

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



Reverence of Alba Chavez

President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), founding father of socialist Korea, enjoyed boundless respect from a great number of people the world over. Among them was Alba Chavez, a prominent social figure of Ecuador.

As the chairwoman of the Latin-American Institute of the Juche Idea, she wrote a book, titled, *President Kim Il Sung and Korea's Socialism* in January 1991.

Part of it reads:

“I would like to say to social scientists. The one and only way to be followed by the world’s population numbering 5.4 billion today, 8.5 billion by 2025 and 10 billion by 2050 is Korean-style socialism led by President Kim Il Sung.”

What she asserted in this book was based on her conviction that humankind must follow one century after another the road of Korean-style socialism which embodies the man-centred ideology of Juche with the aim of realizing the aspirations and ideals of the masses.

In May 1990 she visited the DPRK for the fourth time, together with her husband and

children. While looking round several places in the country, she could see how the working masses, once subjected to maltreatment in the lowest echelons of society, were regarded as the most valuable beings. The masses of the people are masters of the world and everything in society must serve them—this was the tenet of the DPRK’s ideology. Indeed, socialist Korea was a beacon of hope to humankind.

During her stay she was invited to the First Session of the Ninth Supreme People’s Assembly.

At the meeting President Kim Il Sung made a policy speech, titled, *Let Us Bring the Advantages of Socialism in Our Country into Full Play*.

In his speech he clarified that Korea’s socialism is a man-centred socialism, the embodiment of the Juche idea, and that its basic characteristic is that it is a truly people-oriented society whose genuine masters are the masses and in which everything serves them.

She was deeply moved by this speech which indicated specific ways for realizing the socialist cause.

Around that time, capitalism was reviving in several countries of Eastern Europe, and taking advantage of this tragic turn of events, the imperialists were clamouring about the “end” of socialism.

Many people in the world were apprehensive about the viability of socialism.

At this juncture, President Kim Il Sung shed light on the advantages of socialism and the inevitability of its triumph and the downfall of imperialism, and stressed the need to uphold the banner of socialism.

Alba Chavez’s grandfather founded the Ecuadoran Socialist Party and, as a strenuous advocate of socialism, worked with devotion for its realization. Her father was a labour movement leader who applied himself to the cause of building socialism in Ecuador. Influenced by them, she came to aspire after socialism.

Despite imprisonment and miserable experience as an exile, she continued her search for the true ideal of socialism and the ways for applying it.

What impressed her most in these days was the Juche idea authored by President Kim Il Sung. Based on an in-depth study of this idea, she came to a conclusion that the President’s inborn affection for human beings was the basis of his socialist theory and the social system established in the DPRK.

Later, she wrote in recollection of her meeting with the President:

He said that he carried on the revolution and construction, loving the people and enjoying love from them. As he wrote in his memoirs, the people are the teacher and doctor, and one can find philosophy and political economy among them. He emphasized that if he had neglected contact with the people just once and forgotten the existence of the people even for a moment, he would not have been able to maintain the pure and genuine love for the people. Then he reaffirmed, with a smiling face, his will to continue his journey on the train bounded for the people.

Three Major Policies of the DPRK

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea captures the attention of the world for its three major policies—free education, free medical service and providing houses free of charge. The reason is that these policies are not only perfect but universal.

These policies are not administered only for specific members or units of society but for everyone without discrimination.

Thanks to the enforcement of the universal compulsory education, all pupils and students realize their wishes, enjoying equal rights to learn; university and college students even receive scholarships paid by the state.

Under the universal free medical system, all medical services such as checkup, test, treatment, operation, hospitalization and medicines are provided free of charge; women give birth to their babies under the best medical conditions in hospitals like the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

The houses built at state expense are provided not only to blue- and white-collar workers but to farmers free of charge.

It is quite surprising that the state enforces these policies when it is placed under the sanctions and blockade imposed by the US and its vassal forces.

The country has enforced these policies whatever the situation and circumstance. The universal free medical service can be taken as an example. It was introduced in November 1952, when the Korean war (1950-1953) was at its height; in other words, the system that demands huge funds was introduced at the time when the state had to direct all its human and material resources to achieving victory in the war.

Enforcement of these policies was not suspended even in the closing years of the last century, when the country was conducting the Arduous March owing to the moves of the allied imperialist forces to blockade and isolate it; the children across the country learned to their heart's content, all the people lived without feeling any worry about medical treatment, and the modern houses built one after another in different parts of the country were provided to the people free of charge.

These policies enforced without letup in the days, when many people of the world were apprehensive about its destiny, struck the world with wonder, and demonstrated that its socialism will be victorious forever.

These policies improve the people's standard of material and cultural living in a systematic way.

There is no limit in the country in improving the people's livelihoods.

The course of progress of socialist construction in the country was immediately the course of the development of these policies on the principle of constantly improving the people's material and cultural living standards.

The country enforced universal primary compulsory education in 1956, and introduced universal and free secondary compulsory education in 1958. In 1959 universal compulsory education system was established. In 1972, it enforced universal 11-year compulsory education for the first time in the world, and in 2012 universal 12-year compulsory education.

As for the universal free medical service, it has developed the system in a systematic way—introducing the district doctor system in the 1960s, turning village clinics into hospitals in the 1970s and raising the specialized levels of medical service in the 1980s and 1990s. In recent years many modern specialized hospitals have been built, like the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital and Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital. It is not fortuitous that WHO praised the public health system of the country as an advanced one in its report published in January 2011.

As for houses, in Pyongyang, the capital of the country, hundreds of thousands of flats had already been built on such streets as Ragwon, Chollima, Changgwang, Kwangbok and Thongil. Recently, high-rise and superhigh-rise apartment houses have been built on Changjon, Mirae Scientists, and Ryomyong streets, and provided to teachers, scientists and other working people.