

Striking Contrast

In August 2023 *Wall Street Journal* commented in an article that Americans have three dreams, namely about their own house, family and stable life but that they are only a futile daydream. The American newspaper added that few Americans believe that their dreams would come true easily.

In the US and other developed countries the desire to own even a single-room house is being regarded as almost impossible to achieve.

In 2023 the average price for a new apartment in the Japanese capital grew by 9.5% as compared to the previous year, registering the highest records for three years running. In downtown Tokyo the average house price exceeded 100 million *yen*. Given the situation, for ordinary citizens to own their own house is beyond imagination.

In a European country the house price continued to go up with “new records” made in the second quarter of last year.

A growing number of people hang about street corners as they cannot even afford to rent a house.

In contrast, such dreams come true in the DPRK. The government is pushing ahead with a plan to solve the housing problem for the entire population in the near future. In recent years alone tens of thousands of modern flats have been built in the capital city of Pyongyang, and housing construction projects are rapidly proceeding in the rural areas, too. Such auspicious events of moving to decent houses are taking place one after another. Those houses built at state expense are distributed gratis to ordinary citizens. This has been a commonplace in this country but it cannot be imagined in other countries.

Kim Jong Un, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, reportedly unveiled a plan to fundamentally transform the living environment of the people within two or three decades. Under the wise leadership of the leader who administers people-first politics the aspirations of the Korean people for better houses are coming into a reality.



New modern streets built in the DPRK's capital Pyongyang in recent years





Pyongyang citizens overjoyed to receive new houses from the state



Rural houses built in the DPRK's countryside





Korean farmers move to new modern houses provided to them by the state.