

Kim Jong Un has photo session with participants in Ninth Congress of KCU



KCNA

The respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, the great Sun of socialist Korea and benevolent father of the large harmonious family, had a photo session with the participants in the Ninth Congress of the Korean Children's Union on New Year's Day in 2023.

The schoolchildren were filled with great happiness as they would pose for their pictures of glory with the fatherly Marshal, which they wanted in dreams, on the hopeful New Year's Day. Previously he showed another great affection of making sure that the grand gathering of the beloved Children's Union members was held under the care and blessing of the whole country, regarding it as an important affair of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state.

When he arrived at the venue for the photo session amid the playing of the welcome music, all the participants raised passionate cheers, looking up to the Marshal who is bringing up the Children's Union members with his warm feelings, regarding them as the priceless assets of the country and the whole of its hope and future.

Delegates of the KCU put a red neckerchief around his



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neck and presented a fragrant bouquet to him, reflecting the boundless gratitude and best wishes of the schoolchildren across the country in the New Year.

Acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers, he warmly congratulated the delegates of the Children's Union who significantly greeted the New Year after powerfully demonstrating once again the viable spirit of the Korean children who

are stoutly carrying forward the brilliant history and tradition of the Juche-oriented children's movement and the red bloodline of revolution through the Ninth Congress of the KCU.

Saying that it is a great source of strength and pleasure for the Party, state and people advancing, convinced of the validity of the sacred cause for the future, to spend the first day of the New Year for the country's prosperity, hearing the bright laughter and bold footsteps

of the KCU members, he added that the prospect of the Juche cause and the future of socialist Korea are rosy as there are the three million KCU members, excellent successors to the revolution.

Hoping that the KCU members across the country would more stoutly grow up in good health to be competent talents, knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy, for the future of the country, he had a photo session with the participants.

After the photo session, the participants

shouted at the top of their voice "Hurrah!" looking up to the Marshal.

He blessed the bright future of all the KCU members, waving his hands to the delegates for a long time.

The delegates of the KCU who received the boundless happiness made a firm pledge to always prepare themselves as the reliable successors to the revolution and pillars in the building of a powerful nation for the prosperity of the socialist country.

Gifts sent to delegates to Ninth KCU Congress

KCNA

A meeting took place on January 1 to convey the gifts sent by the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un to the delegates to the Ninth Congress of the Korean Children's Union.

Present at the meeting were Ri Il Hwan, Ri Yong Gil, Kim Jae Ryong and Pak Thae Song, secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other officials of the WPK Central Committee and the participants in the Ninth Congress of the KCU.

Ri Il Hwan made an address for conveying the gifts.

The speaker said it is the respected fatherly Marshal who wants to give all the best and most valuable things

in the world to the KCU members so that they can bring their dreams and talents into full bloom and grow up well.

The lists of the gifts sent by Kim Jong Un were conveyed.

All the KCU delegates raised cheers of "Hurrah!" shedding tears of deep gratitude to Kim Jong Un who brings up the younger generation to be the successors to the revolution, always looking after all children of the country with warm love and affection incomparable in the world so that they can grow up brightly and cheerfully.

Officials of the Party Central Committee presented the gifts associated with his warm love and expectations to the delegates of the KCU.

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General Secretary Kim Jong Un pays homage to great leaders on New Year's Day



KCNA

All the people of the DPRK have greeted the New Year full of confidence in the validity and victory of their cause after proudly concluding the unprecedentedly arduous year 2022 with the indomitable struggle and advance under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea. They are now paying the highest tribute to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il blessing the rosy future of socialism and communism as the eternal Sun of Juche.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of

the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on January 1 on the occasion of the New Year 2023.

Accompanying him were Kim Tok Hun, Jo Yong Won, Choe Ryong Hae and Ri Pyong Chol, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, and other members of the central leadership body of the Party.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where the President and the Chairman, eternal leaders of the Party, state and people, lie in state, was wrapped in the most sublime atmosphere.

A basket of flowers in the name of Kim Jong Un was laid before the statues

of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Also placed before the statues were flower baskets in the name of the Central Committee of the WPK, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The General Secretary, together with the participants, paid high tribute at the statues of the great leaders.

He visited the halls of immortality where Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance and made deep New Year's bows to them who devoted their whole lives to the sacred cause of Juche to build a party

and state and train the people into those dignified and powerful with independence in politics, self-sustenance in the economy and self-reliance in defence.

The members of the Party's central leadership body firmly pledged to fulfill the heavy responsibility and duty entrusted by the Party and the people for attaining the grand goal set forth at the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK true to the revolutionary ideas and leadership of Kim Jong Un and thus achieve substantial and rapid changes and development on all fronts of socialist construction without fail.

DPRK leader sends message of greeting and flower basket to Cuban President

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greeting to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on Sunday.

Kim Jong Un in the message extended warm congratulations and comradely greetings to the first secretary and the

friendly Cuban party, government and people on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

For over 60 years since the victory of the revolution, the Cuban people have firmly defended and advanced the socialist cause despite the ordeals and tempests of history, he said.

He noted that today the Cuban people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by the first secretary, are waging a courageous struggle to attain the goal of building a prosperous socialist state, set forth

by the Eighth Congress of the Party, frustrating the ceaseless sanctions and blockade and plot-breeding moves of the hostile forces and overcoming the manifold disasters.

Extending full support and encouragement to the just cause of the Cuban people, we would as ever make every effort to further consolidate and develop the friendship and solidarity between the two parties and the peoples of the two countries, he said.

He sincerely wished the first secretary good health and greater success in his responsible work of leading the party and

the state.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un also sent a congratulatory flower basket to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The flower basket bearing the name of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was courteously handed over to an official concerned of the Cuban Foreign Ministry on December 30, 2022 by the DPRK ambassador to Cuba.

Kim Jong Un sees performance given in celebration of New Year 2023



KCNA

There was a grand performance in celebration of the New Year 2023 at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, at night of December 31.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, saw the performance together with senior Party and government officials.

The stadium was crowded with the audience who gathered to see the grand significant performance for celebrating the New Year.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un

appeared in the auditorium amid the playing of welcome music.

The entire audience raised stormy cheers of "Hurrah!" for Kim Jong Un, symbol of the mightiness of the DPRK and banner of all victories and glory.

Children presented him with bouquets of fragrant flowers.

He waved back to the enthusiastically cheering crowds to extend warm congratulations to the entire audience and other people across the country on the New Year.

Taking the auditorium were Kim Tok Hun, Jo Yong Won, Choe Ryong Hae and Ri Pyong Chol, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the



WPK Central Committee, and senior Party and government officials and commanding officers of the armed forces organs.

The performance was also enjoyed by the participants in the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK and the Ninth Congress of the Korean Children's Union and citizens of the capital city.

A solemn ceremony of hoisting the national flag of the DPRK was held amid the soaring patriotic enthusiasm of the people to hold up their great country for all ages.

The audience paid a high tribute to the sacred national flag flying high despite

all storms of history, reflecting the invincible might of the country and all miracles and victories on this land.

Put on the stage were songs highly praising the motherly Party and famous songs and dances in the era of the Workers' Party.

Artistes of such prestigious art groups as the State Merited Chorus and Wangjaesan and Mansudae art troupes and students of art education institutions in the city brilliantly decorated the last night of the old year with an original and beautiful artistic portrayal in the performance.

The performance was greatly acclaimed by the audience.



KCNA

Banquets were given at the Mokran House and the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on December 31 in celebration of the New Year 2023.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un bestowed a great favour of inviting officials and meritorious persons in the munitions industry sector, who contributed to the work of more reliably guaranteeing

the dignity of Juche Korea and invincible might by dint of great military and technical strength, to banquets for celebrating the New Year as guests of honour.

They were attended by Ri Pyong Chol, member of the



Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Jo Chun Ryong, department director of the WPK Central Committee.

were made at the banquets. Speakers said that the national hardships in 2022, when every step of advance was so difficult, required unheard-of strenuous efforts of defence scientists and munitions workers and

they, Korean revolutionary industry soldiers, etched 12 months with the miracles unprecedented in the history of building a prosperous nation while accepting it readily as a noble obligation.

Parties arranged for New Year

National flag-hoisting ceremony marks New Year

KCNA

A national flag-hoisting ceremony was solemnly held on January 1 2023.

Kim Il Sung Square was crowded with excited Pyongyang citizens who

gathered to greet the historic moment when the national flag of socialist Korea would flutter in the sky.

At 00:00 sharp, a bell tolled to signal the turn of the year and melodies of the immortal revolutionary

hymns *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Song of General Kim Jong Il* echoed through the sky above the capital city.

A worker, farmer, intellectual, youth and schoolchild politely hoisted

up the national flag amid the solemn playing of the national anthem of the DPRK.

The people paid high tribute to the national flag of the DPRK associated with the course of the heroic struggle of Juche Korea demonstrating

its might as the country independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in defence, and representing the dignity, life and rosy future of all the Korean people.

Gorgeous fireworks were

displayed to celebrate the New Year with the flag of the DPRK fluttering in the nocturnal sky of the capital city, symbolizing the glory of the prosperous country and the eternal happiness of the people.



The national flag of the DPRK is hoisted in celebration of the New Year 2023.



Journey of devotion to people in 2022

By Pang Un Ju PT

2022 was a year of the worst national crisis when the DPRK was faced with health crisis coupled with natural disasters and the moves of hostile forces to isolate and stifle the country reached the extremes.

Despite all these difficulties in which the survival itself can be claimed to be a miracle, the country firmly guaranteed the personal safety of the people and boosted the national prestige to the utmost by stockpiling the strongest absolute power and the dreams and ideals of the people came true, appearing as innovative entities. Facing up to these eye-opening reality, the Korean people look back in cherished memory upon the journey of revolutionary leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who spent the days and months of devoted efforts for the good of the people all the year round.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in which the commencement of an all-people grand march to glorify 2022 as a watershed in the development of revolution Kim Jong Un said we should wage a resolute struggle without a moment's delay for the comprehensive development of socialist construction and for the great people and beloved rising generations and surely win it, and stood at the forefront of this grand march.

He visited the windy Ryonpho area in January last year to unfold a grand plan for the construction of a large greenhouse farm. He also attended the groundbreaking ceremonies of the Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm and the project for 10 000 new flats in Pyongyang and made historic speeches to encourage the builders to perform miracles and feats in the construction projects.

As he looked round the construction site of 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa area and the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District in Kyongru-dong nearing completion in March and April, he was very pleased that he could provide the working people with better houses again. In the run-up to the Day of the Sun he visited Songhwa Street and the terraced houses district to cut the ribbon for the completion of the projects and shared joy with the meritorious persons and their families who settled in the new luxury houses.

And he gave meticulous guidance as he came out to the training ground to make the military parade in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army the most wonderful event in the history of military parades in the country so that it could fully demonstrate the absolute power and military and technical edge of the DPRK's armed forces and a new phase of military art.

In May last year when

an emergency happened as COVID-19 made inroads into the country, breaking a hole on the emergency epidemic prevention front, he called the Eighth Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth WPK Central Committee and issued an order to switch the state infectious disease prevention system to a top-level emergency anti-epidemic system, taking timely measures to rapidly reverse the unpleasant anti-epidemic situation.

He visited pharmacies where saleswomen who had just been cured of the infectious disease worked to personally examine the situation of the supply of medicines in the capital city, and learned about the supply and sale of medicines there. And he saw that official medicines of his family were sent to needy families.

During the 91-day-long anti-epidemic war, a hard time for the country, he examined and signed 1 772 documents on the national

anti-epidemic campaign amounting to 22 956 pages. His mind was always on how to build the DPRK as a socialist power in the world and how to put the Korean people forward as the happiest one in the world. Thanks to his devoted efforts, a legal guarantee was provided to offer the best conditions for the upbringing of the rising generations, dream houses built across the country and model factories for the development of the local industry created in Kimhwa County with poor living conditions and weak economic foundations.

The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm, the largest greenhouse farm in the world, and houses for over 1 000 families were built in various styles in a matter of some 230 days since the groundbreaking to be presented as gifts to the people on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the WPK. And the Orangchon Power Station, a large power production base in a northern area of the country,

was built as a monumental edifice representative of the era of the Workers' Party and the Taesongsan Ice Cream Factory as an asset of the people.

He personally came out to the dangerous place for the test fire of a major strategic weapon to defend the national sovereignty and right to development and the dignity and position of a powerful nation and brought a great victory. And he legalized the state nuclear armed forces policy to more clearly express the independent decision of the DPRK government and its indomitable will to defend national rights and interests.

The year 2022 was indeed a memorable year which began with his superhuman energy and infinite devotion to exalt the national prestige and dignity of the DPRK to the world more proudly and firmly defend the happiness of the people and continued steadily with his determined practice to that end.

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Nation celebrates hope-filled New Year 2023



Pyongyang citizens pay floral tribute at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill.

KCNA
All the Korean people greeted the New Year 2023 in splendour. A constant stream of visitors flowed to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, in reflection of their profound respects and yearning for

them. At the plaza of the palace, crowds made a bow before the portraits of the smiling images of the great leaders, great sages and sacred images of socialist Korea, with profound reverence for them. On the first morning of the New Year, officials, working people, service personnel and students paid homage to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at their statues

and mosaics of their beaming images in different parts of the country. Baskets of flowers were laid at the statues of the great leaders on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang in the name of Party, government and armed forces organs, social organizations, ministries, national agencies, units of the Korean People's Army and the Public Security Forces, and institutions at all levels, industrial establishments and

universities in Pyongyang. The representative and members of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front paid floral tribute at the statues. Officials, working people, service personnel and youth students across the country paid homage to the great leaders at their statues and mosaics of their beaming images in their residential areas. Under the great care of

the motherly Party, orphans, children and pupils across the country received gifts on the occasion of the New Year. Students of Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary schools made a firm pledge to prepare themselves into the first guards and passionate revolutionaries in defending the leader and the revolution by firmly carrying on the original bloodline of the revolution always cherishing

the immense benevolence of the motherly Party. A variety of performances were given in Pyongyang and provinces to rev up the festive atmosphere. The National Symphony Orchestra gave a concert in celebration of the New Year at the Moranbong Theatre. Artists of the Phibada Opera Troupe gave a performance of dance pieces at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre. The performance of one-act play "The person I find" was given at the National Theatre to show an excellent artistic portrayal of the validity and vitality of the Party's policy on training talents by spending much labour. There were New Year celebrations such as "We are happy on New Year's Day as we have fatherly Marshal" in other parts of the country. Public catering service networks throughout the country gave holiday services to the people. At the Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants in Pyongyang, Kyongam Restaurant in Sariwon and Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung, working people had a good time while having national and other dishes. New Year greeting cards were sold at souvenir shops and bookshops in Pyongyang, and New Year greetings were exchanged between parents and children, teachers and students, neighbours, relatives and friends.

New Year celebrated across DPRK



Fireworks illuminate the nocturnal sky over the capital city of Pyongyang to greet the new year.



Streets of Pyongyang are in elevated festive mood.



Local artists give a performance in North Phyongan Province.



The National Symphony Orchestra gives a New Year performance at the Moranbong Theatre.

Schoolchildren give New Year performance

KCNA
There was the schoolchildren's New Year performance entitled "Reverberate more loudly, the song of happiness" at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1. The performance was seen by the delegates to the Ninth Congress of the Korean Children's Union. Among the audience were senior Party and government officials Choe Ryong Hae, Ri Il Hwan, Ri Yong Gil, Kim Jae Ryong and Pak Thae Song. The performers, reflecting the mind of loyalty of the schoolchildren across the country, offered New Year greetings to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un

who is bringing earlier the bright future of socialism, overcoming all difficulties on the strength of love for the rising generations. The performance showed the valiant and cheerful looks of the Children's Union members preparing themselves to be knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy under the deep care of the fatherly Marshal who continues to bring hearty laughter and great happiness to them as their tender-hearted father and meticulous parent. It was highly acclaimed by the audience as it reflected the determination of loyalty of the schoolchildren to more stoutly prepare themselves to be the true sons and daughters of a powerful Korea under the slogan "Let us always be ready for the socialist country!"

The schoolchildren's performance in celebration of the New Year 2023 is given at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1.



Young people in Pyongyang hold New Year's Eve gala

KCNA

Youth and students in Pyongyang held a New Year's Eve gala at Kim Il Sung Square on the night of December 31 2022. The gala night began with the playing of the song *Glory to General Kim Jong Un*. The young people displayed a sea of merry dances, extending the highest glory and the warmest thanks to the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un, who glorified the prestige and honour of Juche Korea on the highest level by leading the cause of Korean-style socialist construction only to victory with his outstanding and seasoned leadership. Members of the diplomatic corps in the DPRK and foreign guests staying in Pyongyang appreciated the gala.



Youth and students have a gala night at Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on New Year's Eve.

Pyongyang citizens vow to implement decisions of Party plenary meeting

KCNA

A meeting of Pyongyang citizens took place at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on January 5 to vow to thoroughly implement the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which indicated the path of fresh advance and leap forward of Korean-style socialism.

Present there were officials and working people of institutions, industrial establishments, farms and the Sangwon Cement Complex and youth and students in Pyongyang.

The platform of the meeting was taken by Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, and senior officials of the Party and government Ri Il Hwan, Jon Hyon Chol, Ri Chol Man, Yang Sung Ho and Pak Hun and officials and labour innovators of the municipality.

Kim Su Gil, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK, made a report.

The reporter said that the major economic construction goals for this year marking the 75th anniversary of the DPRK and the 70th anniversary of the victory in



Pyongyang citizens gather at May Day Stadium in Pyongyang on January 5 to vow to implement the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

the Fatherland Liberation War are the tasks we should fulfil without fail and decisively by further keeping up the fighting spirit displayed in 2022 to overcome all sorts of difficulties and trials and steadily advance the socialist country.

Noting that the Party Central Committee set the major targets

for the development of the national economy in 2023 with its absolute trust in the people and firm confidence in victory, the reporter fully supported and approved the important economic construction goals aimed at ensuring the people's happiness and the prosperity and development of the state in a substantial way.

The determination of the WPK which set absolute service to the people as the trait of the Party precisely means our own ideal and interests and the victory of our struggle lies in thoroughly implementing the Party decisions, he stressed.

The main motive force of the struggle for 2023 is just the great

strength based on loyalty and patriotism of the Party members, other working people and officials in the capital city, he said, calling for courageously braving difficulties and making exemplary successes in the capital city of Pyongyang before any other region of the country, holding high the fighting spirit and banner of the 1960s and 1970s.

He called upon all the officials, Party members and other working people to cherish the honour of living and working in the heart of the Juche revolution, the capital of the great Kim Jong Un's Korea and work hard to advance the revolution, achieve fresh successes and more fully demonstrate the heroic stamina and might of socialist Korea dignified with Juche, rallied closely around the Party Central Committee.

Speeches were made. The speakers expressed their firm will to uphold the Party's decisions for the prosperity and development of the great state and the well-being of the people with matchless patriotism and loyalty, indomitable fighting spirit and heroic creative mettle and surely attain the major economic construction goals set forth by the Party Central Committee.

The meeting was followed by a civilian procession.

The participants in the meeting enjoyed a grand performance for celebrating the New Year.



A civilian procession is held following the oath-taking meeting.



The participants in the meeting watch a grand performance in celebration of the New Year.

'All ready to turn out to provide decisive guarantee for fulfilling five-year plan'



The enlarged meeting of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set it as the general direction of new year's work to further expand and develop the all-people struggle to open a new phase in socialist construction so as to provide a decisive guarantee for the fulfillment of the five-year plan.

Last year, the metallurgical industry sector made some achievements in increasing iron and steel output and consolidating its self-supporting foundations. The Kim Chack Iron and Steel Complex completed the building of an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace in the main for the expansion of production capacity, and finished the assembly of oxygen plants needed for it.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex also finished the assembly of large oxygen plants to be newly installed. The Chollima Steel Complex and different other factories and enterprises, mines and relevant units overfulfilled their national economic plans for last year. The sector is to undertake construction projects for the expansion of production capacity on a full scale this

year, too.

The Ministry of Metallurgical Industry is now focusing all efforts on producing iron and steel as planned by further refining the Korean-style iron-making method technically and ensuring timely supply of raw and other materials and fuel and on pushing ahead with the capacity expansion and modernization projects simultaneously with a firm

will of self-sufficiency and a long-range view.

Despite the difficult conditions, we will surely fulfil our plan for this year by our own efforts as we are led by the great Party and we have workers boundlessly loyal to the Party.

Kim Hwang Ho,
department director of the
Ministry of Metallurgical
Industry

New Year greeted at cradles of happiness

By Pang Un Ju PT

The New Year 2023 has dawned. The streets covered with snow are bedecked in festive attire and people are full of delight.

They are filled with pride and happiness as they have greeted the New Year with their unusual memory of last year when they managed to overcome successive difficulties and ordeals.

It is particularly so for those who have greeted their first New Year at the new houses allotted to them by the state.

"I never dreamed the New Year, the 47th one in my life, would be so significant. I always greeted New Year with a new determination, and now I make up my mind to do more things this year to repay the state's favour," said Ri Myong Sun, worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, who moved into a new house in Kyongru-dong, a luxury houses district in Pyongyang,



Chae Hyok Gi's family residing in neighbourhood unit No. 12, Kyongru-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, spends New Year's Day in great delight.

amid the blessings of many people in April last year.

Similar impressions could be heard from those who moved into apartment houses on Songhwa Street built at the east gateway to the capital city and the farmers who moved into new houses of ideal socialist villages that mushroomed across the country thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea's plan of rural construction.

Jo Kwang Chol, manager of the Oryu Vegetable Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, said that all the employees of the farm who moved into new houses before the New Year are filled with a resolve to gather good harvests without fail to fill the granaries of the country this year. "Now they are all full of joy like children," he added.

In the village of the large-

scale modern Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm built in Ryonpho-ri, Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, Kim Jong Bong, an employee of the farm, said he moved into new houses two times in a matter of a few years.

Several years ago his family was left homeless overnight due to flood damage. Then the state built nice houses gratis for such flood victims as his family in

a few months. It seemed only yesterday that they had made a bow of gratitude in tears after receiving the key to their new house, he recalled. Now they greeted the New Year in another new fine house in the village of the greenhouse farm encapsulating socialist civilization, he said, adding, "Looking at my wife and children quite glad to live in the new house with good cultured living environment,

I, as head of a family, am filled with gratitude to the state for its providing us with such happiness."

All those who have greeted the happy, hopeful New Year 2023 at their new houses, on which they endlessly pride themselves, say in unison that they will always greet happy New Year thanks to the Workers' Party of Korea and the socialist system.



Pyongyang citizens have a fun time in the mirror house of the Rungna People's Recreation Ground on New Year's Day.

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Greeting the New Year, service facilities of the Rungna People's Recreation Ground were crowded with people coming here to spend holiday joyfully.

In particular, the hall of laughter located in section 1 of the amusement park had always a full house.

As they entered the hall in which over 10 different funhouse mirrors are hung, including concave, convex, corrugated and electronic mirrors, visitors sat, frowned as much as possible and smiled in front of the mirrors, only to burst into laughter at the completely different appearances of their faces.

In one mirror different parts of the body were reflected in various changed forms. For example, the upper part showed a round face, with the middle part revealing the whole fat and flat body.

Curious children bustled about, running from this mirror to that one while closely examining the shapes of mirrors and comparing them with others.

Most popular was the electronic funhouse mirror. According to Han Un Gyong, an employee of the recreation ground, the electronic mirror recognizes

man with camera and changes images of the face and the whole or half of the body into dozens of kinds of shapes every seven seconds in real time by composing them with the help of a computer program.

"I came here to have a hearty laugh in the New Year, and I laughed so much as I saw my friend changing into various looks and shapes and animation that I even shed tears," said Jong Sin Ae, a student at Pyongyang College of Foodstuff and Consumer Goods Industries.

And Sin Hyok Il, an employee of the Pyongyang Rubber Factory said that he felt as if he was ten years younger after laughing a hearty laugh with his family members there.

The mirror house in section 2 of the amusement park also attracted lots of visitors.

Inside the house are arranged 475 mirrors, each of which is 1.5 square metres in size, at various angles within a distance of about three or four steps.

"At every turn of the nearly 300-metre-long course, different kinds of gadgets are set up and a new VR technology has been introduced to enable people to see imaginary worlds with their own eyes, thereby further amplifying the

special effect of the maze," said employee Choe Won Il. In the mirror house there are places which remind people of a vast stretch of tableland dotted with flowers and trees, others that look as if a wooden bridge spans over a craggy cliff, and still others which make viewers feel they are below the surface of water where fishes swim around.

Due to the reflection of mirrors, some people missed their way occasionally so that they had to turn back the way they came or walked bravely and bumped against the mirrors with their foreheads, to become the laughingstock.

And they could not but scream in a cave of the maze where Hobi, Kombu (pockmarked person), Mulmangcho (forget-me-not) and other characters of Korean animations "The Boy General" and "A Squirrel and a Hedgehog" popped up in a horrible environment.

Whenever they got lost and could not find their way through the complex maze, the guides would become their saviours.

"The gracefulness, tranquility and strain I feel in this place are very impressive," said Hwang Song Hyok, a worker at the Pyongyang Condiments Factory.

Historic visit gives fresh impetus to development of traditional ties

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The friendly relations between the DPRK and China are the invincible and a precious asset common to the peoples of the two countries. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un paid a historic visit to the People's Republic of China as his first political work of the year 2019, demonstrating once again the DPRK-China unity which grew into a strong bond unperturbed by any upheavals. The China visit the DPRK leader made in early January 2019 amid deep interest of the peoples of the two countries and the international community was another big event to be specially etched in

the history of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries. It also served as a historic occasion of significance in intensifying the strategic communications between the top leaderships of the two countries and safeguarding peace and security on the Korean peninsula. Kim Jong Un made four rounds of visits to China from 2018 to 2019 to usher in a new heyday of the DPRK-China friendly relations. His energetic external activities provided an opportunity to comprehend the preciousness of the bilateral friendship again and promoted it onto a new high stage in line with the requirements of the new era. In June 2019, Xi Jinping

visited the DPRK and had an emotional reunion with Kim Jong Un. The top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries emphasized that it is the consistent stand of the Parties and governments of their countries to develop the traditional friendship and cooperative relations as required by the times and it fully conforms to the aspirations and fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries. Today, fresh changes and progress are being made in China. In the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China held October last year, Xi Jinping said that the accomplishment of the first century goal by carrying

out the campaign to alleviate poverty and the historic task of building a comprehensively well-off society was a brilliant victory in the history of the development of the Chinese nation, which was brought about by the unity and struggle of the Chinese Party and people. The Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC with Xi Jinping as its core, are striving to comprehensively build a modernized socialist power in the new era. The international situation of today requires the peoples of the DPRK and the PRC to further develop the ties according to the trend of the times. It is also a common duty of the peoples of the two countries.

Talents strategy, strategy of sci-tech development, core strategy of government



Kim Myong Ho
Department director of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea

The talents strategy and the strategy of sci-tech development are the core strategy of the DPRK government. This is the age of science and technology. At present, when the role of talents and science and technology is increasing day by day in social development, the DPRK gives primary attention to the training and management of talents and sci-tech development and directs big efforts to this end. It is the steadfast will of the government to put forward the talents strategy and the strategy of sci-tech development as the core strategy and accelerate the overall development of socialist construction. The destiny and development of a state depend entirely on

what it sets as its core strategy and how it implements it. In the policy speech at the Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said that at present, we badly need more than ever before a larger number of talents, practically competent talents, and scientific and technological achievements conducive to solving problems arising in reality, adding that the level and role of science and technology should be increased and the resources of technical talents be effectively promoted and managed. The DPRK's talents strategy and the strategy of sci-tech development help reliably

defend and add brilliance to the dignity and sovereignty of the country. Hostile forces are making vicious moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK not only in the military field but also in all domains of social life. Especially, they are working desperately to prevent advanced science and technology from being transferred to the country as well as materials needed for its economic development. But what enemies can never obstruct is just the eruption of talents' extraordinary creative enthusiasm and the increase of scientific and technological force. Building domestic talent force and consolidating scientific and technological force deliver a heavy blow

to the enemy attempting to blockade and stifle the DPRK by all means. The talents strategy and the strategy of sci-tech development are a realistic strategy which enables it to step up the efforts for achieving national prosperity by itself. As it set forth high fighting goals to be hit in the period of the five-year plan in the face of manifold difficulties and hardships, the Workers' Party of Korea believed in the Korean scientists and technicians imbued with the Juche idea and trained and tested through ordeals. Every unit ensuring normal production and the revitalization of production at a high level is without exception in the habit of finding a way to overcome difficulties by relying on its sci-tech force. We can achieve the goal of building a powerful country when we strengthen talent force and rapidly develop science and technology.

OPINION

True colours of 'human rights champion'

By Choe Song Jun PT

The United States describes itself as a "welfare and equal society for all" at every opportunity. But the reality is just the opposite. According to the December 14 2022 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, anti-Semitism cases across the country amounted to 2 717, or a 34% increase up against 2020 and a record high since 1979 when the survey began. Demolition, threat, abuse and other hostile acts against Jewish students on college campus numbered 155 cases in 2021, or three times greater than 47 in 2014. Such hate crimes as threat, assault and violence against others amounted to 5 781 in 2021, American CBS reported, adding that they are rooted in racial and tribal prejudice, sexual bias and religious reasons. Racial discrimination and maltreatment are rampant across the country. The murders of black people by white policemen are a typical example. A video clip was opened to the public, showing a white policeman intentionally releasing a dog to bite a black man in the course of arresting him in an area of Missouri in September 2021. As was known, American people staged anti-racist demonstrations in every part of the country, outraged by the murder of a black man by a white policeman in Ferguson City of Missouri in August 2014 and the anti-human rights measure of the judiciary authorities who passed a decision of not guilty.

For no other reason than their skin colour, black Americans are subjected to all sorts of discrimination and contempt of whites and fall prey to white policemen's hunt. They are in such a miserable plight. And still worse, although more and more black people are being killed by police on false charges year after year, 99% of the killers are going off scot-free. Coloured people are being frequently insulted and assaulted and their lives are threatened in shops, restaurants and other public places. Natives are also being frequently subjected to violent crimes. Hate crimes targeting Asian-Americans have been on an explosive increase in the US since COVID-19 broke out. According to a report released by the Chinese Association for Human Rights Studies on April 15 last year, racist assaults against people of Asian origin are ever worsening and racism is rampant in America amid the global health crisis. The main cause is the antagonistic relationship between races, fabrication of racism by politicians over the spread of the pandemic and the restriction by the brand that those of Asian origin are "typical descendants of ethnic minorities". An opinion poll published in the country on November 16 last year showed that more than 80 percent of black and African-Americans assert discrimination rampant in public health, finance and other fields is rooted in systematic racism and 62 percent of whites also believe so. The society where extreme misanthropy and contempt for human beings prevail is just the United States styling itself a "human rights champion".

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Cuba firmly stands on socialist ground

By Song Jong Ho PT

January 1 this year was the 64th anniversary of the victory in the Cuban revolution. The Cuban people, especially revolutionaries of the first generation including Fidel Castro and Raul Castro, waged a protracted and bloody struggle for freedom and independence, thus overthrowing the Batista dictatorship and winning a brilliant victory on January 1 1959. It is a historic event which brought freedom and liberty to the Cuban people and gave birth to the socialist system and revolutionary government in Cuba. The day enabled the Cuban people to put an end to the prolonged imperialists' domination and reactionary despotic rule, become true masters of the country and make rapid progress in the building of a new society, socialism. Last year, despite many difficulties including vicious moves

of the US and natural disasters, Cuba firmly defended socialism without submitting to them. The US squanders a large sum of money every year on breaking the socio-political system selected by the Cuban people and intensifies the blockade against the country by putting it on the list of "sponsor of terrorism". Cuba, however, struggles for socialism without stepping back from the road it chose. In his speech made at the economic committee meeting of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba on July 20 2022, Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez said that Cuba responds to the imperialists' schemes to dominate the country and overthrow its system with socialist construction and revolutionary ideology. The Cuban people advance frustrating the imperialists' challenges and blockades of all sorts, holding aloft the slogan "Socialism or death, we will win" under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba. Their efforts win full support and encouragement from the progressive peoples of the world. It is a clear expression of international support and solidarity to the just cause of the Cuban people that the UN resolutions against the US blockades of Cuba have so far been adopted on 30 occasions. Cuba pays close attention to enhancing the role of young people, the new generation. The Cuban president appealed to young people to enhance their role at a special plenary meeting of the national committee of the communist youth league of Cuba on October 22 last year. Saying that youths' role is very important in overcoming the difficulties the country is facing at present, he noted that the communist youth league and organizations of university students should lead young people to pay closer attention to social

Just struggle for founding independent state

By Kim Jin Hyang PT

January 1 this year was the 58th anniversary of the launch of the Palestinian revolution. At the second session of the UN General Assembly in November 1947, the imperialists adopted a resolution on founding an Arab state and a Jewish state respectively in Palestine in order to realize their wild ambition for domination of the Middle East. This resulted in the unilateral fabrication of Israel. Israel occupied the whole of Palestine through several wars, forced over a million Palestinians out of their territory and persistently pushed the construction of Jewish settlements. The Palestinian people who turned out in the struggle for restoring their lost territory and trampled national rights organized the Palestinian National Liberation Movement in 1958 and started the guerrilla struggle in January 1965. After a decades-long arduous struggle, they declared the founding of the state of Palestine with al-Quds as its capital at the 19th extraordinary session of the Palestinian national council on November 15 1988. They regained the right to exercise autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in 1994 by waging a vigorous struggle for

retaking national sovereignty, and thus the Palestinian autonomous government was established. In September 2005, Israel had to withdraw its military forces from the Gaza Strip after 38 years of occupation. The struggle of the Palestinian people is still going on. Especially, they are fighting staunchly to put an end to Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements and acts of military provocation and indiscriminate suppression which are growing ever more undisguised. The Palestinians' struggle is receiving support and encouragement from many countries and the international community. The 31st summit meeting of the League of Arab States held in Algiers of Algeria in November last year expressed full support to Palestine's effort for founding an independent state with East al-Quds as its capital and on the basis of the border line of 1967 and urged the Israeli authorities to stop the outrages against the Palestinians and lift the blockade around the Gaza Strip. The struggle of the Palestinian people for restoring their territory which is associated with blood and soul of their ancestors will continue as ever.

African countries pursue sustainable development

By Choe Song Jun PT

The efforts of African countries to foster sustainable development by exploiting their potentials grab the limelight of the international community. Recently, the minister of business and housing of the federal government of Nigeria said the government works to ease the shortage of infrastructure at institutions of higher learning and encourages investment in the field of education at the ceremony of transferring newly built road and parking lot at the campus of YABA TECH. Nigeria directs a great deal of energies to economic growth in various sectors while ensuring financial security in the field of education. NRDS II is aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in rice production, food and nutritional security and producing enough rice to export and spare in the coming ten years. On December 1 2022, the Nigerian government published a road map for building renewable energy production capacity by 2050. Uganda has taken positive measures to alleviate the food shortage. The Ugandan minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office introduced various projects the government has planned for agricultural development by 2030 at a meeting held in an institute. According to him, the Ugandan government implements a variety of agricultural projects including the construction of medium-

and small-sized irrigation facilities along with the large-scale introduction of farming methods for ensuring food security. The national agricultural institute of Uganda began to cultivate a bean variety with a short growing period as part of its effort to relieve famine and the growing period of bean seeds biologically enriched with iron and zinc was shortened from the previous 90 days to 60 days. Senegal is building houses for 100 000 families. The minister of urban planning of the country said the construction project conforms to the plan of the president to narrow the gap between regions. Having started in 2019, the project is expected to be completed in five years.

Briefly

China
President Xi delivers New Year Address
Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered the New Year Address for 2023. He said in the address that China held the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China successfully in 2022 to unfold a grand blueprint for comprehensively building a socialist modernized state and stepping up the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with Chinese-style modernization and bugle a march of the times for advance along a new route. He referred to successes China achieved last year in economic construction, poverty alleviation, anti-epidemic work and struggle against natural disaster. He emphasized that the hope of future China rests on young people and broad sections of youths should cultivate a sense of patriotism, develop progressive personalities and add lustre to their youth with strenuous efforts. Wishing the country prosperity and the people comfort, he appealed to them to greet the first dawn of 2023 with beautiful aspiration for the future.

Russia
President Putin gives New Year address
Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered a New Year address to mark 2023. He said 2022 was a year when difficult yet indispensable decisions were made and crucial measures taken and also a year which drew a distinct line between bravery and heroism on one side and betrayal and timidity on the other and which demonstrated nothing is stronger than love for one's own kith and kin, affection for one's colleagues and comrades-in-arms and loyalty to the country. The West declared a real sanctions war against Russia and the provokers of the war expected that Russia's industry, financial and transport systems and others would totally be destroyed, but such things did not happen, because we all worked together to build up reliable reserves to cope with the war, he said. Defending Russia is a sacred duty the Russians assume for their ancestors and coming generations, the President said, adding that they would defend independent Russia by overcoming all difficulties and only advance towards the future of their one and only beloved country and emerge victorious.

BYWORD

Making all people well versed in science, technology

All the people in the DPRK are bubbling with the enthusiasm to be well versed in science and technology. Ensuring that all the people are well versed in science and technology is, literally, an undertaking to prepare all members of society as intelligent workers with the intellectual level of a university

graduate and as developers of science and technology. The universal free education system, the study-while-you-work system and online education system guarantee the realization of making all the people well versed in science

and technology. A nationwide sci-tech dissemination network was established centring on the Sci-Tech Complex which was splendidly built as an advanced science and technology diffusion base on

Ssuk Islet, called the "islet of science", and the working people acquire knowledge of advanced science and technology on a constant basis through the sci-tech learning spaces set up in their units.





Happy New Year

New Year's Day of 2023 has dawned.

Greeting the New Year, the Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* extends New Year greetings to readers.

In retrospect, last year was a period of extreme difficulties unprecedented in history.

COVID-19 continued unabated threatening human lives, consecutive natural disasters caused economic losses and bloody disputes did not cease around the world.

The DPRK also experienced an anti-epidemic crisis which can be said to be a great turmoil since its founding, plus damage from floods that hit different areas in succession

to sweep away many people's homes. Worse still, hostile forces made vicious moves to hamper the advance of the country aspiring after independence and justice, posing serious difficulties and obstacles in the way of the Korean people's struggle for the comprehensive development of socialism.

The Koreans, however, stoutly endured all those hardships and clinched a great victory unimaginable even on ordinary days under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea maintaining the people-first principle as its political idea.

They stamped out the malignant viral disease which had made inroads into their territory in a little over 90

days to achieve a great anti-epidemic victory and brought about entities of changes for the overall development of socialism and the crystallization of love for the people to make the whole country ring with the laughter of people and children.

All these great events stirred the reporters and editors of *The Pyongyang Times* to make innovations in their work.

As a result, as we edited and published 53 issues of the newspaper in a distinctive style last year, we markedly increased the number of articles. In addition, we improved the edit mode of the paper by upgrading its homepage.

The success is not attributable to us alone.

The growing number of readers enabled us to feel your love for *The Pyongyang Times* and constituted great encouragement to us.

This year we will redouble our efforts to remain your close and good companion who tells you all news and reality of the DPRK truthfully, vividly and promptly.

The entire staff of *The Pyongyang Times* will pool ideas and efforts to make it your much-awaited paper bringing you satisfaction, thus achieving a bigger success this year.

We extend New Year greetings once again to readers, hoping you would all fulfil your dreams in good health this year.



The dawn is breaking in socialist Korea advancing towards a fresh development.

RODONG SINMUN

