

Toward New Independent Nuclear-free World, New Era with Reunited and Prosperous Korea

—Background of the DPRK-US Summit Meeting and Its Prospect—



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I am pleased to be able to participate in this European Regional Seminar on the Juche idea at the time when the historic DPRK-US summit meeting went well and the world is excited about it.

For a long time, humankind has hoped for a prosperous and equal society with no rulers and oppressors, and a peaceful world in which countries are independent and developing in harmony with each other.

The people believed that an ideal society could be realized in the distant future, but in reality, unreasonable politics by the ruling class was carried out, and in many cases, an unequal international order based on imperialism and dominationism went unchallenged.

In particular, the double standard for the possession of nuclear weapons has aggravated the danger of nuclear war and has made the road both to the elimination of nuclear weapons and to peace difficult.

But today, the people of the world, who have worked hard for peace, have great hopes for it.

The United States, which dominates the world by force and acts with extreme high-handedness, is showing a positive attitude toward the building of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. This is an unprecedented event.

The trend of new history that began at the beginning of the year will become a huge trend toward the realization of the centuries-old desire of humankind in the future.

1. The DPRK Concentrating All Its Efforts on the Cause of Socialism

In the DPRK as well, it has been the long cherished desire of the people to accomplish the cause of socialism, to end a long-lasting national divisions, and to develop as a unified thriving Korea.

This desire is now becoming a reality. The people of the world are watching with delight the situation in which the desire will become achievable in the not distant future but near future.

In just seven years since Chairman Kim Jong Un was elected as the supreme leader of the party and the revolution, the situation surrounding the DPRK and the world has changed dramatically.

At the end of 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Un became the supreme leader of the party and the state. Since 2012, he has been working energetically as the leader.

In April 2012, Chairman Kim Jong Un successfully hosted commemorative events of the Centenary of the Birth of President Kim Il Sung, and delivered his first speech in front of the people from the world.

Chairman Kim Jong Un is completely carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Juche initiated by President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The first thing that Chairman Kim Jong Un did as the supreme leader of the party and revolution was to perpetuate the achievements of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, both previous leaders of the revolution.

Chairman Kim Jong Un defined the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il as Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, and presented a strategic agenda for achieving the cause of socialism under the banner of the ideology.

The DPRK is the only socialist country in the world that has firmly maintained people-centered socialism even under the difficult conditions.

After World War II, the Soviet troops withdrew from the northern part of the Korean Peninsula after effecting the disarmament of the Japanese armed forces.

As US forces continued to occupy the southern half

of the Korean Peninsula, however, the Korean Peninsula became divided into north and south along the 38th latitude line.

Subsequently, US imperialism triggered the war of aggression against the DPRK in 1950, but it was defeated by the brave struggle of the Korean people, concluding an armistice agreement in 1953.

Since 1945, the DPRK has been in a state of “touch and go” with the South for more than 70 years up to now.

When President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il were active, difficulties stood in their ways in building socialism in the DPRK.

One of the difficulties the DPRK has been confronted with is to deal with the threat of armed aggression and regime collapse against them by US imperialism and following forces, and another one is to stabilize the people's lives while protecting socialism in the tense situation.

It is not easy for the DPRK to firmly maintain socialism and to guarantee people's livelihood in a situation where they are confronted with US imperialism, which is constantly attempting an armed attack on them.

When many socialist countries faced economic difficulties, they adopted the market economy and returned to the path of capitalism. From this fact we can see the harshness of the struggle in the DPRK.

The next thing Chairman Kim Jong Un did was to summarize the activities of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) for the 36 years since its 6th Congress, and announce a new policy.

In May 2016, Chairman Kim Jong Un hosted the historic 7th Congress of the WPK.

Chairman Kim Jong Un summarized the cause for the 36 years led by President Kim Il Sung and General

Secretary Kim Jong Il as a triumph of the Juche idea and Songun politics.

The victory of the Juche idea and Songun politics means that of the thoughts and leadership of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and that of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism as well.

Chairman Kim Jong Un raised new strategic challenges to be tackled by upholding aloft the banner of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism.

Firstly, it is to accomplish the cause of socialism in the DPRK.

In other words, it means completing the independence of the DPRK, and by modeling the whole society on Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, marching forward to become a sci-tech power, an economic giant, and a civilized power.

Secondly, it is to realize independent reunification of the country.

The reunification is a symbol of the completion of independence of the DPRK and also a guarantee of peace on the Korean Peninsula as well as in Asia.

Thirdly, it is to realize global independence.

Chairman Kim Jong Un underscored the importance of opposing the invasion and interference of imperialism and dominationism in order to achieve independence on a global scale.

Furthermore, he expressed his firm determination that the DPRK would play a pioneering role in the struggle to realize global independence.

Chairman Kim Jong Un concluded by pointing out the importance of strengthening and developing the party before anything else in order to tackle the grand challenges and make successes in the struggle.

Chairman Kim Jong Un announced that the Workers' Party of Korea, the general staff of the revolution should realize a single-minded unity

rallying around the leader and be strengthened and developed as the party of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism.

Chairman Kim Jong Un is steadily implementing the decision of the 7th Congress of the WPK.

Chairman Kim Jong Un has given guidance toward reunification while firmly maintaining the principle of national independence.

The Korean people have suffered from national separation due to the military boundary, and there was not a day when they would not wish for reunification of their country.

National reunification is the instructions of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il, who devoted their lives to the well-being of the people to realize all the wishes of the people.

In his New Year Address in 2018, Chairman Kim Jong Un touched on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September and mentioned the fact that the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics would be held in February in the Republic of Korea. He stressed that the two sides should take decisive measures to improve inter-Korean relations and to open the door to a breakthrough in independent reunification, taking advantage of a year of great significance for both sides.

The issue of the reunification of Korea is an internal problem of the nation, and the Korean people themselves should take the initiative in solving this problem.

Based on the principle of national independence, the two sides of Korea actively engaged in activities such as dispatching artistic troupes and forming an ice hockey women's team, and then, at last an inter-Korean summit meeting was held on April 27, 2018.

Chairman Kim Jong Un by himself entered the

southern part of Panmunjom, where the gun entrance of the US military forces was concentrated, and people, with tears in their eyes, watched over him walking toward President Moon Jae In.

When President Moon Jae In inquired Chairman Kim Jong Un when he could come to the DPRK, he took the hand of President Moon Jae In, saying that “Join me over the border now”, and crossed the 38th parallel line with the President. This was a remarkable image of reunification people have long wanted to see.

At the Inter-Korean Summit Meeting, the “Panmunjom Declaration on Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula” was adopted.

The peoples of the world congratulated and supported the firm declaration of the two top leaders “before the 80 million Koreans and the whole world that there would be no longer war and a new era of peace has opened on the Korean peninsula.”

On May 26, less than one month after the first Inter-Korean Summit Meeting, the second meeting of this kind was held in the DPRK area of Panmunjom, and the two top leaders reaffirmed that they would steadily implement the Panmunjom Declaration.

The moves toward reconciliation and peace that have been rapidly fostered on the Korean Peninsula will become more concrete and will no longer be reversed.

2. First-ever DPRK-US Summit Meeting

It was impossible for anyone to predict that the top leaders of the DPRK and the United States, whose countries had been hostile for nearly 70 years, would have a summit meeting.

It can be said that there was such background to the realization of the DPRK-US Summit Meeting as that

the achievements made by President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il have borne fruit with an effort made by the new leader, Chairman Kim Jong Un.

In the midst of military confrontation with US imperialism, General Secretary Kim Jong Il firmly maintained socialism by upholding aloft the banner of the Juche idea and Songun politics.

In March 2013, Chairman Kim Jong Un set out a line of simultaneously developing economic construction and the building of a nuclear force at the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK.

Chairman Kim Jong Un has positioned economic construction as the first part of the line of simultaneously developing two fronts from the standpoint that nuclear force is necessary to enrich the people’s economy.

In September 2017, Korea succeeded in a H-bomb test.

Chairman Kim Jong Un held the Second Plenum of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea on October 7, 2017, stating that the nuclear weapons of the DPRK are powerful deterrent firmly safeguarding the peace and security in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia and guaranteeing the Korean nation’s sovereignty and rights to existence and development.

On November 29, the same year, the DPRK successfully tested the launch of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), “Hwasong-15.”

Successful launches as such indicated that the DPRK came to possess nuclear forces that could reach the US mainland.

On April 20, 2018, Chairman Kim Jong Un held the Third Plenary meeting of the 7th Central

Committee of the WPK, summarizing the victory of the line of simultaneously developing the two fronts in such a way that “when the historic tasks listed by the strategic line of simultaneously developing the two fronts were successfully carried out, the WPK is facing important tasks to accelerate the advance of the revolution and thus hasten the final victory of the socialist cause.”

Chairman Kim Jong Un presented a new strategy and adopted resolutions.

There are two important bodies of the resolutions.

The first one is the declaration that the construction of nuclear forces has ended, and the second one is the policy of concentrating all efforts on the party’s and the nation’s general activities toward the building of socialist economy.

The historical result that led to pushing forward a new strategy to concentrate all effort on the development of the people’s economy on the basis of the completion of building of a nuclear force, has brought about the DPRK-US summit meeting.

On June 12, 2018, both the top leaders of the DPRK and the United States held their first ever summit meeting on Sentosa Island in Singapore.

It can be said that it was Chairman Kim Jong Un’s outstanding political leadership, his clear goals for the future, his precise strategy for realizing the goals, and his strong will without minding to even devote himself to realizing the aspirations of the people that led to the realization of the meeting.

As a result of Chairman Kim Jong Un’s outstanding leadership and the enduring struggle of the Korean people with a single-minded unity, the DPRK became a nuclear power.

The United States, which would not be able to destroy the DPRK by force, had to choose to negotiate

peacefully with the DPRK and improve their relations.

Improving DPRK-US relations leads the DPRK to building socialism in a peaceful environment which enables them to accomplish the cause of socialism.

Chairman Kim Jong Un is also trying to achieve world peace by leading the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, that of Asia, and that of the world.

Chairman Kim Jong Un said in his sole meeting with President Trump to the effect: “It was not easy to get to where we were. There was a past that gripped our ankles and prejudice and wrong practice covered our eyes and ears, but we overcame all of them to come to this place and stand at a new starting point.”

In his sincere and candid words, Chairman Kim Jong Un put his uncommon desire to make the DPRK-US summit talks successful.

After the summit meeting, a joint statement entitled “Singapore Declaration” issued by Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Trump stated that “President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK and Chairman Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his firm and unwavering commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

The top leaders of the DPRK and the United States shared recognition to the effect that it is important to abide by the principle of step-by-step and simultaneous action in achieving peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Even after the successful DPRK-US summit meeting, the two top leaders are continuing discussions over time.

3. World in War to World in Peace

Since the successful DPRK-US summit meeting, the DPRK and the United States have started moving

vigorously towards the implementation of the Singapore Declaration.

Chairman Kim Jong Un is urging the United States to act while putting into practice half a step ahead to realize the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Prior to the DPRK-US summit meeting, Chairman Kim Jong Un unconditionally released US espionages and invited reporters from China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and other countries to show them the bombing of the northern nuclear test ground.

During the summit meeting, Chairman Kim Jong Un immediately responded to the request of President Trump and promised to realize the return of the remains of US soldiers. He also agreed on the destruction of missile test sites.

At a press conference held after the summit meeting, President Trump was interviewed with a question that if the DPRK missed its promises, there would be a possibility of the US' military action or not. President Trump answered to the effect that "I do not want to be threatening the other side, and I will not intend such a war as you could lose a hundred-thousand people there."

He also stated that they would extend their welcome and support to the DPRK in its independent development.

Until just before the summit meeting, President Trump mentioned a number of new sanctions on the DPRK, but he said that it would be disrespectful to put on sanctions on the other part when he was in the talks, and he suspended the sanctions on the DPRK by himself.

Furthermore, with regard to the large-scale US-ROK joint military exercises that had been carried out so far, President Trump stated that "under the

circumstances where we are negotiating a very comprehensive, complete issue, it is inappropriate to be having war games," and thus the military exercise scheduled in August of the year was canceled.

On June 25, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the deadline would not be set for consultations on the denuclearization of Korea.

The Secretary of State said that it was premature to ask for a concrete schedule after 40 years of tension.

Secretary of State Pompeo has expressed his confidence that Chairman Kim Jong Un's intention of the denuclearization and has announced that he would visit the DPRK in July in order to fulfill the results of the DPRK-US summit meeting.

Around the time of the DPRK-US summit meeting, Chairman Kim Jong Un visited foreign countries every month, and was engaged in vigorous external activities.

Chairman Kim Jong Un visited China three times within short period of time like in March, May and June this year.

By dint of the effort of Chairman Kim Jong Un, who visited President Xi Jinping with the utmost courtesy over three times, the cooperative ties that had been forged between the Korean and Chinese predecessors have been once again strengthened.

Exchanges between the DPRK and China are becoming more visible, with such participation and performance as of large-scale Chinese art troupes at the last April Spring Friendship Festival held in Pyongyang.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited the DPRK on May 31, 2018 and Syrian President Bashar Hafez al-Assad is also hoping to visit there.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, who was reelected, announced that Malaysia would

resume diplomatic relations with the DPRK as soon as possible. Likely, the DPRK has been furthermore strengthening its diplomatic relations with other countries.

The 70th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is scheduled to be celebrated on September 9, with the participation of delegates from parties and governments of various countries.

On the contrary to the trend toward peace in Asia and the world driven by the DPRK initiative that has grown stronger and the support and admiration of other countries toward the DPRK that has been presented more and more, there are some prowar forces that oppose the DPRK-US summit meeting, sticking to the anachronistic tendency.

In particular, the Abe administration is still shouting for abductions and sanctions, and it has become a mockery of the world, even as it has gone through the tide of the times.

The Abe administration has used the abduction issue politically to stabilize its foundations, and the abductees' families joined hands with the administration to induce sanctions against the DPRK, while getting caught up in enormous interests.

Despite the fact that more than 70% of the public in the United States are for the DPRK-US summit meeting, in Japan, such opinions as to underestimate or deny the summit meeting including the media are noticeable.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has followed its ambition for foreign aggression, while taking a persistent policy of subordinating to the United States.

The Abe administration is afraid that if the Korean Peninsula becomes peaceful, they might no longer cook up an excuse with which it has been crying out

the crisis from the DPRK, increasing its military strength and ambitions for foreign aggression.

Since Japan has persistently subordinated to the United States, it has relied on the United States to resolve its own bilateral issues between Japan and DPRK.

However, President Trump stated that he was not interested in the abduction issue and that the issue should be resolved directly between Japan and the DPRK. He also stated that Japan and the ROK would bear the costs of nuclear dismantlement.

It is clear now who blocks the friendship between Japan and the DPRK and who interferes with the peace of Asia and the world.

A number of groups who intentionally treat the historical success in the DPRK-US summit meeting as if it were insignificant or nothing, use the media to advertise things concerned in a reactionary manner.

Recently, a US intelligence agency has been making a lot of subversive propaganda about the DPRK. The Central Intelligence Agency and the US Department of State deny it, though.

The way to respond to the DPRK-US summit meeting demonstrates whether they are independent peacemakers or belligerent reactionary forces.

How will the world change when the DPRK-US summit meeting goes well and they improve their relations?

First of all, an atmosphere not of confrontation but of peace and mutual cooperation will be created.

The DPRK-US summit meeting demonstrated that if you do your best, you will be able to pave the way for mutual development in peace, even if confrontation and opposition have persisted for a long time.

Based on the fact that Korea has been united and the Korean Peninsula has been denuclearized, it is

expected that moves toward peace in the world will spread to individual countries and regions.

The DPRK-US summit meeting suggested how to tackle the issues the world is facing such as war, famine, poverty, and refugees as well as political paths individual countries and nations should pursue.

With Korea becoming a nuclear power, an unequal present international order in which only major powers and pro-American nations can possess nuclear weapons will be rectified, and the world will be denuclearized.

The DPRK has become such a country for the first time in history that will abolish nuclear weapons by itself after possessing them.

Although some countries, including the United States, have monopolized nuclear weapons, it has become the common challenge for all humankind to eliminate nuclear weapons possessed by nuclear powers and advance along the movement toward a nuclear-free world.

The unfair international order in the possession of nuclear weapons should be rectified, and if you want the DPRK to abandon its nukes, other countries should move toward the dismantlement of their own nuclear weapons and those possessed by major nuclear powers.

Moves toward the elimination of nuclear weapons will not be confined to itself but will provide an opportunity to get rid of neocolonialism and to accelerate efforts to build a fair international order.

Next, the trend of global independence shall be accelerated.

Independence the DPRK has adhered to is the political banner that should be upheld aloft by any country.

The DPRK-US summit meeting was realized

because the DPRK had adhered to independence.

Those countries that have lost their independence will suffer from the influence of policies of other countries and make their own peoples suffer from unfortunate consequences.

Today, those countries like Syria, Venezuela, Iran, etc. that adhere to independence are forging ahead unbendingly.

Similarly, the MORENA (National Regeneration Movement), a Mexican party, won a historical victory in the general elections in Mexico held on July 1st, 2018.

It was won by its consistent opposition to corruption, an emphasis on welfare policies for low-income groups, and an independent attitude toward the United States.

Prof. Ramon Jimenez Lopez, director general of the IJI Board, who is also a leading personage in the MORENA, has been active in applying the Juche idea in Mexico.

The result of the Mexican presidential election shows that the only way to make the world independent and peaceful is that individual countries uphold aloft their independence.

Finally, I would like to mention our expectation in the study and dissemination of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism and its forward challenges.

The socialist development of the DPRK is at a high stage, and all the fields including politics, ideology, culture, science, education, and medical care, are developing in a balanced manner.

In particular, the DPRK is trying to be at the cutting edge of science and technology, or information science as a major science and technology power.

When Chairman Kim Jong Un visited Singapore and China, he visited the most developed buildings

and farms in the country, and in this way, he is trying to contribute to the social development of his own country and give the Korean people the happiest life in the world.

The driving force of the Korean people in advancing their socialist construction in splendid manner lies in the outstanding leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Un, who has completely succeeded the cause of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

Its ideological essence is the people-first principle of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism.

The tasks of Juche idea researchers in individual countries of the world are to make a deep study of

Kimilsung-Kimjongilism and disseminate it. And then in the rest of the countries of the world as well as in Nordic countries, it is important to apply it in conformity to the reality of their own.

Next, it is important for them to strengthen their contact with us of the IJI and carve out a new era together.

Let us learn deeply from the work of Chairman Kim Jong Un and make steady progress in realizing the aspirations of the people of our own countries.

(The revised text of a lecture delivered at the Nordic Seminar on the Cause of Independence held in Helsinki on June 16, 2018)