

Kim Il Sung's Visit to Indonesia Still Remembered

This year marks the 61st anniversary of President Kim Il Sung's visit to Indonesia. Despite the lapse of several decades the memories of the great man are still being cherished.

Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), eternal leader of the Korean people, paid a visit to Indonesia from April 10 to 20, 1965. The Indonesians rolled out the red carpet for him.

Sukarno, the then president of Indonesia, personally worked out the schedule and went out of his way to welcome the DPRK leader.

The front pages of all Indonesian newspapers carried an article about the brief career of Kim Il Sung and welcome slogans were put up on the streets. Portraits of the leaders of the two countries were seen at the Jakarta Airport, and hundreds of thousands of people lined up along the 160-km-long route to warmly welcome his visit.

Sukarno made sure that Kim Il Sung stayed at the best guesthouse in his country and invited him to a session of the Provisional People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia. Kim Il Sung was the first foreign leader to attend the session. And Sukarno exalted him as a hero to be followed by Indonesia.

Besides, he always ensured that Kim Il Sung took precedence over other foreign leaders in several events such as the celebrations to mark the tenth anniversary of the Bandung Conference, an international meeting of Asian and African countries held in Bandung, Indonesia, in April 1955. And he accompanied the DPRK leader throughout his trip. On April 15, the 53rd birthday of Kim Il Sung, he awarded him the title of honorary doctor of engineering and proposed naming a newly bred beautiful flower after him.

So reluctant to part from him, Sukarno said that if he didn't mind his impoliteness, he would like to get the wheels of the airplane broken to make Kim Il Sung remain there. His remarks moved many.

President Kim Il Sung's visit to Indonesia will remain etched in the memory of the progressives the world over.