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KIM CHAEK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IS A POWERFUL BASE OF OUR COUNTRY FOR TRAINING PEOPLE TALENTED IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Talk to the Teaching Staff of Kim Chaek University of Technology While Giving On-Site Guidance at the University

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Early this year, I had planned to visit Kim Chaek University of Technology. While inspecting the KPA units after returning from my recent visit to the Russian Federation, I never forgot about it. Today I have managed to find time, and have come to the university.

The university has erected well the monument to President Kim Il Sung's field guidance to it with a block of granite. The university was founded on his personal initiative and developed under his leadership into a reliable base for training people talented in science and technology for the building of a thriving country. Etched on every page of the glorious history of the university are his immortal leadership exploits.

On display at the education and science exhibition of the university are the successes it has achieved in education and scientific research, which show the level of its development and its achievements. It is good that the university puts emphasis on training the students into people who are prepared politico-ideologically, scientifically and technologically, by basing all its teaching on Party policies and updating the content of scientific and technological education while paying due attention to education in socio-political subjects. It is also praiseworthy that its teaching staff and researchers have made valuable achievements in their research and introduced them to production and construction.

Officials should give full support to the scientists in their research work. They should refrain from arguing with the scientists or interfering in their work for no reason. I was informed that a researcher is experiencing trouble in his research into graphite because there are some people who pick a quarrel with him. I did not inquire in detail into whose argument is right

for this is a scientific and technological matter, but it is wrong to pick a quarrel with researchers or interfere in their work in this or that way instead of assisting and giving support to them. The disputes arising in scientific research should be settled by a scientific panel. If officials find this or that fault with the scientists over their personalities or problems in their life, and ignore their achievements in scientific research the latter will be unwilling to make new inventions and the projects imbued with their life-long efforts might be brought to naught.

The officials of the university said that they have earned or saved foreign exchange by means of the new achievements in scientific research. But they must not approach scientific research from such a point of view. Scientific research is not a business for making money. Scientists cannot develop our country's science and technology if they give precedence to earning foreign exchange. What is most important for them is to work with one aim–to contribute to developing the science and technology of the country through effective research. Scientists must concentrate all their efforts on scientific research.

Officials must have a correct understanding of IT and work as demanded by the IT era. They now think that their units will be keeping pace with the IT era if they equip them with some computers, and retrieve data from them or type with them. They are misguided. They should be capable of performing various complex and sophisticated tasks with computers, in other words working as demanded by the IT era.

It is a good thing that Kim Chaek University of Technology is developing various programs. The university is said to be developing programs and selling them to foreign countries. This is necessary, but what is more important is to develop many programs needed for developing the information technology of the country. What is essential in this regard is to develop

programs of our own style. We should follow the road of developing programs of our own style. If all the scientific research institutions buckle down to it, this matter can be resolved within four to five years.

Institutions must not lean toward self-centredness in developing programs. Now the Pyongyang Informatics Centre, Korea Computer Centre, the State Academy of Sciences and such educational institutions as Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Technology are all developing programs. If they develop programs without any unified control, as they do now, they cannot achieve good results. Developing programs should be undertaken under unified control. These institutions should not disperse their forces for implementing the same projects, but concentrate them. In order to develop IT, including programming, and the IT industry as a whole, it is necessary to establish a nationwide, unified control system in this field. This is what I have long thought.

The automatic control engineering laboratory of this university is furnished with various kinds of modern experimental equipment and apparatuses for intensified education of the students through experiments and practical training. Other universities should follow suit and furnish their laboratories with sufficient experimental equipment and apparatuses.

I was told that the teachers and researchers of this university are using computers in a reading room to gain access to the literature on science and technology and other data that are based in the Grand People's Study House, Central Information Agency for Science and Technology and Invention Office. If the computers are connected to these institutions through a telephone network, as they are now, the speed of transmission will be slow. A computer network with a fast transmission speed should be made available for the teachers and researchers.

Today I learned that this university has made a lot of achievements. For the past 50-odd years since its establishment, the university has developed into our leading institution of scientific and technological education, into a world-class university of technology, under the leadership of the great leader and the Party, and achieved great successes in the training of people talented in science and technology and in scientific research. The graduates from the university are playing a core role in developing science and technology of our country and modernizing its national economy. I feel greatly satisfied with the fact that the university has produced a large number of competent persons who possess a strong revolutionary spirit and profound knowledge of science and technology.

I have long had a high opinion of Kim Chaek University of Technology. I have done Party work for almost 40 years, and, in this period, I have learned that the graduates from this university have sound ideas and logical thinking power. They also achieve good results in any work they do by delving deeply into it and pushing ahead with it assiduously. They are proficient in foreign languages, too. The officials who graduated from the Faculty of Automatic Engineering are proficient not only in English but also in Japanese; the standard of their learning of foreign languages is not inferior to that of experts. Written on the CVs of some officials is that they can translate foreign literature without the help of dictionaries, but there are few who can do so in practice. A large number of graduates from Kim Chaek University of Technology are working at the Party organs. They are always responsible, have a strong spirit of inquiry, and play the role due to them. This means that the university has conducted efficient education and edification of its students.

By actively conducting scientific research on a Juche-based stand, the university has also achieved great successes in solving

the scientific and technological problems arising in stepping up socialist economic construction and pushing back the frontiers of science and technology.

I highly appreciate all its teachers and researchers, including the aged professors, for having remained loyal to the Party sharing weal and woe with it without any vacillation during the days of the “Arduous March” and forced march, a period of severest trials.

Training a large number of talented people who can shoulder by means of science and technology the building of a great, prosperous and powerful socialist country is posing itself as an important task now. A great, prosperous and powerful country cannot be built by words. In order to attain this goal, we must rapidly develop the science and technology of our country and modernize its national economy on a high level. Science and technology are a propellant for the building of a thriving country, and this goal can successfully be attained only when the efforts to that end are supported scientifically and technologically.

Kim Chaek University of Technology has a particularly important part to play in making this country prosperous and powerful by rapidly developing its science and technology and putting its national economy on a modern track. My visit today to this university is aimed at encouraging it to produce a large number of people who are skilled in science and technology and can make great contributions to making the country prosperous and powerful. The demand for people talented in cutting-edge science and technology will increase when the struggle for building a great, prosperous and powerful country grows intensified with the development of science and technology and the revitalization of the national economy. Kim Chaek University of Technology, in conformity with its mission and duty, should adhere to, as its basic task, the training of people talented in

science and technology who can shoulder the building of a great, prosperous and powerful nation, and train them more efficiently and in larger numbers.

In order to attain this goal, universities should improve their teaching and edification in keeping with the demands of the IT era in the new century; they should reformulate their teaching programmes and plans accordingly, and steadily update the content of education in science and technology. At the same time they should raise the proportion of application of IT and computers in the teaching of all technological subjects.

Universities should closely combine theoretical education and practical training. They should build up their bases for experimentation and practical training by equipping the laboratories with one or two units of ultra-modern experimental equipment and machines, and intensify education through experimentation and practical training to make the students skilful at operating them.

The level of attainment of students depends on the level of their teachers. In order to train the students to become workers skilled in science and technology as required by the effort to build a great, prosperous and powerful country, it is of decisive importance to improve the qualifications of the teachers. They cannot keep pace with the developing reality only with conventional knowledge and experience. Gone are the days when the teachers educated their students with conventional knowledge and experience. They should make sustained efforts to acquire advanced science and technology while enriching their experience in education and edification. As hens, which are not fed with enough micro additives, cannot lay perfect eggs, the teachers, who have not acquired ample knowledge, cannot train their students to become excellent workers skilled in science and technology as required by the era. Only those who are well versed

in advanced science and technology can produce outstanding students. Teachers should make steady efforts to acquire higher, deeper and richer knowledge.

Universities should be encouraged to establish sistership relations with their counterparts in other countries and promote scientific and educational exchanges with them. University teachers and researchers cannot improve their qualifications by simply going to foreign countries only to look round factories or read books in the libraries. When they visit foreign countries, they should learn advanced teaching methods, and science and technology by attending lectures given in their universities, looking round the laboratories there and studying their teaching plans and curricula. Moreover, they should not confine themselves to learning such things, but reflect the excellent points of their learning in their own teaching plans and curricula to improve their teaching.

Kim Chaek University of Technology should be built up further.

Inspecting the panoramic plan of the university, I found some buildings yet to be constructed. The projects of its library and gymnasium should be included in the additional plan, and the whole of Pyongyang should be enlisted to the projects, so as to finish them quickly. This will also be conducive to establishing throughout society the atmosphere of giving importance to science and technology.

The library of the university should be designed to be an e-library. Its architectural model is not well designed. To equip a library with all the necessary books, it should be designed as a large building. But if it is designed to be an e-library, the building does not need to be so large. It is necessary to redesign the library by consulting the designs of the e-libraries of other countries, and build it as the best e-library in Asia. The library of the university

should be provided with plenty of books on science and technology, even some which are not available in the Grand People's Study House. After the construction of the e-library at the university, I am going to have it gain access to the Internet.

The gymnasium should be built well. The Party has set it as an important policy to develop physical culture and sports in our country. It is only when the gymnasium is built well that the students can exercise properly and we can develop physical culture and sports in our country. The project of the gymnasium should not be launched after finishing that of the library; the two projects should be implemented at the same time. The gymnasium should be built as a multifunctional building, where sports games, artistic performances and rallies can be held. It is a worldwide trend to erect buildings for multiple purposes. If there is a conference hall in the main building of the university, an exhibition of achievements in science and technology can be arranged in the gymnasium so that people from other institutions can visit it. The gymnasium of the university should be built as well as that of Kim Il Sung University.

The entrance hall of the main building should be improved. The main building was built splendidly, but the seams of the stone slabs on the frontage of its entrance hall were not patched well. It would have been better if the seams had been patched with something like silicon resin. In fact, the work was done in such a slipshod way that the building, erected with precious funds, looks undignified. The tiled walls on both sides of the entrance hall are uneven. The frontage and columns of the entrance hall are covered with stone slabs, and its side walls with tiles. From an architectural point of view, they look incongruous and degrading. As this is a very important university, the entrance hall should be improved by covering both its frontage and side walls with stone slabs to make it look imposing and graceful.

I am determined to have all the problems arising in the teaching and management aspects of the university resolved. I will have funds disbursed for the university to buy books and equipment for classroom teaching and scientific experiments, including the latest computers, and minibuses and cars provided for its aged staff members to use on their business trips to provinces. This will also be helpful for establishing throughout society the habit of both attaching importance to science and technology and giving prominence to teachers and scientists. I will also have some eight-ton trucks provided to the university for its better management.

Public interest in Kim Chaek University of Technology should be promoted. I was informed that this university has produced scores of heroes, but I think that this number is small compared with the scope and history of the university. In former days the title of Hero was conferred on many officials in agriculture and other sectors, but there are not so many scientists and technicians honoured with this title although they made new inventions and discoveries after laborious research. This is mainly because our officials have had an incorrect view of science and technology and played down their significance. But it is partly because the scientists and technicians have not made many valuable achievements that render great service to developing the national economy. Scientists must present scientific and technological successes. They become infirm at an advanced age of course, but their brains are more agile than those of other aged people, probably because they keep doing mental labour with computers. In future, public interest in the fields of science and technology should be promoted, and prominence be given to scientists throughout society.

The Party organization of Kim Chaek University of Technology should conduct effective work to train all its students

into faithful workers who will serve the Party and the country with a high standard of knowledge of science and technology.

Kim Chaek University of Technology is a powerful base of our country for training people talented in science and technology and a “pedigree farm” for the production of hard-core scientists and technicians. The Party’s trust in and expectation of the university are very great. I believe that all its teaching staff and students will make contributions to the building of a great, prosperous and powerful socialist country through efficient training of people talented in science and technology, and with high practical abilities and scientific and technological achievements.