

Warm-hearted Man

President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), the founding father of socialist Korea, was known as a warm-hearted man.

Whenever he met foreign personages, he promised to make friends with them. If he met any of them again, he fostered personal ties with them, calling him or her one of his old friends. He always started conversation with asking about their health and wellbeing, paid much concern to their convenience during their stay in his country and asked them to visit again with their family members on fine days and have a good time.

In June 1984 when he visited the former German Democratic Republic he dropped in at the home of Frank-Peter Schroder, a worker at a machine tool factory in Berlin, to acquaint himself with the living conditions of his family with many children.

Recalling the day, Schroder said:

After making rounds of the living rooms, President Kim Il Sung asked me and my wife how many members there were in our family, what jobs we wanted our children to take and what kinds of benefits and assistance we received from the state. As we said to him that we had triplets, he noted that we were a happy family and invited us to visit the DPRK, saying: When your triplets grow up and attend school, you will come to my country with them during their vacation and have a good time there. He asked us to bring the triplets up to be admirable talents who would shoulder the future of the country. Then he gave gifts to the triplets, wishing our family happiness.

Schroder recalled that he was deeply impressed by the President as he learned in detail about his living conditions and showed meticulous concern about the future of his children just like the head of the family would do.

Kim Il Sung bestowed benevolence on the bereaved family of Takeo Takagi, former chief director of the Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange Association. After meeting Kim Il Sung, his son said about his boundless love: He received us with that great personality, about which we had often heard from my father. We could easily feel that he is very friendly and magnanimous. Indeed, he is the benevolent father who takes warm care of us all.