

Kim Jong Un and His Economic Strategy

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is making a rapid progress in its economic development even under the harsh economic sanctions imposed by the hostile forces. Expressing a surprise at this, the Korea watchers and world media call it a "miracle." This is fruition of the economic strategy of Kim Jong Un, the Supreme Leader of the country.

Resolving the problems, arising in developing the economy, by relying on the spirit of independence and creativity of the people and on science and technology is a principle Kim Jong Un consistently adheres to in implementing his economic strategy.

Reinforcing the self-supporting character, the Juche character, of the economy occupies an important place in his economic strategy. The DPRK is striving to obtain raw materials, fuel and equipment domestically. Production and technological processes for obtaining raw materials and fuel of strategic importance from domestic resources are being set up one after another. A typical example is the installing of oxygen-blown converter and oxygen-blown blast furnace at the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes, leading iron and steel works in the country.

The converter and furnace do not demand coking coal and scrap iron. Having already set up the line of producing fertilizer through coal gasification in the chemical industry, the country is now taking proactive measures for developing the glauberite industry and synthetic fibre industry.

Construction of large-scale hydroelectric power stations is under way to solve the problem of the shortage of electricity, and utilization of various energy sources including natural energy is being promoted without letup. On the other hand, efforts are being made to increase cereal production in a sustained way.

The DPRK is now capable of manufacturing modern subway train, trolley bus, tram, truck, tractor and various farm machinery as well as various machine tools like CNC machines. It is renovating the industrial enterprises with indigenous equipment; a large footwear factory in the capital city of Pyongyang, renovated recently, is equipped with 1600 indigenous machines of 87 kinds; they occupy over 87% of the total number of the factory's machinery.

Another important element in Kim Jong Un's economic strategy is converting the country's economy into knowledge-driven economy by stepping up the work of putting it on a modern, IT footing.

Today many factories in the country have put their production lines on an automated footing.

A cosmetics factory in the northern part has built an integrated system for conducting production and management activities on a scientific basis; it has introduced automated and flowline equipment and created a germ-free and dust-free environment for production, and most of the necessary machinery is home-made.

Science and technology are now being brought closer to production. Universities and research organs are being turned into bases for developing and

producing state-of-the-art products, and industrial enterprises are making their production and technical management processes development-and creation-oriented. IT industry, nanotechnology and bioengineering are giving a strong impetus to the economic development.

Orienting the economic development towards providing conditions for the people's rich and civilized life is another important part of Kim Jong Un's economic strategy.

The country resolves all the problems in developing the economy with the people's demands and interests as the yardstick. The branches of the economy that directly serve for promoting the people's wellbeing are given top priority; the shop counters are filled with indigenous goods; aquatic culture is developing; and the numbers of mushroom and vegetable greenhouses are increasing. Construction projects like developing a northern county into a typical modern mountainous city and a coastal area into a tourist destination are under way.

This strategy will surely prove valid in the country's struggle to build itself into a powerful socialist country.

Kim Jong Un's First Foreign Tour in the New Year

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea visited China at the beginning of this year. This was publicized as his first political schedule of the new year.

With regard to this unusual event, political analysts expressed their specific views. According to them, Kim Jong Un's diplomacy has the following characteristics:

First, the DPRK leader's diplomatic activities are aimed at achieving the strategic goal of ensuring durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

Détente now prevails on the peninsula, largely thanks to the leader's peace-loving stand. Last year he agreed to a DPRK-US summit in Singapore, in reflection of the unanimous desire of the peoples in both countries for living in a peaceful environment free from nuclear threat, and also on the premise of a switch in the US policy of hostility towards the DPRK.

There may be diverse ways of guaranteeing peace on the peninsula. Yet the DPRK and the US are not on good terms with each other, but during his recent visit to China, Kim Jong Un said that he was steadfast in his basic standpoint-seeking denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, faithfully implementing the joint statement adopted at the Singapore summit meeting and pushing for peaceful solution through dialogue. Proceeding from these principles, he and his Chinese counterpart reached agreement on steering situation in the peninsula along the right track to find a final, peaceful solution to the Korean peninsula nuclear issue in conformity with the interests of various neighbouring countries and the international community as a whole.

The DPRK leader's official visit to China was a clear manifestation of this invariable standpoint and, at the same time, a message demanding that the US adopt a sincere attitude towards the joint statement. It was indeed a demonstration

of his consistent peace-loving stand in the eyes of the world.

Second, Kim Jong Un prioritizes practical outcome rather than form's sake.

Last year he visited China three times in less than 90 days, and paid another visit to the neighbouring country at the outset of the new year. Judging from this exceptional programme, it is obvious that his principle of diplomacy is to have a serious discussion with any statesman, at any time and in any place, if necessary.

As commented by the world media, Kim Jong Un's diplomacy is oriented towards actual results; in other words, he is a purposeful leader who does not restrict himself to formalities.

His recent China visit has proved once again that he is a master of diplomacy.

He made this official tour when the three countries-the DPRK, China and the US-are at a crucial juncture in terms of relationship, and the "first political schedule of the new year" was highlighted through the mass media. If the US ratchets up its sanctions against the DPRK and brings harsher pressure to bear upon it, the world will vehemently denounce it for obstructing the peaceful settlement of the Korean peninsula issue. Or if it loses time by clinging to an insincere attitude as it does now, it will have less say in resolving the above issue because the DPRK-China relationship will develop further from its current strategic stage.

Time will tell that many analysts are right in saying that the situation in the Korean peninsula will develop as intended by the DPRK leader.