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Kim Jong Un has photo session with participants in youth league congress



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, had a photo session with the participants in the tenth congress of the youth league on April 29.

Present there were Jo Yong Won, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary for organizational affairs of the Central Committee of the WPK, Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Party Central Committee, Kim Jae Ryong, department director of the Party Central Committee, and Kwon Yong

Jin, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the photo session, all the participants raised stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" as a token of their deep reverence for the General Secretary who treasures and loves the youth most and brings them up to be reliable successors to the dignified WPK and pillars of the socialist state.

He warmly waved back to the enthusiastically cheering participants

as a sign of encouragement.

He said that with the congress which was held amid special interest of the WPK as an occasion, the youth movement should definitely turn into a great driving force of socialist construction, and all the young people should be prepared to be patriotic youths ardently safeguarding socialism and dedicating themselves to socialist construction so as to make the whole country enlivened by the youth and steadily increase the ranks of pioneers displaying beautiful traits.

He posed for a photograph with the

participants, expressing belief that they would make tangible contributions to hastening the bright future of Korean-style socialism by becoming the first standard-bearers in developing the youth league into the red vanguard ranks and the steel-strong youth organization modelled on the revolutionary idea of the Party and shock troopers who take the lead in opening the road of advance for carrying out the five-year plan set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Party.

KCNA

Leader sends letter to youth league congress

*The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a letter titled **Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March Towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution** to the Tenth Congress of the Youth League on April 29. The following is the full text:*

Amid the characteristic revolutionary enthusiasm of the young people of Korea soaring high in their advance towards the new direction indicated by the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Tenth Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League has been held successfully.

This congress has reaffirmed with dignity the faith and determination of the millions of young people to remain absolutely faithful to the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and

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to demonstrate to the full their heroic spirit and bravery in the implementation of its cause. It has also discussed and decided on important issues arising in developing the youth movement in our country to a new stage.

I am gratified that, thanks to the high-running passion and active participation by all the delegates, this congress has achieved meaningful successes for innovating and developing the work of the youth league, and I extend warm congratulations to you in the name of the Party Central Committee.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend warm militant greetings to other dependable young men and women across the country, who are adding lustre to their fulfilling youth as they cherish loyalty to the Party and the revolution as their invaluable honour and pride.

My warm greetings also go to all our overseas young compatriots including those in Japan, who are stoutly carrying forward the patriotic traditions for the prosperity of their socialist homeland and the rosy future of their nation.

Along the road of advance and development of our revolution over the past five years, there have taken place new and important changes in the youth movement as well.

Boys and girls have joined the ranks of youth, young people of yesterday have joined the main forces of society, and the environment and conditions of youth work have witnessed many changes.

However, the laudable traits of our young people, who advance straight forward with vigour following the Party and who love waging the revolution and working, have continued to be demonstrated on a high plane.

The faithful millions of young people have always been a fortress for our Party which is leading the revolution to a great leap braving the worst-ever challenges, and numerous are resourceful and trustworthy young men and women who have associated their ideals and ambitions with the Party's intentions and gone through fire and water.

In this world, where the young generation are pursuing their own comfort and luxury, there are no revolutionary young people like ours, who, accepting difficulties and trials with pleasure, are faithful to the call of their motherland, who are honest to their society and collectives and who work with devotion for the future.

After the Eighth Party Congress, young men and women across the country have risen up as one, and in a few months after the congress thousands of them have volunteered to work in the difficult and challenging sectors; these deeds as heroic as going to the frontline at wartime and blocking the gun muzzles of enemy pillboxes with their chests show in a concentrated way the ennobling spiritual world cherished by our young people only.

That our Party, which is waging the revolution, has trained its reliable successors and has young promising major forces is its greatest asset which cannot be compared to anything; it is also a source of its greatest pride.

This confirms that our Party and people, by overcoming the trials of today, can open a new era of socialist construction and vigorously advance towards communism.

The Korean revolution originated in the youth movement, and its every upsurge coincided with an upsurge of the youth movement.

Also in opening a new era of upsurge and massive transformation in the revolution as indicated by the Party congress, our youth movement must play a powerful, militant role through a great change in its development.

Our Party is planning to turn the forthcoming five years into substantial five years of radical development in the construction of our style of

socialism, into five years of another great change by racing against time.

And by launching without interruption a gigantic struggle of the next stage, it is going to build ours within about 15 years into a powerful and prosperous socialist country in which all the people enjoy happiness.

Its intention to struggle to attain such an ambitious goal in the present situation is just for the sake of our young people. And in doing this, it believes in their ardent aspiration and unquenchable strength.

The bright future of our style of socialism belongs to the young people, and it is a sacred, patriotic cause which they themselves must bring earlier.

This is why the Party, in giving full play to the giant strength of the large contingent of our young people and definitely turning the youth movement into a great force for socialist construction, has paid special attention to this congress.

The congress adopted a meaningful resolution on renaming the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League, Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

The new name of the youth league directly and clearly reflects the nature and tasks of the youth movement at the present stage of our revolution, indicates in an intensive way the ideals and traits of the young people in our era, and sustains the characteristics unique to it as an organization of young people.

Also reflected in it is the great expectation of the Party and people that all our young people will train themselves into patriots, who prize socialism as their own life itself and fight staunchly for its victory down through generations, and that their organization will give free rein to its might as a shock brigade in socialist construction.

The change of the name of the youth league does not mean the change of the intrinsic nature of our young people's organization that regards modelling itself on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as its ultimate goal, as its ultimate fighting task.

Socialism and patriotism are symbolic of the immortal revolutionary ideology and achievements of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Ardently loving the Juche-oriented socialist country closely associated with the brilliant careers of the great leaders and fighting for the accomplishment of the socialist cause immediately means remaining faithful to Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

As a new landmark has been set up at this congress for the development of the Korean youth movement, the SPYL should focus an all-out effort on performing the heavy mission and tasks entrusted by the times and the revolution.

To train all young people into patriots who staunchly defend socialism and work with devotion for its construction—this is the basic task facing the youth league at present.

The SPYL should give full play to its militant might in the new historic advance of our revolution and usher in the golden days of the Korean youth movement.

The first major task of the SPYL is to orient all its work to making all young people patriots who have cherished socialism as an element of their faith.

Socialism is our people's life and blood, and young people are masters and builders of its future.

However, because they were born and grew up in the period when the country was experiencing hardships, young people nowadays lack in practical experience in and conception of the genuine advantages of our own style of socialism and, worse still, some of them have a misguided understanding of it.

No matter how many difficulties may crop up and no matter how many things we may have to do, nothing is more urgent and important than to train the next generation of our revolution into

dependable motive force of socialist construction.

Young people are at the stage when their outlook on the world is formed and consolidated, so the primary undertaking of youth league organizations is to educate them to cherish socialism as an element of their unshakable faith.

Youth league organizations should continuously intensify the work of arming young people firmly with the socialist ideology.

It is important to teach them theoretically and through comparison what kind of society is socialism and what are its essential features and advantages.

In particular, they should firmly imbue them with the collectivist idea, the kernel of the socialist and communist ideology, by linking it with the proud reality of our society, so as to encourage them to regard the slogan "One for all and all for one!" as a requirement for themselves.

Our socialist country has attained great national might and prestige, our system is a benevolent one which takes full responsibility for the people's dignity, rights, interests and rosy future and guarantees them, and our great socialist family is full of ennobling and unique virtue and traits which no other societies can imitate or copy by any means. It is necessary to ensure that our young people take all these as a source of their pride and dignity.

Youth league organizations should steadily and in every way possible educate all young people, so that they are well aware of how valuable benefits our socialist system bestows on the people, the rising generations in particular, in the face of harsh trials.

One's faith in socialism can be further consolidated when they are convinced of its validity, inevitability of its victory and law-governed nature of the implementation of its cause.

Crystallized in our Party's policies are absolutely correct path and strategy and tactics for building our style of socialism successfully by smashing all sorts of obstacles.

To instil, by representing the Party's intentions, genuine ideals and hopes in young people who aspire after new things and burn with passion and encourage them to perform feats should be part of the routine activities of the organizations of our young people.

Youth league organizations should bring the quintessence of our Party's policies home to young people and make scrupulous arrangements for their implementation, so as to inspire them to turn out in the patriotic struggle for contributing to socialist construction full of confidence and optimism.

What is important today in training our young people into patriots who have cherished socialism as an element of their faith is to encourage them to learn from the ideological traits and fighting spirit of the young people in the Chollima era.

As they accepted the ideals of socialism and communism as an element of their faith, the young people in the 1950s and 1960s created miracles of Chollima and built the most advantageous socialism on this land through their painstaking efforts.

Youth league organizations should conduct education among young people in a novel and substantial manner by means of the loyalty to the Party, courage, heroic feats and laudable deeds the young people in the legendary Chollima era demonstrated, and thereby ensure that they all resolutely rise up in the struggle to live as their preceding generation did and bring earlier the bright future of socialism.

In addition, they should wage an uncompromising struggle against the capitalist ideology, selfishness and other reactionary ideological elements which run counter to socialism and collectivism. In this way, they can make young people solidify their faith in socialism.

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The second major task facing the SPYL is to train all young people into honourable builders of socialism in the practical struggle for carrying out the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress.

The mettle and traits of young people filled with patriotic zeal are refined and developed through practical activities, the course of training, for fulfilling the mission their generation has assumed for history.

The Eighth Party Congress set the most scientific and development-oriented goals for making our style of socialism stronger and wealthier and clarified concrete tasks for the political, economic, military, cultural and all other fields.

Our Party's prospective objective in socialist construction is precisely the ideals of our young people, and any gigantic transformation can hardly be expected apart from the enterprising and proactive endeavours of the masses of young people.

That we have put forward young people as a shock brigade in socialist construction is not merely aimed at stepping up the revolutionary work by enlisting their surging might; the main objective is to train them, our reserves, into valiant young fighters and builders of socialism who remain unyielding in the face of any difficulties.

In the current times when we have to carry out enormous revolutionary tasks in unprecedentedly grim circumstances, our young people should hold high the slogan "Let us demonstrate the mettle of patriotic youth in the worthwhile struggle for socialist construction!"

Youth league organizations should ensure that all young people bear in mind the high honour and pride in being socialist patriotic youth and fully demonstrate their resourcefulness and courage in implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress.

Whereas our Workers' Party members become initial sparks and vanguard fighters in the struggle for implementing Party policy, our young people should become the flames and a shock brigade.

Young people should kindle a fierce flame of creation and innovation in carrying out the five-year plan.

Youth league organizations should proactively inspire the enthusiasm and creative initiative of the masses of young people and steadily encourage and assist them so that they unfailingly carry out their quota of the national economic plan by day, month and quarter. In this way, they can prevent the plan of their work from remaining an empty talk.

Miracle cannot be wrought by itself; it can be created only when the strength of the collective is enlisted and a strong wind of competition is raised.

Youth league organizations should substantially conduct the movements of youth shock brigade, youth subworkteam and youth workteam and various other mass movements in the direction of intensifying the campaigns in which one learns from others, overtakes them and swaps experience with them, and thus make all the fronts of economic construction seethe with collective and collaborative innovation by young people.

They should ensure that young people volunteer to take the lead and make breakthroughs in undertaking hard and challenging tasks facing their respective fields and units and, in this course, many labour innovators and heroes who set new standards and records and perform feats are produced.

They should render active support to the laudable young people who volunteer to work in the hard and challenging sectors and give wide publicity to them. And they should give unsparing organizational encouragement to them so that they can carry their admirable decisions and ideals through to the end.

The present vibrant times that require fresh innovation, bold creation and a steady advance is

a theatre of activities for young people who are possessed of modern science and technology and the spirit of tireless inquiry.

Youth league organizations, by organizing and conducting a young people's march for scientific and technological innovation more proactively, should help them present a host of new techniques, inventions and technical conceptions and become competent and promising talents who can lead the struggle for increased production and creation by dint of science and technology.

They should vigorously inspire the young people on the science front and university students to keep in their minds the fact that the future of socialist construction hinges upon their brains and scientific and technological qualifications and throw heart and soul into mastering the cutting-edge science and technology in their specialist fields with dauntless courage and ambition with which to compete with the world.

National defence is the most important of state affairs that cannot be neglected even for a moment in accomplishing the socialist cause and the most ennobling mission devolving on the hot-blooded young people.

Youth league organizations should educate young people to link the affairs of national defence with their youth and cherish the patriotic mind of regarding military service as their greatest honour and pride, and continuously educate them to be always ready for defending the country and coping with any unexpected contingencies.

The youth league organizations in the field of armed forces should guide all the young service personnel to perform distinguished services and feats in their military service for making their socialist country's defence line impregnable and defending the safety of the people. They should also direct strenuous efforts to their ideological and spiritual development in order that they can play a core role at the posts of socialist construction in the future as they did in the days of their military service.

The third major task facing the SPYL is to train young people into genuine masters of socialist morality and culture.

In stepping up socialist construction, our Party is paying special attention to maintaining, inheriting and developing the excellent morality and culture unique to our society.

The powerful socialist country we are building must be superior and advanced in the moral and cultural aspects as well, and young people should play a very big role in this effort.

A country whose young people are sound in morality and civilized remains unwavering whatever the circumstances and can make steady progress, but no future is in store for a country whose younger generation is deteriorated.

Our Party's intention is to ensure that the beautiful and fine socialist morality and climate of cultural life created by the preceding generations of our revolution are inherited invariably and exalt their brilliance by the coming generations.

Youth league organizations should regard it as an important task of ensuring continuity of the lifeline of the socialist cause to establish an ennobling moral traits and a climate of rich cultural life, and carry on this undertaking in a responsible way.

It is necessary to correctly implant into young people a correct view of morality which is based on the good manners and customs of our nation and collectivism so as to lay a solid foundation of moral life and traits in them from the start.

The words and acts, hairstyles and attire of young people bespeak themselves the result of the work of youth league organizations to which they belong.

Youth league organizations should make strong demands on their members to learn fully the etiquette like decorum in speech and way of greeting and public morality and observe them willingly, and to acquire the habit of always keeping their outward

appearance neat and decent.

It is our Party's intention and ideal that the more the trials and difficulties in the struggle of socialist construction, the fuller play the communist trait of helping and leading one another forward should be given, so as to accomplish our style of socialism by dint of moral excellence and tender feelings.

Our Party hopes that the ennobling communist moral excellence of sharing others' sorrows and happiness will become part of the life of young people, and that more of the laudable deeds that showcase the true appearance of our era will be displayed among them.

Youth league organizations should pay particular attention to helping their members improve their cultural standards and play the role of pioneer in creating a new socialist civilization.

What is of importance here is to conduct without interruption education by means of artistic and literary works like the revolutionary songs, poems and novels in conformity to the features of young people and widely arrange different political and cultural activities like oratorical contests and public presentations in order for them always to live in a sound and ennobling way with rich cultural attainments.

Youth league organizations and young people should take the lead in the effort to make the whole country brim over with delight, optimism and vigour by briskly conducting the mass-based sports, cultural and artistic activities.

At present the dangerous poison that blemishes the original features of socialism is the anti-socialist and non-socialist practices.

Now a large-scale clean-up operation to wipe out these practices is underway on a nationwide scale. It is another class struggle, a patriotic struggle, to defend the purity and future of our young people and to provide them with a more wonderful home of socialism.

The youth league should mobilize its efforts to the maximum and call all young people to the struggle against these practices.

It should turn the struggle against the reactionary ideology and culture, malignant tumors, into work of young people themselves by educating them to have a clear understanding of their harmful effects and consequences, and should never compromise with even the slightest elements that would foment the anti-socialist and non-socialist practices among young people and gnaw away their healthy spirit.

The main thing is to be sensitive to the abnormal behaviours and psychological changes among young people, grasp all the possibilities of the infiltration of heterogeneous lifestyle, and take preventive measures, so as to defend the destiny of young people in a thoroughgoing way.

With an understanding that the struggle against the anti-socialist and non-socialist practices is a fierce confrontation, in which we cannot yield even an inch, the entire youth league should mobilize the millions of young people to resolutely root out the negative sprouts and the poisonous weeds by dint of the ardent sense of justice and positive influence.

Our Party has innumerable tasks in its youth work, but it is its view that the SPYL can carry out its honourable mission and duties it has assumed before the times and the revolution if it orients its work to implementing the above-mentioned three tasks.

In order to raise the youth movement to a new, high level as required by the developing times and revolution, the fighting efficiency of the SPYL should be strengthened in every way possible.

All the young people can be trained into patriots, who work with devotion for socialist construction, and youth league work conducted energetically only when its organizations that are responsible for the political life of young people improve their functions and role.

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Youth league organizations should concentrate their efforts on its internal work as befits their mission and tasks.

A well-knit system of conveying the Party's lines and policies to all youth league organizations accurately and in time and carrying them out unconditionally should be set up, and strict discipline of following the Party's instructions to the letter established within them.

It is important to make the organizational and ideological life of the youth league regularized and standardized, and improve guidance over this work.

Internal education system including study sessions and public lectures should be operated on a regular basis and visits to the revolutionary battlefields, revolutionary sites and other educational bases organized in a substantial way, so as to consistently intensify the five-point education and make all types of the youth league work become an effective process of ideological education.

The youth league organizations should strictly guard against the tendency towards the ceremonial and stylish manner of educational work for young people, and continuously find out and apply fresh educational methods to increase the permeability and educative influence of ideology in conformity with the ideological sentiments, emotions and level of consciousness of young people in our era.

As young people are sensitive to the new, measures should be taken to make an effective use of developed IT means as well as various means of education including mass media and multimedia presentations for educating them.

What is the main thing in guiding the organizational life of the youth league members is to make them have a clear understanding of the rules and regulations of their organization and create a climate of strictly observing them in any conditions and environment.

Some youth league organizations do not hold their organizational life review sessions and general membership meetings on a regular basis nor give their members assignments, existing in name only. Such bad practices should be overcome.

Those young people who get involved in illegal and criminal acts are, without exception, separated from their organizations or dislike control by them.

The youth league, by regarding it as the most urgent task to solve the problem of the young people who are separated from their organizations or have not registered themselves on their organizations, should ensure that even a single young person is not outside the organizational guidance and care. It should steadily and methodologically conduct the education of its members who have something questionable in carrying out their revolutionary tasks and in their economic and moral lives.

The guarantee for the consolidation of the entire youth league lies in building up and strengthening its grass-roots organizations.

The youth league should continue to hold up the slogan "Let the whole league help the primary organizations!"

It should direct great efforts to helping the chairpersons of primary organizations conduct their work by themselves, and should undertake in a substantial manner the work of creating model primary organizations and generalizing their experiences.

What needs primary attention here is to ensure that the organizations at higher echelons arrange their work effectively in conformity with the actual situations of the primary organizations and give detailed assignments so as to make them work full of enthusiasm, and strictly supervise and control how the assignments are implemented.

In strengthening the grass-roots organizations, it is important to increase the ranks of hard-core members and enhance their role.

The entire youth league should launch a vigorous drive to emulate the models of the times, and the grass-roots organizations, too, should strive to find out and put forward young people who can be called models, and encourage their hard-core members to proactively educate and transform laggards. By doing so, they can increase the ranks of patriotic young people.

Mindful of their position in the effort for strengthening and developing youth league organizations and guiding the organizational life of their members, city and county youth league committees should scrupulously arrange the work of consolidating the primary organizations and training their members through organizational life.

The central, provincial, city and county youth league committees must not reveal such deviations as giving social tasks to their lower-level organizations without consideration and thus preventing them from conducting their internal work properly.

A proper working system and order should be established in conformity with the changed reality and prevailing situation.

It is necessary to readjust the structure and ranks of the youth league organizations at all levels, ranging from the Central Committee to the provincial, city and county committees, and give clear-cut assignments to them so that they can satisfactorily perform their role as the general staff in organizing and conducting the education of young people and the education of young people is firmly based on reality.

Now the number of the youth league members is decreasing and various irrationalities in guiding their organizational life have been revealed in the countryside and some other areas and units. Therefore, measures should be taken to rationalize the composition of the grass-roots organizations and improve the system whereby the organizational life is conducted.

In order to bring about a substantial turn in the work of the youth league, its officials should decisively improve their role and sense of responsibility.

The key to strengthening the youth league is to enhance the role and qualifications of its officials.

Now some youth league officials, with a temporary attitude, are inclined to dillydally, trying to merely serve their terms, far from devoting themselves to their work.

Without wiping out such a temporary and irresponsible attitude revealed in this organization, no innovative change can be expected in the work with young people.

Youth league officials, fully aware that they are political workers who train young people into genuine socialist builders and patriots and with the attitude that they take responsibility for their future as well as their present, should engage themselves proactively in youth league work.

With broad political vision, soaring zeal, determined drive and high leadership ability, they should make sincere efforts to carry out their tasks perfectly one by one, and launch every undertaking in a bold and innovative way with creative thinking.

All youth league officials should become intimate propagators who go deep among young people and explain Party policy in simple terms and their faithful assistants who lead them along the right track while sharing weal and woe with them.

They should also become versatile persons outstanding both internally and externally, who are firmly armed with the Party's revolutionary ideas and outlook and possessed of multi-faceted knowledge, high cultural attainments, noble virtue and warm humanity.

It is needed for the entire youth league to organize short courses, gaining experience in reality, continuous education and other effective activities to improve the qualifications of its officials and

direct particular effort to fully preparing its city and county committee chairpersons.

The entire Party and the whole society should give active assistance to youth league work and make much effort for the education of young people.

It is the fundamental requirement of our Party's idea of attaching importance to young people to regard youth league work as part of Party work so that they can be fully aware of their original features and bloodline and steadfastly carry forward the baton of the revolution.

Only when much effort is made to train young people, the next generation of the revolution, will the patriotic blood and sweat shed by the preceding generations not come to nothing, and the future of the country become bright.

All Party organizations and officials should pay close attention and sincerity to youth league work and education of young people with the feeling of parents who bring up their children to be dignified persons.

Senior Party officials should be the first to think always about the education of young people and seek a way to its solution, and make exacting demands on departments and officials of their Party committees to render effective assistance to youth work and organize undertakings for this work purposefully.

They should be bold enough to entrust youth league organizations with large projects, fully support what these organizations conduct and assist them to achieve good results.

They should build up the ranks of youth league officials with those young people who are boundlessly faithful to the Party and have been trained through military service and field labour, encourage them to feel a higher sense of honour and pride, and resolve the problems of their future development in a responsible manner.

All Party organizations should wage an effective campaign to create model, exemplary units in Party guidance over the work of the youth league, so that its organizations can work full of vigour and substantial changes be made in the education of young people.

The Working People's Organization Department of the Party Central Committee should convert the orientation of its work into that of operations department which, regarding youth work as its utmost concern, puts forward innovative plans aimed at improving youth league work. It should also correctly control and guide the similar departments at the Party committees at all levels to bring about a turn in the style of their work.

All the people should become masters in the education of young people, and the whole society value and give prominence to them.

All the officials and working people should become educators and teachers in training young people, the future of the country, to be socialist persons possessed of the collectivist ideology, patriotism and ennobling outlook on life, and make it a social climate to give positive help for the solution of the problems arising in youth work.

Today the SPYL is faced with the honourable task of ushering in a new heyday of the Korean youth movement with this congress as a momentum.

Our Party and people expect that the millions of sons and daughters of the country will demonstrate to the world the resourcefulness and mettle of the Korean youth in their struggle to bring earlier the bright future of socialism and communism by carrying forward the baton of loyalty and patriotism bequeathed to them by the revolutionary forerunners.

I firmly believe that all youth league organizations and young people, flying proudly the flag of the SPYL, will fully perform their noble mission and duties on the historic advance towards a fresh victory in the revolution under the leadership of the Party.

Tenth Congress of Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League held



The 10th Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League opened in Pyongyang on April 27.

The congress comprehensively analysed and reviewed in depth the youth league work during the period under review, took practical measures for bringing about a fundamental turn in the youth league work and discussed tasks and ways for the youth league organizations and youth to thoroughly carry out the decisions made at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

The congress was attended by the delegates who were elected at the youth league organizations at all levels.

Present there as observers were officials of the WPK and armed forces organs and officials in the field of education of the youth and schoolchildren.

The platform was taken by Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Jae Ryong, department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kwon Yong Jin, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, who are members of the Political Bureau of the

Central Committee of the WPK, members of the executive committee of the youth league central committee, chairpersons of the provincial youth league committees, exemplary officials and members of the youth league, officials in charge of youth work in the armed forces and soldiers.

Introduced at the congress was the fact that the Central Standing Committee of the Korean Youth League in Japan and the Association of Young Korean Nationals in China presented congratulatory banners to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un on the occasion of the congress.

The congress approved the following agenda items:

1. Review of the work of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League

2. Review of the work of the Central Auditing Commission of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League

3. On renaming the youth league

4. On revising the rules of the youth league

5. Election of the central leadership body of the youth league

Pak Chol Min, chairman of the youth league central committee,

delivered a report on the first agenda item.

He said that the congress has been convened amid the great trust of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who set the youth work as an important affair related to the future of the Party, state and Korean-style socialism and the eternal strategic line of the revolution.

Over the past five years since the Ninth Congress of the youth league, General Secretary Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea has energetically led the youth league to develop it into the eternal youth league of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il as required by the new era of the Juche revolution and demonstrate its might as the advance group and wing of the Party, he said.

The achievements made in the youth league work are entirely the bright fruition of the great leadership provided by the General Secretary who set the youth question as a vital issue decisive of the destiny of the Party and the revolution and led the youth league work step by step with considerable endeavours, he said.

He emphasized that the youth league is faced with

an honourable task to fully demonstrate its militant might as the successor to and reserve of the WPK in the all-out advance for carrying out the great fighting programme set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Calling for taking substantial measures to overcome mistakes latent in the youth league work in order to creditably fulfil its mission and duty before the times and the revolution, he cited the mistakes of the youth league organizations that failed to push forward the work of increasing the militant capability of the youth organizations in every way to meet their natural duty as the ones for ideological education in the period under review.

He called on the youth league organizations at all levels to hold fast to the important tasks set forth by the General Secretary at the Eighth Congress of the WPK as immortal guidelines for effecting a fundamental turn in the youth league work and to turn out in implementing them.

He said that they should hold President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in high esteem as the Sun of Juche

forever and give top priority to the work of safeguarding the absolute authority of the Party Central Committee over all other work and carry on the work thoroughly.

He emphasized the need to channel great efforts into building up the primary organizations of the youth league and steadily enhancing their functions and role.

He noted that the youth league organizations should fully prepare the schoolchildren to be competent revolutionary talents and young revolutionaries who are knowledgeable, morally impeccable and physically strong so that they can carry forward the baton of the Juche revolution.

Youth league officials should become the locomotives leading young people to always advance straight forward following the Party as the reliable successors to the revolution, bearing deep in mind that whether the youth work is successful or not entirely depends on them, he said.

He noted that the youth league organizations should wage a revolutionary ideological offensive, offensive defence and intensive struggle to root out the



Congress: Youth league holds 10th congress

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anti- and non-socialist practices and establish the socialist way of life.

Speeches were made on the first agenda item by Kim Chung Song, delegate of the youth league organization of the Korean People's Army, Pak Myong Jin and Paek Hak Ryong, delegates of the youth league organization of Pyongyang, and Han In Chol, delegate of the youth league organization of the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade.

The 10th Congress of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League closed on Thursday.

The three-day congress discussed in depth the measures to bring about a fundamental turn in the youth league work by thoroughly applying the main idea and spirit of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, and adopted relevant decisions.

Speeches on the first agenda item continued at the congress.

Speakers referred to the achievements and experiences made and obtained by the youth in their endeavours to creditably fulfil the sacred mission and duty of defending

the country, people and revolution while opening up the breakthrough for advance in the difficult and labour-consuming fields, true to the appeal made by the Party.

The congress made a comprehensive analysis and review of the mistakes revealed in the youth league work in the period under review and their causes.

The speakers pledged to redouble their efforts to carry on league building and activities thoroughly in line with the Party's ideas and intentions with a fresh resolution and preparedness.

After the report on the second agenda item "Review of the work of the Central Auditing Commission of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League" was delivered, speeches were made and a resolution was adopted with unanimous approval.

The congress discussed the third agenda item "On renaming the youth league".

A resolution on renaming the youth league "Socialist Patriotic Youth League" was adopted with the unanimous approval of the delegates.

Then the fourth agenda item "On revising the rules of the youth league" was discussed.

There was a report on revising the rules.

The reporter summarized the contents of the rules to be revised and supplemented in conformity with the new fighting tasks facing the youth league, the requirements of the developing revolution and the principle of building the youth league.

Stressing that the revised rules of the youth league reflect the actual requirements for raising the fighting efficiency of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League, the reserve of the Workers' Party of Korea, in every way, he brought the revised and supplemented rules to the congress for deliberation.

A resolution on revising the rules was adopted with the unanimous approval of the delegates.

The congress discussed the fifth agenda item "On election of the central leadership body of the youth league".

First, it elected the Youth League Central Committee.

All the nominees were elected members and alternate members of its Central Committee with the unanimous approval of the delegates.

Then there was the first plenary meeting of the 10th Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

Ri Il Hwan, secretary of the Central Committee of

the Workers' Party of Korea, announced the decision made at the first plenum.

The Executive Committee of the Youth League Central Committee was elected.

Mun Chol was elected chairman of its Central Committee and Ri Ju Chol, Pak Myong Jin, Paek Chung Il, Paek Hak Ryong, Kang Yong Jin, Jang Ryong Gil, Kim Song Il, Kim Kyong Jun and Ham Kwang Chol vice-chairmen.

The Organizing Committee of the Youth League Central Committee was formed.

The chairman, vice-chairmen and members of its Central Auditing Commission were elected.

Department directors of its Central Committee and the editor-in-chief of the Chongnyon Jonwi Offices were appointed.

The congress elected the committee for drafting its resolution with the newly-elected members of the 10th central leadership body of the youth league and the committee made a comprehensive deliberation of the draft resolution on the first agenda item.

Resolution on the first agenda item "Review on the work of the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League", which was supplemented with creative

and constructive opinions of the delegates, was adopted with unanimous approval of the delegates.

Upon authorization of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, Ri Il Hwan, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, conferred the flag of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau and department director of the Party Central Committee, conveyed the letter sent by Kim Jong Un to the congress ***Demonstrate to the Full the Might of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League on the Historic March towards a Fresh Victory in the Revolution.***

A short course for the participants in the youth league congress was given in Pyongyang on April 30.

The participants also enjoyed a performance "We will travel one road forever under the leadership of the Party Central Committee" given by the artistic motivational team of the Youth League Central Committee at the Central Youth Hall in Pyongyang on April 30.

KCNA



LEAD

Korean people greet era of self-existence, prosperity

The Korean people proudly call the present times the “era of our state-first principle”.

The era of our state-first principle is an era of self-existence and prosperity, which was born as a result of the Workers’ Party of Korea making all possible efforts for the people and determinedly building up its own force, boldly facing all kinds of challenges of history, a result of the do-or-die struggle for exalting the dignity and position of the state.

At the beginning of the new century of the Juche era, the DPRK has braved harsh trials including brigandish, outrageous challenges of hostile forces and successive natural calamities.

The WPK waged an unyielding offensive to break through all obstacles by inspiring all people to turn out in the struggle for the prosperity of the country in the face of worst ordeals.

It was the banner of independence and self-reliance that the Korean people upheld under the leadership of the Party.

In this course, they ushered in the era of our state-first principle, a new era of development.

The era of our state-first

principle is the age when the harmonious whole of the Party and people is being further consolidated thanks to people-first politics.

Putting forward the politics based on the people-first principle as the basic mode of politics, the WPK has ensured that all Party and state activities are consistent with making selfless, devoted efforts for the people and that all production and construction are directed to the promotion of their wellbeing.

In the period, the people hardened their will to devote everything to the WPK, regarding it as the embrace of their mother and Korean-style socialism as their life and soul, and the political and ideological position of the DPRK became impregnable.

The era of our state-first principle is an age of changes spurring progress in socialist construction by maximizing the nation’s own force.

Amid the all-people struggle for stepping up socialist construction by building up the self-development capacity, self-reliance became a national trait of the DPRK and served as the one and only fighting spirit for all the

people to safeguard the arteries of the self-supporting national economy, the socialist economy.

The era is also the one of demonstrating the dignity and might of the country based on the successful buildup of the powerful national defence capabilities.

The DPRK faced the unimaginably despicable moves of hostile forces to obliterate its sovereignty and rights to existence and development for the past decade, but it accomplished the great national cause of bolstering up self-reliant defence capacity in a matter of a few years, an undertaking which others would not be able to implement even in two or three decades.

Military parades in celebration of the 75th birth anniversary of the WPK and the Eighth Party Congress served as an occasion vividly demonstrating the might of the country.

The Korean people are out in the struggle for opening a new period of great upsurge and change in socialist construction in this era of our state-first principle.

Ha Chun Bong

INSPECTION

Premier inspects agricultural sector in North Phyongan



Premier Kim Tok Hun (centre foreground) talks with a farmer at the Township Cooperative Farm in Kwaksan County of North Phyongan Province.

Premier Kim Tok Hun, who is also member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, inspected the agricultural sector in North Phyongan Province.

He looked round organic compound fertilizer factories, cooperative farms and farming material exchange agencies in Nyongbyon, Pakchon and other counties and Jongju City.

At the organic compound fertilizer factories he stressed the importance of mass-producing and widely applying quality

organic compound fertilizers to achieve this year’s goal for grain production.

The field consultative meetings discussed the technical issues to help agricultural guidance officials in the province provide responsible farming operation and command for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party and to ensure a timely supply of farming materials.

KCNA

REMEMBRANCE

Concert given in honour of centenary of maestro



A concert is given at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre to commemorate the centenary of composer Kim Hyok.

A concert was held at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on Wednesday in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of composer Kim Hyok.

Chairman Kim Jong Il led him at every step giving precious teachings for the creation of famous music pieces with warm love and trust, which served as a motive power for him to compose famous works of the times.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un proposed organizing the commemorative concert to mark the centenary of Kim Hyok who dedicated

his wisdom and passion to the creation of revolutionary music works, true to the Juche-oriented ideas of the arts and literature of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

The concert was seen by creative and performing artists, lecturers and students in the art sector and his bereaved family.

It staged his representative works.

They were acclaimed by the audience and the concert climaxed with *We Are the Happiest in the World*.

KCNA

Nationwide

Young people out in spring land management campaign

Youth across the country are taking a large share in the spring general mobilization campaign for land administration.

Most recently alone, they planted millions of trees and improved over 1 000 kilometres of rivers to contribute to transforming the country.

Young men and women in Pyongyang planted lots of fruit trees and conducted the work to raise their rooting rate in an efficient manner.

Those in the agricultural sector in North Phyongan Province and restored washed farm fields in their areas.

Those in South Phyongan Province planted good species of trees, trimmed trees, manured forests and covered embankment sections stretching for several kilometres of the Wonsang River with stones.

Young people in South Hwanghae Province are also displaying their youthful mettle and wisdom in acquiring new land and rezoning and improving land.

Power station sees boost in production

The Ryesonggang Power Station is stepping up production by directing efforts to technical remodelling of

the generating equipment and repairing of structures.

The Ryesonggang youth power station unit 1 has digitized exciters of generators and finished the replacing of water turbine medallion in a short time, thereby overfulfilling its daily plans by five percent.

Units 2 and 3 are pushing ahead with renovation of the generating equipment and expansion of power output per generator, while carrying out their daily production plans at more than 110 percent.

Over 150 young people volunteer for labour-consuming jobs



Since the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea, over 150 young men and women in North Hwanghae Province have volunteered to work at labour-consuming sectors.

Over 110 young people in Songnim City joined the Kim Jin Youth Shock Brigade of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and others from different counties left for the

Komdok Mining Complex, Songnam Youth Coal Mine, cooperative farms and other units in the province.

There was a congratulatory performance for them.

Fruit farms plant several million fruit trees

Fruit farms throughout the country have finished the planting of millions of fruit trees in the right time.

The Taedonggang and Kosan combined fruit farms transported a great deal of liquid and organic fertilizers to orchards and planted over a million fruit trees by introducing a close-planting method.

Kwail and Pukchong counties wound up the planting of fruit tree varieties which are productive and highly resistant to drought, rainy wind and cold in a short time.

Coal mine increases output

The Jonchon Coal Mine in Jagang Province increased production in April by 20 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

It scrupulously organized labour force and performed proper management of the equipment and technologies and conducted an active socialist emulation drive so as to overfulfil the daily plans for tunnelling and mining by some 30 percent every day.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Working people contribute to building a thriving country

Today is May Day, international holiday of working people of the whole world.

All the Korean working people are celebrating the day, full of firm determination to dynamically push ahead with the building of a powerful socialist country under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Since the hammer, sickle and writing brush were inscribed on the red flag of the WPK, the Korean working people have fully performed the honourable mission and duty they assume before the times and the revolution.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il put workers, farmers and intellectuals forward as masters of the country and makers of the revolution and victoriously advanced socialist construction by enlisting their efforts. The working people laid the solid groundwork for self-sufficiency from scratch with their diligent and honest

labour and brought about epoch-making changes in each period of the revolution, which is inconceivable apart from the benevolent care of the great leaders.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un called workers, scientists and technicians the working class of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and vanguard units and outpost troops defending the Party and revolution and set the agricultural front as the first-line trench of the first echelon in the campaign to defend socialism. He sent a congratulatory message to members of the Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam of the April 5 Pit at the Kungol Mine under the Komdok Mining Complex who carried out their annual economic plan ahead of schedule, had photo sessions with farmers who reaped the rich harvest and provided fine apartment houses for intellectuals.

In February the workers of

the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex appealed to all the working people throughout the country to turn out in the campaign to carry out the first-year tasks of the new five-year plan without fail.

The patriotic enthusiasm of the working people who are out for building a powerful socialist country is now running high.

Eye-opening achievements that are now being made in the project for the construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang and the third-stage construction project of the City of Samjiyon clearly show how strong their sense of patriotism is.

The DPRK has a bright future as it has such working people who put their heart and soul for the country with a burning desire to wonderfully and proudly build priceless socialism they have defended generation after generation with their own hands.

Ji Myong Chon

Toil and moil makes farmer heroine



Choe Song Ok (pictured), 48-year-old farmer at sub-workteam No. 1 of crop-raising workteam No. 4 of the Sinhung Cooperative Farm in Kangnam County, Pyongyang, is well-known to the country as a heroine.

She has harvested a bumper crop of rice for years in several hectares of low-yielding paddies in her charge.

According to workteam leader Yun Myong Chol, those were cold and damp fields yielding only about 2.3 tons of rice per hectare in the past.

Choe had her special reason why she volunteered to take charge of them.

As she was a famous high-yield farmer on her farm and in the county, she was honoured to take part in the fourth national meeting of activists in the agricultural sector held in December 2018.

However, she felt uneasy during the meeting with the thought of the barren land belonging to her workteam.

There must never be even an inch of infertile, barren land in our region, she thought. She consulted her husband after returning home from the meeting and volunteered to cultivate the fields.

Since then, she had always found herself in the fields.

She evenly applied large quantities of *hukposan* fertilizer, fermented manures, organic compound fertilizer and excrement of chickens per hectare to improve soil fertility before tilling the land.

She also paid due attention to introducing scientific farming methods to increase per-hectare

yield with less seeds and less fertilizers.

She employed a sparse rice cultivation method based on dry land rice sprouts and directed efforts to leaf fertilizing for eared rice plants.

The couple applied fertilizer to rice leaves more than 10 times a year.

In addition, the couple introduced other advanced methods including early draining of water out of paddies and irrigating and fertilizing land at the same time.

As they spared no efforts, the number of grains per ear increased to 220 and per-hectare rice yield amounted to 13 tons beyond others' expectations in 2019, the first year they started to cultivate the low-yield fields. And despite unfavourable conditions, they gathered a high yield in 2020, too. Choe was awarded the title of Labour Hero, top honour for DPRK citizens, last year.

"I have been doing farming for more than 30 years following in the footsteps of my parents. Through the years, I drew the lesson that you could make barren land fertile when you devote yourself to the land," said the farmer heroine.

By Kim Il Jin PT

Couple dedicate themselves to education

Among educationist couples and families is the family of Pak Kum Ryong (54-year-old), lecturer of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, who dedicates all sincerity to the education of younger generation.

His wife An Ye Gyong, 52-year-old, is a lecturer of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

Their alma mater is Kim Hyong Jik University of Education.

Both the ardent lovers of learning came to admire each other's study zeal during their postgraduate course, and after completing the course they became lecturers, before getting married.

"We both major in linguistics, I in the Korean language and my wife in Russian. So we could help each other in our studies and teaching to students," said Pak.

After finishing the postgraduate course, he was assigned to give lectures on Korean language to foreign students. In order to teach excellent and rich Korean to foreign and compatriot students from abroad, he worked hard to instruct them in diverse and distinctive ways. In the course of this, he came to realize that the students found it hard to have a proper understanding of idiomatic expressions in Korean.

So he delved into the study of idiomatic expressions after lectures.

He strove to collect necessary data through TV and radio programmes, newspapers and films and without missing any

ordinary conversations among passers-by. Finally, he published the essay "Study of idiomatic expressions in modern Korean language".

The paper, which showed the characteristic features of the Korean language, was popular with foreign students as it could offer a high level of Korean education to them.

An Ye Gyong has always taken the lead in updating teaching contents and methods in her university.

She channelled big efforts into foreign language education to enable students to correctly represent their thoughts and emotions in Russian sentences as required by the present era when the scope of scientific and technological exchanges increases externally.

Her essay "Research into the theory of composition of Russian sentences" won the appraisal of academic circles as it approached the reality in an original direction, free from the method relying only on grammar.

They obtained doctorates and associate professorships in the course of conducting teaching activities in the universities for decades and wrote many teaching plans, textbooks and books.

"When Mirae Scientists Street was built on the banks of the picturesque Taedong River, the government gave us a new palatial house before others. Our couple will live up to the benevolent care of the country, with many education successes," said An Ye Gyong.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



KIM YONG CHAN

Pak Kum Ryong (right), lecturer at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, and his wife An Ye Gyong who teaches at Kim Chaek University of Technology.

JAPAN

Military moves threatening stability in the region

Recently, Japan deployed a new type of Aegis warship *Haguro* at Sasebo Port under the pretext of “ballistic missile interception”.

As a result, four of the eight Aegis-class warships of the Maritime Self-Defence Force have been deployed at Sasebo Port not far away from the Korean peninsula.

It is the same old trick for Japan to throw the international and regional situation into confusion by clamouring against “threat” from its surroundings and, by taking advantage of it, step up the development and deployment of military hardware.

Besides the military drills to cope with “threat” from the DPRK, Japan is planning to deploy F-35B stealth fighters that are expected to be used on the aircraft carrier-class escort ship *Izumo* at Nyutabaru Base in the near future on the pretext of tackling “China’s recapture of its remote islands”.

The problem is that Japan’s arms buildup is not aimed at “defusing threat” touted by its politicians but attaining dangerous goals.

The “joint combat capability system” installed in the recently deployed new-type Aegis ship, technical specifications of F-35B and others definitely

run counter to the principle of “exclusive defence” stipulated in the current Japanese constitution. They clearly reveal the deceptive nature of the story about “threat” much talked by Japan and its sinister design to “dominate the East”.

The ceaseless development and production of military equipment like the building of a new-type submarine and escort ship and concentration of combat-ready troops of the Self-Defence Forces one after another in attack positions and key places of the archipelago like Sasebo Port and Nyutabaru Base favourable for launching continental invasion shed light

on the danger of Japan’s ambition to carry out overseas reinvasion promptly in contingency.

All facts prove that Japan is a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

Korean and other peoples in the region will never overlook the reckless moves of the criminal nation to inflict misfortune and pain on humankind again as it did in the last century.

Japan should give up its foolish daydream and dismantle all offensive weapons deployed under the excuse of coping with regional situation, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible way.

By Song Jong Ho PT

RUSSIA

Energy focused on socio-economic development

Russia has taken positive measures to promote its socio-economic development in recent years.

Primary efforts are being directed to the development of the Far Eastern region.

The Far Eastern population policy adopted in 2017 aims to stabilize the population situation in the region till 2020 and provide conditions for natural and immigration growth of the population until 2025.

Accordingly, a project has been undertaken to settle residents of other regions, overseas compatriots, foreign experts with high technical knowledge and skills and youths in the region.

A series of state steps have positively been taken to spur the processing and sales of oil-bearing crops and marine

products of Far Eastern origin. The government proposed building road and communications networks for the new comprehensive housing development areas to stabilize the people’s livelihood in the region and industrially producing building materials for wooden houses by using the timber abundant in the region.

The programme, whose main goal is to encourage healthy development of the Arctic region of the country, is reportedly designed to support businesses and widely involve investors and experts in order to create tens of thousands of jobs, increase the income of residents and carry out the far-sighted plan in the region.

The government is expected to disburse 3.5 billion roubles this year for the implementation

of the programme.

In carrying out the programme, it also attaches importance to preserving the traditions of ethnic minorities living in the Arctic region now and improving their standards of living.

The government also steps up the digitization of the economy.

A government coordination centre led by the prime minister started operation on February 12 this year.

Over 120 officials of state organs and businessmen work in the centre around the clock in shifts by relying on an advanced digital technology system.

In mid-April the Russian Railways Company launched the second-stage project for the modernization of the Baikal-Amur railway line and the trans-Siberian railway line.

When the project is completed,

the total transport capacity of these main railway lines will increase from the present annual capacity of 144 million tons to 180 million tons in 2024.

No little attention is being paid to agricultural development.

Last year Russia’s total agricultural output was over 133.5 million tons, a 12 percent growth over the average one in the past five years and the highest record for the second time in history. The total livestock and poultry production was nearly 15.6 million tons, that of milk over 32 million tons and the amounts are expected to rise this year.

The government worked out the 2018-2025 agricultural science and technology development plan and sees the positive introduction of modern science and technology as the main factor in the production growth.

Experts say that these measures will contribute to promoting the well-being of the Russian people.

By Om Ryong PT

WATER

International effort intensified to address water shortage

According to information released by UNICEF, over 1.42 billion people were suffering from serious water shortage around the world as of mid-March.

Presently, 450 million children are facing a lack of water in some 80 countries and regions.

In India, nearly 200 000 deaths are caused by the deterioration of hygienic environment resulting from water shortage every year and, as of late last year, nearly a half of its population were not supplied with drinking water.

Only some 64 percent of the

residents of Kenya and about 73 percent in Nigeria have a supply of fresh water and many others are using polluted water.

The WHO warned that 50 percent of the world’s population would suffer from lack of water in 2025.

Experts suggest that there are three main contributory factors of water shortage. According to them, climate change gradually drains fresh water resources on earth and it is becoming difficult to acquire clean water resources due to degradation of water quality in rivers by environmental pollution, while growing

population demands increased consumption of water.

To cope with the serious water crisis, many countries are paying close attention to securing water resources and saving water.

China completed some 33 300 projects in Shanxi province, and thus 24.18 million residents of rural areas came to be provided with clean water.

Saying that a measure should be taken to store rainwater during the rainy season and use it later, the Zambian president stressed that they should improve development and management of water resources

so as to supply clean water to residents and provide them with a hygienic living environment.

The Kenyan government is adopting legal and political measures to attain the goals of expanding the area under irrigation by about 200 000 hectares in the agricultural sector and increasing the proportion of people who can use clean water to 80 percent by solving the water problem by 2022.

In Zimbabwe, a 260-kilometre water pipeline is being built from the Zambezi River to Bulawayo city to solve the serious water shortage. When complete, the pipeline will be able to transport 20 million litres of water a day.

Some other countries are directing efforts to the construction of underground reservoirs.

KCNA

Briefly

Cuba

Leader refers to need to strengthen Party work

Ideological and economic work are the primary task for the Communist Party of Cuba and it is important to improve the style of party work, properly train party officials and strengthen the internal party work in order to carry on the revolution, said Miguel Diaz-Canel, first secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at a special plenum of the Cienfuegos provincial party committee on April 22.

China

FM decries Suga’s behaviour

A spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry in a regular press conference on April 21 denounced Japanese Prime Minister Suga for presenting ritual gifts to the Yasukuni shrine.

The shrine preserves the memorial tablets of A-class war criminals who were directly responsible for Japan’s wars of aggression during the Second World War, he said, adding China consistently and firmly rejects Japan’s wrongdoings.

Russia, Tajikistan

Joint military drill held

Russia and Tajikistan conducted a joint military exercise between April 19 and 23.

In the exercise staged in Tajikistan involving over 50 000 military personnel and nearly 700 pieces of military and special technical equipment and airplanes from both countries, they practised the skills of detecting and destroying a simulated rascal unit that intruded into the borders and so on.

Japan

Radiation levels serious

According to Japanese media reports, tests on the fishes caught in the waters around Fukushima Prefecture showed that they contained much more radioactive substances than tolerable limits.

As to this, the sale of fishes has been forbidden in local markets.

Mediterranean

Refugees continue to drown

African refugees have been drowned continuously in the Mediterranean on their way to Europe.

Shortly ago, a vessel with refugees on board sank in the waters off Libya, leaving more than 100 dead.

According to the International Organization for Migration on April 22, over 380 refugees were killed and nearly 600 went missing in the waters last year.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

HERITAGE

Nationwide efforts made to put national heritage under good conservation

April and November are dedicated to the protection of national heritage in the DPRK. This April, such undertaking was carried out on a nationwide scale.

All-embracing effort

In the DPRK, the whole country and population take part in the national heritage conservation effort in April and November, the months for the protection of national heritage.

Last April, the provinces repaired historical relics and conducted the work to protect and manage scenic spots and living monuments.

The remains of castles and walls including a section of the great walls built in the period of Koryo (918-1392), Nyongbyon fortress, Thaebaeksan and Jongbangsan forts, Phungchon town wall and Jangyon bulwark were repaired as part of the effort.

Repairing and repainting works were done at dozens of historical sites including the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon, the founder of Koryo, in Kaesong, Sungyang Confucian School, famous tombs with murals from the Koguryo period and Tacung Hall of the Anguk Temple.

Tourist roads leading to scenic spots in Yaksandongdae, Mt Paegun and Lake Suphung were reconstructed and trees were planted around them adding beauty to the landscape. Meanwhile, repairs were made on the facilities and structures for protecting living monuments like Mayang musk deer and *Mayang Brachymystax lenok*.

Survey, repair

In April, legacies of the nation were inspected and repaired across the country.

"The outward appearance of disappeared national legacies can be restored, but the perfect restoration of their historical value is impossible. Therefore, to preserve national heritage in their original state is a very responsible and important undertaking and it also takes on a protracted character. Our country set every April and November as the months for the protection of national heritage and develops the undertaking into a nationwide and all-people campaign," said Ro Chol Su, deputy department director of the Ministry of Culture.

Pyongyang carried out the repair of dozens of old buildings,

including the Ryongwang Pavilion, and over 380 other historical sites in April.

Kaesong with many historical sites conducted a scientific survey of the walled city of Kaesong and other heritage elements, while repairing historical buildings.

Sangwon County repainted some ten objects including the Komunmoru Site which shows that Korea is one of the cradles of human civilization.

Besides, North Phyongan, South Hwanghae, Kangwon and other provinces across the country took proactive measures for protecting historical relics while repairing them.

The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage carried out some work to put the preservation and management of remains on a scientific footing on the basis of overall working survey of legacies which are kept in history museums of each

province.

In combination with land management

The undertaking to conserve national heritage was conducted in combination with land management.

"The work to spruce up and preserve well the places with historical relics and natural monuments and other scenic spots is inseparable from land management," said an official engaged in the national heritage protection sector.

Government organs in Pyongyang and the provinces scrupulously arranged national heritage conservation, while channelling big efforts into land administration.

Large numbers of good species of trees and flowering shrubs were planted around historical sites and tour hotspots.

North Phyongan Province planted over 115 400 trees including pine nut, larch, Korean evodia and fruit trees in such scenic spots as the Ryongmun Cave, Yaksandongdae and Lake Suphung, and North Hamgyong Province lots of trees including clammy locust, *Pinus strobus* and plum around the Monument to the Great Victory in the Northern Area.

Nampho City planted thousands of trees in reserves for historical relics including a newly-unearthed stone Buddha in Songhyon-ri, an old tomb with murals of four guardians representing imaginary animals in Ryonggang, Old Tombs of Kangso and tombs with murals in Tokhung-ri and Susan-ri.

South Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces and Rason City in the northern areas of the country chose the right time for planting trees at historical sites.

According to an official of the Ryanggang Provincial People's Committee, the province planted 50 000 trees including larch, Siberian elm and poplar around historical relics.

Meanwhile, tourist roads

were repaired and retaining walls built around rivers.

North Hamgyong Province conducted masonry and repaired retaining walls and bridges for the road leading to Ryemun Hermitage in the Mt Chilbo scenic spot, while South Hamgyong Province covered retaining walls with stones in 22 places.

Kaesong City repaired the tourist road between Pagyon and the Ryongthong Temple and Kangwon Province mended the bed of the road linking Naegang-ri and the Phyohun Temple, built retaining walls around rivers and spruced up the sightseeing road from Mihyon-ri of Anbyon County to the Ryongchu Temple.

"Local areas were given a facelift through the undertaking to preserve national heritage. This is another success achieved during the spring national heritage protection month. It is also the brilliant fruition of voluntary and positive efforts of the masses of the people," said an official of the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



Clockwise from top: Employees of the historical relic management station in Mt Taesong mend the landmark South Gate. Taehung Hall at Kwangbop Temple in Taesong District, Pyongyang. Hyonmu Gate in Moran Hill. Buddhist image at the Kwanum Hall in Mt Myohyang. Two women at the Pyongyang municipal national heritage management station tend the Pyongyang Bell.

