

Kim Il Sung's Love for and Trust in Us, and His Lofty Aspirations Engraved in Our Hearts

Ogami Ken-ichi, secretary general of International Institute of the Juche Idea

President Kim Il Sung showed his warmth and consideration in depth in promoting the worldwide study and dissemination of the Juche idea. This was an expression of his deep love for the peoples of the world.

1. The Flame of Juche Spreads Like Wildfire across the World

After World War II, many countries were liberated from imperialist colonial rules and started taking a path toward becoming independent, self-reliant nations.

However, achieving independence did not immediately open the path to truly independent development. In fact, many countries had been searching for the path they should take.

Amidst this situation, people's attention gradually turned toward the DPRK, the land of Juche.

This was not because the DPRK was a rich country or a power.

It was because the image of the DPRK—having defeated the most vicious forms of Japanese and U.S. imperialism in history, steadfastly upholding the principle of independence that “we carve out our own destiny,” and building their society in accordance with their own realities—resonated deeply with the peoples of various nations.

It was the thought and practice of President Kim Il Sung that gave rise to this trend.

On December 16, 1967, in the political programme of the DPRK government delivered at the First Session of the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, entitled “Let Us Embody the Revolutionary Spirit of Independence, Self-sustenance, and Self-defense More Thoroughly in All Branches of State Activity, President Kim Il Sung stated as follows:

“The great victories and successes we have attained in our socialist revolution and construction over the past years are, indeed, the brilliant consequence of the great vitality of our Party's idea of Juche and of our line of independence, self-sustenance, and self-defense—the embodiment of that idea in all fields.”

These lines embody his conviction that the people are the masters of the revolution and

construction, and that they can shape their own destiny through their own strength.

Furthermore, on November 2, 1970, in his report on the activities of the Central Committee delivered at the Fifth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, President Kim Il Sung emphasized its adherence to the line of independence, solidarity with the forces of anti-imperialism and independence, and unity with the peoples of the Third World in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

For the people around the world seeking independence, the example of the DPRK—advancing socialist construction under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung and with the momentum of the “Chollima”—served as a source of great hope and encouragement.

In particular, the Third World countries, especially those in Africa, began to take a deep interest in the DPRK's example of upholding independence, advancing industrialization with a spirit of self-reliance, and devoting efforts to the development of literacy education and healthcare systems. The movement to learn from the DPRK gradually spread to every continent, from Asia to Latin America and Europe.

From 1971 onward, gatherings of Juche idea researchers from around the world began to be held actively, and mutual cooperation grew stronger.

In 1976, an International Scientific Symposium on the Juche Idea as the first of this kind, attended by representatives from over 50 countries, was held in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. At this conference, which was also attended by Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka, a resolution was passed to establish a permanent international body dedicated to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.



A view of an International Scientific Symposium on Juche Idea (Madagascar in 1976)



A view of the Inaugural Congress of the International Institute of the Juche Idea
(Tokyo on April 9, 1977)

This was not merely a sign that the study of a single ideology had expanded. It was an event demonstrating that the aspirations of the world's peoples for independence had united across national borders and developed into a single trend.

In 1977, President Kim Il Sung made the following remarks regarding the world peoples' demand for the Juche idea to the effect:

“Since the people around the world are calling for the Juche idea, it is important to establish an international research organization of the Juche idea. The importance of such an international research organization lies in the fact that, while revolution cannot be exported, we can provide each country with empirical data so that they can resolve their own problems through their own efforts. Therefore, an international research organization as such must remain strictly academic in nature and must not become a political organization.”

In 1978, approximately 800 Juche idea researchers from 10 countries around the world gathered together in Tokyo for the historic inaugural congress of the International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI).

It was decided that the secretariat of the IIJI should be located in Tokyo.

Regarding the significance of locating the IIJI Secretariat in Tokyo, President Kim Il Sung said as follows to the effect:

“If an international research organization of the Juche idea is to be established in Japan, it

would be extremely beneficial for peace in Asia. Furthermore, since the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) is based in Japan, its members would surely cooperate with it as well.”

His talks reflected his trust in the Japanese people and his hope for peace in Asia. Above all, they were the manifestation of his warm expectations for the people around the world who aspire to independence.

Likewise, for a long time since then, we working for the IJJI have continued on our duties supported by many of our comrades and friends of Korean residents in Japan, including a young Korean photographer whom I first met in the early period of those days and a Chongryon activist who joyfully helped me prepare for my first visit to the DPRK.

Looking back on those days, each and every encounter with them was irreplaceable. When I think of the years that have passed through, while learning from and encouraging one another, President Kim Il Sung’s warmth touches my heart deeply over and over again.

IJJI Board First Director General Prof. Yasui Kaoru, Let His Life Shine Forever

Prof. Yasui Kaoru, a renowned scholar of international law, led a preceding nationwide movement for many years as chairman of the Japanese national organization for the campaign to



A view of the 5th Scientific National Seminar on the Juche Idea
(Tokyo in 1974)

ban nuclear and hydrogen bombings. However, the movement gradually became complicated by political factionalism and inevitable to be split.

In his later years, against this background, Prof. Yasui began to vigorously promote friendship activities with the DPRK. Inspired by his conviction that strengthening Japan's relations with the DPRK was of paramount importance for achieving peace, he founded the Japan-DPRK Solidarity Committee of Social Scientists as an academic body and served as its chairman.

In 1974, Prof. Yasui was the first in the world to declare Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thought to be "Kimilsungism."

Prof. Yasui stated at the 5th Japanese National Seminar on the Juche Idea as follows:

"The ideological and theoretical system with the Juche idea at its core, has become a guiding idea, a guiding theory, and a guiding method of our era. ... I can now, without hesitation, call this ideo-theoretical system Kimilsungism."

Furthermore, he said:

"Great Kimilsungism, with the immortal Juche idea at its core, is a truth that not only the Korean people but all progressive and revolutionary peoples of the world living in the contemporary world or the era of Juche, must firmly equip themselves with; and that widely disseminating this ideology both at home and abroad is the honorable duty of scientists who love the truth."

I can still clearly recall the resolute and passionate image of Prof. Yasui on the podium.

As chairman of the Japan-DPRK Solidarity Committee of Social Scientists, Prof. Yasui strengthened solidarity with the Japanese National Council for the Study of the Juche Idea and promoted numerous activities, including holding several Japanese national seminars on the Juche idea.

However, shortly thereafter, Prof. Yasui was diagnosed with cancer and obliged to undergo his medical treatment.

In 1977, Prof. Yasui determined that it would be difficult to continue his activities and, accompanied by his wife, Tazuko, visited the DPRK with a wish to bid farewell to President Kim Il Sung upon his retirement.

Although President Kim Il Sung understood his medical condition more accurately than anyone else, he did not ask the professor to retire but instead offered him a new assignment. Without hesitation, President Kim Il Sung proposed to Prof. Yasui Kaoru that



In audience by President Kim Il Sung (in 1977)

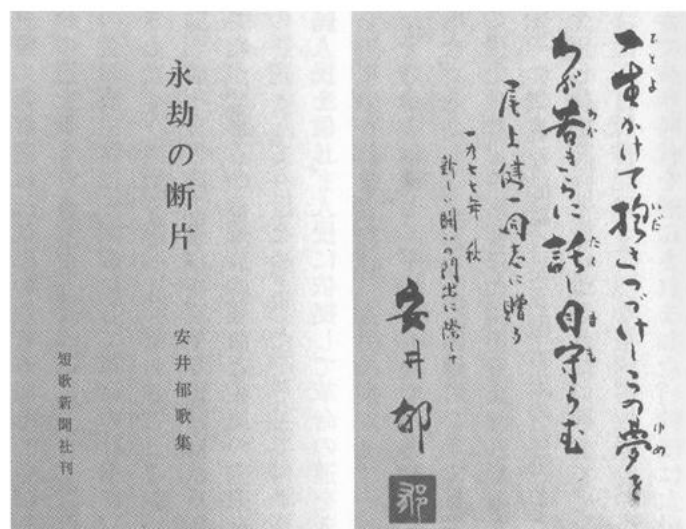
he should embark on establishing an international research organization of the Juche idea and serve as its board director general, explaining that he could fully fulfill this role by relying on the youth. This demonstrated President Kim Il Sung's strong trust in Prof. Yasui, the President's genuine human compassion, and his deep confidence in the new generation.

Having taken President Kim Il Sung's trust and activities to heart, Prof. Yasui was wide awake all night, solidifying his resolve to devote himself to this historic undertaking.

Early in the morning, Prof. Yasui presented me with a copy of his tanka poetry collection entitled "Fragments of an Eon", on a double-page spread of which he had inscribed a tanka poem in deep black ink as follows:

"About this dream I have cherished all my life, I will entrust it to my young comrades and then watch over them tenderly."

This tanka poem engraved on a stone monument has been erected in Abashiri, Hokkaido, against the backdrop of the majestic Sea of Okhotsk. Every year, we visit this site to pay our respects to Prof.



A tanka poem composed by Prof. Yasui Kaoru (on the right page) on his book entitled "Fragments of an Eon" (on the left page)

Yasui Kaoru and reaffirm our resolve to carry on his legacy.

After returning to Japan, Prof. Yasui, even while being confined to his sickbed, fulfilled his duties as the first IJJI Board director general to the very end, including signing up a contract of the IJJI's office premises.



A view of the stone monument with a tanka poem composed by Prof. Yasui Kaoru that was erected in Abashiri, Hokkaido

2. For the Coming Generation to Carry Forward the Revolution and Serve the People

Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un, across three generations—each Korean leader started advancing along the arduous revolutionary undertakings from one's young age.

Kim Il Sung embarked on his revolutionary undertaking at the age of just 14.

At that time, Kim Il Sung was still young enough to be called a boy, yet from his early age he took on the destiny of his own nation and the future of his own people as his own mission. Above all, he trusted his own people, relied on them, and forged a path to the revolution.

His revolutionary undertaking was far from uneventful. Yet, no matter how hardships he had to face, his love for and trust in the people never wavered.

His noble aspiration, together with the noble spirit of Kim Jong Suk, was passed down to Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Il spent his boyhood amid the fierce flames of the Fatherland Liberation War. After the war, he worked side by side with the people, getting his hands dirty in the reconstruction effort. After the demise of Kim Il Sung, he endured days that were literally an “Arduous March” amid relentless imperialist sanctions and a succession of natural disasters.

Kim Jong Il regarded his entire life as that of a soldier of Comrade Kim Il Sung; he systematized Kim Il Sung's revolutionary thought and guided all the people to live and fight in accordance with the Juche idea.

Kim Jong Il's life—in which he carried out Kim Il Sung's last will and devoted his all to the wellbeing of the people—was truly a continuous process of devotion. He never sought a single

day comfort for himself, but worked day and night for the people.

It was precisely because Kim Jong Il was there that the DPRK was able to defend and develop socialism even while being surrounded by imperialism. And the people around the world striving for independence were also greatly encouraged.

When Kim Jong Il passed away far too soon on the path of revolution, the grief of the Korean people was beyond words. On the day when pure white snow was falling, the people took off their coats and spread them along the route of the funeral procession, brushing away the snow with their bare hands as they bid farewell to Kim Jong Il.

However, Kim Jong Il's love for the people was immeasurably deep. He had long nurtured Kim Jong Un as the successor to the revolutionary cause of Juche and had firmly entrusted him with the future of the people.

That is precisely why, even while grieving the loss of Kim Jong Il, the Korean people were confident that Kim Jong Un—who is the very embodiment of Kim Jong Il—would take the lead and continue to guide them without change.

Today, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, the DPRK is shining as a powerful socialist nation.

The reason why the successive leaders of the DPRK loved, trusted the coming generations so deeply and placed them at the forefront of the struggle is because they viewed them beyond the objects of protection.

It is precisely because they themselves traversed the path of revolution from their young ages and overcame hardships together with the people that they believed in the strength of the coming generations more deeply than anyone else.

Thus, noble aspirations of the Korean leaders continue to be passed down to this day.

In his congratulatory speech delivered on June 6, 2026, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Children's Union (KCU), General Secretary Kim Jong Un warmly addressed the members of the KCU.

“Beloved Children's Union members,

“You should not forget that the richer knowledge you acquire, the more healthily and stoutly you grow up and the greater feeling of helping and leading one another forward you cherish in your mind, the stronger your country will become and the happier the laughter will be in the streets, villages, workplaces and houses across the country.

“You should steadily shoulder the future of this country.

“My wish is that you will all be filial to your parents, study hard and be exemplary in the organizational life in good health.

“I really feel happier today than any other days.

“It is because I am sure that, as it has you, our country will become more youthful and beautiful.

“Children’s Union members,

“Let us all march forward courageously towards the future as befitting the sons and daughters of Korea.”

These words are imbued with his boundless love for and trust in the coming generation that will shoulder the future of the whole people.

Loving and Guiding Coming Generations



Being received in the first audience by President Kim Il Sung (in1975)

In 1975, when I was 28 years old, President Kim Il Sung granted the first audience to me, as the representative of the Japanese Youth Delegation for the Study of the Juche Idea that comprised the Japanese Delegation for the Study of the Juche Idea.

President Kim Il Sung welcomed warmly the Japanese delegates, which was our first opportunity of this kind.



A view of a Pyongyang Citizens' Rally to welcome a Japanese Youth Delegation for the Study of the Juche Idea (in 1975)

“Although this is our first meeting, I feel as if I were meeting you just like our old friends,” said the President.

I still cannot forget the deep emotion coming up in my heart when I heard his words as such.

Mentioning that an ideological trend aspiring after independence was spreading throughout the world, President Kim Il Sung encouraged us to work together just like colleagues and comrades who can share the same will. He continued to the effect:

“The struggles for independence are taking place all over the world. Just as a single spark can ignite a prairie fire, the flame of the Juche idea—though it might be still small now—will soon blaze into a great fire, because this idea is correct. We, too, have only just begun this noble undertaking, but let us advance along this proud path together. Even if we face many difficulties in the future, our struggle will surely triumph over adversity. Let us move forward together.”

I could not hold back my tears at his immense expectations and trust placed in us, who were still inexperienced young people.

During our stay in the DPRK, thanks to the consideration of President Kim Il Sung, a Pyongyang Citizens' Rally to welcome the Japanese Youth Delegation for the Study of the Juche Idea was held, and I was given the opportunity to deliver a speech as the youth representative in front of the audience of Pyongyang citizens in 3,000.

In my speech I comprised the following contents: on the difficult days those Japanese youth had to spend, searching for the path forward while feeling indignant at the many contradictions

and absurdities in the Japanese society; on how our heart trembled with the joy of being reborn as humans when we came across with the thought and life of President Kim Il Sung through the “Kim Il Sung Biography”; and on that many of the youth and students in Japan were then rising up to study and disseminate the Juche idea, forming a nationwide organization of Juche.

President Kim Il Sung, who showed his exceptional love for and trust in me, an unknown youth who had only just stepped onto the path of exploring the Juche idea at that time, continued to arrange opportunities to grant audiences to me on many occasions of my subsequent visits to the DPRK.

Being received in audience by President Kim Il Sung in 1987, he talked about a story of “the coming generation is formidable,” expressing his high hopes for the coming generation.

“Long time ago, when Confucius was born in China, the country was divided into seven states. Confucius traveled by carriage through these seven states, and when he arrived in one of them, he saw some children building a castle out of dirt. As he drove by, Confucius ordered them to clear the way.

“One of them replied, ‘Since ancient times, carriages have always made way for castles; castles have never made way for carriages.’ Confucius was astonished because the child was right. Confucius then asked him, ‘How many people live in your village?’

“But the child did not know the number of villagers. So, he asked Confucius, ‘How many hairs compose your eyebrows?’ Confucius could not answer. The child said, ‘If you do not even know the number of hairs composing your eyebrows above your eyes, how could I possibly know the number of villagers?’

“At that moment, Confucius said, ‘The coming generation is formidable’—meaning that those born later are even more remarkable.”

The way the President talked was by no means idealistic.

In his talk, I found his confidence in the future, and at the same time his warmth based on his love for and his trust in the youth and his desire to advance together with them hand in hand.

In 1993, I was fortunate to have an opportunity to visit the DPRK in my family and be received in audience by President Kim Il Sung.

In his presence, my daughters spoke of how deeply moved they were by what they had seen and heard during their stay in the DPRK; how they had come to be determined to shape their own country’s future with their own efforts; and of their wish to work toward a society where all the people in the world could live happily.

The President listened to their stories with evident pleasure and clapped his hands to encourage them.

Then, mentioning that there were a number of beautiful mountains in the DPRK, including Mt. Paektu, Mt. Kumgang, and Mt. Myohyang, President Kim Il Sung said to them affectionately, “If you come and visit here, taking your enough time during your summer vacation every year, you’ll be able to climb two or so of those mountains. When you do so, let us go together.”

The way he talked was more like a warm-hearted grandfather delighted in the children’s growth rather than being a world-renown leader.

On top of that, the President talked earnestly about the importance of holding fast to independence for the people to live. He said to the effect:

“For long, the US imperialists have imposed sanctions on us, but we have eaten properly, worked, studied, and carried out all our duties with dignity, and we have survived to this day. I have been active in this way for 60 years. Starting fighting against imperialism in 1932, I have lived for 60 years in this way. Throughout these periods of time, I have been determined to firmly uphold our independence.

“If a person loses one’s independence, he or she is as good as dead. We cannot be subordinate to the United States nor live according to its every whim. Even without being subordinate to the United States, we can live with independence. There is nothing to worry about. So let us move forward together.”

Nowadays, since 2024, when the COVID-19 pandemic subsided, many of the Korean youth and students residing in Japan as well as students from Korea University in Japan have been invited to their home country for three consecutive years.

As we know, those days they spent in their homeland became an experience they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un had opportunities to listen to their songs, take commemorative photos with them, and embrace them warmly.

Likewise, the Leaders’ love for and trust in the coming generation, and their commitments to watching over their growth, continue to be passed down unchanged to this day.

3. Respecting the People as Heaven and Leading a Life for Their Wellbeing

Being received in audience by President Kim Il Sung in 1990, he talked about a significant experience from his youth. He said as follows to the effect:

“In the mid-1920s, the Comintern once recommended that I study abroad at a Communist university in the Soviet Union. At that time, there were many factions among Korean communists, and most of the factions’ leaders were invited by the Comintern to enroll in Communist universities. My comrades were very pleased that I would be studying abroad and even made preparations for seeing me off.

“However, I declined to study in the Soviet Union, while expressing my gratitude for offering me to do so. At that time, I believed that studying through books was possible even in the place where I am; while learning from the revolutionary experiences of other countries was important, that could be done at a more convenient time later. Since we were carrying out the Korean revolution, I believed we should learn its methods from the Korean people themselves while continuing to wage our revolutionary struggle.

“Ever since then, I have consistently upheld the position that the Korean revolution must be learned from the Korean people. Those leaders of the factional groups returned after studying in the Soviet Union, but even after their return, they made no effort to go deeply among the people and instead engaged in repeated factional strife. Observing their behavior, I concluded that that was far from the true revolutionary way of life. So, I came to put more stress on the Juche idea—that the revolution must be carried out by relying on our own people, while firmly standing on an independent stance as a Korean revolutionary.”

In a nutshell, studying through books is possible in any places as well; it is important to learn from the revolutionary experiences of other countries, however, going among his own people is essential since he was carrying out the revolution of his own nation. This is the way he thought about.

From then on as well, Kim Il Sung consistently upheld the position that “the Korean revolution must be learned from the Korean people.”

Going deeply among the people, sharing their joys and sorrows, and relying on them to move forward—herein lies the source of strength of the Korean Revolution, he thought.

This teaching provided us, Juche idea researchers in the world, with profound insight and has

become the cornerstone of our activities and a principle we must strictly adhere to.

Regarding the cause of making Japan independent, it should be carried out in such a manner as relying on the Japanese people, in conformity with their thoughts and feelings.

For Making Japan Independent

Being received in audience by President Kim Il Sung in January 1987, he talked about the political path Japan should take as follows to the effect:

“We hope that Japan will become independent. If Japan advances along the road of independence, not relying solely on the nuclear umbrella of the United States, we will be able to maintain peace in Asia.”

When I listen to his talks, I sensed President Kim Il Sung’s profound concern for Japan’s future. This was not a diplomatic statement at all. It was an expectation that the Japanese people would advance along the path of their own with independence, and a sincere wish for peace in Asia.

His Life, Believing in People and Devoting Himself to Their Wellbeing

What did President Kim Il Sung demonstrate throughout his life?

It was his attitude of respecting the people as the heaven itself.

It was his attitude of believing in the people, learning from them, and advancing together with them. And it was his way of life to devote his all to the wellbeing of the people.

That is why I believe his teachings continue to remain in the hearts of so many people.

His love and affection for the peoples of the world, his trust in the coming generation, and his boundless devotion to the people.

It will be our duty and obligation to carry forward his will and then devote ourselves to the people while holding fast to independence, and forge to carve out our future together with the coming generation.

I believe that this is the path for us to repay President Kim Il Sung’s love for and trust in us, and the mission entrusted to us.