

On occasion of the 27th anniversary of the death of President Kim Il Sung



President Kim Il Sung and Japanese Figures

President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea met with over 70 000 foreign figures including state, party and government leaders in his lifetime. Among them were Japanese figures.

Unlimited Magnanimity

I soon realized that the words and manner of President Kim Il Sung were somewhat rhythmic, making people attracted and get closer. I could feel his great magnanimity and warm and kind-hearted mind. His voice was ringing, sound and full of vigour. His logic was persuasive and elastic. His art of speaking can be said to be the best in the world.

The President was so generous that even those who met him for the first time could feel free of awkward feelings and talk with him casually, as if they were old friends of his. These were a unanimous opinion of our delegation and attendant journalists.

Owing to the limited space I cannot mention more about his great personality, attraction and reliability. But I think it is of great significance that his virtues and personality are reflected in

socialist construction in the DPRK and its strategy and tactics in the field of international relations. In this sense, the Korean people, guided by such an extraordinary leader as President Kim Il Sung, are really a happy people.

(Asukata Ichio, former mayor of Yokohama)

Great Mentor

I have visited many countries of the world and met with quiet a few heads of state, but have never met such an outstanding leader as President Kim Il Sung.

He possessed remarkable ability to see through and judge things and phenomena, unlimited magnanimity, reasonable logic and persuasiveness.

He listened to the others carefully and said off the top of his head, but his remarks were so scientific, logic and profound that people can easily understand and realize their preciousness. He was surprisingly well versed in the overall situation of the world and had a deep knowledge of any academic problem.

Seeing his highest intelligence, deep thinking, genius insight and abundant experience as a tactician and strategist, I felt great pride and happiness as if I had a great mentor who could give correct answers to any questions which I was eager to find solutions to.

Out of boundless respect and admiration for him, I want to call President Kim Il Sung a great mentor.

(Narita Tomomi, former chairman of the Japanese Socialist Party)

The President's Affection

The happiest moment of my life was when I met President Kim Il Sung, and it served as a turning point in my life.

Through my interview with the President, visits to many parts of the DPRK and my own experiences, I received a strong and significant impression that I had never felt in other countries.

It was that the President was connected with his people by means of affection warmer than the love between a father and his children.

Not only the children but their teachers, as well as all the people, called him, "father Marshal."

The relations between "father" and his sons and daughters—this was the relationship between President Kim Il Sung and his people, a combination of warmest and most comradely affection of the leader loving his people boundlessly and the people supporting him with loyalty.

Witnessing this, I could hardly repress my surging emotions.

(Takaki Takeo, former member of the editorial committee of the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun)

My Last Duty

I met a great man. As I was meeting such a great man, I shed tears from the moment of seeing him.

President Kim Il Sung warmly welcomed me, ignoring everything of the past, and praised me for coming to the DPRK for the first time directly from Japan, a nation hostile to his country. He posed for a photograph with my party, had a grand banquet arranged, paid a visit to my lodgings and made a promise to meet me the next day.

President Kim Il Sung was a great statesman, a great man, an equal of whom cannot be found in the world history. It is a pity that I met such a great man in the twilight of my political career.

Although I am a statesman living the last days of my life, I will make all my efforts to meet the trust of the President. This is my last duty as a politician.

(Kanemaru Shin, former vice premier of Japan)

Defying Persistent Sanctions

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has turned out to be utterly different from what the Western propaganda said about.

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that this country has developed its economy on a steady basis and constructed beautiful cities despite decades of harsh sanctions and blockade.

There may be several factors in such a remarkable achievement but, according to those who have been there, the Korean people are a perfect incarnation of unyielding mental strength.

To cite an example, the autumn of 2016 witnessed heavy flooding caused by a violent storm and torrential rain in the northern area of North Hamgyong Province. At the moment, the country was subjected to the worst-ever sanctions and blockade in the UN history. Besides, it was focusing on building Ryomyong Street, which was at the final stage of completion. Seeing satellite images of severe damage, people the world over predicted that the restoration work would take several years.

However, the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK adopted a decision to

build new houses and public buildings including schools for the victims before winter cold set in and roused all the people to the restoration project.

Construction workers all over the country including those engaged in the Ryomyong Street project, as well as the soldiers of the Korean People's Army, headed for the affected area. They worked hard, sleeping only a few hours a day. Workers in cement factories, steel works and building materials plants strove day and night to fulfil their plans for increased production.

As a result, they completed the rehabilitation work in over two months, building new streets and villages.

By dint of such unexcelled mental strength, the Korean people have been expanding production and construction in defiance of extreme sanctions and blockade by the hostile forces. Though confronted with the worst circumstances in the past few years, they radically increased the production of trucks, tractors, machine tools and other machines by relying on locally-available resources. Moreover, they have erected one street every year. Among the new streets is Ryomyong Street, being called "Pyonghattan" on a par with Manhattan in New York. While stepping up the modernization of all economic sectors, they are pushing ahead with the construction of large-scale Tanchon Power Station, Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area and many other major projects.

Such great mental strength is derived from the Juche idea, the idea of thoroughgoing independence, which is based on the principle that man is the master of his own destiny and he is capable of carving it out. This idea is the motto of the Korean people and the fundamental source of their spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

The harsh sanctions imposed by the hostile forces do nothing but help increasing their mental strength.

They are mainly aimed at making them abandon their socialist system, in which the working masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them. Such sanctions only invite strong opposition from them. The more vicious sanctions the hostile forces impose, the more dynamically they will work to better their living conditions—this is the unshakeable determination of the Korean people.

South Korean media commented that the north is making remarkable economic progress despite several years of sanctions, adding that it is mystifying to see it outpacing south Korea in terms of economic growth rate even under such severe conditions.

Now is the time to know that economic sanctions will cut no ice with the DPRK. It is also worth knowing that measuring the country's economic and social progress with such conventional yardstick as the amount of resources, the level of technological development and the quantity of machines and equipment is not always right.