

Eternal Love and Obligations to Chinese Revolutionaries



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I came to Japan as a foreign student in 1985. Since then, I have got acquainted with many Japanese and Japan is my second homeland. I have been working for economic and political interchanges between China and Japan for these seven years.

I have visited the DPRK some ten times for these five or six years since my first visit to the country by a happy chance in 2004. Through the said visits to the country, I came to know little by little that the people are held in high regard in the country as expressed in the fact

that they can get education and medical care for free and rent houses at low expenses, and that President Kim Il Sung devoted himself to the Korean people, so also has General Secretary Kim Jong Il done.

I had a person named Hu Zhen-yi to whom I was attached as my mother-in-law. When I accompanied my father over 40 years ago, who went to Chongqing on a business trip, I met her for the first time. I was a junior high school student at that time. She loved me like her own son, and I adored for her like my own mother.

She was a wife of Chai Shi-rong, a Chinese revolutionary whom Kim Il Sung met in the middle of the anti-Japanese struggle in Northeast China. Every time I saw her, I paid attention to her heart-warming episodes of President Kim Il Sung.

Fateful Encounter with Kim Il Sung

Chai Shi-rong was born in Shandong Province, China, in 1893. It was the same year that Chairman Mao Zedong was born. When Chai was five years old in 1899, he moved to Helong County in Jilin Province with his parents. Although it is cold in the region, the land is fertile and it is suitable for growing crops. Therefore people in poverty moved there.

In Northeast China, there remained lots of primeval forests and wild animals such as tigers, leopards and others. Chai had improved his skill in shooting by hunting those animals when he was 12. By conducting shooting exercises in mountains, his shooting skill got higher enough to make a kill without fail, which is called 'hitting the mark ten times out of ten.'

But however higher his shooting skill might get, Chai Shi-rong could not make a living, and in the end he moved to Korea on his acquaintance's recommendation in 1924. At that time, Korea was under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialism, and he worked for four years at a Japanese railroad company. He learned Korean through working together with the Korean people. In the meanwhile, the Japanese managers rode roughshod over Korean

and Chinese workers, harshly chastising and slugging them, and at worst they resulted in death. Chai's hatred and hostile feelings to the Japanese imperialists grew up when he did see the Japanese imperialists who discriminated against and oppressed the Koreans and the Chinese.

Chai Shi-rong returned to China in 1928. Thanks to his high skill in shooting, he could start to work at a police office in Helong County, Jilin Province soon after his return. As he was a man of serious mold and he was relied, he was promoted to vice-chief of police within two years.

Chai Shi-rong's encounter with Kim Il Sung was a fate.

Where a mere child at the age of 12 in 1925, Kim Il Sung crossed the Amnok River and waged struggles for emancipating Korea from the rule of the Japanese imperialism in Northeast China. When he was a boy, he threw himself in the path of the revolution. He had already understood what he should do to save his own country. This shows his incomparable quality as a revolutionary.

In 1930, seven comrades of Kim Il Sung were taken to a police station in Helong County and were detained for the reason that they waged the anti-Japanese movement, when Chai Shi-rong served as vice-chief of the police.

Kim Il Sung said to Chai Shi-rong, "My comrades are imprisoned here. Could you kindly liberate them?" Chai replied, "Of course I can do so because it is your request. But I won't be able to work here any longer if I release the captured I arrested by my own volition. What

should I do then?" Kim Il Sung said, "Why don't we wage the anti-Japanese movement together?", and he suggested that Chai Shi-rong throw himself in the path of the revolution, telling him good cause of the revolution.

Chai Shi-rong came to understand that not a life for himself but a life for his own state and nation was the most valuable when he listened to Kim Il Sung who was 18 years junior to him.

After releasing the seven youths, Chai Shi-rong got thrown out of the police station. As a result, he himself was regarded as a criminal and ran away to Japan.

There arose the Liutiaohu Incident (known as 'the September 18 Incident' in China), in which the Kwantung Army (a Japanese army) blew up the railroads of the South Manchuria Railway Co. on September 18, 1931, in Shenyang. Therefore Chai immediately made up his mind to return to China and fight against the Japanese imperialists.

The experience that he had been discriminated and oppressed by the Japanese imperialists in Korea, and more than anything else, the fact that he had been taught good cause of a life by Kim Il Sung led Chai to throw himself in the path of the anti-Japanese revolution.

In the wake of the September 18 Incident, various anti-Japanese armed organizations were formed to fight against the Japanese troops. In those days, there were various factions even in the Communist Party of China (CPC). The CPC leadership was in Yanan, which was called the Yanan Faction. Though the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army had

one aim of fighting against the Kwantung Army, it was separated into several factions like the 1st Route Army, the 2nd Route Army, and others. Their main leaders were Lee Zhao-lin, Zhou Bao-zhong, Feng Zhong-yun and Zhao Shang-zhi. Each of them had his own connection with the CPC leadership in Yanan.

Chai Shi-rong joined the Tungpei Army in 1931. He strove in front at any time, so he immediately held the office of brigade commander. In 1933, he met with Zhou Bao-zhong of the CPC, and joined the Anti-Japanese League Army formed by Zhou. For nine years until 1940, Chai took part in over 400 battles in all without regard to their scales, which means that he joined battles once every ten days at a rough estimate. Even though he was wounded, he encouraged people around him all the time without worrying about himself, saying "I'm all right." That was why soldiers trusted and respected him.

The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army, which was composed of the Korean people, was formed in 1932. In 1933, it waged a battle at the Dongning County town in alliance with the National Salvation Army. After that, it waged a wide-scale battle at Luozigou, and it was Chai Shi-rong and Zhou Bao-zhong who were on the side of China at that time. In the process of joining wide-scale battles, Chai converted from a nationalist to a communist.

The Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army, whose 2nd Corps was comprised of the Korean people, was organized in 1934. Afterward, for several years until Kim Il Sung, Chai Shi-rong

and Zhou Bao-zhong had a reunion in the Soviet Union in spring of 1941, they had not acted together but had respectively waged battles at separate sites.

The activists from China and Korea entered the Soviet Union because of the extreme interventions of the Japanese imperialism with the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army and of the harsh situation to promote the activities in large units. Therefore it was necessary for them to go out of Northeast China once and convert to the activities in small units from ones in large units.

As the Soviet Union made a nonaligned treaty with Japan, it could not wage the anti-Japanese struggle to the view in cooperation with the revolutionaries from China and Korea. Instead, it provided the Chinese and the Koreans with the bases for training; Camp North near Khabarovsk and Camp South near Voroshilov. The Chinese and Korean revolutionaries tried to be prepared for the final battle for the emancipation to come, enhancing their driving forces on that occasion. The troops of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army entered the Camps in the Soviet Union in correspondence of objective situations with respective attitudes of China, Korea and the Soviet Union.

A part of the Northeast Anti-Japanese Allied Army entered Camp South, belonging to the International Allied Forces. When the Soviet Union joined the World War II and launched an attack on Japan, the Chinese troops entered China. In the meanwhile, the Korean troops under the leadership of Kim Il Sung newly

established their temporary bases in the Far East in order to emancipate their own country Korea, and promoted the activities in small units briskly, coming and going between Korea and Manchuria.

On February 16, 1942 in the process of those series of struggles, Kim Jong Il was given birth on Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution. It was an extremely significant and impressive moment.

Two Harmonious Families

Chai Shi-rong married Hu Zhen-yi in 1938. He was senior to her by 27 years.

The relations between Kim Il Sung and Chai Shi-rong was introduced in the “Kim Il Sung Reminiscences—With the Century.”

Chai Shi-rong and Hu Zhen-yi had two sons; their first son, Chai Guo-hua who was born in 1941, and their second son, Chai Guo-zhang who was born in 1943.

When the both families lived in Camp South in the Soviet Union, they lived together for three years in a house by dividing it into two. They lived next door to each other and saw one another every day, so that they became as close as one family. The two sons of Chai Shi-rong and Kim Jong Il grew up as playmates as if they had been brothers. The two families were so close that when Hu Zhen-yi made Gyoza, a Chinese dish, Kim Il Sung’s family ate it together; and when Mrs. Kim Jong Suk made a Korean dish, Chai Shi-rong’s family also ate it

together.

Kim Il Sung and Chai Shi-rong sometimes drank together. According to Hu Zhen-yi, they talked over nothing but military theories. Hu Zhen-yi served them when they were drinking. One day, Kim Il Sung said to Hu Zhen-yi, "Why don't you drink together?" It was when she was about twenty years old. She politely declined it once, saying "I cannot drink." However, Kim Il Sung encouraged her to drink, saying that "Do not say so, as it is a special day today." So, she gave up and joined drinking together. After a while, their food was lacking, so she went down drunkenly to a storehouse in the basement where vegetables like radishes and Chinese cabbages were stored to bring some of them.

She did not come back for any length of time. There was no response even if Kim Il Sung called her name. So, when he went to the basement to look for her, he found her asleep in that storehouse. She did remember that day clearly because it was for the first time that she drank in response to Kim Il Sung.

As they lived next door, she often heard Kim Il Sung singing songs. Kim Il Sung liked children and whenever he could get candies and chocolates at meetings where he attended, he brought them for those children without eating them by himself. Kim Il Sung treated those children equally without any discrimination between his and others. He loved to see them pleased very much.

In his work President Kim Il Sung said: "The aim of our revolution is to bring up children into good persons and guarantee for providing

them with decent lives. For that purpose, we shall spare no effort to this end." Herein lies the President's idea and thought toward children, regarding them as "treasures of the nation."

Hu Zhen-yi kept the precious photos in those days such as one of herself holding the baby Kim Jong Il, one of Kim Il Sung in a military uniform holding those three children. They were Kim Jong Il in the middle, Chai Shi-rong's first son; Chai Guo-hua on the left, and his second son; Chai Guo-zhang on the right. When Hu Zhen-yi visited the DPRK for the first time in 1994, she contributed those photos to the WPK History Institute. They are now being kept in the DPRK with care.

When Kim Il Sung's family and Hu Zhen-yi's family departed from each other in 1945, Kim Il Sung presented her a gold ring as well as a small bottle of gold dust. He did so in an hope that it would be of any help in making up for her family's living expenses as it might be difficult for a woman to bring up her two children by herself. (In those days her husband Chai Shi-rong was reported as missing.) Thus, after 1945, the contact with Hu Zhen-yi's family was lost for some decades.

She knew that Kim Il Sung had become the leader of the DPRK but she did not dare to call on him. As only an ordinary woman, she was reserved to come to see Kim Il Sung who became the leader of a country.

Meanwhile, Chai Shi-rong went missing in 1943 and he was reported as missing for 43 years afterwards. What she was informed of some twelve or thirteen years ago was that

unfortunately he died in 1944 without seeing his country liberated. He was doubted as a spy by an inside denunciation of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and he was sentenced to forced labour on a false charge. Being forced over-demanding work and severity in life on him, he fell ill and died. It was only 1981 when he recovered his honor.

Reportedly, only recently her son received a report from the Russian Embassy in China that the remains of Chai Shi-rong were found out in Russia along with other remains and graves of 12 persons. Now, it is under discussion between the Russian Embassy and Chai Shi-rong's family how to bring his remains back to China. In highly appreciating him as a revolutionary, China is now preparing to set a grave in Shangdong Province where he was from, regarding him highly as a revolutionary.

In 2005, under the instruction of the then President Putin, Russian officials visited Chongqing and handed over to Hu Zhen-yi directly an order in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the victory of Russia in the World War II on behalf of Chai Shi-rong.

The Family of Comrade-in-arms Never Forgotten

President Kim Il Sung is adored as a great revolutionary by the people throughout the world. Above all, his personality was fascinating. President Kim Il Sung who lived all his life in struggle never forgot his comrades-in-arms,

regarding them as precious beings and taking care of them.

Since he departed from Hu Zhen-yi's family at Camp South, he had been caring of them and continuing to look for Hu Zhen-yi and her sons. After liberation, whenever he visited China, he looked forward to seeing Hu Zhen-yi's family.

Those who were requested to look for Hu Zhen-yi's family by Kim Il Sung did so with might and main but they had a one-sided assumption that they might lead lives in Northeast China. As a matter of fact, however, Hu Zhen-yi moved to Southwest China with the army and finally reached Chongqing via various places in Sichuan Province. Coincidentally, some officials at the Korean Embassy in Beijing obtained some information about Hu Zhen-yi's family that were living in Chongqing and reported it to the WPK.

As soon as President Kim Il Sung heard of the news about Hu Zhen-yi's family, he invited Hu Zhen-yi and her second son Hu Guo-zhang to the DPRK. It was May 7, 1994. It was a reunion between them after 50 years' separation since they departed from each other in 1945 in the Soviet Union. Hu Zhen-yi and her son stayed in the DPRK for nearly one month from May 3 to May 31. During her stay in the DPRK, Hu Zhen-yi had two chances to meet the President; on May 7 and May 30. (It is possible to read things concerned in the work entitled "Talk with a Chinese Woman Related to the Anti-Japanese Revolutionary Struggle" in Kim Il Sung Works Vol.44)

It was a moving moment for the President and Hu Zhen-yi to reunite with each other. Both of them shed tears at the moment when they saw each other in the face.

President Kim Il Sung gave two extraordinary receptions to Hu Zhen-yi at that time.

One was that he directly spoke to Hu Zhen-yi in Chinese without an interpreter. As the President waged struggles in China for a long time since his age of 13, he could speak Chinese fluently. However, as he was the supreme leader of the DPRK, he had never spoken in Chinese at official occasions. Even at some meetings with senior officials of China like Chairman Mao Zedong and the then Prime Minister Zhou Enlai, President Kim Il Sung spoke to them through interpreters. However, in case of meeting Hu Zhen-yi, he spoke to her directly in Chinese without an interpreter, breaking the custom.

Before her departure from China for Korea, President Kim Il Sung telephoned her. Calling her in Chinese "Sister", he said "I have been looking for you. I am so happy to know that you are coming to Korea at last. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon." The Deputy Head of the WPK History Institute was surprised very much to hear the President talking with Hu Zhen-yi in Chinese.

The other extraordinary reception given by the President was that he met her twice during her stay in the DPRK. Usually President Kim Il Sung met foreign visitors once during their stays in the DPRK even if they were high-ranking officials such as head of state, president of state and

prime minister. However, the President had opportunities to see her twice during her stay there.

When the President met her second son Chai Guo-zhang, he called him "Aryosha," his Russian name in those days when he was small, as they lived together for three years. The President was pleased to see him, saying that he was just the image of his father.

The Deputy Head of the WPK History Institute visited her every day, and inquired her if there was anything inconvenient in an effort to take care of her family. Whenever the Deputy Head met her, she shook hands with her. There was a reason for that. In response to the President's request, she was measuring the size of her finger by doing so. When Hu Zhen-yi left the DPRK, she was given a gold ring in phoenix shape as a present from the President, and it was exactly the right size of her finger. It was President Kim Il Sung who gave scrupulous care for the people to that extent.

President Kim Il Sung passed away on July 8, 1994, two months after he could meet Hu Zhen-yi who had come after for 50 years.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il Carrying Forward Will of the President

In life, President Kim Il Sung always extended his wish to take care of those Chinese friends who had waged the anti-Japanese struggles together. After his demise, General Secretary Kim Jong Il who carried forward the will of the

President invited Hu Zhen-yi and her sons twice every year; on April 15, the Day of the Sun and October 10, the founding anniversary of the WPK.

I had a meal with Hu Zhen-yi in Beijing on the eve of her departure to the DPRK on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the WPK in 2001. At that time, she said to me her intention of carrying an oil painting of a portrait of General Secretary Kim Jong Il in a military uniform as a gift. Since the General Secretary had never worn a military uniform, she requested a famous Chinese painter to paint it in the image of President Kim Il Sung in a military uniform. I believe since she brought a portrait of him in a military uniform to the DPRK, it must have become easier to have such portraits of him in a military uniform painted there afterward.

I visited the DPRK for the first time in my life in 2005 with Hu Zhen-yi. On the following day when we arrived in Pyongyang, an article and photo about us were carried on the "Rodon Shinmun" (the official newspaper of the WPK). As I was not good at reading Korean language, I asked our interpreter to tell me what it was about. She said that it said, "those related to Anti-Japanese struggle are visiting."

General Secretary Kim Jong Il gave Hu Zhen-yi a half-length statue of her on her 80th birthday. That he presented the statue to her, who was an ordinary Chinese woman, implied a significant meaning of his taking care of friends related to the anti-Japanese struggles on the side of the Korean people, I believe.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il continued to send Hu Zhen-yi New Year's cards in his own handwriting each year via the Korean Embassy in Beijing till the year 2008 when she passed away. While she was well, she went to Beijing from Chongqing to attend a ceremony concerned at the Embassy and receive New Year's cards. Each time some staff members at the Embassy took some pictures concerned and made each report on them to General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

However, around the time when Hu Zhen-yi reached her age of eighty, it became difficult for her to come over to Beijing as she lost physical strength, so that two of the staff members of the Embassy called on her at her residence in Chongqing to hand over a New Year's card sent by the General Secretary directly. I also have visited her at her residence twice with some staff members of the Korean Embassy to China to hand over New Year's cards from General Secretary Kim Jong Il to Hu Zhen-yi, while it took two hours and 40 minutes by air. Those Embassy staff members and myself stayed one night in Chongqing and returned to Beijing the following day.

About those New Year's cards sent by the General Secretary, they carried a message of "have a good year" and at the same time they were added by his warm-hearted words showing his warm care of her health. I was moved very much by those New Year's cards as I could see his rich personality from those.

There is a close comradely connection crossing over the difference in nations between China and the DPRK. Indeed, in the Korean

War (1950 to 1953) triggered by the U.S. more than one million-strong Chinese voluntary armed forces fought together with the Korean people against the U.N. allied forces, which were substantially the U.S. troops. It was reported that hundreds of thousands of soldiers of the Chinese voluntary armed forces died in the Korean War.

As China and the DPRK used to be close in ties like brothers, these two countries are still keeping cooperating with and aiding each other now.

The Country That Takes Care of Man at Most

President Kim Il Sung was not only the leader to the Korean people but also the leader who showed the bright future to the world people.

Korea was liberated in 1945 when World War II ended, as Japanese imperialism was defeated. President Kim Il Sung then appeared as a leader for building a new Korea. On September 9, 1948, three years after its liberation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded, which means that the Korean people have come to have their own nation state they can rely on.

After World War II, in spite of being liberated from the colonial rule, the world was divided into the East and the West, creating the Cold War system headed by the USSR and the USA, the two great powers. Under the influence of it, Korea was also separated into North and South, which was a start of another nation's

tragedy. Korea was not a defeated country like Japan and Germany. Such a country that had been victimized by the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism was divided into two, North and South, which has continued for 60 years till now after the war. This is unreasonable. And it should be pointed out that the Japanese people have not yet recognized that the original cause for the division of Korea lies in the Japanese colonial rule over it, and then afterwards, Japan has been on the side of freezing the division as such.

President Kim Il Sung regarded it as a long-felt wish of the nation to realize its reunification. Before realizing it, he passed away. Now, the nation's reunification is being carried forward by General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is an outstanding leader who has succeeded the revolutionary thoughts and wisdom of President Kim Il Sung. The media in Japan is making fuss about such a matter of fact as heredity, but it is wrong for them to criticize it seemingly. When it comes to heredity, in Japan, two thirds of all the Diet members are hereditary. Confining to persons who have recently been prime ministers like Koizumi Junichiro, Abe Shinzo, Fukuda Yasuo, Aso Taro, and Hatoyama Yukio, they are all the second-generation or third-generation hereditary Diet members.

The Korean people are building a country based on the man-centred Juche idea. By dint of that, man is regarded as the most important being in the world. Not alone workers and peasants, but intellectuals are regarded as

important and given precedence to. It is explicit that the Party symbol comprises a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush symbolizing workers, peasants and intellectuals. This is proceeding from the idea of President Kim Il Sung that people are all the same, and take vital responsibilities for their own national affairs, regardless of the difference in the roles and the work to deal with. Truly, intellectuals could contribute to the construction of their own nation, while studying hard and obtaining wisdom and knowledge.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il, regarding workers, peasants, as well as intellectuals as important, is leading all of them to become intellectuals.

I believe the DPRK's policy toward intellectuals, i.e., to encourage to contribute to the building of the country, thinking, analyzing and judging with their own brains, is superior.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is pushing ahead with Songun idea.

After World War II, Korea was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel, and the US forces of some 30,000-strong have still been stationed in South Korea. The U.S. caused a great toll in lives of the Korean people by provoking the Korean War in 1950. The armistice agreement was concluded in 1953. However, the former has been watching for a chance to attack the latter at any time.

Nevertheless, the Korean people are determined to firmly safeguard socialist Korea on their own will under Songun politics led by General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

About equipped weapons, in comparison

with the DPRK, the U.S. keeps overwhelmingly the most sophisticated and the latest weapons, which are much superior in quality to those the DPRK has. However it can be said that the genuine strength of armed forces is not that of weapons but that of people's will and ideological consciousness.

Even with top-of-the-line armament, it could not become strong armed forces if the people are lack of will power and ideological consciousness. In order to oppose the U.S. invasion, it is important for the people to arm themselves with armament and at the same time to have a strong will not to allow invaders to set foot on their own territory any inches. If their will and armament are weak, they could not help treading a path of slavery.

The Era When the Juche Idea Is Learned

As I was brought up while receiving the education of the Communist Party of China from my school age, I recognized that communism was wonderful. However, for the purpose of realizing the ideal of communism, I did not understand very well what idea one should have, what collectives should be built, and how it should be realized.

We can see that the whole society is divided into two: upper and lower classes, and that the gap between them is being widened on the both parts of capitalist Japan based on the market economy and China that claims to stand for socialism.

Neither Japan nor China have been able to solve serious problems of the society with a wide gap between the rich and the poor proceeding from the market economy. Herein lies the reason for learning from the socialist construction of the DPRK based on the man-centred Juche idea.

Not only in the DPRK but also in China, those who had joined the anti-Japanese struggles are today highly evaluated at the social end. However, previously, the Anti-Japanese Allied Army in Northeast China (current Liaoning Province, Jilin Province, Heilongjiang Province) had not been put importance on nor could receive high evaluation socially.

On September 18, 1931, 'the September 18 Incident (the Liutiaohu Incident)' was provoked by the Japanese Kwantung Army in Shenyang, China. At the invitation of the Red Army, the headquarters of the CPC moved into Yanan from the south of China in 1935. Then on July 7, 1937, the Lugouqiao Incident broke out.

Previously, it was said that the history of the anti-Japanese struggle in China started from 1937 when the Lugouqiao Incident was provoked, and then the anti-Japanese struggle till August 15, 1945, when Japanese imperialism was defeated and China was liberated, was called the 'Eight-year Resistance.' However, recently, some Chinese historians come to assert that it is

wrong to call the anti-Japanese struggle in that way but it should be called the 'Fourteen-year Resistance' for the reason that the war between China and Japan started from the September 18 Incident in 1931 and there had been resistance against Japanese imperialism in Northeast China.

In addition, because of the fact that the Central headquarters of the CPC led by Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai was located in Yanan during the period of anti-Japanese struggle, the anti-Japanese struggle in Northeast China has come to be highly evaluated.

I have strongly realized the superiority of socialist Korea that puts importance on man, and I believe that it lies in that General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the leader of the Korean people, devotes himself to the people, and the people also respect their leader and have emerged as masters of the society. I believe that we are now in the era when it has become important for many people around the world to visit the DPRK and learn from the Juche idea and the construction of socialism there.

It is important for Asian countries to cultivate mutual understanding through exchanges while respecting independence of their counterparts and establish the relationship of peace and friendship among them.

(Dialogue at a gathering in Tokyo on June 29, 2010)