

## **DPRK: Towards a Sci-Tech Power**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is striving to make all its people well-versed in science and technology.

By making all the people well-versed in science and technology, it means preparing all the members of society to be intelligent workers with the intellectual level of a university graduate, who are in direct charge of developing science and technology.

This is, indeed, an ambitious plan. Many countries are directing their efforts to training talented personnel, but it does not embrace the broad sections of the working masses. This is beyond their reach.

Then, is it possible in the DPRK?

The country has all the conditions and environment for ensuring that all its people are well-versed in science and technology.

First, a universal 12-year compulsory education is now in force in the country. Introduction of this high-level compulsory secondary education is an essential prerequisite for raising the overall intellectual and cultural standards of its society and preparing all its people to be talented in science and technology.

Second, a well-regulated study-while-you-work system is established. The system consists of distance education given by regular institutions of tertiary education and factory, farm and fishermen's colleges in various parts of the country. Distance education by many universities including Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology is very popular, and the numbers of its subjects and applicants are increasing day by day.

Third, social educational establishments are well furnished. All organs including factories and farms have sci-tech learning spaces, and Mirae digital libraries are set up in every province, city and county, so that everyone can learn the latest knowledge of science and technology to their heart's content.

The focal point in making all the people well-versed in science and technology is the Sci-Tech Complex. This splendid architectural structure, built recently on Ssuk Island on the picturesque Taedong River in Pyongyang, has exhibits that can be controlled, felt or operated at different indoor halls like basic sci-tech hall, applied sci-tech hall, earthquake experience room and virtual science lab. These halls are equipped with touch-screen computers, projectors and other latest facilities. The sci-tech learning and reading areas are distributed appropriately. The future energy area and scientific recreational area lead people to the world of scientific thinking and exploration. Playing the role of a comprehensive e-library, it gives people easy access to the sci-tech books published in the past and the latest achievements of science and technology made

in the DPRK and other countries.

The greatest guarantee for ensuring that all the people are well-versed in science and technology in the DPRK is the policy of prioritizing science and technology enforced by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and the national leader.

Supreme leader Kim Jong Un advanced building the country into a sci-tech power as a primary objective for the people in their efforts to build a powerful socialist country. He said that an important task for it was to value talented personnel and ensure that all the people are well-versed in science and technology. And he continued: To this end, a nationwide network should be established centring on the Sci-Tech Complex, a great temple of learning for all the people and a multifunctional hub for the diffusion of scientific and technological knowledge, so that new scientific and technological materials can flow from the centre down to the lowest level; institutions, enterprises, factories and cooperative farms need to connect their sci-tech learning spaces to the Sci-Tech Complex online and operate them properly in order to help the working people raise their level of scientific and technological knowledge and make a positive contribution to the technological development of their respective units.

Kim Jong Un's concern for making all the people well-versed in science and technology can be seen from his activities related with the Sci-Tech Complex. After proposing its construction, in June 2014 he personally designated its site on Ssuk Island on the Taedong River, and declared that the island, not widely known until then, was to be turned into an island of science. Busy as he was leading all the sectors of the country, he personally went over its formation plan and frequently acquainted himself with the progress of the construction project, resolving all the problems arising in the construction. In February 2015, despite the biting winter cold, he visited the construction site to encourage the builders. Thanks to his close concern and energetic guidance, an architectural structure of the world standards was built in just over a year. On the first day of 2016, he attended its inauguration ceremony and declared its opening. At that time, he stressed that the complex should be operated effectively so that it can make a great contribution to making all the people well-versed in science and technology and to turning the country into a sci-tech power, a talent power.

Whenever he gives on-site guidance at factories and enterprises, he never fails to look round their sci-tech learning spaces and emphasize that they should be operated properly to prepare all the working people to be talented in science and technology.

Making all the people well-versed in science and technology in the DPRK will be crowned with success, and the country will emerge as a sci-tech power, a powerful socialist country, in the near future.