

Speech at European Regional Seminar on Juche Idea in Helsinki

Building Just Society Requires Application of Juche Idea

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Recently, we celebrated the 80th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang, and today we mark the 40th founding anniversary of the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea (ERSSJI).

The ERSSJI was founded 40 years ago, and the world then was very different compared to today. In Europe, there was a strong socialist system led by the Soviet Union. Likewise, the prospects for socialism in Asia were stable.

However, within the socialist system led by the Soviet Union, a crisis had already been developing for some time. The USSR people did not have an enough understanding of Marxism-Leninism, which was the theoretical foundation of the society. Teaching the masses of people dialectical and historical materialism in depth was considered too difficult. Because the people lacked a deep understanding of ideology, there was no profound unity on what the long-term goals were or how socialism should be built. Striving to catch up with Western countries in commodity production, as had been attempted, was a goal alien to socialism.

Of course, there were other reasons for the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe, but I personally regard it as one of the most significant things neglecting ideological struggle. Ideological struggle continues long after the establishment of a socialist system, and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un has often emphasized this matter.

The construction of socialism in the DPRK has naturally been based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism—dialectical and historical materialism—but President Kim Il Sung recognized its weaknesses and began developing the Juche idea, which would best meet the needs of the Korean people in building socialism. Historical materialism aptly describes the dialectical development of different social systems, but it is insufficient when it comes to the construction of a socialist and communist society.

The building of socialism in the DPRK has demonstrated that the Juche idea best reflects the needs of the people and enables them to guarantee the continuous development of socialist

society according to their requirements and needs.

According to the Juche idea, human beings are at the center of everything and decide everything. Society is built on the principles of political independence, economic self-sufficiency, and self-defense. In other words, the people must govern their own country without external influence or dependence on great powers; the national economy must be self-reliant and based on domestic resources; and the nation must be able to defend itself without foreign assistance.

In the DPRK, the Party listens carefully to the needs of the people and strives to respond to them swiftly. This has created a deep bond of trust between the leader, the Party, and the masses. The Party does not become alienated from the masses, as has happened in some other countries, but remains with the masses both in the happy and difficult moments. No one is left behind; everyone is included in the building of society.

It can be said that the Juche idea has proven to be the most effective model for building socialism. This provides a good foundation for studying how the Juche idea could be applied in our own country's circumstances. Studying the Juche idea does not mean memorizing Korean practices and transferring them as such to other nations—it means considering how we can build our own revolution while utilizing the main principles of the Juche idea.

The situation in Western countries is deteriorating. There prevails an extreme ideology of individualism, where people are forced to compete against one another, and those who have amassed great wealth at the expense of others are admired. The capitalist system is based on exploitation, and the imperialist blocs—the EU and the USA—must constantly seek new markets and natural resources to maintain their dominance. This has led to extreme militarization in Western Europe. The funds for armaments are taken from ordinary people, whose living conditions worsen: healthcare deteriorates and becomes privatized, housing and food grow more expensive, and education weakens.

It is clear that the Western societal system does not listen to the people; everything is done on the terms of international monopoly capital to ensure the success of the capitalist blocs.

From this perspective, we, researchers of the Juche idea, have much to contribute. We must expand our study activities and reflect on what the Juche idea means from the viewpoint of our own countries. Spreading the Juche idea in this world of individualism takes place from one person to another, one by one; thus, every study group is important, regardless of its size. The European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea has now been active for

40 years. It was founded in Paris on October 20, 1985. In a seminar held the same day, the then Society's President Edmond Jouve explained the significance of the Juche idea as follows:

“In the course of his struggle for national liberation and independence, President

Kim Il Sung realized that if one was to carry out the Korean revolution successfully, one should use one’s brains and solve all problems arising in the revolutionary struggle on one’s own. On the basis of this experience, President Kim Il Sung founded the Juche idea and applied it thoroughly in all spheres of social life. Even under the difficult circumstances in which the country remained divided, the Korean people made miraculous progress in all fields of the revolution and construction by waging vigorous struggle under the banner of the Juche idea. This success is clear testimony to the validity of the Juche idea.”

Let us study the theory of the Juche idea and its application in the DPRK—for there lies the path to democracy, well-being, and a more just world.