

Guidelines for Study of Social Sciences Based on Juche Idea



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I would like to extend my warm welcome to all the foreign guests from various parts of the world, while celebrating this seminar together with you.

I remember that I was happy to have an opportunity to give a lecture on the foundation, development and enrichment of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism at the last year's "National Seminar on the Juche Idea to Commemorate the 110th Birth Anniversary of President Kim Il Sung."

I would like to give a lecture about the direction of our study on this occasion of the seminar on an international scale where the Director General of the IJJI Board is joining online, and distinguished scholars from Asia, Latin America and Europe along with those from Japan and others gathering together.

Now, with a thought to a document which should be most appropriate on this matter, I would like to introduce a letter sent by General Secretary Kim Jong Un to scientists and officials on the occasion of the 60th Academy's founding anniversary, entitled "Our Social Sciences Should Render an Active Contribution to Accomplishing the Cause of Modelling the Whole Society on Kimilsung-Kimjongilism."

1. On the Work Entitled “Our Social Sciences Should Render an Active Contribution to Accomplishing the Cause of Modelling the Whole Society on Kimilsung-Kimjongilism”

At a meeting for research and discussion by social sciences division held in Pyongyang on November 29 last year to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the publication of this work, this one was regarded as “an immortal outline that shows the way for the Juche-oriented development of social sciences.” Similarly, this one was pointed out in the “Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences” (for April, 2022) like a “permanent guideline in the construction of the Juche-oriented social sciences.”

This work consists of a review and evaluation of the 60-year history of the Korean Academy of Social Sciences, the tasks and challenges, and the methods of social sciences in the new era.

First, it summarizes the 60 years of the Academy of Social Sciences, which was founded under the fire of the Korean War and advanced along the progress of the Korean revolution, as a proud path of development.

Above all, this work written by General Secretary Kim Jong Un states that President Kim Il Sung is a veteran of social sciences in the era of independence who founded the Juche idea and opened up the Juche-oriented social sciences, whereas General Secretary Kim Jong Il is a genius of ideas and theories, and a master of social sciences who has made immortal contributions to the development of social sciences in the era of independence.

This work also appreciates that the Korean Academy of Social Sciences, under the wise guidance and warm cares of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, has developed into a reliable ideological and theoretical institution of the Workers’ Party of Korea, and a comprehensive center for social scientific research of the DPRK, and thus has defended the thoughts of the Party and the leaders during the relevant periods of the Korean revolution and enriched the spiritual and cultural wealth of the country and nation with the successes in its valuable scientific research.

And in this work, General Secretary Kim Jong Un extends his enthusiastic congratulations and appreciation to the scientists and officials belonging to the Academy of Social Sciences and all the social scientists throughout the country for their contribution to the development of ideas and theories and the development of the revolution.

This work shows the tasks, challenges and methods of social sciences at the new historical

stage of the full realization of modelling the whole society on Kimilsung-Kimjongilism.

This work sets it as the fundamental tasks of social sciences to add luster to the achievements made by President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and to solve the theoretical and practical problems arising in the socialist construction, and points it out as the general direction of the construction of social sciences to succeed consistently the proud-worthy revolutionary characteristics of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism oriented social sciences.

This work regards it as the most correct way for the development of social sciences based on the Juche idea as well as a principled requirement for ensuring the successes in the study of social sciences: firstly, to apply the Juche-oriented methodology, secondly, to combine theory and revolutionary practice, and thirdly, to firmly maintain the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth.

Next, placing the Academy of Social Sciences as the center of the national study of social sciences, and as the advisory body for scientific theories of the Party and the State, this work points out the challenges of the Academy to bring about a turn in its activities.

To begin with, it says that the Academy of Social Sciences is required to prove the truthfulness, originality and vitality of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, to put the successes and experiences attained in the revolution and construction of the Korean people on the basis of sciences, systematize and theorize them, and then to study and clarify some issues arising in making each field of social sciences and building socialism more developed.

It clarifies the direction of social sciences by fields, including philosophy, socio-political science, economics, law, history, linguistics, literature, and national classics.

This work mentions the necessity of collecting and organizing materials on the history, culture, and socio-economic development of other countries as well as the historical materials of the DPRK, of preparing effective measures for real problems that need to be solved from a policy perspective, of developing new research fields such as applied science and border science, of strengthening academic exchanges abroad, including research activities on the Juche idea, and of writing books of social sciences in high quality to make them published for the rest of the world.

As the role of the Academy of Social Sciences, it is pointed out that the Academy should take control of social sciences research in general as well as promote research projects by exercising collective knowledge in order to solve various problems in a unified manner. In

terms of methodology, this work also points to the responsibility and role of social scientists as revolutionary intellectuals, to social scientific information activities to accumulate and utilize intellectual resources, to the development of human resources who will be responsible for the future of Juche-oriented social sciences, and to the strengthening of guidance along with the raising of social and national interest in the activities of the Academy.

The last part of this work expresses General Secretary Kim Jong Un's great trust in and expectations for social scientists, stating that "social scientists are precious talents of the country in charge of creating the ideological and spiritual wealth that is the most important and valuable of social assets."

2. On Some Principled Problems in the Study of the Juche Idea

Nowadays, the study of the Juche idea has been conducted by the people in various walks of life and Juche idea researchers throughout the world.

No need to mention the necessity in their social roles and occupations, but also in their professional fields and the subject of their study, their study of the Juche idea has a wide range, including their study of the Juche philosophy, the principled study of the Juche-oriented idea, theory and method covering the fields of politics, the economy, history, and literature and arts. Anyhow, their study has been conducted as their own work in conformity with the aspiration and demands of the people in individual countries and regions and their reality.

As mentioned on the above, it can be said that whereas the fundamental tasks of social sciences in the DPRK lies in adding luster to the achievements made by President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il along with solving some problems arising in the socialist construction, the study of the Juche idea in the world lies in studying the thoughts and achievements of the founder of the Juche idea and his successor and in giving solutions to the problems arising in their practices, which is indeed, the Juche-oriented study of social sciences.

Therefore, this work can serve as a guideline for not only Korean social scientists, but also Juche idea researchers in the world to conduct the study of their own.

In particular, it can be said that the three contents presented like "the absolutely correct road for the development of social sciences based on the Juche idea and a principled demand for ensuring success in the study of social sciences" in this work can be applied to our own study as they are.

In this work, General Secretary Kim Jong Un said as follows:

“In building social sciences, we must hold fast to the Juche-oriented methodology, combine theory with revolutionary practice and firmly maintain the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth. This is the absolutely correct road for the development of social sciences based on the Juche idea and a principled demand for ensuring success in the study of social sciences.”

Now, in this context, I would like to firstly refer to the application of the Juche-oriented methodology.

The Juche idea, a new human-centred outlook on the world, clarifies the viewpoint and attitude toward the world based on the interest of human beings, the master of the world, and also based on the activities of human beings, the transformer of the world.

The human-centred viewpoint and standpoint toward the world is a methodology of recognition and practice that guarantees independent and creative activities of human beings.

The application of the Juche-oriented methodology means the application of the Juche-oriented outlook on the world, or the human-centred viewpoint and attitude, to the study of social sciences.

In other words, this is a methodology that solves all the problems by thoroughly placing human beings at the center of everything in accordance with the demands and interests of the popular masses and their reality.

Social sciences that have a mission to contribute to the carving out of the destiny of human beings are surely requested to solve all the problems by placing the popular masses at the center of everything.

Similarly, under the condition that the destiny of the popular masses is shaped with the nation and the country as a unit, all the problems should be regarded and solved in conformity with the demands and interests of the respective popular masses and their reality.

President Kim Il Sung said: “Among the people, we find a philosophy, economics, and a literature,” and General Secretary Kim Jong Il said: “If the independent wishes and demands of the popular masses are compiled and systematized, they will become ideas, lines and policies.” These are brilliant quotes about the Juche-oriented methodology.

This work emphasizes the importance of being creative in all thinking and practice as an important aspect of applying the Juche-oriented methodology.

Nowadays, in the DPRK, all sectors are required to overcome rigid ways of thinking

and to make bold innovations and create new ones that match for the new era.

Social scientists should sensitively reflect the mentality and trends of the times, break down the old ways of thinking, and innovatively solve the problems that have been raised.

Next, in relation to the principled demand for ensuring success in the study of social sciences, I would like to secondly refer to the combining of theory and practice.

The combining of theory and practice means that with problems raised in practice as the subject of the study, one should embody the success in one's study in one's practice.

Originally, recognition and practice are the two major motives in human activities for shaping the destiny of the popular masses, and they are closely interrelated.

President Kim Il Sung said: "Practice is the starting point of recognition, the criterion of the truth, and the driving force for the development of theory."

Theory, in fact, starts from the demands of practice and develops in interaction with practice, and its truthfulness and value are also verified by practice.

Theories that cannot give answers to the problems posed in practice, or theories that cannot be verified by practice, cannot have true value.

Hence, to enable social sciences to fulfill their mission, the study and practice of them should be firmly combined, and move toward the clarification of urgent down-to-earth problems.

Social scientists should go into the reality, find problems awaiting solutions to make them the subject of their study, and make efforts to put the success in their study into practice.

In the entrance hall of Kim Il Sung University, there is an inscription by General Secretary Kim Jong Il that reads, "Keep your feet on the ground and your eyes on the world!" Based on this slogan, those university people concerned are seeking after their goal of social sciences in the direction of not only making their study the most scientific and most revolutionary in the world, but also making it excellent in the attraction and practicability.

This work points out, as an important task for combing the theory and practice, the importance of the deep and principled clarification of the problems arising in the process as such.

In other words, social sciences should not be limited to the interpretation of social phenomena and historical facts, but must elucidate the essence and law-governedness, and thus become studies that push forward the social movement and historical development.

Only by showing the essence of social phenomena and historical facts and the laws of

their change and development, can social sciences ensure their vitality that contributes to the shaping of the destiny of human beings. Hence, papers presented by social scientists are required to be philosophical in nature and freshly creative.

On the other hand, even if one makes one's effort to ensure the theoretic elaboration of one's papers, he or she should not write one's texts in a difficult manner that can only be understood by some specialists. It will be necessary for them to try to write their texts that are logical, orderly and easy for everyone to understand by learning from the popular style of writing of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

Then, next, regarding the principled demand for ensuring success in the study of social sciences, I would like to mention the importance of firmly maintaining the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth.

Remaining faithful to historical truth means to be faithful to historicity. In other words, this is the attitude and stand with which to give a thought to all the things and phenomena in relation to the historical circumstances and conditions in which the former occurred and developed.

This is the principle for objectively clarifying and fairly evaluating problems in accordance with the characteristics of the subject of the study of social sciences.

Needless to say, the subject of the study of social sciences is society and its movements, which are historical in nature.



After the said Seminar on the Juche Idea was over, a Celebration Party to Commemorate the 111th Birth Anniversary of President Kim Il Sung & the 45th Founding Anniversary of the IJJI was held, where Mongolian music and dances, Japanese songs and Korean songs were performed.

Specifically, social sciences deal with ideas, theories, historical facts and documents that influence the shaping of people's destiny and the development of society, which arise and develop under certain circumstances and conditions in the context of the past, the present and the future.

Only by maintaining the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth, can the problems raised in the past along with the problems arising in today's practice be clarified and evaluated with historical justice, not in the abstract, but in the context of a temporal linkage.

And the study of social sciences can be valuable not only for the present, but also for the future.

In the study of social sciences, one not only must rely on historical facts and historical sources, but also must not subjectively analyze, nor evaluate things concerned, regardless of historical context and contextualization, not exaggerate nor distort facts.

Thus, I have commented on the application of the Juche-oriented methodology, the combination of theory and practice, and the maintaining the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth. As you see, they are based on the Juche idea's understanding of social sciences.

In other words, social sciences are, in the essence, a systematic cognition of society and its movements for the shaping of the destiny of human beings, and then the master of cognition as such is human beings, the popular masses.

In summary, it can be said that the application of the Juche-oriented methodology is based on an understanding of the master of social sciences, the combination of theory and practice is based on an understanding of the purpose and mission of social sciences, and the maintaining of the principle of remaining faithful to historical truth is based on an understanding of the characteristics of the subject of the study of social sciences.

Then, it can be said that those understandings concerning the principled demand for ensuring success in the study of social sciences would be a guideline that shows us, world Juche idea researchers, the direction of our study and guarantees the success in our study.

Finally, I would like to conclude my lecture with a renewed determination to further deepen the study of the Juche idea regarding the works of General Secretary Kim Jong Un as a guide, to provide answers to the questions raised in our practice, and to actively promote exchanges with other Juche idea researchers in the world, thereby contributing to the acceleration of global independence.

(Lecture given at a Seminar on the Juche Idea held in Tokyo on April 15, 2023)