

## **Greatest Respect to Kim Jong Il**

On February 7 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched the artificial satellite Kwangmyongsong 4 into outer space. Its launch vehicle was also named Kwangmyongsong. The blast-off of the satellite was made prior to the Day of the Shining Star (February 16), the greatest holiday of the Korean people.

Kwangmyongsong (Shining Star—Tr.) stands for Kim Jong Il, the eternal Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, and the Day of the Shining Star is his birthday.

Chairman Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), by carrying forward the cause of President Kim Il Sung, founding father of socialist Korea, defended socialism and laid a firm foundation for building a thriving nation. He also ushered in an era of space exploration in the DPRK.

Scores of years ago, he already set the ambitious objectives of space exploration and led the Korean scientists and technicians to attain them. He devoted all his energy and wisdom to pushing back the frontiers of science and technology, encouraging them and presenting brilliant ideas whenever they encountered difficulties. He had all material and technical conditions prepared for the development of titanium industry and other necessary projects. He gave hints of an original design for multistage rocket. When the scientists and technicians were crestfallen after repeated failures, he inspired them with confidence and courage, reminding them that the first indigenous tractor of the country had moved backward. He assured them that he would press the button himself to launch the first artificial earth satellite of the country.

At last, in August 1998 when the country was undergoing the worst trials owing to the intensive anti-socialist offensive by the imperialists, the DPRK's first artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 achieved orbit at the first attempt. It is not accidental that the satellite was named Kwangmyongsong.

Kim Jong Il was steadfast in his determination to make his country rank among space powers by steadily developing its space technology. He had Kwangmyongsong 2 launched in April 2009 as planned, as a response to the military provocation by the US and its vassal states that threatened to intercept the satellite, branding it as a "missile launch." The launch was part of the country's resolute military countermeasure against the hostile forces' manoeuvres.

In his lifetime Kim Jong Il said that an applications satellite should be launched in 2012 to mark the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

True to this instruction Kim Jong Un energetically led the effort to this end. The US and its vassal forces resorted to all vicious means to prevent the DPRK's endeavour for satellite launch, but the latter succeeded in putting Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into orbit on December 12, 2012.

Most recently, the DPRK succeeded in inserting its earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4 into orbit, demonstrating its prestige as a space power once again. This clearly reflects the unshakable determination and will of the supreme leader and the Korean people to add eternal brilliance to the undying exploits of Chairman Kim Jong Il and carry through his instructions. The successful launch of Kwangmyongsong 4 by means of the Kwangmyongsong launch vehicle before the Day of the Shining Star is quite meaningful.

Indeed, it is a product born of the greatest respect extended to Chairman Kim Jong Il by Kim Jong Un and the Korean people.