

Giancarlo Elia Valori, president of the International World Group of Italy, is one of those who enjoyed special favour of the leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Greeting the 75th anniversary of his birthday a few years ago, **Kim Jong Un**, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, dispatched a senior DPRK official to Italy with warm congratulations, gifts and a flower basket.

Kim Jong Un said that he did not forget the Italian man, whom President **Kim Il Sung**(1912-1994) and Chairman **Kim Jong Il** (1942-2011) had bestowed particular affection and trust on in their lifetimes, and wished him good health and happiness.

Deeply moved by his congratulations, Valori said: I am now on the summit of happiness as I was conferred the greatest privilege; there is a term blessed life in the DPRK; my life cannot but be said to be a blessed life; the endless affection of the great men, which started by His Excellency **Kim Il Sung** and deepened by His Excellency **Kim Jong Il**, is now being carried forward by His Excellency **Kim Jong Un**.

That President **Kim Il Sung**, Chairman **Kim Jong Il** and Supreme Leader **Kim Jong Un** are the benevolent sun of his life is a truth Valori has learned through his lifetime experience.

While listening to what his mother said and reading books on the great career and activities of President **Kim Il Sung**, he learned that **Kim Il Sung**'s name denotes the sun.

His attraction to **Kim Il Sung** reached its acme after meeting him during the days of his first visit to the DPRK in 1975.

With a broad smile on his face, **Kim Il Sung** hugged him saying that though he was meeting the Italian man for the first time, he felt as if he were meeting an old friend of his.

In an article he wrote after meeting **Kim Il Sung**, Valori expressed his impression in this way: The first moment I saw His Excellency President **Kim Il Sung**, I received a strong impression that I was meeting a heaven-sent holy man whom my mother had talked much about.

The benevolent affection of Chairman **Kim Jong Il**, who was identical with President **Kim Il Sung**, reached Valori.

Though in a greater pain than anybody else after the death of **Kim Il Sung** in 1994, **Kim Jong Il** met him, who was visiting the DPRK to offer condolence, and said that he should come to the DPRK as frequently as he had done when the President had been alive. He then posed for a photo with him.

1997 was a year unforgettable for Valori. Though busy, **Kim Jong Il** ensured that a birthday spread and present were sent to him on the latter's birthday. The gift was the sculpture depicting his mother, with the words January 1997, **Kim Jong Il** on the plinth. In 2010, too, **Kim Jong Il** sent to him warm congratulations, a flower basket and gift through a DPRK official on the latter's 70 birthday.

Later, Valori said: I have visited Pyongyang, where the sanctuary of the great sun is, over 30 times; no one has urged me to go to Korea in the East; however, I feel my heart is always inclined to Pyongyang. **Kim Il Sung** and **Kim Jong Il** are eternal saviours and sun who gave mankind rays of hope and unchanging warm humane affection.

After receiving the present sent by Supreme Leader **Kim Jong Un**, Valori said: His Excellency **Kim Jong Un** is, indeed, today's sun that draws mankind with affection that no other politicians in this world can bestow and with the politics of love and trust, benevolent politics; as the sun in the heavens is eternal, the history of the sun of Korea in the East will advance for ever.

Life of the Pyongyangites As Seen by Foreigners

The people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are advancing with confidence towards the high goal of building a powerful socialist country in the face of international sanctions.

Many people of the world wonder how they live. Following is what those who have been to the DPRK say.

Russia's website The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Today, pointing out the striking contrast between what those who visited the DPRK said and what the Western media said, wrote: The level of their civilization and way of life are completely different from what the West talks about; in Pyongyang there are good and modern recreation grounds, parks, restaurants, theatres and cinemas, including the Munsu Water Park and Rungna People's Recreation Ground, and people enjoy a high standard of material and cultural life there; there are piles of goods that satisfy the demand of the customers in the department stores; the Korean people are paying deep attention to creation and innovation and have strong consciousness to develop the economy with their own efforts and technology.

A Singaporean e-newspaper wrote: If the journalists had not visited Pyongyang nor seen with their own eyes, they must not have believed that this is a city under harsh pressure and sanctions of the international community; its economy did not collapse but is achieving a high standard of urban development; the streets are full of vitality, and the life is normal, people laughing and speaking and children making merry and playing; over the last several years north Korea's economy has grown at high speed

and urban construction is going on at great speed as well; Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street with modern and superhigh buildings look luxurious, dignified and vigorous and match with the aesthetic sense of the era; flourishing urban quarters, stores and shops that sell daily goods, clothes and foods are increasing in number with the development of the economy; even Western restaurants, bars and coffee houses can be found in Pyongyang; the journalists even visited a pizza restaurant in the city; this shows that the Korean people are enjoying a good admirable life.

They talked to Ri Ji Hyang, a 27-year-old researcher, in the restaurant; the woman said that life in Pyongyang is improving day by day with the government having built cultural facilities like water park and pleasure park

to provide the citizens with full conditions for weekend rest, adding, "We, the Korean people do not care about the sanctions. We enjoy ourselves eating and drinking as usual."

When asked about her thought about the future, she said her hope was national reunification, prosperity, development of her work and successes in her family life. A 24-year-old student said: The current life is comfortable; houses are provided to the families; the government is providing people with education, medical treatment and others free of charge; I am not worried about money; I play tennis in the park in the weekends; after graduation, I would like to become a medical doctor to make contributions to the state.

The Cuban news agency Prensa Latina carried an article, titled, Chollima Flying along the Snow-covered streets in Pyongyang, describing the life of the Pyongyangites taking newly-made modern trolleybuses and tramcars: The citizens take new mass transport means, which were made by their own efforts and are economically very practical for they are fast, convenient with little noise and vibration and good brake; the word Chollima engraved in front of the trolleybuses means a horse flying with wings at high speed and symbolizes that the DPRK is developing rapidly.

The TV coverage of Pyongyang by the Beijing correspondent of France 2 TV surprised the media world with five million viewers. Many were surprised at the unimaginable reality of the DPRK while seeing the scenes of Pyongyang. The correspondent himself said he did not realize Pyongyang was such a wonderful city where home-made tramcars run along the streets, modern factories are being built and people enjoy modern civilization, despite sanctions, at wonderful bases of cultural and leisure activities, like the water park, Rungna People's Recreation Ground, People's Open-Air Ice Rink, May Day Stadium on Rungna Island on the Taedong in which a mass gymnastics and artistic performance performed by tens of thousands of persons was being staged.