

Kim Il Sung and His Hobby



Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), the eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was a great man born of the 20th century, a man whom the world people respected transcending differences in idea, social system, political view and religious belief.

On April 12, 1992, he met a delegation of journalists of Washington Times, who were on a visit to the DPRK.

So attracted by him, the deputy editor-in-chief of the newspaper asked what his hobby was.

Journalists, those from the Western countries in particular, often pay close attention to the hobbies and private life of heads of state and politicians. It is because such things mirror the human qualifications of the person concerned.

The questioner waited, thinking that the world-famous president would either have particular hobby or enjoy unusual amusement or sports.

Kim Il Sung answered: I have no particular hobby or amusement of my own; if I have to say, I can say I have two; I am fond of reading and I like mixing with the people and sharing their company.

The American journalist was surprised. Until then, she had talked to many heads of state and politicians, but heard no answer from them like that of the DPRK president.

She revealed her inner thoughts.

"I have heard many heads of state and self-asserting politicians saying that hunting, fishing, swimming or amusement are their hobby, but none of them has said reading and mixing with

the people and sharing their company are their hobby. Your hobby is too humble to be true. But its meaning is like that of the universe. Yours is, indeed, what only the greatest man in the world can have.”

Five days later, CNN TV broadcast an interview its journalist had with the deputy editor-in-chief of Washington Times. At the interview, she said: President Kim Il Sung was quite different from those I have ever met. He was simple yet energetic. He willingly granted an interview with us, and answered our questions logically. What was most attractive was that he talked in a very simple manner, not insisting his own political views.