

The 21st Century-Kim Jong Il Century

by Vishwanath

I have something to shout out at the bottom of my heart greeting the first February of a new century.

It is "Long live General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the sun of the 21st century", which is shouted not only by the Korean people but also by the people over the world who are looking up to the great man who led the 20th century to victory and will lead the 21st century to glory.

The 21st century will shine as Kim Jong Il century when the cause of independence will be consummated with General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the sun.

1 . General Secretary Kim Jong Il Who Closed the 20th Century with Victory

Victorious advance of the 20th century led to the budding and growth the human minds that hold General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the sun of the new century and follow him.

The 20th century was a century of independence and glory that taught the worth and happiness of life to the people.

The greatest glory of the 20th century is that President Kim Il Sung appeared as the sun of mankind at Mangyongdae, Korea.

President Kim Il Sung founded the man-centred Juche idea, illuminating the road ahead of a new era of history, the era of independence. By applying the Juche idea, President Kim Il Sung evolved an original theory, strategy and tactics on the national-liberation revolution in colonies and successfully carried out the Korean revolution, which greatly inspired the colonial peoples in their struggle for national liberation. The President led the socialist revolution and the building of socialism with success in Korea and built a unique people-centred socialism with independent politics, self-sufficient economy and self-reliant defence to put the centuries-old desire of mankind into practice.

The Juche idea ushered in a new era of independence when the popular masses who had been exploited, oppressed, dominated and subjugated in the past make history independently and creatively as masters of the world and

their own destiny.

In particular, the President correctly solved the issue of successor to provide the guarantee for ultimate victory in the cause of global independence.

The 20th century will shine forever in history as the century of glory when the era of independence was opened up by President Kim Il Sung.

It was a pride for the 20th century to have given birth to socialism for the first time in human history. With its validity and vitality socialism expanded on a world wide scale fundamentally changing the world political map in the mid of the century.

The 20th century, however, caused indescribable sufferings to mankind. There happened a tragedy that socialism which had once been flourishing as a spring of mankind collapsed suddenly. The world people who had suffered untold distresses from the two world wars were afflicted again with continuous aggression and national disputes by imperialism.

The most "shocking event" of all those tragedies in the 20th century was the demise of President Kim Il Sung, the sun of mankind. His demise was a great loss not only for the Korean people but also for the people of the world who aspire after independence.

The 20th century in its closing period came to face insurmountable crises due to the "shocking events" such as the collapse of socialism in some countries, bloody wars and national disputes caused by the imperialists and the death of the sun of mankind.

Imperialism clapped its hands, clamoring that "socialism came to an end" and spoke loudly of the "21st century without socialism."

Confusion and uneasiness stole into the hearts of the people who were aspiring after a new life.

At this juncture, General Secretary Kim Jong Il stood up to the crises of the 20th century and saved the destiny of mankind.

I felt a heartbreaking pain when I heard the bitter news that President Kim Il Sung passed away in July 1994.

President Kim Il Sung was the great teacher and benevolent father who instilled the soul of Juche in my mind when I was seeking for a true life and led me along a genuine road of life.

I was born in a doctor's family and grew up with special admiration for the saints of Hinduism and legendary heroes who were said to have come down from the heaven, due to the influence I received in my childhood from my grandfather who was a devoted believer in Hinduism. During this period I dreamed of following such saints and legendary heroes to realize goodness and justice. At first I thought that I would become a doctor like my father who relieved people from their physical pains with medical arts. However, I gradually came to know

about society and felt that it would be impossible to realize goodness and justice only with medical arts. Although I had not yet set a clear goal in my life, I graduated from Mayor College of Humanist Studies in Lahore and began to work as a journalist and as an editor-in-chief of the weekly "Indian Times".

It was the Juche idea that threw a light like the sun in my mental world and enabled me to set a correct goal of my life.

I spent days and nights to study the works of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il and acquired the truth of the Juche idea that illuminates a genuine road of life with feelings of love for man and devotion to the people.

When I first visited the DPRK in April 1974 I was surprised at the looks of this country that was rising as a strong nation of independence, self-sufficiency and self-defence, though she had been forced the fate of colonial slavery for a long time by the imperialists and had been turned into ashes due to the two bloody wars.

In addition, the single-hearted unity of the entire people of this country gave a big shock to me who felt strongly with the sense of a journalist the pains suffered by the Indian people because of religious disputes. The single-hearted unity of the DPRK is the unity based on the Juche idea with President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il at the centre.

There is a passage in Indian myth saying that "Human, hold high your head and live with self-respect so as to make the God descend to earth and ask you of your wish".

President Kim Il Sung was the great holy man from heaven who saved the Korean people with the Juche idea and enabled the mankind to know the true meaning of dignity and authority and thus put into practice the desire that had been known as a myth.

Several times, he received me, an ordinary Indian, and showed fatherly love with benevolent smile of the sun in his face every time.

That is why I could not suppress my sorrows and pains when my great teacher and benevolent father passed away.

His demise was the greatest loss in human history and the biggest pain in the 20th century.

However, it was not long before the people repressed their sorrow and rose up.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il pioneered a new history of the cause of perpetuating the memory of the leader.

He did everything in a Korean way irrespective of the existing conventions.

When they bid the last farewell to him, the world saw the sunny portrait of President Kim Il Sung with bright smile framed with magnolia instead of black ribbons.

The President ran along the streets of Pyongyang in his car, as he did before he left for his on-the-spot guidance, responding to the people's salute with bright smile as usual.

After farewell to his people, the President came back to his office and reviewed the guard of honour. "Song of General Kim Il Sung" instead of a dirge sounded solemnly over the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where they parted with him forever.

The world saw again President Kim Il Sung who shed bright rays as the eternal sun of mankind.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il, however, ensured that the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where President Kim Il Sung had worked in his lifetime was rebuilt more finely and the President is placed in the top place of the Palace, so that people could visit him any time.

He also set forth slogans "The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is always with us" and "Let us arm ourselves more thoroughly with the revolutionary ideas of the great leader Kim Il Sung". He also instituted the Sun's Day and the Juche calendar with the birthday of the President as a beginning year.

After full four years since his demise, the 1st session of the 10th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK met to elect President Kim Il Sung the eternal President of the DPRK.

The long political history of the world recorded the fact that a successor would have been elected in a few days after the death of the head of state.

There has been and will be nobody like General Secretary Kim Jong Il who postponed his election for the full three years in memory of the President and held his late leader in high esteem as usual as in his lifetime.

He showed the world people the moral obligation of the successor towards his deceased leader.

Declaring himself as an eternal soldier of President Kim Il Sung, General Secretary Kim Jong Il follows the way President Kim Il Sung had taken while giving on-the-spot guidance; and carries out thoroughly the teachings left by the President. He tries his best to do everything as intended by the former leader. The reunification of the country, the aspiration of the nation, is also the teaching left by the President. So, General Secretary Kim Jong Il, with his broad mind and magnanimity, met the South Korean authority without asking his past and prepared the historic June 15th North-South Joint Declaration, opening the road for national reunification.

The people keenly experienced that only when they have General Secretary Kim Jong Il, will President Kim Il Sung be eternal and the happy future of the country and people ensured.

Therefore, the Korean people could have endured the days of bitter tears and

rose up to the building of a powerful socialist nation with a firm faith that they win as long as General Secretary Kim Jong Il is with them, and the revolutionary people of the world greeted a new century with conviction in the victory of global independence.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il safeguarded the socialist cause of the 20th century.

The US-led imperialism launched a general attack against socialist Korea, clamouring that the last fortress of socialism is Korea. The Western mass media was boisterous about North Korea's "nuclear suspect" for a while, which was followed by a menacing demand of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for overall inspection. As if to support its demand, the US military bases around the Korean Peninsula became active and the American nuclear-powered aircraft carriers moved towards the Korean Peninsula.

The world's attention was focussed on Korea.

However, a bombshell announcement came from Pyongyang, upsetting the world's expectations.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea declared a semi-war state and made a statement of withdrawal from the Nuclear-Proliferation Treaty. The US and its allies that had been roaring as if to swallow Korea at one gulp asked Pyongyang for a talk under the signboard of "dialogue" instead of a gun. The DPRK-US talks opened to adopt the agreed framework on solving the nuclear problems. US President Bill Clinton sent a message of assurances for implementing this framework to General Secretary Kim Jong Il. A Western newspaper commented that "the Clinton administration accepted the demands of North Korea without objection, and that Pyongyang won victory without war."

However, isolation and suffocation of the imperialist allied forces continued afterwards against socialist Korea.

Furthermore, natural calamities came year after year as if to test the Korean people's will.

The progressive mankind of the world thought that socialism would perish if Korea did not rise up and that human justice would be trampled upon and that the world would turn into a tundra by the imperialists.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il, who is a thinker and theoretician, a paragon of peerless courage and will and a defender of the cause of justice, declared to the world that socialism would be victorious. He published the classic work "Socialism Is a Science" to prove the inevitability of the victory of socialism as a science and clarified ways and means for its ultimate victory.

By embodying it, he mapped out a plan of building a powerful socialist nation and carried it into effect with his original army-first politics to prove it in practice.

Strengthening the armed forces is the way to save socialism from imperialism whose mode of existence is aggression and plunder.

The Korean people know this truth more than anybody else.

The Korean people who went through revolutionary wars on two occasions in a century entertain the faith that bullets are of greater value than candy drops and that the building of self-reliant revolutionary armed forces is prior to other things.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il, who was born amidst the flames of the anti-Japanese war for the fatherland restoration and learnt the true meaning of defending the country in his early years, came out on the path of defending socialism and the interests of the country and the people with his army-first politics.

He went to any place where the People's Army men are stationed across the rough seas and beyond the steep mountain, while taking porridge or rice balls for meals and sleeping for short spells. Under the embrace of General Secretary Kim Jong Il who takes care of his soldiers with paternal love, the Korean People's Army (KPA) has developed into a strong and invincible army.

The world saw its great might in an ordinary armyman who downed an American helicopter by one shot when it intruded into his territorial sky and in the "West Sea event" in which the KPA smashed at a stroke the enemies who fired first.

Officers and soldiers of the KPA are now doing their best for their country and people under the slogan "Let us take full responsibility for our national defence and socialist construction!".

The entire Korean people learnt from the revolutionary soldier's spirit displayed by the people's army officers and soldiers to overcome difficulties one by one by themselves in their factories and farms and everywhere.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il who devotes himself to the benefits of the people made them rise up with their belts tightened.

In the last five years General Secretary Kim Jong Il gave on-the-spot guidance to hundreds of units in the country, which shows how big was his devotion for the people.

The Korean people always have the image of General Secretary Kim Jong Il in their minds, and this has served as the source of untiring strength to make Korea rise up.

Jong Song Ok of socialist Korea, a queen of the 7th World Championship in 1999 for women's marathon, answered the question of foreign journalists by saying proudly that she ran with the image of General Secretary Kim Jong Il in her mind, and that this was the source of her strength in winning the race.

Chagang Province is a mountainous province situated in the northernmost

part of Korea. In the province everything was insufficient and the food problem was most serious.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il has visited this province several times since 1998. He travelled day and night to visit remote mountainous areas of this province and took account of the people's living, discussing the ways of solving it.

Inspired by love and affection shown by the General Secretary, the people in the province rose up under the slogan "Let us go forward with a smiling face though our path is thorny!" They built medium- and small-sized power stations with the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude to solve the problem of electricity and did double or triple cropping to solve the food problem. They kept their factories and farms, villages and schools neat and tidy in a socialist cultured way.

Today the Korean people call the fighting spirit displayed by the people of this province the "Kanggye spirit" and learn from it.

The DPRK that was the concern of the world till some time ago has concluded the "arduous march" victoriously and now she is rising as a powerful nation of socialism.

The DPRK inspired the people of the countries where socialism collapsed and provided the revolutionary peoples of the world with hope and faith in victory.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is, indeed, the peerless great man who has saved the destiny of socialism that was in crisis and has concluded the 20th century brilliantly.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il safeguarded peace of the 20th century.

The starting point of a third world war mapped out by the imperialists was Korea. America mapped out and made public its aggressive war plan "5027-98" against Korea.

The DPRK for whom independence is the life and soul responded to it by releasing a statement of the spokesman of the General Staff of the KPA. The statement warned: "They should know correctly that the targets of our People's Army have no limits and that no place on this planet can avoid our attack.

...

Our revolutionary armed forces will answer the challenge of the aggressive US army with annihilating counterattacks."

The statement spread over the globe through various media.

The situation in the Korean Peninsula which had been pushed to the brink of war took an unexpected turn. The US sent a passenger plane with their diplomats instead of a military plane with bombs.

Pyongyang stamped out the burning fuse to a third world war simply with a statement of the KPA General Staff spokesman.

If the DPRK did not check the aggressive manoeuvres of imperialism, Asia

and the rest of the world would have suffered from nuclear holocaust again.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is indeed a peerless commander who has safeguarded peace and concluded the 20th century victoriously.

The Korean people who had overcome indescribable difficulties and trials had a great festival of victors in October 2000.

Unfortunately, I arrived a bit late in Pyongyang, so I spent night to watch the video cassette which recorded the festival.

Cheers of "Long live General Kim Jong Il!" erupted among the participants of military parade and the civil demonstration which took place in Kim Il Sung Square and among those of great mass gymnastic display and art performance and of the torch demonstration. Emotional tears were welled in the eyes of the people's armymen who were shouting at the top of their voice the long-life of General Secretary Kim Jong Il. While passing in front of the platform, the people shouted hurrah from the bottom of their hearts, looking up to General Secretary Kim Jong Il warmly responded to the cheers of the people.

This was a scene of the single-hearted unity that can not be found in any other country's history.

In the van of the "arduous march", General Secretary Kim Jong Il has brought about today's victory, braving through storms and snows, to defend the people's happiness. That is why the people respect him so much.

Today Korea rose in the world as the country of the sun, shedding bright rays and leading the development of the independent era.

Humankind greeted the era of new "diastrophism" in which the world moves with Korea at the centre.

The Western countries which have neglected the socialist Korea are now trying to have diplomatic ties with her.

This was unimaginable in the past.

Indeed, General Secretary Kim Jong Il is the sun of mankind who adds glory to Korea and the 20th century.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il defended socialism and world peace and accomplished the cause of perpetuating the memory of President Kim Il Sung and thus concluded the 20th century and opened bright vistas for a new century. His great exploits will go down in history.

Reviewing the 20th century with victors' pride, the revolutionary people over the world look up to him as the sun of the 21st century, shouting "Long live General Secretary Kim Jong Il!" with the warmest feelings of thanks and admiration.

2 . General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the Sun of the 21st Century

Now the hearts of the people who are greeting the new century are full of hopes that in the 21st century the century-old desire of mankind will be realized with General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the sun.

The desire of mankind in the 21st century is to build a new century in which man lives as true man and enjoys an independent and creative life as a true master of the world and his own destiny free once and for all from exploitation and oppression, aggression and war.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is a distinguished great man who can lead the world with the helm of the era to realize this desire of mankind.

Today the world respects General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the sun of the 21st century because he is a great thinker and theoretician and philosopher, outstanding statesman and great man of leadership art.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is an outstanding thinker and theoretician who will lead the 21st century.

The level of a great man consists in that of his philosophy and ideology.

Only the leader with his own philosophy and political idea can be successful in the politics.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il inherited and developed as a guiding ideology of the time the Juche idea originated by President Kim Il Sung, and with the idea he scientifically clarifies the ways to transform society, nature and man in conformity with the demands of the popular masses. General Secretary Kim Jong Il clarified man's essential qualities scientifically and, on this basis, he showed man's position and role in the world and the correct ways for hewing out man's destiny in his works such as "On the Juche Idea" and many other works. In addition, he elucidated that the driving force of social history is the popular masses and expounded the peculiar law of social development which is caused and developed by the volitional action and role of the subject so as to correctly indicate the direction of the development of human history and provide the masses with a guide to realize their independence more successfully.

He also set forth the idea that independence should be the basis of all international relationship, the idea of building an independent world where all countries and nations live on an independent and equal basis, free from aggression and war, domination and subjugation, thus clarifying the path to solve most correctly all the international problems left by the 20th century.

The world, therefore, looks up to General Secretary Kim Jong Il who is a thinker and theoretician as the sun of the 21st century.

When socialism collapsed in East Europe at the turn of the 90s, a lot of people were disappointed like the sailors in a shipwreck. At this juncture, General

Secretary Kim Jong Il wrote the classic works such as "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" to clarify the cause of collapse of socialism and elucidate sagaciously theoretical and practical questions arising in the triumphant advance of socialism. The socialist movement entered a new period on a new ideological and theoretical basis thanks to the unremitting ideological and theoretical activities of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The world felt once again that General Secretary Kim Jong Il is the great leader who will illumine a new century with his outstanding ideological and theoretical activities.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is an outstanding statesman and remarkable master of leadership who will lead the 21st century.

Because he is a prominent great man with genuine political philosophy for the popular masses, politics of General Secretary Kim Jong Il is characterized as a politics of love and trust, a benevolent politics.

The politics of love and trust is the politics which regards the popular masses as the most precious and powerful beings and shows boundless love and solicitude for them and which solves all problems on the basis of inexhaustible strength and creative ability of the masses.

All policies of the Party and state in socialist Korea are, therefore, formulated in accordance with the will and demands of the masses and implemented by the masses themselves.

He relies on "man-centred tactics" not "money-centred tactics" in the building of economy, too. Even though a project can give profit worth of hundreds of millions dollars, he refuses it flatly if it may do the masses harm. Even if an ordinary man among the masses falls into danger, General Secretary Kim Jong Il makes a plane fly, spending much money to rescue him.

Thanks to his warm love and care the whole Party, the whole army and the entire people in the DPRK are firmly united to form a large family of a single-hearted unity. This strength supports the DPRK to win a victory breaking through all ordeals and trials.

His love for the people is so warm that he shows no mercy to the enemies who try to harm the people. Today the imperialists frantically move to obliterate socialism in Korea. He conducts the army-first politics in order to defend the country and independence of the people. The army-first politics is a mode of politics to solve all problems in the revolution and construction on the principle of giving priority to military affairs and to regard the people's army as the pillar of revolution to press ahead with the socialist cause as a whole. The army-first politics is the most popular and revolutionary mode of politics that the army of people defends the people and provides them with an independent and creative

life even under the aggression and threat by imperialism.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il defends the dignity and honour of the country and people and leads the world politics, with his scientific political decision, firm conviction in justice and truth and with his strong will and courage. His wise leadership strikes the world with admiration and gives humanity hopes for the future.

In particular, the world was amazed by his distinguished political capability which was displayed in the days when he stood in the van of breaking through severe trials created by the imperialist allied forces' moves of isolation and suffocation.

The 21st century will be the century when the cause of mankind for independence will be realized fully because it is led by General Secretary Kim Jong Il with brilliant political capabilities.

He is an incarnation of love for human being. His traits and virtues are based on the love for the people. He is boundlessly modest, simple and benevolent.

Not only the Korean people but also the world people, even the right-wing politicians are fascinated by his noble personality, warm feeling for people, rich understanding and all other sun-like warmth, once they meet him.

Being fascinated by his ideology and personality, the people become loyal to and support him.

The Korean people, therefore, follow him like their own father, sharing sweets and bitters with him.

I happened to hear a touching story when visiting the DPRK.

To solve the food problem of the people, General Secretary Kim Jong Il put forth the policy of "potato-farming revolution" and, for its implementation visited Taehongdan County in the northern part of the country. He called at an ex-serviceman's house to inquire into his living conditions in details with his paternal love. His wife who looked up to the General Secretary with tears in her eyes asked him in a whisper to name her baby who was expected several months later.

Kindly accepting her request, the General Secretary suggested naming Taehong if it is a he and Hongdan if it is a she. Such an episode is not available in other countries.

The fatherly love of General Secretary Kim Jong Il covers not only the Korean people but the foreigners.

I have, also, received much of his love and affection.

On the unforgettable April 14, 1982, I had the honour to meet General Secretary Kim Jong Il for the first time in my life. His sun-like smile which makes the room bright, his wise eyes as if reflecting the world, his majestic and energetic gestures, his rumbling voice, his free and easy yet polite and kind

treatment — all this made me exclaim in my heart that another sun has risen in Korea.

Fathoming ardent feelings of an ordinary foreigner who felt regret to be departed, he wasted his precious time to receive my couple and sent us presents full of love.

Whenever I visited Korea, General Secretary Kim Jong Il fathomed even my wish and trusted me and revived vigour of youth to me.

He, indeed, is an incarnation of love who personifies the love for human beings and the people in the highest plane.

As we have fatherly General Secretary Kim Jong Il who has risen high as a benevolent sun and takes care of the people over the world, the 21st century will be a century when the people's happiness comes into bloom to the full in the flower garden of love for human beings.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is a brilliant great man who is well versed in modern science and technology.

The development of science and technology in the 21st century will serve the independence of human beings.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il who is well versed in the highly-developed science and technology and who has a political philosophy of love for human beings leads the 21st century.

Korean intellectuals would wonder at that General Secretary Kim Jong Il has deep knowledge of all fields above that of experts.

Recently he gave on-the-spot guidance to the National Academy, a comprehensive research base of natural science. At that time all scientists prepared to explain to him the successes made in different fields but failed to do so.

After his visit to Lianxiang Group's Computer Manufacturing Plant in the People's Republic of China in May, 2000, his great qualities as a master of modern science are well known to the world. At that time a Western newspaper broadcast that he has perfect knowledge on computer, saying that "Chairman of the National Defence Commission Kim Jong Il visited the Lianxiang Plant of the Computer Company in 'Zhongguanchun', Beijing for over 40 minutes and asked successive questions on calculating facilities of computer and up-to-date technological development, which amazed the experts who were accompanying him.

There is no limit in the knowledge of General Secretary Kim Jong Il who in his early years mastered philosophy and history, economics and military science, literature and art and natural science of the world.

Korea's scientific and technological success which startled the world with her launch of the artificial satellite "Kwangmyongsong No. 1 " is inconceivable

without leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

Under the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the 21st century will be a true century of science and technology in which highly developed and sophisticated science and technology actively contribute to the independent and creative life of the popular masses.

Indeed, General Secretary Kim Jong Il is the great man from the heaven who leads the flow of history along the orbit of the independence with the helm of the era, with high spirit and great courage, talents and wisdom beyond that of all preceding great men, generals and heroes.

General Secretary Kim Jong Il is the great sun that gives light and heat to mankind and leads the cause of mankind for independence to victory.

It is the greatest honour and pleasure for us to have General Secretary Kim Jong Il as the sun of the 21st century.

The 20th century was the century in which the age of independence started by President Kim Il Sung, and the 21st century will be the glorious century when the cause of independence develops under the leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

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The present era is and will be glorious with General Secretary Kim Jong Il, and the cause of global independence will surely win in this century.

Long live General Secretary Kim Jong Il, the sun of the 21st century!

May the 21st century, the Kim Jong Il century, be glorious!