

Defying Persistent Sanctions

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has turned out to be utterly different from what the Western propaganda said about.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that this country has developed its economy on a steady basis and constructed beautiful cities despite decades of harsh sanctions and blockade.

There may be several factors in such a remarkable achievement but, according to those who have been there, the Korean people are a perfect incarnation of unyielding mental strength.

To cite an example, the autumn of 2016 witnessed heavy flooding caused by a violent storm and torrential rain in the northern area of North Hamgyong Province. At the moment, the country was subjected to the worst-ever sanctions and blockade in the UN history. Besides, it was focusing on building Ryomyong Street, which was at the final stage of completion. Seeing satellite images of severe damage, people the world over predicted that the restoration work would take several years.

However, the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK adopted a decision to build new houses and public buildings including schools for the victims before winter cold set in and roused all the people to the restoration project.

Construction workers all over the country including those engaged in the Ryomyong Street project, as well as the soldiers of the Korean People's Army, headed for the affected area. They worked hard, sleeping only a few hours a day. Workers in cement factories, steel works and building materials plants strove day and night to fulfil their plans for increased production.

As a result, they completed the rehabilitation work in over two months, building new streets and villages.

By dint of such unexcelled mental strength, the Korean people have been expanding production and construction in defiance of extreme sanctions and blockade by the hostile forces. Though confronted with the worst circumstances in the past few years, they

radically increased the production of trucks, tractors, machine tools and other machines by relying on locally-available resources. Moreover, they have erected one street every year. Among the new streets is Ryomyong Street, being called “Pyonghattan” on a par with Manhattan in New York. While stepping up the modernization of all economic sectors, they are pushing ahead with the construction of large-scale Tanchon Power Station, Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area and many other major projects.

Such great mental strength is derived from the Juche idea, the idea of thoroughgoing independence, which is based on the principle that man is the master of his own destiny and he is capable of carving it out. This idea is the motto of the Korean people and the fundamental source of their spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

The harsh sanctions imposed by the hostile forces do nothing but help increasing their mental strength.

They are mainly aimed at making them abandon their socialist system, in which the working masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them. Such sanctions only invite strong opposition from them. The more vicious sanctions the hostile forces impose, the more dynamically they will work to better their living conditions—this is the unshakeable determination of the Korean people.

South Korean media commented that the north is making remarkable economic progress despite several years of sanctions, adding that it is mystifying to see it outpacing south Korea in terms of economic growth rate even under such severe conditions.