

National Emblem of the DPRK



The national emblem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea bears the design of a grand hydroelectric power station under Mt Paektu and the beaming light of a five-pointed red star, with ears of rice forming an oval frame, bound with a red ribbon bearing the inscription *The Democratic People's Republic of Korea*.

The emblem, instituted with the founding of the DPRK in September Juche 37 (1948), gives a graphic image of the country.

Mt Paektu Portrayed in the National Emblem

Mt Paektu (2 750m) portrayed in the national emblem is the highest mountain in Korea, and it is regarded by the Korean nation as their ancestral mountain.

What is more important is the fact that an armed struggle was waged centring around the mountain to liberate the country from the Japanese imperialist occupation (1905-1945).

Created during the armed struggle led by Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) were the spirit of thoroughgoing independence, self-reliance and fortitude, the experience and exploits in the building of a party, state and armed forces, and the method and style of work of trusting the masses and enlisting their strength.

Mt Paektu in the national emblem depicts the will of the Korean people to carry forward the traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Today the DPRK is recognized as a country with a strong spirit of independence and is advancing vigorously, repulsing the challenges and blockade of the outside forces in the spirit of self-reliance—it is because the country has carried forward the traditions of Mt Paektu.

Unity, Foundation of Existence of a Country

The red ribbon portrayed in the national emblem stands for the unity of the Korean people.

Unity constitutes a foundation of all the state activities. All the successes and victories it has achieved in the face of the tenacious challenges and moves by the hostile forces to isolate and stifle it are inconceivable separated from the steel-like unity of the Korean society.

The single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses, an ideal at the time of the founding of the state, has now been raised to a new high under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission.

Symbol of Development of Self-supporting Economy

The hydroelectric power station depicted in the emblem is symbolic of Korea's modern industry based on heavy industry.

Among more than 200 countries in the world, the DPRK is the only country which depicted a symbol of electrification in its national emblem.

The ears of rice portrayed in the emblem represent the bright prospect of socialist agriculture of the DPRK.

Educational Policy of the DPRK and Its Future

The people who visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea say that the country has a bright and optimistic future. They take its educational policy as an example.

The country introduced universal primary compulsory education, the first of its kind in the East, in 1956 and then universal compulsory secondary education and universal free education in 1958 and 1959, respectively.

The country has also built and operated many extracurricular educational bases at state expense.

Subsequently, the DPRK enforced the 11-year free education in a comprehensive way in September 1975, the most advanced education system in the world in those days.

Entering the new century, the country has achieved further advance in the education sector; the Supreme People's Assembly enacted the law on the introduction of universal 12-year compulsory education in September 2012.

Once UNESCO made an analysis of the interrelation between the term of education and the rate of economic growth, and expressed the view that the increase of one more year in the term of education leads to 9% increase in the rate of economic growth.

Even though they are aware of this, many countries hesitate to increase the term of education because it presupposes a huge investment. However, despite the difficult economic conditions owing to the challenges and blockade by the hostile forces, the DPRK enforced the law with an eye into the distant future.

The refresher course has long been enforced for those on active service in their jobs.

President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), founding father of socialist Korea, put forward in his work, *Theses on Socialist Education*, published in September 1977 the theory that all the members of society should be educated throughout their life.

It is noteworthy that only in this century, decades later, many countries adopted the principle of continuous education for the people for their sustainable growth.

Today, the DPRK sets high standards to attain by education; it has set forth the line of making all its people well-versed in science and technology in order to prepare them as intelligent workers with the level of a university graduate. To this end, many technical colleges have been set up and online education expanded. The newly-built Sci-Tech Complex disseminates the latest scientific and technological data through the network, encouraging all the people to raise the level of their scientific and technological knowledge continuously and proactively apply them in their work.

The prospects of the DPRK enforcing the future-oriented educational policy are bright.