

# Struggle aimed at Loving and Believing in People

**Ogami Ken-ichi,**

**Secretary General of the IJI**

Esteemed Prof. Ramon Jimenez Lopez, director general of the Board of Directors,  
International Institute of the Juche Idea,

Esteemed Mr. Ri Je Sun, vice-chairman of the Korean Association of Social Scientists,

Esteemed Directors of the Board of Directors, Latin American Institute of the Juche Idea,

Dear Mexican comrades and friends,

It is really pleasure of me to see you in this way.

## **1. The Era of Anti-Imperialist, Independent Forces**

Currently, anti-imperialist, independent forces are expanding their influence in the world, greatly shaking the conventional world order centering on the U.S. and Europe.

The anti-American and anti-imperialist countries such as the DPRK, China, and Russia, where U.S. and European imperialism are concentrating their attacks, have been significantly strengthened politically, economically, and militarily, further enhancing mutual cooperation and crushing the imperialists' aggressive measures.

In June 2024, the DPRK and the Russian Federation signed the “DPRK-Russia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty”. The Partnership Treaty is aimed to strengthen strategic and tactical cooperation between the DPRK and Russia in pursuit of establishing a new international order of global stability and equality.

The countries of the Global South are also breaking away from long-standing imperialist rule and moving forward on the path of independence and self-reliance by expanding South-South cooperation based on their own regional and national interests.

Furthermore, those countries have come to clearly distinguish themselves in a political sense from the U.S. and the European countries by opposing the U.N. sanctions against Russia.

The anti-imperialist, independent forces are expanding their influence on the world, surpassing U.S. and European imperialism, not only in population size, but also in an economic

scale, as symbolized by the BRICS.

U.S. imperialism is facing a historic crisis as the anti-imperialist, independent forces have gained their momentum.

Entering the year 2025, the weakened U.S. has begun to wield “American Unilateralism” that imposes sacrifices on other nations, plunging itself and the rest of the world into serious turmoil.

The U.S. has also fostered the forces that would benefit from war, and has kept a possible ceasefire in Ukraine and Israel out of the picture. Furthermore, the U.S. has been engaged in a warmongering frenzy, conducting military exercises around the world in anticipation of a nuclear World War III.

The self-serving foreign policy of the U.S. is accelerating countries around the world, including those that have been dependent on the U.S., to leave the U.S. behind. Those countries are shifting to trade with a third country as an alternative to the U.S., and in Europe, NATO has become divided due to the differences in response to U.S. demands.

We are now witnessing once again the legitimacy and the strength of the DPRK, which is leading the era of independence by winning the anti-American, anti-imperialist struggles, regarding independence as the lifeblood of the nation and its people.

The contemporary era is indeed the era of independence, which clearly shows that independence is the most important value of the peace and development of one's own countries and the rest of the world, while dependence on and subordination to other countries are the path to the ruin of one's own countries and war.

## **2. Juche Idea as Socialist Idea of New Era**

The humankind has long sought an idea to realize socialism in which people live in peace and harmony.

It can be said that revolutionary ideas have emerged in response to the demands of the times and the people, and have deepened and developed to lead the historical progress of society.

Marx, who was active in Germany in the 19th century, overthrew the religious worldview that had bound the people and elucidated socialism scientifically. Marx's theory proved the historical inevitability of the collapse of capitalism and the triumph of socialism, and established socialism as a scientific system. Furthermore, its connection with the people, the bearers of the revolution and the methods of struggle made Marxism a reality.

However, due to the historical limitation of the times, Marx's ideology regarded material and

economic factors as the basis of the revolutionary struggle and failed to sufficiently raise the importance of the role of human beings, the driving force of the revolution, and their ideas and consciousness.

Lenin practiced Marxism and built the Soviet Union as the first socialist state in the world. Soviet socialism gave great hope to the peoples of the world aspiring after independence and encouraged the birth of many socialist countries and political parties to this end.

However, the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, bringing an end to its socialist history of more than 70 years.

Kim Jong Il attributed the collapse of the Soviet Union to “the renegades of socialism who are advocating the material-is-almighty doctrine and the economy-is-almighty doctrine in order to restore capitalism, of which they harbour illusions.” (“Socialism Is a Science” in 1994)

It was the founding of the Juche idea by President Kim Il Sung and the original theoretical development based on it that raised socialism on a new scientific foundation.

Kim Il Sung elucidated the philosophical principle of the Juche idea that “man is the master of everything and decides everything,” and clarified the laws of “social movements” that regard themselves as “social movements of the driving force.” This led to the establishment of socialist thought with a new scientific system.

Kim Il Sung also had the idea of “believing in the people as in heaven” as his motto, and devoted his whole life to the well-being of the people.

Kim Il Sung's revolutionary activities were not imitations or followings of the past, but rather a completely new and original line of action.

In the 1920s, he formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) and clearly set the construction of socialism and communism in Korea as the ultimate goal of their struggle.

In those days, Korea was under the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, and the Korean people were even deprived of their national script and language. Kim Il Sung went among those people who had been reduced to enslavement in their trampled homeland, believing in them with their strength and encouraging them to wage struggles, and united them to realize the liberation of their country.

After the liberation of his country, President Kim Il Sung continued to work with the people to fight and win the war of aggression waged by U.S. imperialism and its follow-on countries. The DPRK's victory in the Korean War influenced the anti-American, anti-imperialist struggles of the peoples of Vietnam and other countries, and became a turning point in the U.S. to go downhill.

Under the conditions scorched by the war, President Kim Il Sung vigorously promoted postwar reconstruction, including agriculture and industry, and developed socialist Korea year by year, making the name of “Chollima Korea, the model as a socialist country” known to the world.

The people of the world aspiring to socialism were greatly interested in the achievements of President Kim Il Sung and the Juche idea, but they had to wait for Kim Jong Il’s work to obtain the ideological and theoretical system of the Juche idea.

After his enormous study and contemplation, Kim Jong Il formulated Kim Il Sung's thought as Kimilsungism as an integral system of the idea, theory, and method of Juche. This enabled the world people to advance their struggle under the banner of “Kimilsungism” as the socialist idea of the new era.

In the era of Kim Jong Un, he formulated the thoughts of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il as “Kimilsung-Kimjongilism.

He further clarified that Kimilsung-Kimjongilism is, in essence, “people-first principle” with the idea of “devotion to the people” at its core.

The doctrine that “Kimilsung-Kimjongilism equals to the idea of devotion to the people” is easy for everyone to understand, while providing them with its strong support for their practice.

Now in the DPRK, the idea of “devotion to the people” has become the spirit and orientation of all the people and the building of a thriving socialist country is being promoted at an unprecedented speed, and people’s smiles are spreading widely throughout the country, whether in cities, rural villages, or fishing villages.

### **3. Youth and Intellectuals Play Pioneering Role in Revolutionary Struggle**

Both Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il embarked on the path of revolution in their adolescence and devoted their entire lives to the happiness and liberation of the people.

Kim Il Sung, in 1926, at the age of 14, founded the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU), upholding in its platform the liberation and independence of Korea as well as the construction of communism worldwide.

Kim Il Sung, in July 1930, at the age of 18, founded the “Society for Rallying Comrades,” as the first party organization of the Workers' Party of Korea, in an effort to lay the foundation for the party that would later be established.

Kim Jong Il, at the age of 22, began his work in the Party Central Committee and developed the Youth League into an organization loyal to the Party and its leader. He also firmly defended

the DPRK from imperialism by establishing “Songun politics” in the numerous difficulties the country passed through, including imperialist oppressions and natural disasters.

Now in the DPRK, Kim Jong Un, who became the supreme leader of the nation at his younger age of 20s after the sudden death of Kim Jong Il, is leading the DPRK to become a thriving ideological, political, and military country.

Kim Jong Un, through his politics of devotion to the people, has aroused in the people a sense of independence and enthusiasm, and is boldly and rapidly promoting socialist construction with the strength of a united people and the most powerful national defense capability.

Those DPRK leaders regarded and has regarded the youth as the pioneers of the revolution, giving them their deep love and trust. Their love to the youngsters had and has not been limited to those in the DPRK.

Now, we can find President Kim Il Sung’s love for and trust in the intellectuals and the youth clearly and continuously in the birth and development of the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI).

For instance, it was in September 1976, at an International Seminar on the Juche Idea held in Madagascar when a proposal to establish a permanent international organization of the Juche idea was offered, and finally, on April 9, 1978, the International Institute of the Juche Idea was established in Tokyo.

It was one year before that seminar in Madagascar, or in 1975, when a university professor and myself were given an audience by President Kim Il Sung.

When the professor said at that time, “I have not worked enough on the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, and I feel so much obliged to have been received by you,” President Kim Il Sung replied, “I have just begun to study the Juche idea. This idea will be needed in the world onward in the future to come. So, let us work together.” Likely, the President warmly encouraged us. Furthermore, the President Kim Il Sung showed his confidence in us by saying, “You should be all right because you have the youth around.”

On a subsequent occasion, Prof. Yasui Kaoru, who was the person who became the first director general of the IIJI Board, had an opportunity to visit the DPRK with his wife.

It was just before he was obliged to enter a hospital bed for his cancer treatment, so that he had planned to resign from his chairmanship of the Japan-DPRK Solidarity Committee of Social Scientists.

However, receiving Prof. Yasui on that occasion of his visit to the DPRK, President Kim Il Sung said to him, “Ours is the era of the Juche idea and an international organization for

the study of the Juche idea to be established requires director general of its board of directors. In this regard, wouldn't it be possible for you to play the role as such?"

It was said that that night Prof. Yasui was not able to sleep at all, and that he gave a serious thought on the proposal made by the President.

Then, in the following morning, Prof. Yasui called on me, handing over a collection of his own tanka poems entitled "Eigo-no-dampen (Tr.: A Fragment of Eternity)" and on whose endpaper he wrote the following tanka poem: "This dream I have held on throughout my life, I would like to entrust it to my younger ones and watch it over to the end."

This tanka poem condensed the determination of Prof. Yasui Kaoru to establish the International Institute of the Juche Idea and to assume the responsibilities of the first director general of its Board, despite his serious illness.

Prof. Yasui continued to direct the preparations for the founding of the IJJI shortly before his death.

In those days, the IJJI's office was initially operated in a rented room of a building at the prime location in Tokyo. There was an episode concerned:

On the outset, the owner of the building inquired of Prof. Yasui, "What is the Juche idea? Is it safe to rent this property to you concerned?" and Prof. Yasui explained to him, "This is a movement to open up the future," and with the trust of the owner, the IJJI was able to hold an opening of its office.

Prof. Yasui Kaoru regrettably passed away in 1980.

A delegation from the IJJI visited the DPRK and was received by President Kim Il Sung on October 17, 1980, the same year.

That talk of President Kim Il Sung with the delegation from the IJJI was introduced on the Volumes 72 of "Kim Il Sung Complete Works", which was translated this year into several languages by the Foreign Languages Publishing House, Pyongyang, Korea.

That talk was given 45 years ago. Nevertheless, it is still relevant today and has profound significance as a beacon for our future.

In his talk, the President emphasized the importance of upholding the Juche idea as a guideline for nation-building.

He also pointed out that the developing countries face the challenges of "lack of their own native cadres" and "lack of originality due to the imitation of the U.S. and Europe." He taught that, especially after independence, the first priority of a nation should be to develop agriculture and create a foundation for its people to eat.

He also stressed that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea should be conducted with faith in one's own intellectuals and youth, along with the introduction of the experiences attained in the DPRK. The President kindly told the delegation from the IIJI that it is important to believe in one's own intellectuals and young people and to maximize their independence and creativity, without worshipping foreign countries.

I believe that a seminar like this, where so many young people gather together, truly provides an opportunity for them to live up to the trust and expectations of President Kim Il Sung.

In this context, we must strive with all our might to carry forward the teachings of President Kim Il Sung and the legacy of Prof. Yasui Kaoru, to study and disseminate the Juche idea throughout the world, and to promote the independence of our own countries and the rest of the world.

## **Conclusion**

Juche idea researchers in the world have always worked under the trust and affection of the DPRK leaders.

Therefore, every year, together with many people, we have continued to hold seminars on the Juche idea for the birth anniversaries of President Kim Il Sung, General Secretary Kim Jong Il and General Secretary Kim Jong Un.

For instance, in April this year in Japan, on the occasion of the 113th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, we held meaningful national seminars on the Juche idea in Gunma and Osaka attended by some 200 people in all from all over Japan.

The Juche idea is a revolutionary idea of the new era with universal values that can be applied to any country or any region.

Only when the peoples of the world stand on the Juche idea, can they make their independent nation-building and socialist development come true.

It is indispensable for the youth and intellectuals to play an important role in the forefront of this process. With them in the vanguard, the people's revolutionary struggle should be promoted more and more vigorously.

What is more, the struggle of the people to make the world independent will not end with a single generation; it is a task that must be passed on from one generation to the next.

In Latin America as well, a wide range of people, including young activists, led by Prof. Ramón Jiménez López, are uniting and strengthening their proactive power.

I sincerely hope that the study and dissemination of the Juche idea will continue to grow stronger in Mexico and the rest of the Latin American countries.