



# BULLETIN

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## Kim Jong Il: People's Leader

**Kim Jong Il** (1942-2011), eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was a genuine people's leader who firmly believed in his people and led his country by relying on them.

He loved his people infinitely. His love for his people found expression in his endless devotion to their wellbeing while regarding them as the most precious and almighty beings in the world and versatile teachers. People's interests were always the starting point of his thinking and activities. Whenever a new structure was built or an undertaking was finished, he would ask first if the people liked it; whenever the people experienced a trouble, he would feel heart-broken at the thought of their inconvenience.

When on a foreign tour, he would concern himself with the wellbeing of his people. A Russian presidential delegate, who had accompanied him during his visit to the Russian federation, wrote in his book: Chairman **Kim Jong Il** was a leader who devoted all his passion and thoughts to the happiness of his people.

Protecting and taking care of the people's destiny on his responsibility was the acme of his love for his people. He remarkably strengthened the defence capability of his country, thus firmly safeguarding the security of the people from the nuclear threat and military aggression by the US. His raising the status of the DPRK to that of a nuclear state was a historic event that guaranteed the everlasting security of the people as well as the regional peace.

**Kim Jong Il** was always unconventional, simple and modest in front of the people. Always regarding himself as a son of the working people, he shared weal and woe with them; he would go to the people wearing causal wear and eating rice-balls; he went to underground faces and walked along farmroads; when he met people, he would lend an attentive ear to them. And wherever he may go, he used to pose for a photograph with the people, standing shoulder to shoulder with them. He once accepted willingly a countrywoman's request to name her child which was due.

With his outstanding leadership ability, **Kim Jong Il** pushed his way through the trials of the history and turned the DPRK into a genuine people-centred socialist country.

On one occasion he said: While capitalists believe in the money, I believe in the strength of the masses; money cannot move people's minds, but trust can arouse the

masses of the people and encourage them to display their strength to the full; this is my philosophy of strength.

These words offer a glimpse of how the unique single-hearted unity in Korea had been achieved.

Entering the 1990s, the DPRK faced temporary hardships owing to the collapse of the world socialist system, the extreme moves of the US and its followers to stifle the country and the natural disasters that hit it for several consecutive years. At that time, he got over all the difficulties on the strength of the single-hearted unity; as anti-socialist schemes by the US and its followers grew more undisguised, he led all the people to cherish a firm belief in the victory of socialism and aroused them to the struggle for defending socialism, braving the obstacles with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude; he himself visited factories, rural villages and construction sites, giving advices on how to break through the ordeals.

He unfolded an ambitious blueprint for building a powerful socialist country and aroused the people to the struggle. Looking far ahead into the future in the most arduous days, he gave precedence to the introduction of CNC technology into the

machine-building industry. He created a climate of prioritizing science and technology throughout the country and kindled the flames of the industrial revolution in the new century, so as to put the overall economy of the country on a Juche-oriented and modern basis. He led the projects that demanded enormous investment and manpower like large-scale land realignment, gravitational waterway construction and construction of small and medium-sized power stations by enlisting the people's high creative enthusiasm and unquenchable strength. Under his wise leadership, the Korean people braved every manner of trials and hardships and opened wide the way for building a powerful socialist country.

The noble image of **Kim Jong Il** as a genuine people's leader will remain for ever in the minds of the Korean people and the progressive peoples of the whole world.

## **Kimjongilia and the World**

Thirty years have passed since Kimjongilia was born, a flowering plant named after **Kim Jong Il**, eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### **Birth of Kimjongilia**

Kimjongilia is a flower bred by Kamo Mototeru, a Japanese horticulturist, by cross-breeding a variety of plants of South American origin. Plants of the tuberous begonia species grow in the vast areas of the tropics and subtropics and its species number 2 300, but no species is more unique than Kimjongilia.

Mototeru who had heard legendary tales of President **Kim Il Sung** of the DPRK from his mother in his early years read a lot of books on the country with unusual

interest and passion. During a visit to the DPRK he witnessed the ever-changing reality of the country in person. In those days he was very impressed by the wise leadership, warm love and lofty virtue of President **Kim Il Sung** and Chairman **Kim Jong Il** who were taking care of the people with maternal affection and bringing all their wishes into full bloom.

When he heard that Kimilsungia had been born in 1965 out of the boundless respect of the Indonesian people for President **Kim Il Sung**, he made up his mind to breed a flower that would be named after **Kim Jong Il**, another peerlessly great man, who was leading Juche Korea to prosperity.

He deepened his study of the tuberous begonia which he had been cultivating with great interest and finally succeeded in breeding a new species of the tuberous begonia, whose flowers as red as a blazing sun are in full bloom for over four months.

He presented it to **Kim Jong Il** in February 1988 on the occasion of the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the latter's birthday, together with a letter, in which he wrote, "I send you the tuberous begonia I bred with sincerity to congratulate Your Excellency on your 46<sup>th</sup> birthday, and hoping for friendship between Japan and Korea. I ventured to name my plant after Your Excellency's august name, as Kimjongilia, wishing you a long life in good health and a bright future of prosperity and development. If you allow me to present this plant to Your Excellency, I will take it as honour more than I deserve."

### **King of Flowers, Fascination of Humankind**

Kimjongilia aroused a wave of passion in the world horticultural circles and a wave of jubilation in the minds of humankind.

In February 1989 a festival of political songs was held in Germany. Kimjongilia appeared on a flat-screen display in the festival arena. The deep red petals, large flower filling a flowerpot to its brim, a thick stem holding up the flower, heart-shaped green leaves—all these raised a storm of cheers and applause. Voices of praise rang out. "It is the first time for me to see such a brilliant, beautiful and charming flower," "Kimjongilia outshines other flowers in the world," and "It is a source of pleasure and pride for humankind that this flower was born."

Later, the flower demonstrated its beauty at international horticultural expositions and flower shows—special prize and the gold medal at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Horticultural Show held in former Czechoslovakia in May 1991; the optimal award in a horticultural exposition held in Jilin, China, in August 1997; Grand Prize and its diploma at the Kunming International Horticultural Exposition in China in 1999, a highest level of flower exposition in the world; the first place and ribbon at a begonia show held in California, the US, in August 2004; and optimal awards at the International Horticultural Exposition held in Shenyang, China, in 2006, the International Horticultural Exposition in Venlo, the Netherlands, in 2012, and the International Flower Show held in Mongolia in 2014.

On the authorization of the International Society for Horticultural Science, the American Begonia Society deliberated the species characteristics and horticultural

value of Kimjongilia and registered it as new species No. 991 in 2004. Introducing the flower in its journal *Begonia*, it highlighted that the flower was named after General Kim Jong Il of the DPRK.

Fascination of humankind with Kimjongilia raised a hot wind of cultivating it.

Formation in 1995 of the Nordic Kimjongilia Association in Sweden was followed by the opening of Kimjongilia greenhouses and establishment of numerous associations and fanciers societies in China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Japan, Ethiopia and other countries and regions of the world.

Many foreign visitors from over 100 countries to the DPRK returned home with tuberous roots of Kimjongilia and over 100 rounds of shows of this flower took place in foreign countries.

It is not simply because of its unique beauty that the flower enjoys fascination of the peoples the world over. It is an expression of genuine respect and reverence of humankind for **Kim Jong Il**, who is still regarded in the international community as one of the most famous persons in the world.

