

New Long-term Plan and Production Growth in the DPRK

Shortly ago, the DPRK's state-run TV reported that following the Ninth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held from February 19 to 25, 2026, the country's industrial output increased by 7% as against the same period of last year. What is the factor of the economic growth in this country?

As he delivered a policy speech at the First Session of the 15th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in late March, Kim Jong Un, President of the State Affairs of the DPRK, referred to the tasks for implementing the five-year plan approved by the Ninth Party Congress. In the period of the five-year plan, he said: We should considerably consolidate the foundations for the development of the overall industrial sectors and, at the same time, wage a vigorous struggle to increase production, thus boosting the output value of the industrial sectors about 1.5 times.

To this end, the DPRK is working to remodel major machine-building factories which it sees will back industrial modernization, and to improve the technological infrastructures of key industries one by one. Metallurgical, chemical, electric power and coal-mining industries are the pillars of its economy. Local media say that every economic sector has launched a mass innovation movement to carry out the tasks for the first year of the new five-year plan. The Sangwon Cement Complex, the country's leading cement producer, increased production by 7% on a daily average in March alone, and the metallurgical industry fulfilled its production plan for rolled steel by 9% in April.

Economic experts regard the DPRK as having economic potentials which are unknown and unfathomable to the outside world. They reason as follows: Firstly, the country depends on a self-sufficient economy which is free from other economies and immune to economic upheavals outside; secondly, it has a large contingent of talents competent enough to develop the cutting-edge space industry and AI technology; and thirdly, it boasts patriotic people who devote their all to national prosperity.

The uptick in the DPRK from the beginning of its five-year plan seems to be attributable to the fact that the new long-term plan, aimed at achieving stable and gradual qualitative development of the economy, fully conforms with the situation of the DPRK and its entire people make strenuous efforts to implement it under the leadership of the WPK.