



**THE PEOPLE'S
LEADER**

*Dedicated to the 80th anniversary
of the birth of Kim Jong Il*

THE PEOPLE'S LEADER

**Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)**

FOREWORD

Kim Jong Il was an outstanding leader and benevolent father of the people, who led the revolutionary cause of Juche pioneered by President Kim Il Sung along the victorious road.

He grew up in the 20th century, filled with trials and tumultuous events, witnessing two revolutionary wars and construction of a new society. In this course, he cultivated noble personality with which he shared sweets and bitters with the people.

Since he started leading the overall affairs of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state, a drastic change was brought about in all sectors of the revolution and construction, ushering in a great heyday of the era of the WPK.

In the mid-1990s in particular, by dint of his Songun-based revolutionary leadership, he frustrated the hostile forces' moves to isolate and suffocate his country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, staunchly defended socialism of the country and provided a springboard for building a prosperous socialist country.

Throughout the whole period of leading the revolution, he valued and loved the people most and always mixed himself with them. He made tireless efforts and continued super-intense on-site guidance tour to improve the people's living standards until the last moments of his life.

CONTENTS

As he said his whole life was devoted only to the people, all his thinking and activities were connected to them.

This is why the Korean people absolutely supported and followed him, calling him the leader of the people.

The undying exploits of Kim Jong Il, who dedicated all his life to the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people, will be handed down for all eternity.

1. Growth	5
Son of Mt Paektu.....	7
Ennobling Human Feeling.....	13
Experiencing the People’s Might in Reality.....	18
Humble Life.....	24
2. In the Swift Current of the Times	29
Ordinary Student	31
Let’s Learn for Korea	38
Among the Working People	44
3. During the Days of Great Change	51
Formulation of the Ideology of the Times.....	53
Proclamation of Revolution in Art and Literature.....	61
Let Us Live Our Own Way!	71
At the Helm of the Grand Socialist Construction.....	76
4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation	85
Creation of the Speed of the 1980s.....	86
Instilling Faith in Self-reliance.....	90
Great Trust.....	94
Remarkable Organizing Ability	98
Fruits of the Speed Campaign	104

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity	109
Defending the Destiny of the Country.....	111
Creating the Spirit Representative of the Times.....	117
Planting the Seeds of Prosperity.....	125

GROWTH

Son of Mt Paektu	/ 7
Ennobling Human Feeling	/ 13
Experiencing the People's Might in Reality	/ 18
Humble Life	/ 24

Entering the 1940s, the Korean people's anti-Japanese armed struggle led by Kim Il Sung was switched from large-unit operations to brisk political and military activities by small units as part of preparations for the great event of national liberation.

With this as a background, Kim Jong Il was born in the Paektusan Secret Camp on February 16, 1942, as a son of Kim Il Sung, commander of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, whom the Korean people respected as a legendary hero and leader of the nation, and Kim Jong Suk, a renowned warrior of the anti-Japanese war.

While growing up in such extraordinarily complicated environment and reality, he accumulated many experiences.

He witnessed the historic event of his country's liberation on August 15, 1945, and the Korean working people's effort to build a new democratic country on the liberated land. And he lost his mother in September 1949 and underwent the grim trials of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953).

On top of the loss of his mother at the age of less than ten, the war marked another shocking event and new occasion for his growth.

Son of Mt Paektu

Paektu, the sacred mountain of the Korean nation, stands majestically in the northernmost part of Korea.

With soaring and majestic peaks and covering a wide area, the mountain has been known as a sacred mountain from olden times.

As it has steep peaks more than 2 000 metres above sea level, it was not inhabited by man from olden times.

It is so rugged that it was described as a mountain even wild-insam collectors did not dare to enter or a place wild birds could not settle down.

It was only in the latter half of the 1930s that its primeval forests started to be inhabited by humans.

As the leadership base of the anti-Japanese armed struggle moved to Mt Paektu, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was headquartered in a log cabin in the secret camp built in the Sobaeksu Valley in the area of the mountain.

In the 1940s another log cabin was built near the headquarters along the Sobaek Stream which does not freeze in winter, and Kim Jong Il was born in this cabin.

His birth was a source of great joy of the soldiers of the KPRA.

Not only those in the secret camp, but also the men of the KPRA units active in the eastern, southern and northern Manchuria sent messages of congratulation and gifts on his birth.

In June, four months after his birth, Kim Il Sung returned to the secret camp from a mission, and saw his son for the first time.

His birth was a great blessing for his family, but he had few relatives to rejoice over his birth as other relatives had fallen during the struggle against the Japanese imperialists. Instead, his father's comrades-in-arms bestowed love on him and cared for him.

Therefore, he experienced the revolutionary, militant and arduous guerrilla life in the secret camp in Mt Paektu in his childhood.

Because no man but guerrillas lived in the primeval forest of the mountain where he was born, things needed for the new-born baby were extremely scanty.

The guerrilla's barracks in the wild forest where howling beasts were roaming around were his cradle.

His swaddling clothes were made of bits of his mother's military uniform permeated with powder smoke and his quilt was a threadbare military quilt.

Women guerrillas were so sorry about this that they chipped in cotton from their uniforms and patches and made a small quilt for him.

After receiving the quilt, Kim Jong Suk thanked them and said: After the country is liberated, we will be well-off looking back upon this, and build excellent nurseries and kindergartens across the country and clothe all the babies in silk.

More often than not did he shiver in cold in his room, snowy wind flooding in through the torn window.

That sight weighed on an anti-Japanese fighter so heavily that

when he returned home from a trip to a foreign country after Korea's liberation, he brought with him 500 blankets and gave them to Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk as a present.

But, they donated all the blankets to Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, saying that the blankets embodied the fighter's wish he had cherished during the days in Mt Paektu and he would be happy to see his wish come true.

Kim Jong Il suffered a lot also from hunger.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle was a continuation of bloody battles and at the same time a struggle against hunger. Many hardships cropped up before the guerrillas, but the most challenging of all was a shortage of food.

Because his mother took part in political and military training almost every day despite her comrades-in-arms' dissuasion, she could not give timely suck to him but left him to cry himself to sleep in hunger.

But the worst of it was her absences as she had to leave the secret camp on important missions. For this reason, he had to cease to suckle earlier and share the coarse army rations with the guerrillas.

The best food for guerrillas was uncrushed maize and crushed potatoes mixed with herbs. Such food was available only in summertime. In winter they often ran out of food and had to make do with snow for several days.

As he was accustomed to such coarse food, he sometimes willingly had pickpurse salad as a side dish and other times shared rice balls stuffed with pickled cucumber or maize porridge with the

officials accompanying him on his on-site guidance tour, saying that revolutionaries who complain about food cannot carry on the revolution.

When recollecting Kim Jong Il's days in Mt Paektu, Kim Il Sung often said: When he was growing up in the mountain, he was poorly fed and clad; the howling blizzards of the mountain were a lullaby for him; he often had to make do with thin green tea mixed with little sugar the guerrillas had captured after battles; he always sucked his little fingers out of hunger.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas had the most active effect on Kim Jong Il's ideological, mental and emotional development. Their ennobling feelings and emotions served as sustenance for his mental growth and their indomitable mettle and temperament helped him to develop his manly character.

As a saying goes, a harsh environment makes a man precocious, and Kim Jong Il matured earlier than others. As there were no other children around his age in the secret camp, he always mixed with the guerrillas.

He learned how to speak and sing earlier than others. The first words he learned after *mum* were naturally *gun, sword, independence* and *revolution* which he frequently heard the guerrillas say, and sang the *Guerrilla March* and *The Internationale* more frequently than children's songs.

While experiencing the harsh guerrilla life and witnessing the arduous revolutionary struggle, he developed an indomitable will and optimism with which he surmounted hardships cheerfully, and

lofty personality with which he shared sweets and bitters with his comrades.

His clothes made of bits of frayed military uniforms and patchwork quilt helped him to develop ardent comradeship possessed by the guerrillas, strong will and persistence, and trust in and affection for the guerrillas.

The anti-Japanese guerrillas used to simply express the arduous days when they had fought bloody battles in the uninhabited wild forests as "days in Mt Paektu" or "days in the mountain." By Mt Paektu or mountain, they meant the sites of do-or-die battles against the Japanese imperialists.

The Paektusan Secret Camp was an unforgettable place for the anti-Japanese guerrillas as well as Kim Il Sung.

However, the secret camp was lost with the lapse of time.

As the guerrillas moved to a new theatre of activity true to Kim Il Sung's operations plan for making preparations for meeting the great event of Korea's liberation, Kim Jong Il had to leave the secret camp.

Consequently, his native home was buried in oblivion with the passage of time amid the struggle for building a new country after the liberation, followed by the Fatherland Liberation War, postwar rehabilitation and socialist construction.

To make matters worse, the guerrillas who had been related with the construction of the secret camp had fallen in battle or died. This made it almost impossible to identify even the site of the secret camp after scores of years.

Kim Il Sung dispatched several times an anti-Japanese veteran of hunter origin to the Mt Paektu area on a mission to discover the location. Well-versed in the topography of mountains as he was, the veteran failed to locate the secret camp in the rugged and uninhabited mountain.

Many more years passed without success. Very regretful about this, Kim Il Sung, saying that unless all the revolutionary sites were discovered and verified while the veterans of the first generation of the revolution were alive, the priceless assets of the revolution might be lost for ever, personally toured the area for several days at the advanced age of 70, and finally found the site of the secret camp. In 1988 he visited the restored secret camp and recollected the days of the anti-Japanese war.

In this way the Paektusan Secret Camp and Kim Jong Il's native home could be discovered and restored to their original state.

Their discovery and restoration impressed every one, the anti-Japanese war veterans in particular.

They visited the place after half a century. Looking round the familiar peaks and the log cabins, they recollected the bygone days in deep emotions, saying: It is quite appalling that we have failed to discover it; only if this place had had its address as it does now, it could have been found earlier.

As they were looking round Kim Jong Il's native home displaying toy wooden pistol, wooden binoculars, patchwork quilt, a kerosene lamp and other relics, the day of his birth and events in his childhood flashed across their minds.

The soaring peak behind the log cabin was renamed Jong Il Peak in the sense that it is the place where Kim Jong Il was born.

Kim Jong Il frequently visited the mountain which is closely related with him.

The Korean people say that his everything—character, temperament and mettle—took after that of the mountain and, for this reason, call him a son of Mt Paektu.

Ennobling Human Feeling

As he grew up witnessing the ennobling comradeship and human feeling of the anti-Japanese guerrillas in sharing life and death in battles, Kim Jong Il was kind to and considerate of other people from his early years.

Anyone who met him admired and praised him for his ardent love for people.

One day during his kindergarten years, he shared out among his fellow kindergarteners the clay lump he had prepared for making a tank and made a small button instead of a tank because of the small share left for himself. The other day when he was playing at soldiers with his friends, he appointed a lonely weak child as his orderly and had the trouble of executing the missions for him. There are many other similar stories telling of his kindness.

In August 1948 he visited a village together with his mother.

On learning that Kim Jong Suk, the anti-Japanese war heroine,

had come to their village, all the villagers came out to welcome her.

Among the villagers was a little girl wearing terribly worn-out rubber shoes. Looking at her, the wife of an official accompanying Kim Jong Suk ridiculed the girl, saying that she was wearing “sandals.”

Though she could not understand what the lady had said, the little girl, sensing that she was making fun of her, lowered her head in shame.

Kim Jong Suk reproved the woman, saying: It is very unkind of you to say such a thing to the poor little girl; that our people are now living in poverty, not wearing proper shoes, is not their sin; it is because the aftereffects of the Japanese colonial rule has not yet been removed; the time will surely come when our people are well-off.

Kim Jong Il, having shot an reproving eye to the woman, ran to the car and came back bringing a pair of shoes. He gave them to the girl, saying: These are mine, but I think they will fit your feet; soon the fatherly General will provide all the children with good shoes.

Then he helped her to change into the shoes. The shoes were the ones his father had bought him so that he could change his old shoes for the trip.

All the people present there were struck with admiration and said that there was something extraordinary in Kim Il Sung’s son and he, young as he was, was very kind-hearted.

One day after Korea’s liberation, his kindergarten held a sports meeting. The most spectacular event was a bicycle race, in which Kim Jong Il also took part. He took the lead from the beginning

amid the hearty cheers from the spectators. When the racers were approaching the finish line, a boy fell over from his bicycle. Kim Jong Il, on seeing him, got off and ran backward to him. After helping him to mount the bicycle, he resumed the race, only to come out second.

All the spectators felt regret about this, but Kim Jong Suk, very pleased, gave him a big hand. Normally she used to refrain from praising her son in front of other people even though he had done something laudable. But that day she embraced him and said to him that by helping his friend he did a thing more laudable than coming out first.

His affection was not confined to his friends. He was kind to and considerate of every one. Since his childhood he was polite to anyone and bore himself with dignity and propriety.

Therefore, anyone who visited his home or met him was instantly attracted to him and praised his decorum and politeness.

Typical examples were Ryo Un Hyong, who met many great persons around the world, and Hong Myong Hui, who was well-versed in the history, culture, tradition, customs and decorum of Korea.

After Korea’s liberation Zhou Baozhong, a commanding officer of the former Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army and a close friend of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Suk, happened to spend several days at Kim Il Sung’s home together with his wife and daughter.

Kim Jong Il was so considerate of Zhou’s wife and daughter that they used to speak highly of his kindness, generosity and

benevolence.

Since his early years he tried his best to unite his peers, edifying naughty ones and leading them along the right path. Whenever something undesirable happened in his collective, he was always the first to find an original method for rectifying it.

One day in his kindergarten days he saw some of his fellow kindergarteners quarrelling over their jumbled shoes. He racked his brains to find a way for helping the illiterate children to find their shoes in the shoe chest easily. The following day he fixed the patterns of airplane, tank, apple and other things on the front of each compartment of the chest.

Struck with wonder at the novelty of the idea, the teacher assigned a compartment to each child.

Although he was of the same age with his fellow kindergarteners, he could solve the problem in the way suited to the psychological state of children because he was possessed of a kind heart and endowed with the ability to understand others' psychological features and invent the method suited to them.

His warm humanity remained unchanged even in the grim period of the Fatherland Liberation War.

One day during the war, an 18-year-old girl came to the place in the rear where Kim Jong Il lived. She limped with the aid of crutches because she had lost a leg in the enemy's bombing while working to aid the Korean People's Army.

Although she had come there to find her sister, she seldom appeared in the village unwilling to be seen limping and hear others

talk in sympathy for her. Since she had liked making a composition from her childhood, she, whenever upset, would shed tears writing down poems on her notebook.

Kim Jong Il sometimes visited her with his schoolmates and consoled her, singing or telling funny stories.

One summer Sunday he took her out for a walk.

When they reached a river, it was bustling with passers-by, laundering women and paddling children. As the people looked at her, she told him she would go back.

Kim Jong Il, guessing the reason of her embarrassment, said to her: You don't need to feel embarrassed about your state; you were injured while fighting against the Yankees; cheer up; let us keep walking.

Later onward, he often took her out for walking practice.

Her gait improved day by day. She could discard one of the crutches after some time and later manage to walk a fairly long distance without any aid.

After recovery she was enrolled at a college. She sent a letter to Kim Jong Il half a year after her enrollment.

When he tore open the envelope, pink azalea petals fell out of it. He took out the letter. It read that she was studying hard in good health and that she was enclosing the petals of azalea she had grown in her dormitory room and a poem of her own composition, titled, *Azalea*, in token of her gratitude to him.

His care for her continued afterwards.

When he happened to meet her husband after 20 years since then,

he told him that he still remembered the day when she had come to the village to find her sister, wearing a prosthesis and supported by crutches. Saying that he remembered the poem she had composed, he recited part of it in a low voice.

Later, on learning that she was going to leave the country following her husband who had been appointed to the DPRK's mission in a foreign country, he sent her a pink kerchief and cloth for her clothes as a gift.

Experiencing the People's Might in Reality

The vibrant reality of the country and the tremendous exertion of the Korean people in building a new democratic nation after the country's liberation served as sustenance for Kim Jong Il's ideological and mental growth.

He was deeply impressed by his parents who always went deep among the people and inspired them to the struggle to build liberated Korea into a new democratic country.

From the first days after his return home, Kim Il Sung, applying the slogan **“Go among the people!”** as he had done during the anti-Japanese war, was always on the road of field guidance tour to factories, rural communities and schools.

He even postponed his reunion with his family at Mangyongdae, and visited the Kangson Steel Works to rouse the workers there to the struggle for building a new nation.

Kim Jong Suk was also always among the people, sharing sweets and bitters with them. She continuously visited factories and educational and cultural institutions, rallying the people around Kim Il Sung and motivating them to the effort to carry out the line of building a new country.

Shortly after Korea's liberation, the country was vibrating with the people's joy over their fortune of having Kim Il Sung as the leader of the nation and soaring passion for nation building.

While accompanying his parents during their visits to farms and factories, Kim Jong Il saw the people from various walks of life working devotedly in pursuance of his father's idea of nation building.

In the flames of the general ideological mobilization movement for nation building workers in the railway sector held up the torch of a patriotic movement for operating railways on a normal footing and increasing transportation capacity, and the peasants across the country launched a movement for donating rice out of their patriotism following the example of Kim Je Won who had offered 30 sacks of rice to the country.

The Pothong River improvement project was the occasion when Kim Jong Il keenly felt how great the people's might was.

The project, the first-ever nature-harnessing undertaking in Korea after its liberation, marked an occasion in which the Korean people proved their inexhaustible might.

Before liberation the river used to flood in rainy seasons, leaving great casualties and washing away vast farmland and many houses.

The Japanese imperialists had launched a project to improve the river and mobilized millions of people to it for ten years, but only failed after suffering a loss of many lives.

In 1946 Pyongyang citizens turned out as one for the project, and worked devotedly for its early completion true to Kim Il Sung's idea that one's happy life must be created by one's own efforts.

Young Kim Jong Il also often visited the project site with his mother, and helped the people in their work.

The project was finished in a matter of 55 days since Kim Il Sung signalled its start by breaking the ground. While witnessing the miracle being created by the people, Kim Jong Il realized that the people, when united around their leader, could display an inexhaustible might.

Kim Jong Il deduced new reasons and meanings from widely-accepted truths and phenomena, to the wonder of many.

The following happened during his kindergarten days.

One day, during a counting lesson at the kindergarten, the teacher taught the children that one plus one makes two, taking apples, biscuits and pencils as examples. However, after listening to her carefully, Kim Jong Il rose quietly and said that there were cases when one and one made one.

It was so unexpected that the teacher failed to catch his meaning. She asked him the reason for his puzzling claim.

He answered that when his clod of clay was added to his sister's, it made one, and that when watering the flower, he saw that one drop of water on a flower petal joined another drop to make one.

The teacher hesitated for a while, not knowing what to say.

Not given a satisfactory explanation, Kim Jong Il thought hard about the conundrum that evening. The next day he told the teacher what he had found out the previous evening.

He said that in case of clay clods and water drops, one and one made one, but that this one was a larger one. He continued to say that when many things were put together into one, the entity obtained as a result was a much larger one, and that when the minds of the Korean people rallied behind Kim Il Sung were joined together they would also become one. And after a moment, he said emphatically that the united force would be the most formidable strength in the world.

The previous evening the teacher had also racked her brains to understand his suggestion, but could not have come out with a satisfactory answer.

She was now struck with wonder at his explanation. That day the teacher wrote in her diary that it was the first time for her to know that there was such a profound philosophical meaning in "one plus one."

Prominent social scientists are right to say that the ideal of single-hearted unity, which the Workers' Party of Korea advocates, is based on this profound principle.

During the days of the grim Fatherland Liberation War, Kim Jong Il again witnessed the people's might.

In June 1952, when the war was at its height, he was reunited with his father in Sinuiju after some period of separation. That day

he suggested to his father that he would stay with him at the Supreme Headquarters and accompany him to wherever he went.

Kim Il Sung approved his suggestion and said: Your idea is commendable; if you stay at the Supreme Headquarters and see the heroic struggle of the people and the People's Army, you would be able to feel how great pains the people are suffering in the war ignited by the Yankees and have a better understanding of your country and fellow people.

From then onwards, he stayed with his father and experienced many priceless experiences.

The day when he met his father, he watched with him an air battle over Sinuiju. It was a battle between twenty American planes and two Korean planes. When his father asked him whether he thought the Korean planes would win, he confidently answered that although the ratio of the planes was 20 to 2, he was sure that the Koreans would win. Whenever an enemy plane was shot down, he would cheer up.

Seeing the air battle, Kim Jong Il was firmly convinced that no force could bring the Korean people to their knees and they would surely defeat the enemy and win the war.

Later Kim Jong Il often accompanied his father on his inspection tour of local areas despite enemy's heavy bombing, and saw his father devotedly working for victory in the war, in the course of which his conviction was further boosted.

One day, while passing through a devastated village, he saw women in camouflage plowing fields with oxen.

On a knoll in the village a woman was looking out to the sky for enemy aircraft.

Looking at them from the window of his car, Kim Il Sung asked his son,

“What do you think as you see them?”

“I think no people in the world are like ours in hating the enemy and loving their country.”

“You are right. They represent our people who are fighting against the enemy. No force in the world can defeat such a people.”

Then he continued: As you also saw during our visit, the Ragwon Machine Factory is severely destroyed; when I showed concern over its destruction, a woman worker encouraged me by telling me not to worry about its reconstruction; I think I can never forget all my life what she said to me; indeed, I was greatly encouraged by her; as we have such an indomitable and excellent people, we are sure to emerge victorious in the fight against the Yankees.

Everything he heard and saw in those days was encouraging.

While Kim Jong Il followed his father on his inspection tours constantly attended by dangers, he witnessed the indomitable might of the people and became convinced of victory.

One day over 20 years after the end of the war, he said: In those days, in the flames of the war, I gained most valuable experiences which other people could not gain even for scores of years; the days of the Fatherland Liberation War were a historic period which left unforgettable traces in my life.

Humble Life

Since his childhood Kim Jong Il never thought himself to be special, but led a simple and ordinary life.

It was partly because he grew up among the guerrillas during the anti-Japanese war, experiencing their ennobling ideological and spiritual state, but more importantly because her mother's edification had a great impact on him.

She always paid close attention to his growth. When he felt hungry during the days of the anti-Japanese war, she would feed him on boiled maize with an agonizing heart and say soothingly that they would look back upon this after the liberation of the country. And when she patched his worn-out socks after liberation, she would say that he would have new clothes and socks when all other children across the country wore new clothes and socks.

One day in May 1948, his kindergarten arranged a picnic for the children.

The previous evening the teacher told the children to bring nice packed lunch with them for the picnic.

But Kim Jong Il did not say anything about the picnic that evening. The following morning he told a relative, who was staying in his house, that he would go on a picnic and asked her to prepare his lunch.

Those days his family took boiled rice mixed with other cereals

for their meals because Kim Il Sung had told it was inappropriate to have rice when other people still could not afford it.

As the perplexed relative was preparing to boil rice, Kim Jong Suk stopped her and told her to pack his lunch with what they normally ate.

But the woman was regretful, and protested that Kim Jong Il would then be embarrassed before his friends.

“No, I won’t feel embarrassed. It is not appropriate that only I eat rice when others eat foxtail millet, is it, Mom?”

Kim Jong Suk nodded approvingly.

He detested special favour given to him just because he was a son of Kim Il Sung.

Many of his fellow kindergarteners were children of high-ranking cadres. Some of them often came to the kindergarten by their fathers' cars.

But Kim Jong Il never did so.

When he was on his way to the kindergarten one rainy day, his father's car stopped by him, and the driver told him to get in.

But Kim Jong Il said to him that his mother would go to a near place on foot and he would also go to the kindergarten on foot.

Seeing him, his fellow kindergarteners who had come by car, their parents and teachers were deeply impressed.

He never tolerated any unconscionable behaviour, however trifling it might be, and led others to be conscientious.

One day in the summer of 1946 he, on learning that several schoolgirls stole a ride on a bus, advised them to go and apologize

to the bus conductor and pay the fare. The other day he saw some of his fellow kindergarteners break a pane of glass in a window while playing with a ball in the courtyard of the kindergarten. But they did not say anything about it to the teacher for fear of being scolded by her. Kim Jong Il met them and told them that betraying their conscience was more shameful than being scolded by the teacher, advising them to confess their wrongdoing to the teacher.

This happened when the Pothong River improvement project was being executed as a grand nature-harnessing campaign after Korea's liberation.

One day Kim Jong Suk said to her son that his father had initiated the project for the sake of the people living along the river, suffering a great deal from flooding every year, and took him to the project site to give a helping hand.

The project site seethed with builders and volunteers. In a corner some old men repaired broken helms of spades or pickaxes for the workers. Kim Jong Il helped them, bringing the mended spades and pickaxes back to the workers or blowing air into the fire with bellows.

He worked so hard that he soon drew the attention of the old men.

One of them presumed that the child must have experienced a painful suffering from flooding of the river, and asked him during a conversation who his father was.

On hearing him answer he was a son of General Kim Il Sung, the old man could not believe him, so he took the boy to Kim Jong Suk.

Kim Jong Suk told the old man how they had come there.

Deeply impressed, he said that it was quite moving that the wife and son of General Kim Il Sung were working together with them on such a labour-intensive project.

In the days that followed, he continued to go to the project site together with his mother and helped the workers, in the course of which he developed the ennobling trait as befits a people's leader who shares sweets and bitters with the people.

He visited rural villages and saw peasants being provided with land thanks to the historic law on land reform. One spring day he went to Mirim Plain with his mother and helped the peasants there in transplanting rice seedlings. Sorry to see him running on the ridgeway between paddy fields carrying bunches of rice seedlings on his both hands, some peasants told him to have a rest under the shade of a tree. But he said he would have a rest when the peasants had a rest, and continued his work.

There is another story.

On May Day in 1948, Pyongyang citizens held a mass rally celebrating the day of the working class. Kim Jong Suk and Kim Jong Il were invited to the platform. Unfortunately it showered during the rally.

When an official held an umbrella over Kim Il Sung standing on the platform, Kim Il Sung refused the umbrella, saying that the paraders were exposed to the rain.

Another official raised an umbrella over Kim Jong Il, but he said that when his father, as well as the workers and peasants down there, was standing in the rain, he would do the same, and stepped out of

1. Growth

the umbrella. When another official covered him with a raincoat, he returned it to him.

The rain grew heavier, but young Kim Jong Il kept standing until the end of the rally.

Also standing on the platform was Kim Ku, a right-wing politician from south Korea, who had visited the north to attend the historic north-south joint conference. The sight of Kim Jong Il left a deep impression on him.

His preeminence and traits were clearly illustrated by the 12-point advice about him which his class teacher during the Fatherland Liberation War left to her successor when she was transferred to another post.

One point was that Kim Jong Il did not want and even detested any special favour, so his teacher must take account of this, that he rather wanted the teacher to be stricter with him, and that, therefore, the teacher should treat him equally with the other pupils, being strict in making demands.

It is no exaggeration to say that this advice was a general assessment of him in his early years.

2

IN THE SWIFT CURRENT OF THE TIMES

Ordinary Student	/ 31
Let's Learn for Korea	/ 38
Among the Working People	/ 44

On July 27, 1953, the three-year-long Korean war ended with the victory of the Korean people.

Kim Jong Il, who had been studying at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School in the rear, was enrolled at Samsok Primary School in September that year and Pyongyang Primary School No 4 in February next year and Pyongyang Middle School No 1 in September.

During these days he witnessed the reality of the country, seething with postwar reconstruction, while accompanying his father and participated in the construction projects in the capital city.

At the same time, he established the Juche orientation in his studies, learning knowledge useful for the practice of the Korean revolution.

In September 1960 Kim Jong Il entered Kim Il Sung University with an ambition to inherit and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche, and spent his university days, acquiring multi-faceted knowledge and ideological and theoretical qualifications through social and practical activities.

In March 1964 he graduated from the university with a diploma, a report card of excellence and a letter of commendation.

The university days he spent in the era of grand upsurge, when world-startling miracles were achieved on the grand march of Chollima out of the debris of the war, were unforgettable and significant days.

Ordinary Student

Kim Jong Il led a simple life as an ordinary student, and devoted himself to his studies.

He attended Samsok Primary School for a while, and moved to Pyongyang Primary School No. 4 in February 1954.

On the first day of the school Kim Il Sung looked at the outfit of his son, and told him to be faithful to the teacher's instructions, mix with his colleagues unceremoniously and study hard.

When Kim Jong Il entered his classroom and said hello to his classmates, he was the focus of the students.

They guessed that the newcomer would be a son of a big shot and were paying attention to him for they had seen the previous day their class teacher and the headmaster selecting a desk and a chair and having a sit on the chair, whispering to each other in the classroom.

But they were surprised. His outfit looked too modest to be a son of a big shot; he was wearing a pair of black canvas shoes and cotton jacket, and was carrying discoloured wrapper of notebooks and pencils.

And when they heard the newcomer say that he had been attending Samsok Primary School, they thought he must be from countryside. At that time Samsok belonged to Sungho County, South Phyongan Province.

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

One of the classmates, who were talking to him, even suggested an arm wrestling. At that time the school bell rang. Kim Jong Il told him to have an arm wrestling later and went to his desk.

That was his first meeting with his classmates.

When the class was over and Kim Jong Il left the classroom, the class teacher told the students that they were studying with Premier Kim Il Sung's son.

The students were surprised to hear that; it was quite unbelievable. Their curiosity grew as the days went by. Even after several days Kim Jong Il was still wearing the same uniform, carrying the discoloured wrapper, wearing darned socks, and using ordinary notebooks and pencils.

One day a classmate, who was sharing a desk with him, asked him why he was carrying a wrapper instead of a school bag.

Kim Jong Il answered: I cannot carry a school bag even if I had one; I would feel sorry to carry a school bag when other students are all carrying wrappers; I feel happy to carry a wrapper; I would carry a school bag when there are many factories that would produce school bags for all the students across the country.

He was ordinary not only in his outfit.

At that time the classrooms of the school were heated by stoves and the class teachers were looking after them.

Kim Jong Il proposed that the students look after the stove in the classroom in turn, saying that it was not good that the class teacher was doing it alone every day. So every day two students were on duty.

Ordinary Student

It was the day when Kim Jong Il was on duty. He got up early in the morning and chopped firewood.

Kim Jong Il told his father, who was taking a stroll, that the students were on duty to look after the stove, and that he had to go to the classroom earlier than usual to make fire because those who had been on duty the previous day had failed to do their job as they should do.

After breakfast Kim Il Sung bound the firewood and put it on his son's back.

“Isn't it heavy?”

“No.”

“It could be heavy, but you must carry it. You know that it is a hard time, don't you?”

“Yes, I know.”

Kim Jong Il went to the school with the firewood his father had prepared for him. By the time his colleague, who was on duty with him, went to the school early in the morning to relieve Kim Jong Il of his burden, Kim Jong Il had already made fire and even finished cleaning the classroom.

One day Kim Jong Il was darning worn-out socks with his younger sister.

Kim Il Sung, who came home from work, saw his children darning the socks and asked: Why are you darning the socks? you can ask my aide for some money to buy a new pair of socks.

Kim Jong Il answered: When the people are wearing darned socks, how can I wear new socks? when they wear new socks, I will

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

also wear new ones.

When his father again asked him if he could keep darning socks until the economy of the country was improved, he said: The people darn their socks; I can do the same; needling is not something so difficult.

Looking at his children, Kim Il Sung said: If you were not the children of the Premier, I would highly praise you; you are laudable.

Later Kim Jong Il recalled: My father and mother lived a modest and simple life and taught me to do the same; I was accustomed to living without proper shoes and clothes; some of my colleagues would change their shoes and clothes with quality ones, but I used to wear same shoes and clothes for several years; sometimes the rear part of the trousers wore out; when I was coming back home, I would cover the worn-out part with my school bag.

His modest way of life during the primary school days did not change during his middle school days and university days.

In spring 1961, when he was an intern at the Pyongyang Textile Machinery Manufactory during his university days, he wore a working uniform with the tag *Labour Safety* on the breast and carried lunch box in a wrapper in his hand like other workers from the first day.

He looked no different from the workers.

Every morning he would come to the factory earlier than others, cleaned the work place and worked diligently. During

lunch time he would play sports games like volleyball with the workers, and take a crowded bus with the workers on his way back home.

So the workers of his work team did not know who he was for several days. They would call him “humble student,” “hard-working student,” “helpful student,” and unbosom their thoughts to him without hesitation.

So he could experience everything and understand the enthusiasm and efforts of the workers and their way of life in detail. The internship was a big asset for him when he was leading the Workers’ Party of Korea and the people.

The noble people-oriented traits he showed in the days of military manoeuvres are well known to the people.

From mid-August 1962 Kim Jong Il participated in the military manoeuvres in Oun-dong, Ryongsong District, Pyongyang. Until then it was a deserted place, and living conditions were very difficult.

So members of the political department asked him to stay with them and give guidance to the overall affairs.

Kim Jong Il answered: The life of military manoeuvres is a very good opportunity for me to experience the life of a soldier; I will stay with my platoon members; from now on I belong to a platoon and a squad; as a matter of fact, my life as a soldier began on Mt Paektu; the first thing I covered my body with was the uniform of my mother and the first toy I touched with my hand was the pistol of my mother; at that time I grew up experiencing hunger, cold,

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

sweet dozing and warm bonfire with the guerrillas; but I don't think I understand everything about the life of a soldier; this time I will try the life of a soldier participating in the daily routine, climbing rugged mountains and performing mess duty.

On the morning of the next day, there was a review before the day's exercises, and Kim Jong Il stood among other students, the rank and file, wearing fatigues and carrying a knapsack.

From that day on, he participated every day in the military exercises, followed the routine, carried out the duty of a cook and was on guard like the other students. Kim Jong Il was always a model for them.

It was on the morning of the first day.

The chairman of the Democratic Youth League committee of the battalion brought foods prepared for him—rice, wild herb salad and fried bean curd and spring onion. Kim Jong Il said he could not eat the foods prepared separately, and shared them with other members of his platoon.

After the breakfast was over, he met the officials of the political department and said: Whose idea was it to prepare breakfast for me separately? you should know better than others that I don't like such privilege.

And he continued after a while: I have suffered a lot from the lack of food and clothes from my childhood in Mt Paektu; I still do not mind eating minor cereals with green pepper or spring onion dipped in bean paste and wearing patched socks and shoes; those who are trying to lead fast life looking for back rooms when

other people are going hungry are ones devoid of the sense of conscience and obligation and they would easily betray the people at the time of difficulties; people reveal what kind of persons they are and get ideologically degenerated in front of foods; we should always eat simple foods and live the same life with the people; I will share weal and woe with the people; this is the creed of my life; if I violate it, I am not a son of the people, not Kim Jong Il of the people.

One day the platoon which Kim Jong Il belonged to was on mess duty.

When he learned that the platoon excluded him from the duty, Kim Jong Il said he wanted to perform the mess duty and learn the mess work, and did his best to prepare food in the kitchen.

He once gave his portion of soup to the trainees, himself eating rice with spring onion and bean paste; another time he moved the trainees by preparing rich foods for them.

It was because he had experienced the life of a soldier during the days of military manoeuvres in Oun-dong that he would pay close attention to the life of the soldiers whenever he visited the units of the Korean People's Army later.

Let's Learn for Korea

In the postwar days Kim Jong Il put forward the slogan **“Let’s learn our things harder and brighten them!”**

At that time he appealed to the students: We are all the masters of the future of the Korean revolution; we should become pillars who make contributions to the Korean revolution as Marshal Kim Il Sung taught whether we learn mathematics, literature or history; therefore, we should learn our things harder and brighten them.

He acquired a broad and deep knowledge of nature and society, always setting high goals.

The anecdotes he left in the library of the Secretariat of the Cabinet tell how hard he studied.

At that time the library had the biggest collection of books in the DPRK. He started to go to the library in August 1954, before entering middle school.

When he first went there, a librarian told him that her library had 30 000 copies of major books, newspapers, magazines and pictorials from Korea and many other countries of the world.

Kim Jong Il asked her how long it would take him to read all of them.

She answered that life-long reading would not be enough to read all of them.

Several days later he came to the library again, and told the librarian that he was going to read all of the books in the library.

The librarian, thinking that what he said was just a joke, told him encouragingly that it would be a world record if he read all of the books in the library, and that the library would provide good assistance.

Kim Jong Il would come to the library whenever his class was over. He came to the library more often after he became a middle school student.

As a matter of fact, he was always short of time; he had to attend the class, take care of the work of the Children’s Union and the Democratic Youth League committees of the school and help his younger sister with her studies. But, he never forgot to go to the library, and even ran to the library to save time. So the staff at the library would quickly go to the door of the library to receive him whenever they heard the sound of someone running to the library.

One day all the librarians went home after the day’s work without knowing that he was still in the stack room.

The loan record of the library showed how hard he read.

The book recorded all the books he had read: works by Kim Il Sung, books written by the preceding authors of classic works, books on politics, the economy, culture, military affairs of many countries of the world, and even a book on chicken raising and recipe book.

It was told that the new senior librarian of the library got

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

acquainted with the collection of the library just by reading the loan record of the books he had read.

One day after he had entered Kim Il Sung University, Kim Jong Il came to the library.

When he asked the librarian if there was any book worth reading, the librarian failed to bring one after going through the entire stack room, for he had read all the books there in his middle school days.

So the staff of the library, later presenting a book of their impressions, said: The record he made in our library is a new record of hard work; he was indeed an avid reader, a passionate student.

His self-consciousness that he should make a contribution to the Korean revolution and his ardent passion to add lustre to his country moved the people in this way.

While showing a good example of studying hard, Kim Jong Il exerted a great influence on the students and teachers to value their own things and brighten them.

One day in the spring of 1957, a student who was a member of the biology circle of Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 came to Kim Jong Il, and asked for the data on the penguin as he needed more information for his presentation at a meeting of his circle.

Kim Jong Il asked him why he wanted to study the penguin living in the Antarctic Pole, not a common bird in Korea.

The student replied: Studying a bird in our country would not make me look different from other students; so members of the biology circle would select animals and plants of other countries and make presentations on them every week.

It was ridiculous.

Kim Jong Il asked him to tell him about the swallow in Korea. He failed.

Kim Jong Il said: Isn't it ridiculous that you are going to study a bird in the Antarctic Pole without knowing about the good birds in our country? do you still think it is a loss of face of a member of the biology circle to study fauna and flora of our country? you should aim to acquire the knowledge necessary for the revolution and construction in our country whether you learn history, geography or biology; we are making revolution in Korea, not in the Antarctic Pole or the tropics; we should know better about our things, the reality of Korea.

Then he selected for the student several books and other materials on birds in Korea.

Inspired by Kim Jong Il, the student made an in-depth study of the swallow and presented his study at the circle meeting.

This excited the activities of the members of the biology circle to protect and propagate useful birds in the country, and a newspaper carried an article about them with a photo. The news moved the hearts of many other students.

The fact that Kim Jong Il entered Kim Il Sung University after graduating from higher middle school was an expression of his lofty will to learn for Korea and add lustre to it.

The university was built after liberation as the first of its kind upon the instructions of Kim Il Sung that the work of building a new country would require talents.

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

Kim Jong Il's mother took him to the construction site of the university and told him that he should study there to assist his father, saying that a people's university the guerrillas had dreamed of when they were fighting in the forests was going to be built there.

From that time on Kim Jong Il cherished her words in his heart.

By the time Kim Jong Il was going to graduate from higher middle school, people guessed that he would definitely study abroad whatever he would major in.

At that time Kim Jong Il visited Moscow University.

The university's guide recommended that he should study at the university.

Kim Jong Il appreciated his recommendation, and said that there was a good university in Pyongyang, too, and that he would study at Kim Il Sung University with his friends.

In September 1960 Kim Jong Il entered Kim Il Sung University. On the first day at the university, he stood on Ryongnam Hill and recited a poem reflecting his firm determination to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche by learning the lofty will of Kim Il Sung. The poem became the song *O Korea, I Will Add Glory to Thee*, which the Korean people are singing today.

In his university days he established the Juche orientation in his study in conformity with the requirements of the Korean revolution and the concrete reality of Korea.

With an understanding that the lectures given according to the textbooks which were translations of those from foreign countries did not fit the concrete reality of his country, he saw to it that

the mistake was corrected and the textbooks and lecture plans on political economy were revised.

The work of preparing new political economy embodying the Juche orientation in the DPRK started upon the initiative of Kim Jong Il.

The old habit of studying while giving priority to the classics and depending on the established theories would not be overcome in one or two days.

When there was a debate over a certain issue, the students parroted the propositions from the classics, and some even put forward ridiculous opinions. The heated discussion sometimes would continue hours on end.

Kim Jong Il could not tolerate this, and felt the need to innovate their method of studying.

He had several discussions with the students, who were primary officials of the university organization of the Democratic Youth League, over the issue of fundamentally improving the method of studying, and initiated to wage the movement to read 10 000 pages of books a year.

The main requirement of the movement initiated by Kim Jong Il in March 1961 was to have a deep understanding of the revolutionary ideas of Kim Il Sung by reading more of his works.

In the course of studying Kim Il Sung's works, the students learned profound philosophy, understood its new categories and laws and found the truth of science.

Kim Jong Il initiated to compose a song about the movement so

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

as to push ahead with the movement more energetically.

The movement became more active as the days went by, and started to gain a new momentum.

The movement which had begun at one class spread to other classes and faculties of the university, and the song of the movement resounded everywhere.

This movement, which helped the students to get out of the tendency of mechanically revering and giving priority to the classics, was a great change in establishing a revolutionary habit of studying

It became a part of the struggle for establishing the Juche orientation in the ideological work and education of the students as well as in their scientific research.

Later, recalling those days, Kim Jong Il said: We gave priority to the issue of switching the direction of studying to studying Kim Il Sung's works, raised the torch of the movement to read 10 000 pages of books a year and made the flame spread all over the university.

Among the Working People

The DPRK was terribly destroyed during the Korean war.

Accompanying Kim Il Sung to many places of the country, Kim Jong Il witnessed his ruined country. But pain was not the only thing he felt; he met smelters, coal miners, peasants, shop assistants and even old women in many places of the country which

was seething with postwar rehabilitation; they were unanimous in saying that rehabilitation did not matter now that they had won the war.

He felt the boundless strength of the people, and tried to find himself among the working people.

One day a student expressed his envy towards Kim Jong Il, who could often see Kim Il Sung.

Kim Jong Il said: I myself do not see my father very often as he is always busy; he visits many places for on-site guidance; on other days he comes back home very late; the war is just over, everything is destroyed, and there must be lots of work to do for him; I feel it painful to see him trying to take care of many things without having proper sleep and meal in time; I feel really sorry that I cannot help him because I am not old enough.

With this in mind Kim Jong Il initiated the patriotic movement of collecting bricks among the Children's Union members for the postwar rehabilitation, and took the lead in the Our School and Our Classroom Movement, upholding the slogan **“Let's build our school with our own hands!”**

During the days of the historic Chollima upsurge when big changes and miracles were being wrought, he worked hard in many construction sites.

In early May 1958 he went to a construction site of the capital city with the members of the Democratic Youth League at his school.

At that time Pyongyang was going through sea change at a surprising speed; high buildings were set up, streets were built and

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

residential districts and amusement parks were created. The entire city was a construction site.

The building of 20 000 flats in Pyongyang, which recorded a glorious page in the history of construction of the DPRK, was under way at that time.

On the first day of the work the technical instructor at the work place told Kim Jong Il, who was leading his fellow students, that they were to produce prefabricated building parts, and that a work team should be organized with sturdy students for mortar mixing as the work was dusty and challenging.

Kim Jong Il immediately organized teams according to the processes of the project, and he himself mixed with the mortar mixing team.

The instructor told the teacher that he was amazed by the way the student leader worked.

When the teacher said that he was a son of Kim Il Sung, the instructor was surprised and said: Is that true? how come a son of the Premier does construction work?

The teacher told him that Kim Jong Il loved labour from his childhood and had participated in many construction projects with his friends after the war.

Later whenever he came to the mortar mixing place, he would direct his eyes to Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Il would work more than he was assigned, exceeding the work norm, and whenever cement ran short, he would go to the warehouse to bring cement.

When he was assigned with another task, he walked up and down the wooden ramp, carrying a shoulder pole laden with building materials. He would clean the work place after a day's work and come to it the next day earlier than others to make preparations for the day's work.

He sweated more than anybody else; the shirt he had changed in the morning would be soaked in sweat and show signs of salt in the evening.

One day the mothers of the students, who came to the construction site with foods, told Kim Jong Il to take care of his health.

Kim Jong Il told them: As you see, many apartment houses and streets are being built in Pyongyang; when the construction is complete, the capital city would look wonderful; the sound of people's laughter would be heard from the windows of the houses and mothers would walk along the streets with their children; I do not feel tired as I think of it no matter how hard I work.

A student, who was working with Kim Jong Il at the construction site, happened to read his diary.

It read: It's already well past midnight; it's deep night when everything in nature should be in a quiet slumber; nevertheless, it's not quiet, but great music of seething reality is heard all around; the whistle of the crane signaller resembles the fluent sound of a trumpet, the humming of the crane moving according to it, gives a tone like that of a contrabass; the horn of the truck produces the note of a tenor; the buzzing of the sparking welding rod resembles the sound of a timpani; the noise of the revolving mixer which used to be

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

so much clamorous, seems this night as soft as the sound of a cello; from time to time the whistle of a train is heard from afar resembling the dull sound of a tuba; all this reminds me of a grand symphony; now I feel as if I were the conductor of a grand symphony orchestra; this is a great night of the great Korea; why are those people working breaking the silence of the deep night when all others are asleep?... it's precisely because they are genuine revolutionary soldiers of the leader, the working class of Korea who are fighting to bring earlier the advent of the time, the brilliant morrow of the country.

The diary was a paean to the Korean people, who were struggling with creative construction, depicting poetically their worthwhile labour in the Chollima era.

After a month-long construction work, Kim Jong Il said: When we walk along the splendid streets of Pyongyang in the future, we will recall today with the pride that we devoted our valuable sweat and enthusiasm to the construction of the capital city.

In the middle school days he participated also in the sewage work project in Chongnyon Street in East Pyongyang, the construction project of Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace and embankment project of the Taedong River.

The noble example Kim Jong Il showed in the project to widen the road between Wasan-dong and Ryongsong from May 15 to June 4, 1961 is still remembered by the people.

Several days after he finished his internship at the Pyongyang Textile Machinery Manufactory, he put on the work clothes again,

went to the construction site and worked with the students day and night.

He would do hammering all day long and run carrying soil with his friends on a shoulder pole. Once, he opened his packed lunch, but jumped on a truck without having lunch when his team had to bring building materials immediately from a freight station.

One day when the excavator broke down, he personally took the part to a machine factory to have it repaired. When it suddenly bucketed down, he jumped into the hole dug for the mains so as to drain the waist-deep water.

He even led the students to make collective innovation helping each other.

One day before reviewing the socialist emulation drive, he made a big contribution to accelerating the entire process of the project by sending a bulldozer to assist a neighbouring team which was lagging behind with difficult assignment.

During the project a number of anecdotes were created, like the story about the three persons carrying two shoulder poles. This method was widely introduced in the construction site. This was a method not simply for increasing labour efficiency; it could be invented only by Kim Jong Il, who regarded himself as one of the builders.

The days of the capital city construction always brought a pleasant memory to Kim Jong Il.

Several decades later Kim Jong Il heard a newly-composed song *Don't Advance, Night of Pyongyang*, which sang the sentiment of

2. In the Swift Current of the Times

its hero recalling the days of the capital city construction on a street of Pyongyang at night. He said that only those who had devoted the sweat of youth to labour to create structures of enduring significance for the prosperity of their country could feel true happiness and pride.

DURING THE DAYS OF GREAT CHANGE

Formulation of the Ideology of the Times	/ 53
Proclamation of Revolution in Art and Literature	/ 61
Let Us Live Our Own Way!	/ 71
At the Helm of the Grand Socialist Construction	/ 76

3

After graduating from Kim Il Sung University, Kim Jong Il started working on the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from June 1964.

At that time Kim Il Sung hoped that Kim Jong Il, who had graduated from university, would attain rich experience of various fields including Party work and inherit and accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche.

With Kim Jong Il working on the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Il Sung's leadership over all the fields of the revolution and construction could be better realized and a new change be brought about in all the political, economic, military and cultural fields.

It was at this time that the historic position of the revolutionary ideas of Kim Il Sung was given a scientific clarification, the sound of the revolution in the field of art and literature resounded and the banner of the speed campaign fluttered throughout the country.

Kim Jong Il had a good grasp of the state of various fields including Party work, and in the course of this he demonstrated his leadership ability to the full.

Miracles were wrought in all the realms he had guided, and people's respect and reverence for him grew.

Kim Jong Il came to the Central Committee of the WPK without any announcement, but the achievements he had made for the country and people were great, indeed.

Formulation of the Ideology of the Times

After he started working on the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Jong Il conducted energetic ideological and theoretical activities to formulate as an ideology of the times the revolutionary ideas of Kim Il Sung, which had already been authorized as a guiding ideology of the WPK.

Around this time the scope of his work expanded gradually with each passing day.

He had to pay close attention to the work of different fields, and was always busy.

However, he started reviewing and analyzing Marxist-Leninist classics in a comprehensive way, that is, reviewing and analyzing the century-long history of the ideology of the working class.

The light of his office was on till late at night because he was always busy with a profound philosophical studying while leading the revolution and construction.

So, the Korean people called the lamplight lit in his office *lights from the Party Central Committee*.

On learning what Kim Jong Il was doing, Kim Il Sung spoke highly of it and handed his library over to him.

Originally, Kim Jong Il had long been thinking of reviewing and analyzing Marxism-Leninism on the point of revolutionary practice.

In November 1958, an official had read in Kim Jong Il's house

3. During the Days of Great Change

The Communist Manifesto by Marx. Kim Jong Il had jotted down different symbols on some pages of the book. A page had a red line beneath the sentence *The workers have no homeland* and a bold style of writing of Kim Jong Il in the upper margin that read, ***No, the workers have their own homelands.***

During his university days he had made an in-depth study and analysis of the books on preceding theories while studying Kim Il Sung's works.

In the margins of the books he had written his opinions, such as ***It is valuable, It is an important problem, It is just a hypothesis and It is not appropriate for the present.***

The ideological and theoretical achievements he had made during his Kim Il Sung University days became a foundation for the formulation of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology.

His review and analysis went on after he started working on the Party Central Committee.

When an official said to him that he seemed to be reading more books than he had done in his university days, Kim Jong Il replied: Some people advised me to study abroad for three more years; actually, I wanted to study for three more years after graduating from the university, but not in a foreign country; why should I study there, far-away from our country, in which there are the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, a maestro of philosophy, and our people, my teachers? I decided to study by myself for about three years regarding this excellent library as an academy.

Though he was busy every day, he participated in the seminar on

selected days of every week without fail.

Later, recollecting those days, he said that he had devoured Marxist-Leninist classics again at that time and read *Capital* three times.

For the purpose of reviewing the preceding revolutionary ideologies of the working class, he made a philosophical clarification of their historical exploits and position as well as their historical and theoretical limitations, and gave a fair evaluation of them.

In the course of this, he felt quite unhappy about the fact that there was no clear definition of the historic position of the great Juche idea, which had presented the most scientific strategy and tactics for opening up an era of independence and for the final victory of the socialist cause, dozens of years after its creation.

He was convinced that the history of the era of independence, when the broad masses emerged as masters of history and their destiny, had to be defined clearly as the history of the Juche idea and the era of independence had to be called the Juche era.

He also discovered that the Juche character was the essence and fundamental character of the Korean revolution.

He was firmly convinced that Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology was a new and original one which could be named only after him.

Over the three years of in-depth study, he possessed an absolute faith in the truth of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology.

On the other hand, the course provided him with a stepping-stone

3. During the Days of Great Change

for formulating Kim Il Sung's ideology as the one of the times and explaining its position in the history of ideologies.

One day in the early 1970s, while going over the gifts presented to Kim Il Sung from many countries of the world, Kim Jong Il stopped in front of a worn-out and discolored booklet.

It was a work by Kim Il Sung, which was translated into a foreign language. The story about how it had come to the DPRK was dramatic.

There was a fighter who had embarked on the national liberation struggle in an African country. Just before he died on a battlefield, he took the booklet out of his inner pocket and gave it to his comrades.

Breathing his last, he said: "Comrades, we all wandered mentally for a long time until we found a correct way of struggle after learning the Juche idea. If we follow the road of Juche, we will win victory, and if not, our struggle cannot escape the fate of a vessel in distress. I give you this book with the hope that you will safeguard to the end the truth of Juche we have found. Never forget this."

His friends pledged to be loyal to his last words, and sent the booklet to the DPRK, the homeland of the Juche idea.

Some days later, Kim Jong Il said: Peoples of the world are accepting the Juche idea as part of their faith; the Korean word *Juche* is known to all of them; it is a worldwide word which has gripped their hearts with a great attractive force; the time has already been mature for calling the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's

ideology Kimilsungism in association with his name; actually, it is long overdue.

At last, on February 19, 1974, Kim Jong Il made public the formulation of the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung as Kimilsungism.

That day he declared: Kimilsungism is, in a nutshell, a system of the idea, theories and methods of Juche; in other words, it is an integrated system of the Juche idea and theories and methods of the revolution and construction as clarified by the Juche idea.

Later Kim Il Sung said that Kim Jong Il's definition of his revolutionary ideology was really a famous definition.

In the days of studying the historic position of Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology, Kim Jong Il confirmed that the ideology had an extent and depth unparalleled to those of any other classics, that it is a revolutionary principle representing the future of mankind, which would be everlasting with their existence, and that he would be unhesitating in saying that there was no ideology, which could lead the revolutionary struggle and construction work to victory, except the Juche idea authored by Kim Il Sung.

The long speech he delivered by freely using unique and fascinating words and without seeing the voluminous manuscript or repeating any same words struck the audience with admiration. After listening to his eloquent speech unaware of the passage of time, they raised a storm of cheers.

The historic speech gave the people an overwhelming impression. They praised it as the Proclamation of February.

3. During the Days of Great Change

Kim Jong Il comprehensively systematized the Juche idea in keeping with the development of the age of independence and the requirements of the revolutionary practice, and developed and enriched it in an all-round way so as to increase its might remarkably.

The concept of Juche contains a profound meaning that the Korean revolution should be carried out in accordance with the requirements and interests of the Korean people, and the revolutionary idea of Kim Il Sung is just the one related to establishing the Juche orientation, the one that the masses of the people should maintain the independent and creative stands as masters of the revolution.

In practice, Juche became the lifeline for the WPK, and the history of the WPK was a struggle to establish the Juche orientation. Founding the Party, government and army with the Juche idea as guidelines and solving all problems arising in the revolutionary struggle as suited to the requirements of the idea—herein lay the secret of victory.

The course of Kim Jong Il's developing and enriching the Juche idea in conformity with the requirements of the times was a course of writing a new history of ideology, in which he further perfected Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology.

At that time there were many adherents of the Juche idea in different continents of the world, and the zeal for studying the Juche idea developed as a global trend.

Studying and disseminating the Juche idea, which had already

been carried on by individual pioneers, had been waged vigorously from the 1960s by the Juche idea study groups.

Entering the 1970s the number of such groups reached more than 100.

In the 1960s Kim Jong Il, in his Kim Il Sung University days, had made public innumerable works and papers, in which he explained the Juche idea philosophically.

Since the 1970s, when the Juche idea study groups were organized on a worldwide scale and the activities of the followers of the idea to learn and disseminate the idea were in full swing, he made public a number of works in succession which helped them to have a correct understanding of the Juche philosophy. Some of them are *On Some Questions in Understanding the Juche Philosophy*, *On Having a Correct Viewpoint and Understanding of the Juche Philosophy* and *The Juche Philosophy Is an Original Revolutionary Philosophy*.

The typical work, in which Kim Jong Il formulated the Juche idea in a systematic way, is *On the Juche Idea*, made public on March 31, 1982, in the run-up to the 70th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung.

When writing the treatise, he explained the wide-ranging and profound contents of the idea in short and plain terms.

The work, when compiled in a pamphlet, is only 80-odd pages. However, its content is voluminous.

Its five parts—the origin of the Juche idea, the philosophical principle of the idea, the socio-historical principles of the idea,

3. During the Days of Great Change

the guiding principles of the idea and the historic significance of the idea—give an easy understanding of the historic roots and fundamental principles of the idea and its position in the history of ideologies as well as the theoretical structure supporting the Juche philosophy.

No sooner had the work been published than it evoked a great sensation among not only the Korean people but also the world people.

In less than a year after its publication, it was carried on over ten million copies of publications in more than 90 countries, and published in 144 countries of the world in a pamphlet form.

When he heard that his work was causing a huge sensation, Kim Jong Il said that it was not because of his talent for writing but because of the greatness of the Juche idea of Kim Il Sung.

As a symbol of the tremendous attractive power of the Juche idea and its rays illuminating the road of the times, the Tower of the Juche Idea was built in the capital city of Pyongyang in April 1982.

Once when he was passing by the Taedong River, Kim Jong Il, looking at the tower, said in deep emotion that if the books he had read from his schooldays to formulate Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology were to be piled up, they would be as high as the pedestal of the tower.

Still today the Juche idea, as a revolutionary theory clarifying the road for the masses of the people to carve out their destiny as its masters in reflection of the requirements of the times and the

unanimous aspiration and wish of the people, is demonstrating its viability among not only the Korean people but also the progressive peoples of the world.

Proclamation of Revolution in Art and Literature

Until the early 1960s, there existed old and backward ideological remnants in the sector of art and literature of the country. Without rooting them out and radically improving the creation system and method, it was impossible to successfully carry out the cause of creating new art and literature.

One day in 1964 Kim Jong Il said to an official of the Korean Film Studio that Kim Il Sung was paying close attention to the work of the sector of art and literature, especially to the art of cinema, and that they should produce good films as wished by him.

In December 1964, Kim Il Sung gave field guidance at the studio in company with Kim Jong Il.

On the spot he convened an enlarged meeting of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the WPK, and made a speech on producing a larger number of revolutionary films.

The meeting entrusted Kim Jong Il with the task of guiding the work of the sector of art and literature.

In March and December 1965, Kim Jong Il told the officials of the Party Central Committee that we should carry out a sweeping

3. During the Days of Great Change

revolution in the sector of art and literature in order to create a model of revolutionary art and literature in the 20th century.

He started the revolution with the work of adapting the immortal classics, created by Kim Il Sung during the anti-Japanese armed struggle, for the screen.

In February 1967 he organized the Paektusan Production Company by enlisting the excellent creative workers he had acquainted himself with and trained with painstaking effort while directly guiding the sector of cinema.

In April 1968 he gave the creative workers in the sector of cinema the task of adapting the immortal classic work *The Sea of Blood* for the screen.

Setting it up as a fundamental principle of adaptation to be faithful to the original and correctly sustain the characteristics of the cinematic art, he explained the motive and intention of Kim Il Sung for writing the work, the socio-historical environments at that time and the ideological and artistic features and the cognitive and educational significance of the work. And he gave an in-depth solution to all matters arising in direction, acting, shooting, fine art and music.

He guided the creative work almost every day, devoting his all to completing all the scenes of the film into excellent ones.

Thanks to his guidance, the film *The Sea of Blood*, adapted from the immortal classic *The Sea of Blood*, was completed as a masterpiece in the end of 1969.

Then, Kim Jong Il launched the work of adapting the immortal

classic *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man* for the screen.

He initiated a campaign of reading the director's script 100 times so that all the members of the production team could have a deep understanding of the ideological and artistic characteristics of the work, and ensured that they waged a speed campaign in the film production.

Under his detailed guidance, the production of *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man* finished in 40 days.

He generalized the model of the speed campaign, whose viability was verified in the production of *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man*, throughout the sector of art and literature, and later defined it as the main mode of socialist construction.

He also guided the work of adapting the immortal classic *The Flower Girl* for the screen as a model work of psychological drama, a masterpiece.

The film *The Flower Girl* shook the world film circles at the 18th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival held in former Czechoslovakia.

In the course of adapting the immortal classics for the screen, Kim Jong Il formulated a new Juche-oriented theory on cinema, and saw to it that model films of the art of cinema were produced. And he established a new well-regulated system of guidance and creation for carrying on the creation of the cinematic art by actively enlisting the creative wisdom and revolutionary zeal of the masses. This made it possible to bring about a remarkable innovation in all fields of content, form, and creative system and method in the

3. During the Days of Great Change

cinematic art.

By compiling the rich experience he had gained in the days of leading the revolution in the cinematic art, Kim Jong Il made public *On the Art of Cinema* in April 1973.

The immortal work consists of eight chapters with 47 sections.

In the work Kim Jong Il clarified the unique theories on communist humanics, on the seed and on the speed campaign.

Besides, he gave original and profound answers to all the theoretical and practical issues arising in the creation of the film, like the Juche-oriented system and method of acting, shooting, cinematic fine art, cinematic music, and to many questions of primary importance in creating the Juche-oriented art and literature, including the theories on the system of revolutionary creation and the system of guiding the creative process.

Following the revolution in cinema production, Kim Jong Il initiated a revolution in the opera.

In the past the form of opera in the country was yet to be freed from the form of *changguk* (a Korean classical opera) and that of Western opera.

In June 1967, Kim Jong Il said to the officials in the field of art and literature and composers that they should bring about a revolution to eliminate the old form in the field of opera, too.

Later, when he saw the opera *Under the Sunshine*, produced by the then National Opera Troupe, he made a firmer resolve to bring about an innovation in the opera. In March 1971, he said that a new form of opera suited to the aesthetic tastes of the Korean people

should be produced, emphasizing that a revolution in opera should be made in the course of adapting the immortal classic *The Sea of Blood*.

He set it as the main task of the revolution in the art of opera to make operatic art modern and people-oriented on the basis of its revolutionary content and national form. He also presented several new principles for producing operas—making the songs stanzaic, introducing the *pangchang* (off-stage singing), ensuring that dancing was appropriate to the drama and introducing a three-dimensional revolving stage.

And he took positive measures to successfully complete the libretto of *The Sea of Blood* in a short span of time and conduct an intensive campaign for its production.

Thus, excellent writers of the Paektusan Production Company were mobilized in the work of producing the libretto, a powerful creation team involving the creators and artistes in the central and local troupes was formed, and the creation headquarters was organized.

In the days of the intensive campaign Kim Jong Il came to the theatre almost every day, energetically guiding the creative work.

During the campaign his creative thoughts were directed to eliminating the aria and recitative, the main representative means of the conventional operas, and producing people-oriented, plain, gentle and beautiful stanzaic songs.

Making songs stanzaic—this was an epoch-making revolution

3. During the Days of Great Change

and a new discovery that made it possible to eliminate the aria and recitative, which had been regarded as absolute in producing operas, a revolution and discovery for turning the opera into a genuine art for the people.

When some creators, without fully understanding the line of making the operatic songs stanzaic, presented songs retaining the remnants of the aria and recitative, Kim Jong Il revised them, making them stanzaic, sometimes while listening to the songs sung by singers.

Created in this way were the songs, which were free from the patterns of the aria and recitative, which could portray the emotional life of the people and the characterization in a profound and diversified way and retain the dramatic quality of works.

Adding artistic effect to the opera by introducing the *pangchang* was also a new concept formulated by Kim Jong Il and valuable fruition of his outstanding intelligence and creative inquiry.

The *pangchang*, a new form of musical rendering, depicts the world of opera off the stage, performing the role of “narrating” the content of the work additionally.

Representing the unspoken feelings of the hero and other characters, explaining the flow of the times, historic events and events taking place on the stage, and connecting one act to another and one scene to another, the *pangchang* led the audience to the world of the opera with unbelievable attractive power.

In order to further improve the role of the *pangchang*, Kim Jong Il saw to it that its form was diversified in scale and

part, that mutual response in singing by the characters was made in different ways, and that it was put in necessary scenes so as to improve its organic cooperation with other means of portrayal. Through the introduction of the *pangchang*, the rendering of songs in *The Sea of Blood* reached a new phase.

Its introduction in opera was a great discovery in the history of the opera.

When the Mansudae Art Troupe gave performance of the opera during its visit to Japan, the Japanese art experts and people praised unanimously that the discovery of the *pangchang* could only be made in Juche Korea, saying that as it cannot be found in any other country, there was no other choice but to call it the *pangchang* in Korean.

Kim Jong Il saw to it that dance was made an essential means of portrayal in the opera, depicting the characters’ thoughts and feelings, explaining the work’s theme and idea, and making the stage colourful.

And under his guidance other new original and unique means of operatic representation were created, like three-dimensional, revolving stage art.

At last on July 17, 1971, four months after the start of its creation, the work was premiered in the presence of Kim Il Sung at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

Kim Il Sung spoke highly of the work after seeing it, saying that a Juche-oriented and revolutionary opera, perfectly combining the ideological and artistic characters, was created.

3. During the Days of Great Change

On the very day of the birth of *The Sea of Blood*-style revolutionary opera, Kim Jong Il said that the adaptation of the immortal classic *The Sea of Blood* into the revolutionary opera proclaimed to the world the revolution in the opera and opened up a new era of the operatic art, and that the creation of the opera provided a classic model of the operatic art of the times.

On the basis of the valuable experiences gained in the course of creating the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood*, Kim Jong Il saw to it that the revolutionary operas *The Story of a Nurse*, *Tell O Forest*, *The Flower Girl* and *Song of Mt Kumgang* were successfully created in succession, ushering in the era of five major revolutionary operas. He also guided the creation of the revolutionary operas *The Fate of a Self-defence Corps Man* and *Under the Bright Sun*.

During these days he, with his in-depth creative thoughts, led their librettos, stage representation and scenes to be created on a higher phase.

The song *Where Are You, Dear General?* which the Korean people are singing widely now was also created into a masterpiece in those days thanks to the energetic inquiry and painstaking efforts of Kim Jong Il.

For their high ideological and artistic qualities and enormous influence, those operas caused a great sensation among the world progressive peoples.

Based on the successes and experiences gained in the opera revolution, Kim Jong Il made public *On the Art of Opera* in early

September 1974.

As he had achieved successes and experiences in the revolutions in the cinematic and operatic arts, he paid close attention to carrying out a revolution in drama.

At that time the dramatic art in the country was revolutionary in its ideological content, but the form of stage and method of representation were bounded by the outdated pattern.

In November 1972, Kim Jong Il said to the writers and artistes of the National Theatrical Troupe that creation of a new revolutionary drama that would suit the Juche era was an urgent requirement of the times and a matter of vital importance to the destiny of drama in general.

He proposed re-presenting the immortal classic *The Mountain Shrine*, which was written by Kim Il Sung during his anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, on the stage in keeping with the requirements of the times.

When he went to the venue of creative work in June 1978, Kim Jong Il saw the drama performed by the National Theatrical Troupe, and said with satisfaction that the drama revolution had started. Then he gave his detailed opinion on expanding the scope of life the drama depicted, properly sustaining the personality of characters and skilfully organizing dramaticism and words.

In August he saw the trial performance of *The Mountain Shrine*, and he expressed great satisfaction that the creation of the drama put an end to the outmoded dramas of the past and opened up an era of new drama.

3. During the Days of Great Change

Later, *The Mountain Shrine*-style dramas were put on the stage successfully, like *Blood at an International Conference*, *A Letter from a Daughter*, *Three Pretenders* and *Celebrations*, thus further developing the successes of the drama revolution.

Kim Jong Il also directed his efforts to developing music, dance and acrobatics.

He guided the creation of the music and dance tale *Song of Paradise* prepared by the Mansudae Art Troupe several times, and completed it into a masterpiece of comprehensive performing art, presenting a grand picture of the contemporary era.

He led the implementation of the Party's line of establishing the Juche orientation and combining sports and art in creating acrobatic pieces, thus putting equilibristic stunts, aerial stunts, magic and others on a higher level.

Thanks to his wise leadership, Korea's art and literature in the 1970s came into bloom and developed in an all-round way, presenting a grand flower garden of the Juche-oriented art and literature.

In the days of carrying out the revolution in art and literature, creators and artistes keenly felt Kim Jong Il's personality as a great man. In reflection of their boundless reverence for him, they called him *dear leader*.

Let Us Live Our Own Way!

Particularly noteworthy in Kim Jong Il's leadership in the 1970s was that he ensured that the Juche principle was established in the overall revolution and construction in a thoroughgoing way.

One day in the mid-1970s a new painting was put up in his office.

It was a landscape of Yaoyinggou in Northeast China, where the headquarters of the Korean revolution was located in the mid-1930s in the period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle.

He had a reason why he had ordered that painting, not a landscape of a wonderful scenic spot.

Yaoyinggou is a historic place where Kim Il Sung, in order to cope with the prevailing situation, advanced in March 1935 a strategic line of relinquishing the guerrilla zones in the form of liberated areas and expanding the armed struggle into wider areas after he had safeguarded the Juche-oriented stand of the Korean revolution through his unyielding struggle against the national chauvinists at a meeting in Dahuangwai.

For this reason, the place was recorded in the annals of the Korean revolution as a watershed in the effort to establish independence and a symbol of the Juche-based offensive spirit the Korean revolutionaries displayed in resolutely braving the obstacles in the way of the revolution.

Reflected in the painting was Kim Jong Il's firm faith and will to

3. During the Days of Great Change

continuously advance the revolutionary cause of Juche onto a higher stage, upholding the banner of independence, which had been raised at Yaoyinggou.

But advancing the revolutionary cause of Juche onto a new high under the banner of modelling the whole society on the Juche idea was a challenging task in the 1970s.

No country was willing or able to help others.

Looking back upon the victorious road the Korean revolution had followed for half a century, Kim Jong Il reached a conclusion: In order to continue to advance the Korean revolution along the road of victory, we must live our own way.

As a matter of fact, the strategy of firmly establishing the Juche orientation and living in one's own way was not something new for the DPRK.

Kim Il Sung had led the revolution in line with this strategy and so did Kim Jong Il.

Since his childhood, Kim Jong Il ardently loved what was Korean and despised the tendency of blindly worshipping and imitating others.

The following happened in the biological laboratory at Pyongyang Middle School No. 1 in July 1955.

While making specimens of insects, some boys exchanged their butterflies and dragonflies among themselves, thinking others' insects were better than theirs.

But one of them looked about him in disappointment, apparently dissatisfied with the result of his exchange.

Kim Jong Il said to him that someone who is inclined to belittle his own things is prone to make such a mistake and told him a story of an old man who nagged his wife about their own kimchi tasting inferior to their neighbour's and ended up making a laughing stock of himself.

Then he said to the students: What will become of those who prefer others' things? they will be haunted by inferiority complex, thinking themselves and their own things are inferior to others, and eventually lose the sense of patriotism and national dignity; how deplorable it is!

This simple story clearly shows how dear Kim Jong Il held what was Korean since his childhood.

Later, he defined it as the Korean style to approach and solve all problems as required by the Juche idea and advanced the slogan **“Live our own way, fight our own way, create our own way.”**

December 25, 1978 is recorded in the annals of the Korean revolution as a historic day, when the mode of waging the struggle in the Korean way was set up as a major strategy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

On the day Kim Jong Il said that the prevailing international and domestic situation demanded more urgently than ever before that the Korean revolutionaries establish the Juche orientation firmly and live their own way, before declaring: **“Let us live our own way!”—this is precisely an important strategic slogan which our Party advocates today.”**

He explained: Living our own way means thinking and acting on

3. During the Days of Great Change

our own initiative as required by the Juche idea and solving all the problems in keeping with the interests of our revolution and people and by our own efforts; in the past we have not copied or followed others' way nor lived at others' expense but in our own way; in the future, too, we must continue to live in our own way, without regard to what others may do.

Later Kim Jong Il said: Earlier our Party put forth the slogan **“Let us live our own way!”** This precisely means Juche, independence and self-reliance and herein lie our dignity, pride and honour.

He had already applied the Korean style in the whole course of his revolutionary activities, spanning scores of years.

In the late 1970s Changgwang Street was built as a model street of the Korean style in the central part of Pyongyang under the leadership of Kim Jong Il.

Its predecessor was Ryunhwanson Street. Before Korea's liberation the barracks of the Japanese army had been there. In the street built after the Korean war there were old-looking two- and three-storied apartment buildings which had been built according to a foreign design.

After looking round the street together with a designer one day in December 1978, Kim Jong Il decided that a model of Korean-style street should be created and generalized in order to eradicate dogmatism in the architectural field.

Moreover, he regarded this as a pressing issue because some architects, interested in various architectural fashions of foreign countries, were revealing the tendency of copying them.

He said: I was told that some officials were of the opinion that as there was a shortage of construction force, it would be advisable to build a new street on a gradual basis, instead of all at once; so I have looked round the street carefully tonight and found that their idea is not suitable; we should demolish the street as a whole and build a new one.

His intention was to build everything in the street in the Korean style.

However, the designers were too fettered by the established view to understand his intention easily.

While giving instructions to them on several occasions, Kim Jong Il came to realize that they did not have a correct understanding of the significance of the project. One day he told them that the construction was not merely an undertaking to build houses but part of a gigantic undertaking to add majesty and splendour to the capital city and a worthwhile project to create a new model of form, content and quality of construction.

Then he continued: Whereas the *Sea of Blood*-style revolutionary operas which we had created served as a starting point of a great change in the artistic development in our country, we should make the building of a new street on the site of Ryunhwanson Street a starting point for effecting a new change in our country's construction sector in the 1980s; therefore, you should have a correct view and standpoint and bring about a revolutionary turn in the project as we did in the days of creating the *Sea of Blood*-style revolutionary operas.

By this he meant that a drastic change in their viewpoint and

3. During the Days of Great Change

attitude was more important than the construction project itself.

In this way, the old street disappeared and structures of peculiar shapes were built in harmony with one another, giving a three-dimensional effect.

While enjoying the view of the completed new street, President Kim Il Sung said with a beaming face: The street has been built on the same plot, but as the formation of the street has been made in a new way, it gives a feeling of space although there are high apartment buildings here; this is the very street formation of our own style I have aspired to.

Seeing the President much satisfied, officials were grateful to Kim Jong Il for having led them to effect a new change in construction.

The street was named Changgwang.

Later the architectural designers of Changgwang Street recollected that the street was of great importance in that it gave the people an intuitive and clear suggestion of what living our own way meant.

At the Helm of the Grand Socialist Construction

The struggle for a new revolutionary upsurge was one for economic construction, which was waged in an unprecedentedly huge and grand scale in the history of the country's socialist

construction.

Therefore, it was necessary to adopt a new mode of struggle and principle of work, which Kim Jong Il thought should be a speed campaign.

Of course, the history of the Korean people's socialist construction had been characterized by an astonishing speed of development, the speed of Chollima (a legendary horse running hundreds of miles at a gallop-Tr.). The prevailing condition, however, required a faster speed than ever.

Proceeding from this, Kim Jong Il, based on the experiences he had gained while guiding the sector of art and literature, defined the speed campaign as a main mode of struggle for socialist construction and put forward a militant slogan for launching it on all its fronts.

In order to ensure the maximum speed of socialist construction by dint of the speed campaign, he set detailed tasks and ways for pushing ahead with the ideological and technological revolutions and for tailoring the organizational and guidance work to them.

True to his policy, the Korean people vigorously turned out in the grand socialist construction, holding up the slogan, **“All forward to the speed campaign!”**

But the shortage of raw and other materials and strain on the transport sector posed an obstacle in carrying out the national economic plan for 1974. On top of that, inactiveness and defeatism of some officials led to insecurity about the fulfilment of the plan

3. During the Days of Great Change

even at the end of the third quarter.

In October a meeting of the Political Committee of the WPK Central Committee was held. President Kim Il Sung expressed his worries over the situation, and asked the committee members to make a suggestion without hesitation on how to solve the problem.

At this crucial moment, Kim Jong Il said that he would mobilize Party organizations to solve the problem now that the officials in the economic sector seemed to find it very difficult.

Several days later he called a consultative meeting of senior officials of the WPK Central Committee and the Administration Council and chief secretaries of the provincial committees of the WPK, in which he set forth the task to launch a Party-wide 70-day campaign.

He designated the mining industry, transport and export as the major thrust areas of the campaign, had an operation plan drawn up with meticulous attention to detail and dispatched guidance teams to the sectors.

Accordingly, the 70-day campaign started on October 21 in the capital city, provinces, cities and counties.

Kim Jong Il, regarding the ideological motivation of the masses of the people as the key to making a success of the campaign, ensured that Party organizations and officials launched a dynamic ideological offensive.

All the provincial artistic motivational teams, art troupes and loudspeaker vans were mobilized, and artistes from both the capital city and local areas conducted an energetic on-site motivational

work.

Kim Jong Il made sure that coal and other mines received as much support as possible, increased daily production to the maximum level and normalized it by giving precedence to tunnelling and removal of overburden.

Under his guidance a great deal of efforts were directed to rail transport so as to ease the strain on transport. The transport of ore and other raw materials was designated as a main objective to meet in the campaign, necessary measures were taken for increasing concentrated and specialized transport, and steel materials for repairing freight cars were supplied on a preferential basis.

Also production of exports was rapidly increased, their transport was facilitated and the trade ports were equipped with an array of cranes, boosting their traffic capacities.

Kim Jong Il's office was literally the headquarters of the 70-day campaign.

Around that time, many new tales about his revolutionary activities spread among the people, some of which were *Mobile Office*, *Three-dimensional Use of Time* and *Art of Compressing Time*.

His wise leadership brought the 70-day campaign to a successful completion, in the course of which the speed of the 70-day campaign, a new Chollima speed, was created and a new historical chapter of the speed campaign recorded.

During the campaign the production increased 1.7 times on average as against the former days.

3. During the Days of Great Change

On the basis of the successes achieved in the 70-day campaign, Kim Jong Il wisely led the effort for further progress.

At a meeting of senior officials of the WPK Central Committee held in January 1975, he set the policy of celebrating the 30th anniversary of the founding of the WPK as a grand festival of victors by waging a new campaign, in response to the New Year Address by President Kim Il Sung, for fulfilling the yearly national economic plan before October 10 that year and reaching the major objectives of the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

To this end, relevant preparations and organizational and political work were made in a scrupulous way.

The sector Kim Jong Il paid special attention to in those days was agriculture.

At a field of young corn in Kangwon Province, he put some plants that had bent over to one side back into their straight position, saying to the accompanying officials that farming should be the top priority in easing the worries of Kim Il Sung and that the requirements of the Juche farming method should be met thoroughly.

Subsequently, a workshop was organized on the Juche farming method and more practical efforts were exerted to implement it.

For further mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture, he had a larger number of tractors, rice-seedling transplanters and rice harvesters sent to farms, and in July 1975 visited the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, encouraging the workers in the massive campaign for fertilizer production.

At the Helm of the Grand Socialist Construction

Under his wise leadership rice-seedling transplanting was completed in the optimum period and crop yield of the year reached the objective which had been set far higher than the previous year.

Kim Jong Il led the effort to bring about an unprecedented innovation in the industrial sector as well.

The main link in the whole chain of the struggle to fulfil the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule was still the mining industry, in which the Komdok Mine, a leading nonferrous metal producer, had to play an especially important role.

In view of this, he visited it after he had looked around the long-distance conveyor belt in the Unnyul Mine.

Despite the officials' dissuasion, he wore plain clothes and a safety helmet and went by a man-trip into a working face of the April 5 Pit, at which Kim Il Sung had given on-site guidance in April 1961. He shook the miners' stained hands in a friendly way, and carefully inquired into their life and work.

He also told them to effect a fresh upswing in production and to bring about ideological remoulding of the people and technological innovation and create a new culture of the working class by dynamically carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural.

He clarified the tasks and ways for effecting a radical turn in mineral production, which included, in particular, setting up a long-distance conveyor belt and an effective command and communications system of the pits.

Encouraged by his on-site guidance, the working class in Komdok

3. During the Days of Great Change

fulfilled the Six-Year Plan nearly a year and half ahead of schedule and became the first in the country to raise the torch of the Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement.

The Korean people conducted the grand socialist construction to accomplish the major objectives of the Six-Year Plan ahead of schedule by the 30th anniversary of the founding of the WPK.

Kim Jong Il conceived a far-reaching idea of building Pyongyang into the capital city of the people, a grandiose and magnificent city.

In March 1975 Kim Il Sung charged him with guiding the construction in Pyongyang for 15 years or so.

Some days later, Kim Jong Il said to an official: I intend to work a miracle by initiating a speed campaign in the capital city development sector and write a chapter of golden age in its history; the first representative street will be Ragwon Street and the first grand monumental edifice will be the Mansudae Art Theatre; dozens of such architectural structures including those conceived by President Kim Il Sung will make Pyongyang a world-class city in the real sense of the word.

Determined to open up a golden age of Pyongyang as soon as possible, in March 1975, he set out a grand blueprint of the capital city development.

He said: The capital city development should embody the noble intention of President Kim Il Sung who works devotedly for the sake of the people with boundless love for them and also our people's warm heart to hold him in high esteem for eternity; true to his lofty intentions, modern apartment houses, public buildings, parks and

recreation grounds should be built for the people; the immediate task is to build Ragwon Street well and the next goal is to demolish Ryunhwanson Street and build a new street on its site.

According to his idea, a grand construction campaign was initiated to give Pyongyang a facelift.

He saw to it that the Mansudae Art Theatre was built as an edifice of art in the area of Somun-dong on the axis from Mansu Hill to Namsan Hill and the surrounding area was laid out in good harmony with the appearance of the capital city.

Under his wise leadership, the Mansudae Art Theatre was built as a monumental edifice of the times and the old street in the surrounding area was removed and a large landscaped fountain park was built in its place.

Paying close attention to laying out the whole city in a grand and magnificent manner as well as developing the central part, he organized and led the effort to build many apartment houses and monumental edifices throughout Pyongyang.

Kim Il Sung proposed a housing project in the Ragwon-dong area to form a new street directly linked to Pipha Street.

In response to this, Kim Jong Il wisely led the project to complete it by the 30th anniversary of the founding of the WPK.

After he saw the samples of them, the specialized factories and the relevant agencies and enterprises provided the pieces of furniture, finishing materials, sanitary-ware and metal fixtures and fittings as in good quality as the samples.

The excellent Ragwon Street was built in this way.

3. During the Days of Great Change

It was followed by a dynamic campaign to erect grand monumental edifices, in the course of which the Taesongsan Funfair, the Changgwang Health Complex and the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital were built and the construction of the Grand People's Study House, an edifice for all-people study, entered the final stage.

Later on Kim Jong Il continued to have grand construction projects implemented to build a number of new streets, transforming the capital city of Pyongyang into a grandiose and magnificent one.

IN THE YEARS OF CREATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Creation of the Speed of the 1980s	/ 86
Instilling Faith in Self-reliance	/ 90
Great Trust	/ 94
Remarkable Organizing Ability	/ 98
Fruits of the Speed Campaign	/ 104

The 1980s was a decade of creation and miracle in the DPRK.

Grand monumental edifices sprang up all over the country, and a series of miracles and innovations were recorded amid the hot wind of creating the speed of the 1980s in all sectors of socialist construction.

All those were attributable to the wise leadership of Kim Jong Il, who was endowed with boundless creativity and a great sense of resolve to achieve whatever he set out to do without delay.

His thoroughgoing ideology of self-reliance and absolute trust in the people's might produced epochal achievements in socialist construction and his extraordinary drive stoked up the fierce flames of the speed campaign.

Creation of the Speed of the 1980s

At a consultative meeting of senior officials of the WPK Central Committee held in June 1982, Kim Jong Il emphasized that a fresh upsurge like the one effected with the December 1956 Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee as a momentum should be created once again in socialist economic construction. Later he set forth the slogan **“Let us create the speed of the 80s in the spirit displayed during the grand Chollima upsurge!”**

Among the long-term objectives of the 1980s, that of nonferrous metal production was highly important, and the main link in the whole chain of the effort to reach it was the Komdok Mine which had a large share of it. To this end, it was the foremost task to increase its ore-dressing capacity.

The mine had solid foundations for mass dropping and mass transport of ore thanks to the first and second stages of long-distance conveyor belt completed in the 1970s and to the efforts exerted to introduce large, modern and high-speed mining equipment. But the limited ore-dressing capacity failed to ensure mass treatment of ore.

At a meeting of officials in the mining sector held at the mine in June 1982, Kim Il Sung set forth a task to complete the construction Ore-dressing Plant No. 3 in a year.

To carry out his intentions, Kim Jong Il decided to create a model of the speed of the 1980s in Komdok.

At the beginning of the project the officials estimated, on the basis of the conventional method of engineering, the length of each stage of the project in the order of designing, foundations work, construction, production, transport and assembly of equipment, pipe laying, setting up of the electric system and the like.

If the project was to be undertaken in such an order, they had no way to meet the schedule, and so they hesitated to start it in earnest.

Reported on this, Kim Jong Il broke away from all the existing methods and told them to launch a three-dimensional campaign, in

4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation

which all the stages were to be pushed ahead with simultaneously.

It was a mode of the speed campaign that he had applied, and its advantages had been proved in several projects.

In line with the three-dimensional engineering method, all the processes of the project started nearly at the same time.

Kim Jong Il dispatched competent experts to form powerful headquarters for the two fronts and solved the problems then and there by acquainting himself with the progress day by day.

In September, when the project was well underway, he was reported that construction of the building for grinding mills faced an obstacle. He said to an official that it was imperative to set up the building before winter.

The official replied that he would take measures for mobilizing additional force in the province.

After pondering for some time, Kim Jong Il said that it might be a good idea but it was too late. He continued to say that he would dispatch the High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade. Then he asked if it was possible to set up the building and even finish the assembly of equipment in two months before October.

The official answered that he would initiate an intense campaign through concerted efforts with the youth shock brigade.

Kim Jong Il shook his head, and said that a mere increase in intensity could not make a solution. After asking the official to find a solution together with him, he was lost in thought with a pencil in his hand.

The official reported that he needed more heavy-duty cranes

and skilled assembly workers in order to ensure both the speed and technical requirements.

Kim Jong Il repeated the words *cranes* and *assembly workers* over and over again. Then he said in a convinced tone that the structure should be built through sliding shuttering concrete execution.

The official was surprised as the idea went far beyond his expectation.

Kim Jong Il said: Where there's a will, there's a way; if we set out to do so with audacity and determination, it is possible to build the structure or even larger buildings in such a way.

Thus, the serious obstacle to the project was removed.

At last, the massive project of Ore-dressing Plant No. 3 of the Komdok Mine was completed in a matter of one year.

In August 1983, Kim Il Sung personally visited the plant on Unryong Heights. He expressed great satisfaction, looking around the building for grinding mills and the crushing and screening mill that were soaring high into the sky, a large-scale floating mill, a long-distance conveyor belt and large and super-sized modern equipment laid out in the buildings. He declared that it was a miracle to have completed the project within a year and the plant was a great accomplishment of the movement to create the speed of the 1980s.

He continued to say: It also strongly demonstrated the might of our Party and our powerful industrialized nation; this is what we call the speed of the 1980s, and at this speed we can surely reach the

ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction ahead of schedule.

Instilling Faith in Self-reliance

At the turn of the 1980s, building of a large-capacity oxygen plant came to the fore in the DPRK as an indispensable part of the effort to save much electricity and fuel and boost production in the metal, chemical and several other industries of the national economy.

The large-capacity oxygen plant, a complicated set of equipment resembling a large factory, required a great number of modern facilities and state-of-the-art sci-tech achievements.

But before then, the producers had faced manifold difficulties. The biggest challenge was to manufacture its core component which was based on patent technology exclusive to a few countries. They held serious discussions on it but could not find an effective solution.

As the days passed, some thought that it was impossible to ensure its domestic production and suggested that it be imported to assemble the oxygen plant.

When an official reported him on this, Kim Jong Il said: It takes much effort and perseverance to make a simple machine tool; I don't think that the large-capacity oxygen plant, an apex of modern industry, would come so easy.

Lost in thought, he walked back and forth in the room and then

said in a convinced tone: What is important is that we should have firm confidence and courage that we must and can build it by our own efforts; only then can domestic production of the key part of the plant and its mass production be guaranteed.

Saying that he had so far given much thought to the problem, he informed the official of the data about the latest development in manufacturing oxygen plants in the developed countries. He also told him to call the general manager of the Ragwon Machine Complex and instil confidence in him that the key part of the oxygen plant must be developed on their own by bringing into full play the wisdom and strength of the complex's technicians, and that there was nothing mysterious or impossible for those with a single-minded determination.

Some days later, the working class of the complex heard another moving story from an official who had accompanied Kim Jong Il on his foreign visit in June that year.

One day, before he left for a place on his itinerary, Kim Jong Il called the official and said: It was an absolutely correct decision to build the oxygen plant by ourselves; in the struggle of creation and construction to display the might of Juche Korea, our fundamental stand is to make everything on our own; this is the only way we have to follow.

Then he told him some ways for producing major parts of the key part of the oxygen plant. He had been thinking hard about the problem even during his visit to the foreign country.

The workers made up their mind to build the oxygen plant by

themselves without fail.

Kim Jong Il's encouragement created another hot wind of struggle throughout the complex. But the success did not come easy. The failures were too numerous to mention.

Whenever they failed, he cheered them up, saying: The working class of Ragwon had never failed to carry out more difficult tasks set by President Kim Il Sung on their own; they will surely succeed in turning out the oxygen plant if they approach the work with an indomitable fighting spirit and mettle to carry through whatever our Party tasks them to do.

The inspired workers and technicians finally solved the demanding technological problems one by one and opened up bright prospects for building the oxygen plant.

Reported on this, Kim Jong Il visited the complex in October 1984.

Greeting the local officials, he said, **“I have come to see how you are getting on with the oxygen plant project. Are you through with its manufacturing?”**

“We have nearly finished it,” an official answered.

“Nearly finished?”

He repeated the words and expressed great satisfaction, saying that, as the saying goes, well begun is half done, and nearly finished means completed.

Then he asked again how many pieces of the equipment for the plant the complex could produce on its own.

An official answered, “We produce most of them, except a few

ones which are produced by joint efforts with other factories.”

Kim Jong Il expressed great admiration for their abilities.

The official guided him to the key part of the oxygen plant, which had been called by some foreigners a “patent technology.”

Watching the part carefully, he acquainted himself with its advantages and expressed great satisfaction.

“Wonderful. It is so precise. You made it all on your own.”

He had the equipment switched on and saw its operation. Then he said, **“You have really proven worthy of my trust. Worthy of my trust. Excellent. Really excellent!”**

He continued to say: You have never disassembled an oxygen plant, but you have built such precision equipment; it is truly a great feat and a revolution displaying once again the might of our country's industry.

The accompanying officials said that they had thought so far that the complex lacked the ability to solve many technological problems.

Kim Jong Il said that some people had not trusted in their strength of self-reliance but the workers were making an oxygen plant by themselves; in the past they produced hand grenades and water pumps from scratch and today they were building an oxygen plant actually with no help from others; the whole country should learn from their example and revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

In October 1985 large-capacity oxygen plant No. 1 was built on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’

Party of Korea.

It represented another radical innovation in the development of the country's machine industry and a great feat of creation achieved by faith in self-reliance cherished by Kim Jong Il.

In the 1980s, as he had done in the previous decade, Kim Jong Il energetically led socialist economic construction with an iron faith that the only way ahead was that of self-reliance and fortitude.

Great Trust

One day in mid-May 1984, Kim Jong Il was travelling on a train, lost in thought.

Several days before, he had visited the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Works, and found that the production of rolled steel was not steady due to lack of supply of a key component. They had said that a 10 000-ton press was needed to make it, which was unavailable in the country. They had claimed that they had no choice but to import it.

Kim Jong Il decided that a 10 000-ton press should be made at any cost. He was engrossed in thought day and night, and the working class of the Ryongsong Machine Complex was at the forefront of his mind. He felt confident that they could make the press if he called on them. His confidence came from his personal experience in the 1960s, when they had turned out a 6 000-ton press. At that time it had been quite a formidable task, so they had been

at a loss what to do first. But they had succeeded in building it in a matter of one year.

He got off the train and went to the Ryongsong Machine Complex.

On arrival, he directed his steps towards the press shop.

Seeing him unexpectedly at their workplace, the officials of the complex were simply excited without any idea of why he was there.

For a while he saw the 3 000-ton press working, before asking, **“What’s the material under the press for?”**

“They are for some parts of 6 000-ton presses,” replied one of the officials of the complex. And he added proudly that they were going to manufacture two 6 000-ton presses.

Kim Jong Il thought for a few seconds, and then said that he knew they needed 6 000-ton presses, and that he had come there not for that, saying: We needed a 6 000-ton press in the past, but now we need a 10 000-ton press; building such a press will be a demonstration of the economic potential of our country.

Only then did they realize why he paid an unexpected visit to their complex. And at the same time, they felt shocked at such a formidable task.

Casting a glance at them, Kim Jong Il asked them straightforwardly if they could build a 10 000-ton press.

They answered that they would build it.

Their reply was so confident that the officials accompanying Kim Jong Il were surprised, for they thought they were responding too easily to an uphill task.

4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation

As if he had already expected such a reply, Kim Jong Il said full of trust and confidence: I would like to ask you to make it without fail; we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Party next year, and I hope you will build the press as a gift to the anniversary.

The words again surprised his accompanying officials, for there were only a few countries around the world that could build 10 000-ton press at the time.

Only a little over a year is left until the 40th anniversary of Party founding. Would they manufacture such a giant machine by that time? If they did, it would literally be a miracle.

With confidence in the Ryongsong workers, Kim Jong Il made such a daring decision.

Encouraging them to build it without fail and saying that if they did, it would be a great deed, he resolved the problems arising in building it.

Before leaving the complex, he said in an encouraging, trustful voice with his fist held high, **“The Ryongsong Machine Complex is a powerful enterprise.”**

They proved themselves worthy of his trust. It was by no means easy, but a miracle was wrought at last; the 10 000-ton press was built and underwent a trial operation successfully in the run-up to the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Workers’ Party of Korea, within one year and three months.

On receiving the report, Kim Jong Il visited the complex one day in March 1986.

Welcoming him in a tearful voice, a senior official of the complex said, “You know we are going to instal the press at the Chollima Steel Complex soon. I wonder why you have travelled such a long way when you can see it there.”

Kim Jong Il said: I might feel comfortable that way; but the 10 000-ton press is something manufactured as a result of our trust in the Ryongsong workers; how could I let the press sent to Kangson without seeing the workers who have made it?

Presently he got to where the press was standing. He first met the workers and technicians who were in the manufacturing team. Shaking their hands, he said: I did not feel satisfied to see the photo of the press in the newspaper, which had been made by you workers of the Ryongsong Machine Complex in the spirit of self-reliance; moreover, I thought you might feel sorry if I go to see the press when it is placed at the Chollima Steel Complex. That is why I have found time to visit you today.

Casting a proud look at the press, he said with satisfaction: The 10 000-ton press looks more magnificent than it is in the photo; it is a monument to our times; the Ryongsong Machine Complex has made a praiseworthy achievement.

Remarkable Organizing Ability

The West Sea Barrage stands across the mouth of the Taedong River extending eight kilometres across the rough sea. It was built in a matter of five years.

The gigantic structure is representative of the outstanding leadership Kim Jong Il displayed while working a miracle by organizing and mobilizing the exertion of the people.

A ship left Nampho and sailed towards the West Sea of Korea on April 20, 1983. Aboard it was Kim Jong Il, who was standing in deep thought, the hem of his coat fluttering in the sea wind.

While leading the West Sea Barrage project, he had heard a report that an obstacle cropped up in the project.

In those days the world press raised doubt about whether the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a small country, could ever build a barrage of such a massive size, saying the country could hardly finish the project in a short period even though it did it one way or another.

We must build the barrage at all costs and we will carry it out without fail—this was Kim Jong Il's determination.

On arrival at the project site, he climbed the cofferdam which was extending towards the sea, and enjoyed a bird's eye view of the cofferdam and main dam under construction as well as a far-off prefab production site.

After praising the soldier builders for having done a great job, he stood in front of the operations plan for the project and heard from the relevant officials about the deployment of the labour forces for each of the major structures and the amount of work to be done to build the cofferdam, spillways and lock gates.

Hearing the explanation, he said he felt that there was something wrong with the organization and command of the project, and that they had missed the main target.

Then, he noted: Whenever I heard a report about the construction of the barrage, I felt like going to the site as the report had only mentioned how much had been done about the main dam. Now that I am here, I can see I was right.

Now he gave a conclusion about the major thrust areas of the project, saying: The major thrust areas in the Nampho Barrage (earlier name of the West Sea Barrage—Tr.) project are building the cofferdam, pumping the sea water out of it, and building the lock gates and spillways; what is most urgent right now is the building of the cofferdam; only when the cofferdam is built, can the lock gates and spillways be built; therefore, you should set the building of the cofferdam as the main target and concentrate the forces on it; then you can conduct an all-out campaign in a three-dimensional way.

He went on to say: Although the soldier builders are in high spirits and you have made some success in the project, you might exert a serious, irreversible impact on the overall project if you fail to ensure proper organization and command over it; you must renew

4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation

the organization of the construction and concentrate your forces on the main target.

An official told him about the method of building the cofferdam, much disputed among the experts.

After listening to him, Kim Jong Il said: You say those who deny the new method of construction base their argument on the result of the calculation of the hydraulic pressure; then, what is the basis of the argument of the advocates of the new method?

“They say they have consulted scientists and conducted hydraulic engineering test. Moreover, they say the People’s Army once carried out a project by applying the method, though on a small scale.”

“Then, their argument is reasonable, isn’t it?”

Saying that one of the important purposes of his visit this time was to discuss how to introduce the new engineering method, he continued:

We must always believe science. You say they have conducted a hydraulic experiment and also erected a cofferdam by the method although it was of a small size. Then, what makes you hesitate? The cofferdam will not crumble as the test and experience have shown. You had better make a calculation of the hydraulic pressure once again. Still, you should not delay the project. You should push ahead with the building of the cofferdam by the new method without vacillation. I support the new method.

Seeing the officials filled with confidence and courage, Kim Jong Il continued: Some weak-hearted people are afraid that the cofferdam might collapse, but when it is completed, it would be

advisable to organize a football match in it among the soldiers.

As if enjoying the sight of the game with his mind’s eye, he gave a hearty laugh.

In a period of less than a year after this, the soldiers completed building the cofferdam, pumped the sea water out and played a football match on the dry floor of the cofferdam amidst the roaring waves all around.

Elated that they had hit the main target of the project successfully, all the builders set out in the next stage of the project.

In April 1984 Kim Jong Il visited the construction site again.

Appreciating the feats of labour of the builders and instilling courage in them, he said he felt confident that the project could be finished at an early date.

Then, he asked the next-stage target and matters concerned with it, before taking appropriate measures.

These revolutionary measures generated a great momentum for the project.

Later, however, there cropped up an undesirable thing; as the project progressed a few months earlier than schedule, the supply of materials failed to keep pace.

On learning it from an official, Kim Jong Il reprimanded him for his failure to report it before, and said:

To supply materials and equipment to the barrage construction site is as important as it was for sending guns and shells to Height 1211 during the Fatherland Liberation War. Even under the arduous wartime conditions, we supplied shells and other kinds

4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation

of ammunitions without interruption to our fighters, and it doesn't stand to reason that we fail to supply materials and equipment to the barrage construction site under the prevailing condition. We should take a radical measure. Please tell the barrage builders not to slow down their offensive but push ahead as I will take the responsibility for the supply of materials and equipment.

He immediately called a senior official of the then Administration Council to inform him of the state of progress at the West Sea Barrage construction site, and asked him to call a consultative meeting of senior officials of commissions and ministries under the Administration Council, and those from related factories and enterprises in different provinces.

Thinking it would take time to make preparations for the meeting and call the provincial officials, the official answered that he would convene a meeting in Pyongyang and take relevant measures within a few days.

Kim Jong Il, sensing his attitude which had betrayed his unchanged slack manner of work, said: Even a day counts now as the service personnel and other builders are building the dam inch by inch in the ferocious sea; it is a battle without gunshot; it would be a good idea to issue an emergency order to convene the meeting tomorrow morning and at the barrage construction site instead of in Pyongyang.

Then, he told him to make an arrangement for the participants in the meeting to look round the construction site before they held the meeting.

Remarkable Organizing Ability

The next day officials from national agencies and other relevant officials looked round the construction site and held the meeting.

Seeing the service personnel heroically fighting with the ferocious sea, the officials were quite impressed, saying unanimously that it would be meaningless to have a meeting for days. They all voiced their pledge to supply the materials and equipment they were assigned to provide, without condition and as the top priority.

Later, the construction project got a stream of supplies provided by factories and enterprises from across the country, which led to a faster tempo of construction and finally to the final stage.

In September 1985 Kim Jong Il visited the construction site.

Around the time the final stage of the dam construction faced difficulties; as the last section got narrower, the current of water grew faster in speed and larger in amount; even a rock of a huge size would be swept away before it reached the sea bed.

Kim Jong Il suggested on the spot an idea for solving the problem, which later proved to be of decisive importance in bringing the project to victory.

Seven months later, that is, in April 1986 the builders finished the final stage of the damming, and soon completed the barrage project.

The Taedong River, which had emptied to the sea from time immemorial, was blocked and changed into a large lake, joining the city of Nampho and Unnyul County.

It was really something like a miracle.

Fruits of the Speed Campaign

The following facts show Kim Jong Il's art of leadership to run faster through the speed campaign.

It was when President Kim Il Sung proposed overhauling furnace No. 1 at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex to increase its production.

Determined to have the project completed through the speed campaign, in January 1986 Kim Jong Il called an official of the Party Central Committee, and said that the project should be implemented quickly.

The next day he called the official over the phone, and stressed the importance of the project, telling him that the project and expansion of the sintering furnace should be pushed ahead during winter so that molten iron could pour like a waterfall on the spring holiday, April 15, anniversary of birth of Kim Il Sung.

He immediately sent him to the project site. Then he learned in detail by telephone about the progress of the projects, giving his detailed opinions on them.

The officials, who had been overcautious until then, eventually made sure that the fire of the furnace was put out and dismantling it started.

On hearing about this, Kim Jong Il said: That is only the first step; what is important is to provide ordered equipment and materials; the

equipment and materials needed for the projects at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex should be supplied on a top priority basis; the overhauling project should be done in the way of dismantling the old furnace and simultaneously building a new one on another place, not in the way of dismantling the old one and then building a new one on its site.

So, ordered equipment were produced in various parts of the country, and transported by train to the project site; dismantling of the old furnace, manufacturing of equipment, transporting and assembling them were completed in 65 days.

At last, molten iron poured from the expanded furnace No. 1 on April 15.

Here is another example.

In May 1988 Kim Jong Il came to the Okryu Restaurant, and said: The Okryu Restaurant should be enlarged; once President Kim Il Sung looked at the Okryu Restaurant from a boat cruising on the Taedong River, and said that now it looked small and out of balance like a man without one arm, instructing that the restaurant should be enlarged.

He told the officials to start the project immediately and finish it at a lightning speed, saying that the expansion project of Kim Il Sung Stadium had been completed in three months, so the Okryu Restaurant could be enlarged in two months. He emphasized that the project should be finished by September 9, when the National Conference of Heroes was scheduled.

Then he asked an official,

“Can you finish the project by then?”

He had experienced through building many structures under Kim Jong Il’s guidance that, if the leader had decided to do something, he did it by all means. The official answered with confidence, “I can do it if the building materials are supplied.”

Kim Jong Il said with a smile,

“Don’t worry about the materials.”

Looking round the building site, he formulated an operations plan for the project.

In this way, a lightning campaign for enlarging the Okryu Restaurant started. Building walls was completed in 20 days, roofing by the next month, followed by the completion of complicated interior work and assembling of equipment.

At last, the project was completed successfully in two months.

In September Kim Jong Il came to the enlarged Okryu Restaurant, and said with satisfaction: We have so far built many, but this is the first time to build something in a short time at a high qualitative level.

Then he laughed, saying that nobody would believe that this project had been completed in two months.

The idea of speed campaign put forward by Kim Jong Il was a source of miracles made in all the sectors of socialist construction.

One day in February 1988, he called an official and said: We must make a breakthrough in implementing the Third Seven-Year Plan by launching another campaign in all sectors of socialist construction and celebrate the 40th founding anniversary of the DPRK as a grand

festival of victors; this is a decision of President Kim Il Sung as well as mine.

A few days later, the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee met and adopted a decision of the WPK Central Committee on launching a 200-day campaign, its letter addressed to all Party members and a series of slogans on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

The 200-day campaign was a grand economic construction struggle, the first of its kind in the 40-year history of socialist construction in the DPRK.

There had been 70-day and 100-day campaigns, but the 200-day campaign was incomparable to them in terms of period, scale and task, so a firm determination was essential for accomplishing the initial goals.

Kim Jong Il took measures for holding Partywide discussions of the letter and slogans from the Party Central Committee to arouse all the Party members, organizing competent guidance teams with Party officials and dispatching them across the country.

After launching the campaign in this way, he led the campaign, giving on-site guidance. He visited factories, construction sites and many other units in the days of the campaign.

Under his energetic leadership the campaign came to a successful conclusion.

The following is part of the press release by the Korean Central News Agency about the 200-day campaign: During the period of the campaign industrial output increased by 22% as compared to

4. In the Years of Creation and Transformation

the same period of last year; hundreds of factories and enterprises overfulfilled their yearly plans; in particular, capital construction projects, the major thrust area, registered peak year level since the founding of the DPRK; a firm guarantee for implementing this year's task and the Third Seven-Year Plan was provided in the overall sectors of economic construction.

In the course of leading socialist construction in the 1980s, Kim Jong Il displayed his extraordinary leadership abilities.

PROVIDING A SPRINGBOARD FOR PROSPERITY

Defending the Destiny of the Country / 111

Creating the Spirit Representative
of the Times / 117

Planting the Seeds of Prosperity / 125

In the mid-1990s the Democratic People's Republic of Korea experienced shocking events.

After an anti-socialist storm swept the world following the frustration of socialism in the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, President Kim Il Sung passed away in July 1994. And consecutive natural disasters and tenacious economic blockade by the hostile forces brought manifold difficulties to the Korean people.

It was at this time that the hostile forces were clamouring that the DPRK would collapse soon.

But the Korean people overcame the unspeakable hardships and trials on the strength of Songun.

Though the days were full of tears, which demanded their sweat, blood and even their lives, they defended their independent dignity and gained valuable experiences, providing a springboard for the construction of a powerful socialist country.

On this road, there was a factory which he visited after eating a bowl of gruel, the dawn when he said that catnap in a car was the best sleep, and the day when he went to the front line, seeing off the children going to camping.

He devoted his all to building a paradise of the people on the land which he defended on the strength of Songun.

Thanks to his devoted efforts, seeds for the revitalization of economic construction and improvement of the people's living

standards were sowed and sprouted, and the dawn of a prosperous nation broke.

Defending the Destiny of the Country

Kim Jong Il started his leadership of the revolutionary armed forces in August 1960. It was developed onto a new stage in the mid-1990s when the DPRK, in the face of many trials and difficulties, had to make critical political resolutions decisive of the destiny of the nation.

The times and the revolution compelled it to choose a road between the two—whether to take the road of giving precedence to the economy so as to surmount the difficulties in economic construction and the people's livelihood or to prioritize military affairs so as to defend the independent dignity of the country from the challenges by the hostile forces.

No country can defend its destiny without powerful military capabilities.

Therefore, it was clear that the DPRK must choose the road of defending its independent dignity.

But it was a hard decision to make because it presupposed aggravating the already-hard economic situation of the people.

In July 1994, the Korean people lost President Kim Il Sung unexpectedly, whom they had held in high esteem as the father of the nation.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

On top of that, heavy rains, drought, typhoons and tsunami hit the country one after another and the hostile forces intensified economic blockade and sanctions against it. All this worsened the economic life of the Korean people.

Taking advantage of the opportunity when the socialist market vanished in the wake of the collapse of socialism in eastern European countries, the hostile forces tightened their vicious economic isolation and blockade against it.

Everything—food, fuel, power and raw materials—was in short supply.

As the leader of the country, Kim Jong Il had to make a responsible decision about the future of the country and so he had to think a lot about the way for overcoming the difficulties.

Kim Jong Il believed that if today's difficulties were overcome, a better tomorrow would surely be guaranteed. This belief made him choose the road of giving precedence to military affairs.

Since then onwards, he administered his Songun-based leadership, or army-centred leadership, staunchly defending the country and socialism and opening up a bright future of a powerful socialist country in the face of the grim trials of the Korean revolution.

On the evening of December 31, 1994, Kim Jong Il visited a firing range in a suburb of Pyongyang.

After firing shots, Kim Jong Il paid tribute to Kim Il Sung preserved in his lifetime appearance at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace. Then, on January 1, 1995, he inspected the Dwarf-Pine Post.

From that day on Kim Jong Il devoted his all to strengthening

the national strength. Without relying on the Korean People's Army, it would be impossible to defend the country, the people and socialism; as long as the country exists, it is out of question to revitalize the economy; but if the army is weak, there would be neither the Party, the state, nor the people; Songun is the only guarantee for invincibility and victory—this was his faith and will.

But the road of Songun was not all plain sailing.

One day relevant officials brought Kim Jong Il a document on committing a large sum of money to strengthening the national strength.

Before signing it, Kim Jong Il said to the officials: It is very painful to make such a decision when the people are in a very difficult situation; such a time is the most agonizing for me; but the day when we emerge victorious, we will tell our people everything—why they had to tighten their belts; then they will understand.

Chol Pass in the forefront area far away from Pyongyang is now widely known as a historic place associated with the undying feats Kim Jong Il performed to defend the destiny of the country.

Since he crossed the pass in March 1996, he crossed it many times on his way to the front-line posts whether it was sultry or cold, whether it rained or snowed and whether it was daytime or night.

While crossing the pass, he racked his brains to work out the strategy for strengthening the national capability to defend the destiny of the country, sometimes jerking awake after he drifted off to short sleep owing to accumulated fatigue.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

He once said to the officials: I know well that the pass is steep and rugged and even a slip may mean a fall over a high cliff; but I often cross the pass because my men defending the front line over the pass are waiting for me, their Supreme Commander; do you know what they think while they spend night lying on their cold sentry posts? they think about me, their Supreme Commander, as they staunchly defend their front-line posts, enduring biting cold and steaming heat; why should I not visit them?

No one knew how many more times he would cross the pass.

Mt Osong now known as a symbol of his Songun-based leadership is a dangerous place because it is very near the enemy posts where heavy weapons and various kinds of combat equipment are concentrated.

The mountain is a dangerous place not only in military terms. It is one of the highest and most rugged heights along the front line. The road to its top is very steep with more than 150 sharp bends.

One day in August 1998, Kim Jong Il crossed it along the road which had been muddied because of heavy rains.

His car advanced along the treacherous road inch by inch up the cliffy mountain.

When the officials requested him to give up the attempt, he said: There are my soldiers on the height, so I have to go there and see them; the Supreme Commander should experience the challenges of the rough road to the front line in such bad weather if he is to learn how his soldiers are living.

Then, suddenly, his car began skidding downward.

At this critical moment Kim Jong Il got out and pushed the vehicle up the mountain.

At last they reached the command post.

Seeing the Supreme Commander in wet and muddy attire and his muddy car, the soldiers stood still with their eyes brimming with tears.

Later, Kim Jong Il said with deep emotion that the country could have been defended thanks to his Songun politics and Mt Osong, its symbol, and that he could not help shedding tears, being reminded of the trying years of the Arduous March and forced march just at the mention of the name of the mountain.

One day in November 1996, Kim Jong Il inspected Panmunjom, the forward post of severe confrontation.

At that time fierce negotiations were going on at Panmunjom for several months over an acute case.

Officials had tried to dissuade him from the inspection, but Kim Jong Il had dug his heels in, saying that he must go to see the soldiers defending Panmunjom.

Seeing their Supreme Commander getting out of his vehicle, the soldiers cheered in silence to welcome him, just jumping up and down, as the enemy was only a stone's throw away.

While shaking them by the hand, he said,

“Don't cry. You are the brave heroes of the August 18 Ax Incident. I have come here to see you.”

Trying to lighten the atmosphere, Kim Jong Il said that he felt as if their handshakes were breaking his hand and they were so tall

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

that it seemed all the basketball players in the country were there.

Then he looked around the monument bearing President Kim Il Sung's signature on a document on national reunification and various other places before having a photo taken with the soldiers.

The news of his inspection of Panmunjom astonished not only the Korean people but also the world.

Kim Jong Il once said to officials: You should know why I often inspect KPA units instead of giving field guidance at factories and rural communities when the country's economic situation is difficult; if we, preoccupied with the temporary economic difficulties facing us, had focused merely on solving them, we would have already perished.

Indeed, Kim Jong Il was always on the road of field guidance all the year round since he left the Kumsusan Memorial Palace on the early morning of New Year's Day. Thanks to his devoted efforts, the dawn of a powerful socialist country could be ushered in on this land.

One day officials told him that someone had summed up the distance of the journeys he had taken while administering Songun politics in the days of the Arduous March and forced march, and found that the total length was several times longer than the circumference of the earth.

At that time he said: I have never given a thought to the number of the units I inspected on the spot, and I have never conducted the inspection in pursuit of any fame or appraisal; I am on the road of inspection with a single mind to defend the independent dignity and

interests of the country and nation and to provide our people with the most abundant and civilized life in the world; if our country is prosperous and our people are well-off, I have nothing left to wish for; the witnesses of history will hand down to posterity how I devoted myself to the country and the people during the Arduous March.

Creating the Spirit Representative of the Times

Any era is judged by the spirit which prevails in that particular era. It is because the spirit representative of the times reflects the soul of the people who embody the spirit.

Then, how could the spirit of the Songun era, a new era, be created in the mid-1990s, a difficult period for the DPRK?

In order to break through the difficulties, a spirit representative of the new era together with firm resolution was needed with which to inspire the whole country.

Kim Jong Il thought that the spirit of Arduous March which was created in the most difficult period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle could play the role as such.

During the anti-Japanese war, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army commanded by Kim Il Sung had a march from Nanpaizi to Beidadingzi, Northeast China, in 1938. In the Korean history the march is called the Arduous March.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

In October 1996 Kim Jong Il said: To meet the demands of the prevailing situation and present developments, the Party has presented the slogan that cadres, Party members and other working people should live and work in the spirit of the Arduous March; this spirit is the staunch, undaunted revolutionary spirit which saved the Korean revolution and brought about a great upsurge in it during the severest period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle fought under the command of General Kim Il Sung.

In those days indescribable trials and hardships cropped up one after another in the way of the Korean people as if trying to test their willpower.

Everything was in short supply.

However, the soldiers of the Korean People's Army built the Anbyon Youth Power Station successfully.

One day in June 1996 he visited the power station.

He entered the knee-deep waterway tunnel by a car in spite of the officials' dissuasion, saying that he could visualize the spirit the soldiers had displayed in building the monumental structure only when he entered the waterway before its opening ceremony.

As his car advanced, letters written by the soldier-builders on the wall of the tunnel came in sight in the headlights. He looked at them immersed deep in thought.

The soldier-builders had waged a death-defying struggle to complete the project, shouting the slogan, "Let us not see the blue sky over the country until we have carried out the Supreme Commander's order!" When the tunnel had been filled with water

because of power failures, they had floated rafts and continued tunnelling work on them.

Kim Jong Il had already known all about this.

So he had wanted to enter the waterway tunnel all the more so and hug the soldiers in his embrace.

After looking round the power station, he said: The soldiers wrought a great miracle; they carried out my order without fail by braving all the difficulties; this is the revolutionary spirit of the Korean People's Army. And then he continued: Those who are daunted in the face of temporary difficulties should come and see this power station; through the visit they can learn from the spirit of regarding the Supreme Commander's orders as absolute and implementing them without fail, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, the noble examples of mass heroism and other elements of revolutionary spirit displayed by the soldiers.

Since then the revolutionary soldier spirit was given wide publicity and swept throughout the country, demonstrating its full might.

The whole country pulsating with the spirit, models were created in all fields of socialist economic construction.

While overcoming the hostile forces' harsh blockade against the DPRK, the Korean people consolidated their might, in the course of which another spirit representative of the new era was created.

It was the Kanggye spirit which injected fresh vigour into the whole country in its endeavour to conclude the Arduous March.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

Kanggye is the seat of the DPRK's northern province of Jagang.

The revolutionary faith in sure victory, the spirit of carrying out the revolutionary tasks at the risk of one's life, the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and revolutionary optimism were the nucleus that runs through the Kanggye spirit.

Self-reliance was the only way out for the Korean people for survival in the face of the daily-intensifying political and diplomatic pressure, military threat and economic blockade of the hostile forces against their country. But applying the principle of self-reliance was by no means easy.

An observer said that if the Korean people became dogs and grovelled, they would be provided with food and houses with small gardens to play in, though they might not be free to some extent as they were tethered to someone else.

However, no one of the Korean people wanted such a life. They unhesitatingly chose the road of self-reliance even if they knew that the road would be a difficult one, because they were firmly convinced that it would lead them to happiness.

In retrospect, the past successful advance of the Korean revolution was inconceivable apart from self-reliance. But it became a powerful sword in the period after the mid-1990s.

Reliance on foreign forces is the road to subjugation and national ruin; self-reliance alone is the road to defending the independence and achieving prosperity for a country and nation; the circumstances and conditions of the revolution may change as the times and history advance, but the principle of the revolution that one must

solve all problems by one's efforts with a whole-hearted belief in oneself can never change; self-reliance is the lifeline of the Korean revolution and the key to its victory and its imperishability—this was Kim Jong Il's firm belief.

He once said while looking back upon the past: **“After thinking much about how to bring the Arduous March to a victorious conclusion, I decided to shore up Jagang Province and make it a model unit.”**

In fact, designating the province as a model unit was a hard decision for him.

A largely mountainous region, the province has smaller area of farmland and unfavourable transportation conditions than its counterparts. All in all, it was an economically disadvantageous region. For this reason it was natural that the local people were suffering from severer hardships in those days.

However, Kim Jong Il made a decision to make a model of Jagang Province in the effort to break through the hardships and trials.

In doing so, he believed that, even though it was a place difficult to live in, all that would be created in it and their impact would be all the more impressive because there were revolutionary people and a large contingent of dependable working class there.

To make the province a model unit for concluding the Arduous March, Kim Jong Il paid closer attention to it more than ever before.

In the course of the struggle, the people of the province created a new militant spirit, or Kanggye spirit, which quickly spread across

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

the country, instilling in the Korean people the confidence that they could break through any trials and ordeals.

In the first six months' time the people of Jagang Province built or reconditioned dozens of medium and small-sized power stations, revitalized many local industry factories and introduced the electric heating and lighting systems in dwelling houses.

Even when they were building dams for power stations in freezing water while suffering from severe shortage of food, they were full of confidence and optimism.

Whereas the KPA soldiers struggled upholding the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!" their slogan was "Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!"

The following happened one later day when Kim Jong Il presided over a consultative meeting of officials of a province. As none of the officials could confidently say that the economic plan for the units in the province could be fulfilled, oppressive silence hung over the conference room. Kim Jong Il said that while the people of Jagang Province were breaking through trials full of optimism upholding the slogan "Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!" the officials present there sat helplessly, merely complaining about hard times, and advised them to put up the slogan in all the factories and enterprises and make redoubled efforts.

When he gave on-site guidance in Jagang Province in January 1998, he, saying that one should value time above one's health, visited many units travelling a long distance in the northern freezing cold of around 30 degrees below zero.

Looking round Jagang Province, Kim Jong Il was satisfied with the fact that the people of Jagang Province had done a great deal of work even under the difficult conditions of the Arduous March and set practical examples in supporting the Party. He defined the spirit of carrying out revolutionary tasks at the risk of one's life with unfailing loyalty to their leader, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, the indomitable fighting spirit and the spirit of revolutionary optimism as Kanggye spirit and put forward this spirit as the fighting spirit that the people across the country should acquire.

Later on, he visited the province several times and encouraged the officials there, saying that they had proved that his plan and choice were right and, by doing so, made him convinced that if the rest of the country took their cue from the province, it would be possible to overcome the current difficulties.

One day when he gave field guidance in Jagang Province, he dropped in at the switchboard room of a power station built in Songgan County.

On learning that all the pieces of equipment there were domestic products, he said with a hearty laugh that this represented "our style."

One day in the winter of 1998 he visited an enterprise.

There is a story behind his visit.

The enterprise had been on his visiting list. But when he had headed for it a few days before, officials had said that it was failing to run as it should and suggested that he drop the visit.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

This had been weighing on his mind heavily.

So, that day, he insisted on going to the enterprise, saying: As a Korean saying goes, a maimed child is dearer to its parents; I have to visit it; I was told that its Party secretary and manager are to be given a disciplinary penalty; I want to meet them and have their penalty remitted, if possible.

On learning that all the machines of the modern automatic assembly lines at the production site had been made by the enterprise itself, he said with satisfaction that there was no piece of imported equipment there; and that he was delighted that all of them were made by dint of the spirit of self-reliance.

When the officials of the enterprise apologized for their failure to carry out their production quota, he encouraged them to work harder in the future, saying that they were not only ones to blame for the failure.

Hearing him, the officials were moved to tears.

He said soothingly that crying was unbecoming to the strong-willed working-class members and he would ensure the supply of materials and solve knotty problems of the enterprise so that it could operate at its full capacity, and praised them for having spruced up their factory, saying that it was as wonderful as the holiday camps in Mts Kumgang and Chilbo. He continued: I do not have a souvenir photograph taken when I visit a factory or enterprise which have not fulfilled its production quota; but I will have one taken with you as I believe that you will carry out your production plan for this year without fail.

Looking back upon the days of his on-site guidance in Jagang Province, Kim Jong Il once said:

“Looking back, it was the Kanggye spirit which gave the greatest encouragement to me during the Arduous March. It gave me strength and support in the most trying period of our revolution and enabled our people to conclude the Arduous March and forced march with victory. I will not forget the Kanggye spirit for ever.”

During the Arduous March and forced march all the Korean people had Kanggye and Jagang Province in their minds and people everywhere talked about the Kanggye spirit. The spirit gave birth to a new spirit of the times and stoked up the flames of struggle throughout the country, ushering in a great era of building a powerful socialist country.

Planting the Seeds of Prosperity

The fruits of the Arduous March and forced march were great, indeed.

During the most difficult period, large, medium and small-sized hydropower stations were built across the country following the construction of the Anbyon Youth Power Station.

The Juche-based system of iron making was established in the metallurgical industry, small patches of paddy fields were realigned into standardized ones through gigantic land realignment projects,

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

and large-scale gravitational waterways were built.

Flames of a revolution in potato farming were kindled in Taehongdan County, Ryanggang Province, and the experiences of double and triple cropping were gained all over the country.

And the February 8 Vinalon Complex, where Kim Jong Il had said he was at a loss what to do when he first visited it, and that the officials of the complex would also have been of the same feeling when he gave them the task for its renovation, began to produce vinalon again in February 2010.

South Hamgyong Province perfected a Korean-style technology in the production of magnesia clinker and opened up a bright prospect for the domestic production of fertilizer, thus kindling a new flame of upsurge.

Kangwon Province built many edifices in succession, including the Wonsan Youth Power Station and Wonsan Stockbreeding Farm, and North Phyongan Province completed the Taegyedo tideland reclamation, a project called the miracle of Taegyedo.

Witnessing the miraculous events, all the people were pleased, saying that blessings were coming one after another.

Kim Jong Il continued to make devoted efforts for the people in 2011.

On March 10, 2011, he gave on-the-spot guidance at the Hamhung Woolen Textile Mill.

After looking around the mill, he said: Today I feel very satisfied; last year the February 8 Vinalon Complex brought about a great event for the country by producing vinalon again after 16 years and

this mill is producing vinalon cloth again after 17 years.

Before leaving the mill, he told the officials that the mill should produce vinalon products in large amounts to supply them to shops, and that when they went to the shops they could know how much quality goods the mill had produced. Then he promised that next time he would go to a shop selling vinalon products from the mill.

When the praise for and popularity of the *Ponghwa*-brand soap were growing among the women in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Il gave field guidance at the Ponghwa Soap Factory in May 2011.

An official said to him that the Pyongyang citizens loved to use the *Ponghwa*-brand laundry soap as it lathered well.

On hearing his words, Kim Jong Il said: The Ponghwa Soap Factory should wage a vigorous struggle to further improve the quality of its products in keeping with the global trend in the new century and the steadily growing cultural and living standards of the people and increase their production more rapidly.

In order to have the units in the light industry sector compete with one another, further increase the quality of consumer goods amidst the competition and thus make a positive contribution to improving the people's living standards, he took a measure for holding the Second Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 Goods Exhibition.

And in July he looked around the exhibition.

He made the rounds of every counter, concerning himself with each of the goods and their indexes. And he gave tasks to be tackled

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

in commercial service activities, including providing commodities. He continued that he would come to the department store to look around it any time in the future.

In 2011 the light industry sector raised the fierce flames of leap forward and innovation, thanks to the devotion and painstaking efforts of Kim Jong Il, who set the improvement of the people's living standards as a matter of his primary concern and the ultimate goal of his struggle and was always on the road of field guidance all the year round from the outset of the new year while finding his pleasure in the greater happiness of the people.

With a view to solving the food problem of the people, Kim Jong Il visited cooperative farms, fish farms, fruit farms and duck farms throughout the year 2011.

In March 2011, he visited the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute.

Looking at the newly-developed high-yielding vegetable species on display, he said that it seemed that all the good species of vegetables could be found here, that it was really great, and that he felt as if he were in a green grocery. He suddenly asked officials if there was broccoli.

When he heard from an official of the institute that they had no broccoli yet, Kim Jong Il said that foreigners call it a vitamin complex preparation and are fond of eating it, asking him to purchase its seeds and cultivate them widely.

In October 2011, he visited the Tongbong Cooperative Farm in Hamju County.

He learned in detail the work of the farm; it had implemented its plan of grain production even though the percentage of sunshine was lower and it was colder than any previous years, built new public facilities and houses and began to use methane gas in the previous year, and continued to introduce methane gas into houses that year.

He said the farm had done a good job.

It is imperative for the cooperative farms on the east coast to take thoroughgoing measures for overcoming unfavourable climatic conditions in order to raise good crops, he said, clarifying the ways to solve the problems arising in increasing grain production.

Visiting the Ryongjon Fruit Farm in May 2011, Kim Jong Il expressed great satisfaction, saying that the farm had achieved great successes. Then, he asked what was the difference between the farm and the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm.

An official answered noncommittally, "We don't lag behind in the fruit growing techniques, but our farm is smaller in area."

The voice sounded somewhat timid.

Agreeing with him, Kim Jong Il said that the area of this fruit farm was 230 hectares while the area of the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm was 1 000 hectares.

He then continued: An apple research institute should be built here; there are many scientific and technical problems to be solved in apple farming, such as introducing superior species from other countries that are advanced in fruit farming, including the European countries, acclimatizing them to the climate and soil of our country

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

and propagating them and preserving the characteristics and unique tastes of the species that have already been introduced.

Before leaving, he said that they should compete with the Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm in improving the apple's taste, not in increasing the area under cultivation.

His ardent love for his people never changed even when he was far away from his country.

In 2011, the last year of his life, he visited China and Siberia and Far East of Russia.

Having visited China several times before, this time, too, he paid close attention to the problems related with people's living wherever he went while strengthening ties of friendship between the two countries.

On the first day of his visit to China in May that year, a banquet was arranged in honour of him.

Earlier that day, after looking round Lake Jingbo, he went to a farm in Mudanjiang by car for three hours, and made a round of the farm and a dairy farm run by it.

After listening to the general explanation of the farm at its administration building, he visited the house of a young couple.

He asked the host and hostess several questions, such as how many their family members were, how large the house was, how much the house cost and if the methane gas system for cooking worked well.

He then visited the dairy farm.

His inquiry into its production and management was detailed.

“What kind of milch cow do you raise?”

“We breed Holstein cows from Australia.”

“How much is the unit of daily fodder for a cow?”

“A cow eats 20kg and produces 30kg of milk.”

“20kg of fodder and 30kg of milk?”

Kim Jong Il dubiously looked at the Chinese official.

The official realized his mistake.

“Every day a cow eats 30kg, not 20kg, and produces 20kg of milk, not 30kg. And 10kg are grain fodder.”

But he failed to realize that he answered contrary to the intention of the DPRK leader; the latter was asking about the fodder unit but he had answered about the fodder quantity.

Not caring about it, Kim Jong Il smiled and continued the talk.

Other questions were how they achieved extended reproduction, how much the percentage of selection was and what they used for grain fodder.

And then he said: This dairy farm can be said to be operated thoroughly through the food production cycle.

That evening at the height of the banquet held in a hotel in Mudanjiang, Kim Jong Il suddenly said to the secretary of the provincial committee of the Communist Party of China: I failed to ask one thing while visiting the farm house; how does the farm supply heat? is it an electrical heating system?

At the question unexpected in the festive mood of the banquet, the Chinese official looked puzzled for a moment, and, moved by the Korean leader's care for the people's living, answered.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

“It is not an electrical heating system. There is a 6 000kW methane gas power station behind the dairy farm. They supply heat to every farm house by producing steam with the heat produced by the power station.”

Kim Jong Il nodded his head, saying that it was a good experience.

The following happened in Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province in the Huadong region of China.

The city, on the shore of the Grand Canal joining the Changjiang and the northern and southern areas of China, is one of the famous tourist resorts.

In particular, Lake Shouxi, though not large, is a scenic masterpiece.

The artificial lake, whose name denotes a cute and beautiful lady, had been visited by successive emperors of China; Emperor Qianlong of the Qing dynasty had been there six times.

President Kim Il Sung had gone on an excursion to the lake aboard *Qianlong* while visiting China.

Chinese officials planned to invite Kim Jong Il to the lake and made preparations for it with all sincerity—pulling out all the wooden railings so that a battery car could run, laying out beautiful flower beds and suspending visits by tourists.

Kim Jong Il, however, sent officials accompanying him for the excursion, and he himself visited a supermarket, which was not included in his itinerary.

Looking round every stand in the crowded market, he learned good experiences, which could help improve his people’s living

standards.

When he said that he wanted to see the cooking oil stand on the second floor, officials were surprised as he had finished looking round all the stands on the floor.

At the stand, he asked what kind of cooking oil the local people enjoyed eating.

The woman secretary of the city Party committee answered that it was soya bean oil.

Holding up a bottle of the oil, he asked if it was refined and what its brand was.

Although the lake, a must for every visitor to Yangzhou, was awaiting him, he had turned his steps towards a supermarket for the improvement of the living standards of his beloved people.

That evening and the next morning, when he was leaving the city, the secretary of the city Party committee expressed her regret for failing to take him to the lake, but he said that when he would be visiting China in the future, he would come to Yangzhou to see the lake.

When the train was running to Beijing, a state councillor of China, too, expressed the regret.

Kim Jong Il replied: I failed to see Lake Shouxi this time; then there could be an excuse for me to go to Yangzhou again next time.

The following happened during his visit to Russia in August.

One day an item of his schedule was a visit to a folk museum. But, saying that learning the living standards of the general public in Russia was more important, he changed the schedule—to the large

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

supermarket *Megatitan*.

As the schedule was changed suddenly, the supermarket was crowded with people buying goods.

Looking around the market with them, he learned from the Russian officials the supply and sale of goods.

Standing in front of a cooking oil stand, he asked how many kinds of oil they were selling. Recalling that when he had been visiting China in May last he had found a market selling more than 20 kinds of cooking oil, he asked what kinds of oil they failed to satisfy the demands for.

His questions continued as he looked around stands—if the goods are produced at home or imported, if they sell live fishes, how much the daily demand for bread is and, if the bread runs short, what measures are taken, how many people come to the market a day, how much is the amount of the goods sold a day, and how much is the yearly income of the market.

Officials of Russia were deeply impressed as they realized that the DPRK leader was paying close attention to commercial service for the living of his people, not out of curiosity.

There were only his people in his heart, and even on a foreign visit he thought of only one goal—improving the people’s standard of living.

In December, the last days of his life, he visited the Hana Music Information Centre and the Kwangbok Area Supermarket. At around 21:00, December 16, 2011, Kim Jong Il had measures taken for supplying the Pyongyang citizens with imported fish and set

off again by train on his on-site guidance trip. As ever, it was an unstoppable journey of devotion to the people.

* * *

At noon on December 19, the Korean Central TV and radio broadcast special news:

“We inform with the bitterest feeling that the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il passed away from a sudden illness at 08:30 on December 17, Juche 100 (2011) on his way for on-site guidance.”

The news left all the people in shock.

They felt as if the earth burst into convulsive fits of sobbing.

This space of the book is not enough for recounting the scenes unfolded in those days, but the following is enough for telling the sorrowful minds of the Korean people.

On December 28, people lined up along the 40-km-long roads to bid their last farewell to Kim Jong Il.

Their eyes were bloodshot, for they had failed to fall asleep all night.

The snow fell down silently.

At that time the hearse entered the snowy route.

Suddenly all the people burst into wailing.

In spite of themselves, they made steps forward and surrounded the funeral motorcade.

No force could stop them, and nobody could control them.

5. Providing a Springboard for Prosperity

The Korean people, who had spoken with one voice and walked with the same gait, attracting the world admiration, dispersed like a huge surge broken on the rocks, and blocked the way.

The funeral motorcade that managed to push its way through the crowd had to face the same situation.

In the end, it was divided into several groups.

As Kim Jong Il had been among them and devoted his all for them, the people could not depart from him so easily.

For this reason, December 28 was for them not a day when they bade last farewell to him but the day when he returned to them.

Kim Jong Il, who was born into the family of guerrillas and was among the people as their son all his life, lives in the hearts of the Korean people as their leader.

THE PEOPLE'S LEADER

Written by Kim In Chol

Edited by An Chol Gang, Jang Hyang Ok

Translated by Cha Kwang Hyok, Choe Kyong Nam,
Choe Kwang

Published by Foreign Languages Publishing House,
DPR Korea

Issued in February Juche 111 (2022)

E-mail: flph@star-co.net.kp

<http://www.korean-books.com.kp>

Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
Juche 111 (2022)

ISBN 978-9946-0-2107-2



9 789946 021072 >

