ranks of those countries with advanced economy.

The WPK, however, faced an unexpected situation from the mid-1980s. The whirlwinds of “reform” and “perestroika” swept the ruling parties in the former Soviet Union and other socialist countries, thus resulting in the frustration of socialism. The WPK lost its political allies and the socialist international market. The imperialist forces took advantage of it to direct their intensive anti-socialist

offensive to the DPRK. This being the situation, President Kim Il Sung, who founded the WPK and led it for nearly 50 years, passed away in July 1994. To make matters worse, the DPRK was hit with unprecedented natural disasters one after another. They were the worst trials ever known in the history of the WPK.

Braving those hardships, the WPK administered Songun politics on a full scale and aroused the people to the struggle in defence of socialism, rallying them more closely around leader Kim Jong Il. Under its leadership, the Korean people have not only safeguarded socialism in the worst adversity but secured a foothold for the building of a great, prosperous and powerful nation. In August 1998 the DPRK's artificial earth satellite, Kwangmyongsong No.1, manufactured completely by its own efforts and technology, was successfully launched into space, striking the whole world with amazement. It was as the same as a solemn sound of gun firing signaling the start of building a socialist thriving nation.

On January 1, 1999, the WPK published a joint editorial in its official organ and other leading newspapers in the country, officially declaring that it would start the drive to build a thriving nation. The term of a great, prosperous and powerful socialist country referred to by the Koreans is a country with strong national power, in which everything prospers and its people live happily with nothing to envy in the world. It was the lifelong wish of President Kim Il Sung, father of socialist Korea. The WPK is vigorously inspiring all its members and other people to the drive to open the gate to a thriving nation at any cost in 2012, marking the centenary of birth of the President. The DPRK is concentrating its efforts on economic construction, now that it has already secured the position of a powerful nation in the aspects of politico-ideological strength and military might. Revitalization of the national industry, growth of agricultural production,

expansion of land development and developing science and technology-all these are giving strong impetus to the development of the independent national economy.

Under the leadership of the WPK the DPRK is bringing about eye-opening achievements in the efforts to build an economic power. Last year another artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong No,2 was rocketed into orbit. The Juche-based steel-making system of using no cokes and iron scraps was perfected and the CNC technology widely introduced to bring about unheard-of increase in production. Vinalon cotton and fertilizer began to be mass-produced this year.

Sixty-five-year-long career of the WPK is, indeed, the history of victory and glory that it has led the Korean people to make epochal changes.

Congratulations on the 65th birthday of the Workers' Party of Korea which organizes and guides all the victories of the Korean people!