

My First Visit to the DPRK

At the invitation of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) International Department of Friendship and Cultural Relations with foreign nations, I visited the DPRK In early July 2004 for 10 days.

The purpose of my visit was to join with other international guests and the Korean people to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the demise of President Kim IL Sung and to participate in a ceremony for the launching of the book “In Memory of President Kim IL Sung Eternal Sun of Mankind.”

As this was my first visit to the DPRK I was not entirely familiar with the level of socioeconomic development or its history of revolutionary struggle with the exception of what I had previously read.

In total, the international delegation that I was part of and invited to attend this historic occasion were from 9 nations. Australia, Switzerland ,France, Russia, Ecuador,Mongolia, Nepal, China and Guinea. With the exception of Switzerland and France, representatives from other countries including Australia were invited in recognition of contributions from a comrade of those countries being published in the book referred to above and that person had personally met with President Kim IL Sung.

Concerning Australia and article written by Jack Phillips,past President of the Socialist Party of Australia (now Communist Party of Australia), titled “The Socialist Cause Will Without Fail Will be Accomplished” is one of the articles that appear in the book. The ceremony for the launching of the book was held in the afternoon on July 6th at the Peoples Palace with over 5000 in attendance. It was a very moving and heartfelt occasion.

The opening speech at the ceremony was presented Mun Jae Chol, Chairperson of the DPRK Cultural Committee and a member of the Peoples Assembly. Speeches from international guests included the Director General of the publishing house of the Russian Association for Friendship and Cooperation with foreign countries which published the book “ Alva Chares former member of the National Assembly Ecuador and Councillor of International Juche Institute and C.P.Minnali General Secretary of the then Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist Leninist) Guests at the ceremony were also entertained by Korean culture groups including young students choir and dancers which received a standing ovation.

Korean People still feel the Great Loss of their Leader

It has now been 28th years (July 8th 1994) since the demise of the Great Leader President Kim IL Sung. The Korean people genuinely feel the loss of their beloved leader. I personally experienced this when I was invited to place a basket of flowers at the statue of the President on Mon So Due Hill. After placing the flowers at the bottom of the statue and bowing as a mark of respect I turned around and witnessed thousands of people in mass lines waiting their turn to lay flowers at the state of the President. It was a sight that I will never forget.

Despite the loss of the beloved President, the Korean people are determined to continue the progress of building and strengthening their socialist system under the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Un and the Workers Party of Korea. So what are the historical factors and circumstances that the WPK and the Korean people adopted and followed during the course of their revolutionary experiences that are quite unique compared to the experiences of the other former socialist countries including the Soviet Union. Why has the DPRK been able to survive and further strengthen their socialist system against the full might of US and World imperialism.

For the Koreans a major factor in finding a correct answer to this question is their application of the Juche idea and the Songun policy to their socialist system. The three main components of the Juche philosophy are independence, creativity and consciousness and that humankind is master of its own destiny.

At a early age Kim IL Sung left home to join the struggle against the Japanese invaders. While the struggle of the Korean people against the Japanese invaders was heroic and courageous against overwhelming and superior forces it backed a clear direction and a proper class perspective they lacked a unity of purpose.

The Korean Communist party was formed in 1925 but because of factional differences, opportunism and other points of disagreement the party collapsed three later in 1928 denying the Korean people the class leadership they desperately needed at the time of struggle.

Formation of Down with Imperialism Union

Following this early setback Kim IL Sung undertook the task of analysing and reaching conclusions of the shortcomings and limitations of the Nationalist Movement of Korea and the mistakes of the early communist movement which failed to properly understand and take into account the nature of the revolutionary process in Korea at the time.

Kim IL Sung was convinced that the struggle must be waged in reliance upon the strength of the popular masses and every problem be explained to them. He went among the popular masses to find a correct way for the national and class liberation of the people. He concluded that the popular masses are the master of their own fate and that they must determine their own destiny independently and creatively. Convinced of this need Kim IL Sung formed the “Down with Imperialism Union” on October 17th 1926 which for the first time gave the struggle against the Japanese invaders and anti-imperialism character. Referring to this historic event Kim IL Sung said “ The formation of the Down with Imperialism Union the first genuinely communist revolutionary organisation in our country was a historic announcement of a new beginning for our revolution. With the formation of the DIU our peoples revolutionary struggle began to proceed in accordance with the principles of independence and this was when our party began to strike its glorious roots.”

In explaining the application of the Juche philosophy the Korean comrades put forward the view that the application of Marxist Dialectical Materialism by itself has its own limitations that its limitations is restricted on the basis that it regards the development of all things as a process of nature.

The Juche philosophy separates the essential characteristics of the human from nature . That human is a social being, he has the independence, creativity and conscious, attributes which are peculiar to humans and which other natural beings do not have.

By applying the three components of the Juche philosophy together with the principle of Songun policy in the development of their socialist system and for the reunification of their country the people of the DPRK are advancing towards the goal of realising sociopolitical independence under the wise leadership of Marshall Kim Jong Un and the Workers Party of Korea

Long Live Socialist Korea

Korea is One.

Raymond Ferguson

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