

Kim Jong Il and 2011

Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), eternal chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was the great leader of the people who devoted his all to the prosperity of the country and people's happiness throughout his whole life.

In his lifetime he visited over 14 290 units, the total distance of his field guidance trips exceeding 669 840km.

Even in 2011, the last year of his life, he visited many units ranging from light industry factories in the capital to small production cooperatives in provinces.

On a sultry day of the year he visited the Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 to look round the hall for the second trade fair, giving instructions on how to develop light industry and improve commercial service.

He also visited the newly-built Pothongmungori Fish and Meat Shop and the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute in order to provide the people with fresh vegetables all the year round.

Seeing the beautiful flowers in the greenhouses of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute, he stressed the need to build more flower shops in the city. At a noodle restaurant in a miners' village, he even tasted the noodles and dishes, and during his visit to a machine-building factory, he pointed to the necessity of producing daily necessities.

The Wonhung area in the suburbs of Pyongyang demonstrates his close concern for the people; the large-scale Taedonggang Combined Fruit Farm was established, followed by the construction of a modern fruit-processing plant, a stockbreeding farm and a net factory.

Though the ideals of the people were coming true thanks to his devotion, he himself was in failing health.

At that time he was suffering from a serious disease caused by excessive mental and physical fatigue; he had a great difficulty in standing long.

However, he led the effort to build a socialist power, visiting over one hundred units in 2011 alone.

Medical staff begged him to take a good rest, but he went on his field guidance trips.

On the first Sunday of December 2011, he visited the Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park, which was newly renovated. It was the beginning of the winter and the weather was unusually freezing. When the staff of the park told him that he should not have come on such a foul day, he said smilingly that as he came in bad weather, the people would come in fine weather.

In the middle of the month he inspected such units as the February 8 Vinalon Complex, Hamhung Knitwear Factory and Hungnam Leather Shoes Factory, making painstaking efforts for the building of a powerful socialist country and improvement of the people's standard of living.

On the 15th, two days before he passed away, he visited the Hana Music Information Centre and Kwangbok Area Supermarket.

On the 16th, he took measures for the people's living conditions, staying in his office until late at night and that night, he set out on another trip for field guidance.

On the 17th, his heart stopped beating on a running train.

For his noble devotion to the people's wellbeing till the last moment of his life, Kim Jong Il will live forever in the hearts of the Korean people and other progressive peoples throughout the world.

THE VALUABLE SWORD FOR DEFENDING SOVEREIGNTY

On February 19, 1974, leader Kim Jong Il of the DPRK proclaimed the programme of modelling the whole society on the Juche idea. It marked an event of great significance in promoting not only the cause of socialism in the DPRK but the cause of global independence.

He prepared a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon for realizing the cause of global independence by developing in depth the Juche idea authored by President Kim Il Sung.

The crowning ideological and theoretical achievement he made for accomplishing the cause of global independence is that he advanced an idea on establishing the international relations that are based on independence, the core of the Juche idea, the idea of building a new, independent world.

In several works including *Let Us Advance under the Banner of Marxism-Leninism and Juche idea*, *On Preserving the Juche Character and National Character of the Revolution and Construction*, *The Songun-Based Revolutionary Line Is a Great Revolutionary Line of Our Era and an Ever-Victorious Banner of Our Revolution* and *The Present Times and the Tasks of the Young People*, he clarified in an all-round way the solutions to the theoretical and practical problems arising in the struggle to establish the international relations based on independence and to realize the cause of making the whole world independent.

A new, independent world, he explained, is a world that is free from domination, subjugation, intervention and pressure and in which all the countries and nations exercise complete sovereignty as the masters of their own destiny. In other words, it is a world in which the democratic international order that fully ensures equality, mutual respect and exercise of sovereignty of each nation on a worldwide scale is established and observed.

Kim Jong Il energetically led all the countries, nations and peoples of the world that champion for independence to unite firmly and wage a joint struggle against the interference and aggressive moves of the imperialists and dominationists.

The driving force in accomplishing the cause of global independence is all the forces of independence opposing imperialism, including the socialist movement, national-liberation movement, the Non-Aligned Movement and peace movements. If the peoples of all the countries across the world that constitute the anti-imperialist independent forces struggle in firm unity, the imperialist moves of domination and interference can work nowhere and, accordingly, the cause of global independence will be realized.

It is an important strategy he put forward to build a new, independent world to achieve the unity of all anti-imperialist forces under the banner of independence and fight against imperialism and dominationism.

Conspicuous among his achievements in having advanced victoriously the cause of global independence is that he had decisively frustrated the imperialists' stifling offensive against the DPRK and staunchly defended its socialism by dint of his unique Songun politics.

In the closing years of the last century the imperialists, availing themselves of the collapse of socialism in several countries, clamoured the "end of socialism" and directed the spearhead of their offensive towards the DPRK that was holding fast to socialism. Sovereignty and safety of the DPRK encountered severe challenges and the Korean peninsula turned to be a site of life-and-death confrontation between socialism and imperialism.

In this acute showdown the imperialist schemes to pull down the fortress of socialism met only with failure and defeat. It is all attributable to Kim Jong Il's Songun politics that the DPRK strengthened self-reliant national defence capabilities remarkably, frustrated reckless moves of imperialists to stifle it, reliably safeguarded its security, sovereignty and socialism and ensured peace and safety in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

Kim Jong Il made great efforts to promote the friendly ties with the countries that aspire after independence and thus rendered great contribution to the cause of making the whole world independent

Through several visits to China and Russia he consolidated and promoted the traditional DPRK-China friendship and encouraged the joint struggle of the peoples of the two countries for defending the cause of socialism and peace of the world, and developed the DPRK-Russia friendship onto a new phase and gave new vitality to international effort for building a new, righteous world.

He met heads of state and leaders of political parties from Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos and other countries and made a big contribution to promoting friendship, and cooperation among developing countries as required by the new-century.

He also met a high-level EU delegation, the US Secretary of State and the prime minister of Japan to improve relations with the Western countries.

His energetic external activities that covered wide-ranging political, the press and economic circles exerted a big influence on the relations among the countries and overall situation of the world and gave spurs to the progress of the cause of global independence.

The achievements Kim Jong Il made in the cause of making the whole world independent will shine forever along with the ever-victorious cause of independence of mankind.