

To Be Youth shaping 21th Century

by Kuwahata Manami

It is my honour to meet you, students of the Juche idea who have come from different parts of the world, and to have an opportunity to learn from this idea altogether today.

I am one of Japanese youth who have been studying the Juche idea in Tokyo. It has not been so long since I started studying this idea in earnest. However, I would like to speak briefly about my experience in studying this thought and putting it into practice.

It can be said that many Japanese youth are eager to live for someone else and to lead a life by assuming a due attitude as masters of society.

In other words, they do not like such a society where one looks down upon others, subordinates others to oneself and tramples upon the rights of others. On the contrary, they wish to establish social relations based on mutual trust, support and coexistence.

Nevertheless, what we are seeing in the contemporary world are cruel wars producing tens of millions of refugees as a consequence.

Nowadays, young people in Japan show a notable tendency to think that only money makes them happy and to seek momentary pleasures, paying no heed to others.

Some youngsters are out of job even if they really want to work, whereas some are too busy with their daily work.

I should say that I might have been one of those who just while away their time. Fortunately, however, I had an opportunity to consider my future life more seriously. I contemplated whether it would be good for me to just follow an easy path as I had ever passed through; what I was going to continue my schooling for; what would be the most important thing for my life; and what sort of life I really wanted to live, and the like.

At present, I am working at a clinic as a student nurse, while going to nurse-training school to become a licenced nurse some time soon.

Such choice of my way of life was directly attributable to my meeting with those who have been studying the Juche idea for a long since their days of youth. I was deeply impressed by the way they were, indeed. In fact, they have been putting this idea into practice in their daily lives by, for instance, running nursery homes and a care home for the aged, or producing original dances and performing them in public. Such ways of their lives have exerted great influence on us of the younger generation.

Nowadays, some members of our Tokyo Youth Society for the Study of the Juche Idea recently went so far as to move to a town to help another Juche idea study group doing its local activities. I really want to follow such people who devote themselves to helping other people.

We make it a rule to have study meetings every week and to conduct various cultural activities including music performances. A very study group to which I belong, one of the two groups of this society, is composed of an office clerk, a technician, a

young housewife, student workers and others. Some of them have studied the Juche idea for a quite long time, while some others are just beginners.

In each study meeting, our members are assigned to present a report in rotation so that everyone of them may take a responsible attitude as a master in the study.

One of the textbooks we used last time was a book entitled *Among the People* that introduces the activities of President Kim Il Sung. We have learned from the book about the respectable characters of President Kim Il Sung and the ways of life of the Korean people.

Joining in the study meetings like this, we are always moved and encouraged by the greatness of President Kim Il Sung, his human warmth as well as his invariable love for the people, and the sincere efforts of the Korean people to return to him for his trust in them.

Attending such a meeting, our members have commented like this:

I was greatly encouraged and I have come to have confidence in myself ; How wonderful it would be if our society in Japan were like that of Korea ; I have found that people can be so warm-hearted and powerful beings as they are.

Thus, through study and discussions we encourage one another and can have a clear perspective as to how to live a life in the days to come, and how to build due human relations with other people. All of us are now making our possible efforts to put into practice what we have learned in order to make Japan more independent.

We have been given quite a few opportunities to visit the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea as members of delegations representing Juche idea studying groups in Japan.

What impressed me most in my visits to the DPRK was that the Korean people were leading their lives in an optimistic manner. And it was a surprise for me to find the differences in the ways of lives between Korean and Japanese youths. I believe that the optimism seen among the youth in the country is attributable to their confidence in the future. Their confidence and optimism also seem to derive from the fact that their leaders have been always with the people.

A short stay in the DPRK is enough for us to recognize a great difference between the realities there and the images of North Korea that the Japanese media reporting has been creating.

To cite some cases in point, Korean people are very cheerful and far more active and dynamic in their cultural activities than Japanese people, and every Korean is displaying and developing his or her talents to a maximum. These facts show that they are real masters of the society. Truly, visiting the DPRK gives us strength and encouragement to step up our forward activities.

We are now making further efforts to get more people involved in our workshops and other events. In this regard, student members of our society have conducted Korean video-film shows in Tokyo. The latest one took place in last January, which drew quite a few young visitors. I believe this fact bespeaks by itself that the Japanese youth are eager to know better about the society of the DPRK that represents a new model for them to follow.

I would like to give you a comment on a Korean feature film made by a young visitor who joined us that day:

This film depicts a society in which people help others in need. That's the way any

societies should be. But I recognize a sheer reality that the Japanese society is lacking in such humanity compared with what is seen in Korea when it comes to the question of helping one another. I will try to find an answer to what should be done to change our society as such. Anyway, this film teaches me a lot of things.

The 21st century is a century of ours an era of youth.

Generally speaking, youth are hopeful because the future is meant for them after all. They also have abilities to create new things. I believe that in order for them to play a greater role in the future, it is necessary for them to study in depth the Juche idea before anything else.

From now on as in the past, we will do our utmost to increase fellow members of our study group, to contribute to creating a society in Japan where its youth may display their potential abilities to their maximum, thereby shaping a brighter future for this country and for the rest of the world.

Let us continue to study the Juche idea and lead in the van in disseminating this idea as widely as possible!

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