

Speech at Asian Regional Seminar on Juche Idea in Ulaanbaatar

“Challenges of the 21st century and the Juche idea”

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Distinguish dignitaries on the podium, fellow delegates, scholars, comrades and friends,

I have the honour and privilege to warmly greet and welcome you all on my own behalf and on behalf of the Asian Regional Institute of the Juche Idea (ARIJI) in this Regional Seminar on a very important and relevant topic "Challenges of the 21st century and the Juche idea".

The Seminar is being held on a very significant occasion of the 45th Founding Anniversary of the ARIJI in the heart of Mongolia, a land of proud heritage, deep intellectual roots and resilient people.

I express my deepest gratitude to Mongolian comrades for hosting this event and making it a grand success. Now please permit me to share my views with you all on the theme of this seminar.

Comrades and friends,

In the present world, several countries are confronted with serious challenges. These are related to economic development, economic instability, poverty and hunger, unequal distribution of income and wealth, unemployment, debt burden, climate crisis and environmental degradation.

There are also geopolitical and ideological issues such as social justice, military aggression, national security and world peace.

In addition to these, in the 21st century, there is increasing interference in the internal affairs of many countries by imperialists, creating territorial disputes and provoking and escalating wars in countries which prefer socialism and those which fight for the rights of their independence and sovereignty.

The ongoing, long and unending wars between Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran on the one hand and between Russia and Ukraine on the other hand, which are being backed by the US-led imperialism, have threatened the independence and sovereignty of these countries and have posed serious dangers to world peace. These wars have also led to the destruction of

valuable properties on a very large scale and have brought unprecedented suffering to a large number of people in these countries.

In the war between Israel and Palestine which started on October 7, 2023, Israeli forces perpetrated atrocities and war crimes against humanity. Israeli forces have so far killed and injured hundreds of thousands of innocent people, mainly women and children, in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank. Still, hundreds of people are daily dying from hunger, lack of housing and medical facilities. International humanitarian assistance is not only falling short of the requirements and due to many hurdles, but also is not reaching the needy. Also, several women and children who stand in queue to get food and other essential items are shot down mercilessly.

It is high time for the peace-loving people of the world not to remain silent spectators but to unite against these brutalities, atrocities and genocide. The perpetrators of these ghastly crimes must be compelled to stop playing their dirty games of wars and allow humanity to survive and peace to prevail in the world. "Live and let others live" should be the motto of all.

Recently, President Donald Trump has been bullying and terrorising several countries through high, unreasonable and unjustified tariffs on imports from these countries and creating many economic problems for them. Against this unholy trade war, powerful countries of BRICS—(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) have come closer and united against the US and are agreeing to have trade deals among them in the interest of their individual nations. Many other countries are also following their suit. Let us wish and hope that a new World Order emerges—Unipolar world to Multipolar world.

In such a turbulent Era, the Juche idea propounded by eternal President Kim Il Sung and further scientifically developed by eternal General Secretary Kim Jong Il stands as a revolutionary guiding ideology that empowers nations to carve out their own paths. The Juche idea founded on the principle that "man is the master of everything and decides everything" provides a framework for overcoming the modern challenges.

The Juche idea is a guiding light for sovereignty and self-reliance.

It is not merely a political doctrine, but a comprehensive worldview. At its core, Juche affirms that:

- The masses are the masters of revolution and construction.
- Man is the master of everything and decides everything.
- Independence in politics, self-sufficiency in economy, and self-reliance in defense are the essential pillars of national strength.

These are not merely abstract slogans. They are deeply rooted in the life experiences of the Korean people and resonate across Asia, where colonial histories, cultural pride, and the longing for true independence shapes our collective consciousness.

In today's context, when external forces still attempt to dominate weaker nations through neocolonial methods—be it economic coercion, cultural assimilation, or military threats—the Juche idea offers an ideological compass for resistance and revitalization.

Let me now turn to some of the pressing challenges we face in the 21st century, and how the Juche idea offers intellectual and practical responses:

1. Challenge of Political Sovereignty

Across the developing world, we see interference in domestic affairs—be it through so-called democratization programs, sanctions, or ideological infiltration. The Juche principle of political independence reminds us that no nation can rely on outside forces to define its future. True democracy stems from the people's collective will, not external prescriptions.

2. Challenge of Economic Dependence

Global economic networks have made many nations reliant on volatile markets and foreign capital. The Juche-oriented emphasis on economic self-sufficiency provides a long-term vision for national development based on domestic resources, tailored to local needs, and centered around the people's welfare—not corporate profit.

3. Challenge of Cultural Identity

Cultural imperialism has eroded indigenous traditions in many parts of the world. Western media, consumerism, and values often drown out native languages, customs, and social values. Juche, however, teaches us the power of cultural self-confidence. The preservation and promotion of national culture is not an obstacle to development—it is a foundation for genuine progress.

4. Challenge of Environmental Crisis

While the Juche idea is not commonly discussed in the environmental discourse, its

principles of harmony between man and nature, of disciplined use of resources, and of long-term planning rather than short-term exploitation, are remarkably relevant today.

5. Challenge of Youth Alienation

Young generations are bombarded with conflicting values and rootless ideologies. Juche empowers youth by affirming their historic role as agents of change, not passive recipients of global trends. The youth, as emphasized by President Kim Il Sung, are the vanguard of revolution and must be educated in the spirit of self-reliance and national pride.

6. Role of the Asian Regional Institute of Juche Idea (ARIJI)

The ARIJI is committed to intellectual exchanges, research and dissemination of the Juche philosophy across diverse Asian societies. We work with academics, students, cultural activists, and political thinkers to deepen understanding and develop indigenous strategies for national development and ideological clarity.

This seminar is an important milestone in that journey. Here in Mongolia—a nation with its own proud traditions of independence—we find fertile ground for such discussions.

We must not view the Juche idea as an ideology limited to the Korean context. Its universal themes—dignity, independence, sovereignty, creativity—are applicable wherever people yearn for control over their own destinies. The core principle that “man is the master of everything and decides everything” is a declaration of confidence in human potential—a message desperately needed in times of uncertainty.

Comrades and friends,

We do not gather here simply to admire the Juche idea, but to apply its wisdom to the burning issues of our time. Let us reaffirm:

- Our commitment to sovereign thought and independent policymaking in all Asian countries;
- Our resolve to build economic systems that prioritize national needs and people’s welfare;
- Our dedication to cultural pride and resistance against hegemonising forces;
- Our trust in the creative power of the masses as the drivers of change.

In the words of President Kim Il Sung, “The people are the most precious beings in the world. Nothing is more powerful than their creative strength.”

Let that truth guide us as we confront the challenges of the 21st century—not as helpless victims of globalization, but as proud inheritors of our histories, and active builders of our futures.

Let me conclude by expressing my deep appreciation to all the delegates present here, and to our hosts in Ulaanbaatar. Let this seminar be a starting point for deeper collaboration, greater intellectual courage, and unwavering commitment to the Juche path of independence, dignity, and creative development.