

Speech

Juche Idea Supports Realizing People's Aspirations for Independence and Equality



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Nations and peoples have long sought a new world based on the relations of independence and equality.

At a time when the first quarter of the 21st century has nearly past, many countries are now taking the path of independence. This has become the tendency seen among the majority of the world's population. So, it can be said that ours is the era in which mankind's aspirations for peace and prosperity is on a right track to be achieved.

On the other hand, in the world, wars of aggression waged by the weakened and increasingly violent US imperialism are forcing vast numbers of people to flee their homelands, and the merciless slaughter is being repeated at this very moment.

The world is facing an urgent problem and is in dire need of answers on how to advance the struggle for ensuring to safeguard the dignity and sovereignty of nations and peoples and how to look forward to the future society.

1. The Happiness of the People Can Only Be Realized under the Leadership of Great Leaders

Today, the road to the world of independence and equality sought by the world's peoples

is clearly shown in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the thoughts and leadership of its great leaders.

The pros and cons of politics should be seen with the people at the centre.

If politics is in the hands of the imperialists, all the precious things of the people will be taken away and their suffering and grief will continue endlessly.

When politics is placed in the hands of a leader who respects and loves the people, the people's songs of happiness will resound throughout the country.

The history of the Korean revolution and the DPRK today clearly shows the truth that the dignity of the people is enhanced, their creativity is strengthened, and the country is developed by the great leaders who put everything into the benefit of the people.

President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il devoted their entire lives to realizing the happiness of the people and followed the path of the revolution full of hardships.

President Kim Il Sung was a great leader who had the motto of "The peoples are God" and regarded the people as the sun.

President Kim Il Sung founded the Juche idea regarding that the people are the masters of the revolution and they also have the power to push it forward, and he promoted the people as the masters of the historical stage, thus strongly leading the world trend of independence.

As a result of the harsh anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle over 20 years based on his belief in and reliance on the people, President Kim Il Sung finally broke through the Japanese colonial rule and won independence of the country.

Furthermore, President Kim Il Sung defeated the US imperialist forces that had launched a war of aggression soon after the founding of the DPRK, leading to their decline in history.

President Kim Il Sung is the founder of the people-centred socialism for the first time in the world.

Kim Il Sung promoted the construction of Korean socialism on the pillars of independence, self-reliance and self-defence, made an example of socialism, and thus made the name of the DPRK as the land of Juche known to the world.

President Kim Il Sung looked up to the people as his teachers and visited all places and regions where the people lived and worked, such as along the rice paddy fields, by the blast furnaces and in the fish ports before dawn, listening to their simple and frank stories and discussing with them the work they should undertake and the bright future they should look forward to.

Indeed, President Kim Il Sung is the leader of the world people in the new era, the era of independence.

Based on the Juche idea, President Kim Il Sung set an example of building an independent, self-reliant and self-defence socialism and devoted great efforts to strengthening the unity of the anti-imperialist independent forces of the world.

During his repeated visits to other socialist countries as well as other developing countries, President Kim Il Sung while inviting those people concerned to the DPRK, kindly encouraged those countries to follow the path of independence and unite with each other.

In 1981, 1983 and 1987, President Kim Il Sung convened meetings of the non-aligned countries in Pyongyang and delivered important speeches on developing agriculture, culture and international cooperation.

In cooperation with developing countries, President Kim Il Sung paid primary attention to the development of agricultural production capacity and helped establish agricultural scientific research centres and experimental farms in the African region, dispatching competent agricultural scientists and technicians from the DPRK in an effort to extend generous assistance and cooperation.

In this context, it can be said that President Kim Il Sung actively pushed ahead with the struggle to achieve the cause of global independence and inspired great hope in the hearts of the peoples of all countries.

The revolutionary cause of Juche must be developed from generation to generation.

Kim Il Sung successfully raised Kim Jong Il as the leader of the people. In this way he completely solved the problem of a successor to the cause of independence and that of socialism.

Kim Jong Il was a great leader who defended socialist Korea against US imperialist aggression and laid the foundations of a thriving socialist country, while conducting benevolent politics by mobilizing the military at the forefront.

One of Kim Jong Il's achievements was to have formulated President Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thoughts as Kimilsungism, an integral system of ideas, theories and methods of Juche, and to have specified the guiding idea of the new era in which the people of each country emerged as masters.

Similarly, Kim Jong Il decisively strengthened the integrated body of the leader, the Party and the masses, or the driving force of the revolution through the politics of love for



At the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (on April 15, 2024)

and trust in the people.

Under the circumstances of the intensified US imperialist drive to break up the DPRK, economic sanctions and repeated natural disasters that occurred, Kim Jong Il launched the Party slogan of “serving the people” and worked day and night to overcome the difficult situation and improve people’s livelihood, with the military at the forefront.

Love for and trust in the people are the essence of politics in the socialist society. Love for and trust in the people are also the source of the superiority and strength of socialist politics.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il said:

“In the days of the Arduous March and forced march, when the country was experiencing great difficulties, they tightened their belts and turned out as one in the struggle to defend socialism and build a great, prosperous, and powerful country under the Party’s leadership. ... What can we not do if it is for the benefit of these laudable people? Waking and sleeping, I think about how to make our people’s life richer. I intend to work wholeheartedly to ensure that our people lead, as soon as possible, a life in which they envy no one and can take pride in themselves. This is our Party’s unshakeable will.” (“Officials Should Become Devoted Servants of the People,” on October 28, 2003)

General Secretary Kim Jong Il, who dedicated his life solely to the people, made Kim Jong Un the successor to the revolution and firmly guaranteed a happy future for the people.

Kim Jong Un has taken the aspirations of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il as his beliefs and supreme norms, and is carrying out politics that is thoroughly

in the service of the people.

The DPRK now enjoys the respect of the peoples of the world as a country that is advancing towards the complete victory of socialism for the first time in human history.

About the activities General Secretary Kim Jong Un has carried out, he formulated the thoughts of Kim Il Sung and those of Kim Jong Il as Kimilsung-Kimjongilism with regard to that they are integrated, and then clarified that Kimilsung-Kimjongilism is in essence the people-first principle.

Kim Jong Un is a great leader who strongly practices the people-first principle himself.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has presented “Do everything for the improvement of the people’s livelihood” as the Party’s slogan and is creating a frenzy of construction with the blueprint for the complete victory of socialism in hand.

In his policy speech made on January 15, 2024, General Secretary Kim Jong Un launched the “Rural Development 20×10” policy to eliminate the gap between urban and rural areas.

The flames of the Korean people’s struggle to complete factories with modern equipment and production processes in 20 cities and counties across the country are now burning, led by the military.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un instructed the builders in the military that raising the living standards of the rural people, who constitute the absolute majority of the population, cannot be turned away or prolonged even for a moment more, while stating that “Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail.” (On the Occasion of the First Ground breaking for the Implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, February 28, 2024)

Kim Jong Un also maintains a non-compromising politics against the US imperialists and other US-following forces in Japan and the ROK.

As long as the threat of imperialist wars of aggression exists, the people cannot be guaranteed an independent and creative livelihood unless they are well prepared for militarization.

In November 2023, the DPRK successfully launched the military reconnaissance satellite “Malligyong”, and the satellite has been orbiting the earth steadily. The DPRK already has nuclear capabilities such as ICBMs and nuclear submarines with a range of the US mainland,

and by equipping itself with military reconnaissance satellites, has become a military power capable of dealing with any aggression measures of the US imperialists.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un has shaken US imperialism by stating that “Our armed forces have all the ‘eyes’ to look down on all the areas in the world and the powerful ‘fists’ to strike all the areas in the world”.

In his last policy speech, Kim Jong Un summed up North-South 80-year relations and stipulated that “Relations between the two countries have been consistently hostile.” He said as follows:

“South Korea at present is nothing but a hemiplegic malformation and colonial subordinate state whose politics is completely out of order, whole society tainted by Yankee culture, and defence and security totally dependent on the US.

“The north-south relations have been completely fixed into the relations between two states hostile to each other and the relations between two belligerent states, not the consanguineous or homogeneous ones any more.” (“Report on Ninth Enlarged Plenum of Eighth WPK Central Committee,” on December 26, 2023)

Kim Jong Un stated that based on his historical-political analysis of US imperialism and its southern puppets, any collaboration or talks with them are invalid.

Kim Jong Un has made clear his intention to have a sophisticated military force of self-defence superior to their military forces against those hostile forces that would destroy the well-being of the people and to immediately and completely repel any hostile attacks.

His trust in and love for the people are not confined only to the Korean people.

It was on January 5, 2024, when Kim Jong Un sent a heartfelt letter of sympathy to the people in the disaster-hit areas of Japan, which were hit by a major earthquake early in the New Year.

The letter reads: “Having received the news that Japan has unfortunately suffered a great deal of loss of life and material damage as a result of the earthquake since the beginning of the New year, I express my deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved families and victims. We hope that the people in the affected areas will recover from the damage caused by the earthquake as soon as possible and regain a stable life.”

Meanwhile, the DPRK has been hit by several large typhoons in recent years, which have caused extensive damage to the rural areas.

Kim Jong Un immediately went to the affected areas to assess the flood damage, while,

from the spot, sending a letter of condolences to those Party members in the capital, calling on them to stand up for reconstruction.

Kim Jong Un delegated the military and Party members to build new and splendid modern cities and rural towns in the affected areas, and within a couple of months a dreamlike ideal township was built.

It could be simply imaginable how much those people concerned might have been pleased to see their own homes and villages, which have become so splendid and looked different, at the result of all the efforts made by the leader, the military and Party members to rebuild them.

The letter sent by General Secretary Kim Jong Un to the victims of the disaster in Japan expresses his pain at the misfortune of those people and his wish that the reconstruction work would be conducted smoothly.

The reality of the DPRK clearly shows that when the political leadership is equipped with the idea of putting the people first, the people's happiness will surely be realized.

2. People's Struggle of Anti-imperialism and independence for a fair and peaceful world

The contemporary mainstream flows strongly along the path of independence.

However, the weakened and virulent US imperialism is waging a backwash of war and destruction.

Aggression and plunder are the essential characteristics and mode of existence of imperialism.

Since the advent of imperialism, mankind has been plagued by repeated invasions and wars, which have cost untold numbers of lives and the fruits of labour.

In particular, US imperialism is the most heinous imperialism, born of aggression and plunder, and has grown through constant aggression and plunder.

Weakened US imperialism is now making its last desperate efforts, committing Genocide in Ukraine and Palestine.

In Ukraine, the defeat of Zelensky, the puppet of US imperialism, has become decisive and the reality of the sacrifices made by the Ukrainian people is being revealed. By the end of 2023, the number of externally displaced persons in Ukraine is estimated to have reached 6.48 million, and internally 3.69 million (according to the statistics from the Office of the

UN High Commissioner for Refugees). Zelensky also announced that the number of their combatants killed in war had exceeded 30,000 by now.

Whereas in Palestine, the death toll in Gaza reached more than 30,000 at the end of February 2024, half of whom are young children. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warns that some 570,000 people are facing starvation. The World Health Organization also announced that more than 180,000 people are suffering from infectious diseases (on December 29, 2023).

US imperialism has continued to use Israel to perpetrate torture and genocide against the Palestinian people, depriving a large number of them of their lives and dignity.

The world people are now closely watching the situation in Ukraine and Palestine and strongly denouncing the historical crimes committed by US imperialism, which continues to provide Zelensky and Netanyahu with weapons of mass slaughter.

On December 29, 2023, South Africa lodged a complaint with the International Court of Justice against the Gaza attack as having the character of genocide.

As early as 1969, President Kim Il Sung responded to a question from a correspondent of the Lebanese newspaper “Al Anwar” on the President’s thoughts on the Middle East crisis as follows:

“The Middle East crisis has resulted from the aggressive stratagems of the imperialists headed by US imperialism, who, putting up the Zionists as a “shock force”, are trying to suffocate the growing anti-imperialist national-liberation struggle of the Arab people and bring this area under their control. It is entirely because of the brazen aggressive machinations of the Israeli aggressors and their manipulators, the US imperialists, that the crisis has not yet been solved and the situation in the Middle East remains tense.

“The anti-US, anti-Israeli struggle waged by the Arab people today is a righteous struggle to safeguard national independence and dignity, to restore the usurped Arab territory and accomplish the Palestinian people’s cause of liberation.”

As President Kim Il Sung rightly pointed out, the independence and peace aimed at by the Palestinian people and other countries and peoples must be closely linked to the anti-US and anti-imperialist struggle. Without a thorough struggle against imperialism, it will not be possible to defend justice and independence.

President Kim Il Sung stated that if each country fights under the banner of independence and the banner of anti-imperialism and anti-US, tearing off the limbs of imperialism, it will

be possible to overthrow US imperialism and make the world independent.

“Even a small country can defeat a powerful enemy once it establishes Juche, unites the masses of the people, and fights valiantly, regardless of the sacrifice. This is a very simple truth of our times which has been borne out by experience. The experience of the Korean war demonstrated this truth.” (“The Great Anti-imperialist Revolutionary Cause of the Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples Is Invincible,” on October 8, 1968)

In 1951, Kim Il Sung visited the 1211 Highland, the decisive battlefield in the Korean War, and told the commanders on the spot: “People fighting for justice always win, while aggressors engaged in an unjust war are bound to lose. This is an immutable law of the development of history.”

The US imperialism, which launched the Korean War with overwhelming military power, accompanied by its dependent countries, was miserably defeated in front of a firmly united Korean army and people.

The source of the strength of the DPRK lies in the Juche idea and the single-minded unity of the leader, the Party and the masses based on the Juche idea showed that they would surely defeat the imperialists.

Kim Il Sung led the countries to go the way of independence and cooperate with each other in order to create a new world order at a time when many countries in the world became independent after World War II.

In talks with the Zimbabwean parliamentary delegation on January 19, 1987, President Kim Il Sung stated that it was important for independent countries to follow the principle of self-reliance so that they would not again fall under imperialist subjugation. He said as follows:

“Today, the peoples of the developing countries are faced with the task of consolidating the political independence they have already gained, building an independent national economy, and defending the peace and security of the world.

“Maintaining political independence is the first prerequisite for the developing countries. ...A self-reliant national economy is the foundation of an independent state. Only when they build a self-reliant national economy can the developing countries consolidate their political independence and save their people from starvation and poverty.

“There are two ways for developing countries being self-reliant in the economy: one is to make the maximum use of their internal resources by displaying the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and the other is to realize South-South cooperation on the principle of collective

self-reliance. In the long run, the one and only way for them to survive independently is by believing in their own strength.

“South-South cooperation is a noble way for developing countries to realize self-reliance in the economy by teaming up with each other economically and technically. The development of South-South cooperation will make it possible for them not only to build independent national economies successfully but also to destroy the old, unfair international economic order, and establish a new, fair one.”

Nowadays, the independent, anti-US and anti-imperialist struggle is making great progress in the direction indicated by President Kim Il Sung, and the unjust world order created by imperialism and its double standards can no longer be applied.

In particular, forces of independence that follow the path of independence, such as the Global South, are cooperating with each other and exerting their greater influence on the world as a whole.

The Global South, with the majority of the world’s population, has become superior to the imperialist countries in terms of vast land and the real political and economic capability in view of their influence on the world. Now, US and European imperialism cannot ignore the Global South in world politics.

Furthermore, the BRICS, which comprise around 40% of the world’s land, abundant natural resources such as crude oil and iron ore, and a huge population as a source of labour power, have largely rewritten the Western-led global economy. The BRICS are increasingly moving away from the dollar and euro to their own currencies in terms of settlement.

In the Global South, more and more countries are no longer subject to supporting sanctions based on the double standards of Western imperialism. US and European sanctions against Russia, China and the DPRK have had the ironic result of encouraging the expansion of a new economic bloc.

In addition, in various regions of the world, there is a growing momentum towards cooperative development in a peaceful environment, and various co-operation structures are being formed in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

There is a phenomenon where some countries, advancing along the path of independence, follow the US and are complicit in the Israeli genocide, but this cannot be the mainstream.

In his work published on October 8, 1968 “The Great Anti-imperialist Revolutionary Cause of the Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples Is Invincible”, President Kim Il Sung

stressed the need to thoroughly defend the unity of the anti-US, anti-imperialist independent forces and stated:

“It is true that there may be different categories of people amongst those who oppose imperialism. Some may actively oppose imperialism, others may hesitate in the anti-imperialist struggle, and still others may join the struggle reluctantly under pressure from their own people and the peoples of the world. But whatever their motives, it is necessary to enlist all these forces except the henchmen of imperialism in the combined anti-US struggle.

“We, small nations must unite and counter US imperialism’s strategy of swallowing us up one by one, by each one of us chopping off its head and limbs. This is the strategy small countries must employ to defeat US imperialism.”

US high-handedness is prompting previously pro-US countries to secede. Countries that had followed the US have come to have relations with the countries advancing along the path of independence, and thus imperialist relations with their alliances have come to be shaken.

The US’ finances have deteriorated to an extreme level due to its military spending on the Ukrainian and Palestinian situations initiated by itself. European countries have also been exhausted by military aid to Ukraine, and the far-right forces have emerged in many countries.

The US and European countries, in a difficult situation, announced bandit-like policies such as freezing Russian assets and diverting its funds to their military spending. However, freezing Russian assets, for example, will simultaneously and inevitably encourage the downfall of the dollar and the euro.

US imperialism is facing a difficult situation of pro-US defections and unrest among its allies, while further domestic turmoil continues to plunge the country into more difficult situations.

Under the circumstances that the trend towards anti-US and anti-imperialist struggles for a fairer world order has intensified, it can be said that the decisive factor in their victory will be attributable to upholding aloft the banner of the Juche idea.

3. Study and Dissemination of the Juche Idea Should Be in Line with the Demands and Aspirations of the Peoples of One’s Own Country

It can be said that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea is the preceding work that accelerates the people’s struggle for anti-imperialism and independence.

Nowadays, study and dissemination of the Juche idea has been carried out in many

countries and regions.

It can be informed that in the Middle East and Europe, where the US imperialists have launched wars and there are extreme tensions, Juche idea researchers have been conducting their work with conviction.

About Japan, a national seminar on the Juche idea has been held in Okinawa every January to celebrate the birth anniversary of General Secretary Kim Jong Un. This year, introduced at the seminar was a congratulatory message to the seminar from the President of the Juche Idea Study Group of Lebanon. In his message, he expressed his regret at not being able to attend the seminar in Japan and said: “It is due to the direct situation in Lebanon and Palestine as a result of the continued Zionist-imperialist aggression against Gaza, occupied Palestine, and southern Lebanon. We are part of the battle of steadfastness and resistance.”

Similarly, a Russian scholar of the Juche idea delivered a speech on the struggle of the Russian people for justice and independence in Europe and the rest of the world at a European regional seminar on the Juche idea held in Rome in September 2023 to celebrate the 75th founding anniversary of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Those participants who joined those gatherings were deeply moved by such message and the speech of the Juche idea researchers from the countries and regions that are in severe struggle against US imperialism and expressed their strong support for and solidarity with them.

In view of powerfully conducting the struggle of anti-imperialism and independence, Juche idea researchers in the world are requested to actively promote their study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

The first thing that Juche idea researchers should do for the promotion of the study and dissemination of the Juche idea in the world is to have a clear understanding of their own duties.

The first thing for Juche idea researchers to do is to study the Juche idea in depth and systematically.

In studying and deeply understanding the Juche idea, it is important to pay attention to the DPRK, which embodies the Juche idea.

It is indispensable for world Juche idea researchers to visit the DPRK, see with their own eyes the reality of the DPRK, which is in the height of socialist construction, and systematically and deeply study the Juche idea for pushing forward the struggle for making the world,

including their own countries, independent.

Next, it is important for Juche idea researchers to make efforts to become those who believe in Kimilsung-Kimjongilism themselves.

Those who believe in Kimilsung-Kimjongilism are revolutionaries of Juche type who have faith in it and are devoting themselves all to the victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Furthermore, it is important for Juche idea researchers not only to dedicate themselves to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, but also to raise others to be new leaders and comrades in the study and dissemination of this idea.

Expanding the ranks of Juche-oriented comrades and organizing a wide range of people around them will contribute to forming the driving force of the struggle for making one's own country independent.

The second thing for Juche idea researchers to do is to be aware of the methodology for the study and dissemination of this idea and to put it into practice.

The Study and dissemination of the Juche idea requires to establish the principle of safeguarding independence.

That is to say to conduct activities in line with the feelings and demands of the people of one's own country.

Even if you say that the DPRK is the country that embodies the Juche idea splendidly,



IJI Board members who took part in the 22nd Board Meeting of the IJI (Pyongyang on April 14, 2024)

you will not be able neither to get the approval of your own people nor get their attention to your work if you fall into imitation and formalism of this country.

When visiting some regions that are doing well in the study and dissemination of the Juche idea on a regionwide scale, it can be found that there is something common in the work concerned.

One aspect is that those organizers of a Juche idea seminar are keen on paying careful attention to making the seminar be enrooted on their people's demands and awareness.

So, when they need to uphold a flag, they put up both the flag of the DPRK and the country of their own in an effort to promote the study and dissemination of the Juche idea in connection with the development of individual countries and regions.

Further, it is important that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea should be tackled on the principle of self-reliance with all the problems, including the issue of ensuring financial basis.

Juche idea researchers are requested to constantly establish their financial basis in terms of the study and dissemination of the Juche idea by setting up membership fees and collecting contributions from their supporters and volunteers. They could also raise funds by publishing and selling study materials and books on the Juche idea.

Furthermore, it is important for Juche idea researchers to get themselves involved in the socio-political problems of their own countries.

On September 25, 1977, in his speech to a Japanese academic delegation for the study of the Juche idea who had participated in an international seminar on the Juche idea, President Kim Il Sung said as follows:

“What was particularly good about the last seminar was that many delegates discussed the question of how to carry out projects to build a new society and consolidate national independence in connection with the actual situation in their own countries. The heads of delegations and representatives of the newly independent countries studied and discussed in depth how to build their countries into independent, self-reliant states and to go down the road to socialism.”

Juche idea researchers in the world are called upon to work for the independence of their own countries as well as global independence.

In this context, in Japan, from the close of last year to this year, Juche idea researchers, in cooperation with some of the Palestinians living in Japan, held several lecture meetings in

major cities like Tokyo and Osaka to stop the US imperialists and their Israeli puppets from attacking Gaza, and organized demonstrations concerned in Kyoto, and letters of protest to the Japanese government, the US embassy to Japan and the Israeli embassy to Japan.

It was in Fukushima 13 years ago, on March 11, 2011, to be exact, when a huge earthquake caused nuclear power plants there to explode, taking a heavy toll of human lives. Subsequent investigations on this earthquake have revealed that the total of death or linkage death and missing amounts to 24,000 people and, also, there are approximately 30,000 people who have been evacuated and are still unable to return to their homes.

In mid-March this year, a rally was held in Fukushima in memory of the victims of the nuclear accident, attended by over 500 people.

Under the circumstances that there are still a large number of people affected by the nuclear accident who cannot return their homes, having to lead difficult livelihood, it has been planned to hold a national seminar on the Juche idea in Fukushima on April 20th this year to celebrate the birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

It is necessary that politics functions for the people and for the people to be happy. In this regard, it is necessary for Juche idea researchers in the world to persistently disseminate the Juche idea within their own countries.

Let us accelerate the study and dissemination of the Juche idea by cooperating with Juche idea researchers in individual countries and their respective regions, while making close contact with the International Institute of the Juche Idea.



A view of a National Seminar on the Juche Idea and Nuclear Plants Issue (Fukushima, Japan, on April 20, 2024)