

2023: Year of Transformations

Foreign Languages Publishing House
DPR Korea
2024

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Preface

In 2023 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea demonstrated its prestige and national strength to the whole world and achieved one miraculous success after another.

The Korean people gained remarkable successes in all fields of socialist construction, overcoming harsh trials by dint of patriotism.

Meaningful strides were made in irrigation projects and comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy, and unheard-of grain yields were gathered.

New streets and houses sprang up in the capital city and regions and projects for making substantial progress in the national economy were implemented, opening a bright prospect for bringing an affluent and civilized life to the people.

The policy of building up the nation's nuclear forces was enshrined in law, political and cultural events were held in grandeur displaying the invincibility of the state and its will to carry forward the tradition of victory, and a new chapter was opened in the development of its external relations, further raising the external prestige of the country.

Major tasks of the five-year plan for the development of defence science and weapon systems were attained successfully, and a great leap forward was made in the development and deployment of the country's unique and powerful means of nuclear strike and new strategic weapon systems, making the enemy clearly recognize the might of the country's nuclear strategic forces.

For the DPRK, 2023 was indeed a year of a great turn, a year of great transformations.

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1 Road to a Leap Forward Clarified

As the Workers' Party of Korea sets forth clear-cut policies under the banner of independence and self-respect in each period and at each stage of its development, the Korean revolution is advancing along the road of victory.

The WPK set forth new lines and action plans to glorify 2023, a year marking the 75th anniversary of the DPRK and 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, as a year of turn and transformations noteworthy in the course of socialist development of the country and in its history, and to attain the high goals advanced at its Eighth Congress.

This enabled the Korean people to usher in a new era of development of the state, crystallization of the combination of powerful, advanced and modern characters, in that year.



Action Plans for Implementing the Decisions of the Party Congress

The major meetings of the WPK—Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plenary meetings of its Central Committee—and the Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK put forward action plans for implementing the strategic tasks set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

The gist of the new action plans was that the successes and experience gained so far in all the fields of politics, the economy and culture should be further consolidated, and at the same time the plans and immediate tasks put forward at the Party Congress and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee carried out without fail.

The struggle task was, first of all, to rapidly build up the nuclear forces in terms of both quality and quantity.

As long as the DPRK remains a socialist state and as long as nukes of tyranny of the imperialists aimed at stamping out independence and socialism exist on this planet, the country must never change its status as a nuke-possessing state, but should strengthen its nuclear forces in a sustained way—this was a truth taught by history and the reality and the strict strategic judgment made by the WPK and the government of the DPRK.

The second task was to strengthen solidarity with the countries opposed to the US and Western strategy for hegemony, while adhering to the revolutionary principles of independence in the vanguard of the anti-imperialist, independent nations.

The third task was to bring about substantial changes in the economic work and in improving the people's living standards.

The most urgent task in implementing the five-year plan advanced at the Party Congress was to attain the 12 goals in developing the national economy.

Another task was to bring about a radical turn in the sector of socialist culture.

As decided by the Party Congress and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee, the sector planned to execute with credit the national sci-tech development strategy and projects, improve the educational structure, contents and methods so as to raise the level of education on an advanced level, and consolidate the foundations of the overall public healthcare system to give full play to the advantages of the people-oriented healthcare system.

The sectors of art and literature, mass media and sports had to achieve innovative successes that could contribute to raising the prestige of the country and the patriotic enthusiasm and revolutionary mettle of the people.

The basic ways for successfully implementing the struggle tasks for carrying out the decisions of the Party Congress were, first, to establish revolutionary discipline, communist traits and revolutionary work style in all the realms of the state and social life, and, second, to ensure that the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, the representatives of the people and masters of state administration, enhanced their role to the maximum.

The new action plans were, first, a revolutionary fighting programme, in that they indicated the ways for making continued innovations and carry on the advance by strengthening the internal forces in every way and giving full play to their might.

The appropriate and optimum way for stepping up socialist construction is to strengthen the internal forces in every way and give full play to their might. The masses of the people, when they are fully aware of their historic mission and awakened ideologically and spiritually, do not waver in the face of changes in developments nor yield to any trials.

The action plans set it as the basic guarantee for implementing the Party Congress's decisions to raise the political consciousness and sense of responsibility and create communist national traits, development-oriented style of creation and revolutionary work style among the officials and working people, to strengthen the discipline of centralism of the state, to carry forward the tradition of all-people patriotic movements, and to encourage the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly to make devoted efforts.

The veracity of these action plans, a revolutionary strategy with the Juche

orientation as the core, was clearly proved by that year's struggle, in which the people across the country, by turning out in the struggle to implement the decisions of the Party Congress and the plenary meetings of the Party Central Committee and achieved inspiring, progressive and proud successes in economic and civilization construction and various other fields.

The action plans were, second, a scientific fighting programme, in that they indicated the ways for overcoming the challenges and difficulties while responding to the rapidly-changing situation adroitly.

The year's struggle was an unprecedentedly arduous and fierce struggle, in which the Korean people had to strive to attain high goals without a moment of vacillation in the face of ever-worsening challenges and trials. The military manoeuvres and reactionary offensive committed by the United States and the scum of the Republic of Korea, clamouring about building up "extended deterrence" in a great frenzy, were seriously threatening the security environment and development interests of the country. And overcoming extreme natural disasters and protracted economic difficulties were an uphill task.

The new action plans indicated the ways for rapidly building up the nation's nuclear forces in terms of both quality and scale, and attaining 12 major goals for economic development with the goal for agriculture as the dominant one, and other realistic and innovative ways to take the initiative and focus efforts on the major links so as to achieve development by taking the efforts for overcoming the challenges and difficulties as a good opportunity for a leap forward.

That year the WPK and the Korean people, in the face of harsh trials, definitely opened a golden age of building up the country's nuclear deterrent, gathered rich harvests in the agricultural sector and achieved meaningful successes in consolidating the country's self-supporting economy. This also testified to the veracity of the new struggle programme, aimed at leading to victory the efforts for implementing the Party Congress's decisions by optimum methods.

Policy of Agricultural Development

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held between February 26 and March 1, 2023.

The concluding speech made at the meeting, titled, *On the Immediate Tasks for This Year's Farming and the Long-term Goal of Agricultural Development*, clarified an agricultural development policy, the gist of which is that the entire Party, the whole country and all the people, true to the slogan *Let the Whole Country Turn Out to Bring About a Fundamental Change in Agricultural Production*, should turn out to attain the year's grain production goal and lay down solid foundations for developing the country's agriculture in a sustained way free from any worry about crop failures.

The first task set forth in the speech was to bring about a radical turn in agricultural production.

To this end it was necessary to enlist the entire Party, the whole country and all the people to the struggle for attaining the goal of grain production.

It was also needed to ensure stable development of agriculture.

The speech stressed the need to rehabilitate and readjust the irrigation works and expand the area under irrigation so as to conduct farming in a stable way without crop failures and increase the overall unit-area yields. It presented the plan for supplying farming materials to the countryside in time, producing farm machines and their parts in large numbers, and reclaiming tideland and obtaining new land to expand the area under cultivation.

The speech referred to the roles of the Agricultural Commission, the Academy of Agricultural Science and the Hydro-Meteorological Administration. The speech clarified the basic methods for farming effectively and bringing about a fundamental turn in agricultural production.

They were to enhance the role of the provincial, city and county leadership organs and all the farms, to go full steam ahead with the rural housing construction across the country, to strengthen the Party's guidance over the agricultural sector and to improve the Party work in the rural areas.

2 Entities of Transformation

In 2023 the Korean people achieved remarkable successes in all the fields of economic construction by giving play to their revolutionary and fighting spirit of self-reliance, fortitude and perseverance.

The agricultural sector gathered a rich crop, and new streets and houses were built in the capital city of Pyongyang and in different regions.

The metallurgical and chemical industries, the two buttresses of the economy, made a steady advance in the vanguard of great upsurge, and the electric power, coal and ore mining, machine building, forestry and rail transport sectors achieved wonderful successes.

All these successes, achieved in the face of the harsh sanctions and blockade by the hostile forces and their moves for confrontation, fully demonstrated the latent power of the self-supporting economy and potential for development of the country.



Great Leap Forward in the Rural Economy

2023 was a year of advance and transformation, in which the rural economic sector, unfolded an aspect of the times—fresh innovation, bold creation and steady advance.

With the concentration of the greatest concern and assistance by the Party and the state, rich harvests were gathered in farms, a turning point was set up for consolidating the foundations of agricultural production through large-scale irrigation projects; over 10 000 farm machines were built and supplied to the rural communities; and modernization projects were forcefully pushed ahead in the sector of building farm machines.

All these constituted the greatest of the year's successes which provided a guarantee for solving the acute food problem by the rural economic sector.

Unusually Rich Harvests

The first and foremost success was that the year's national plan for grain production was overfulfilled.

For example, South Hwanghae Province, the biggest of the country's granaries, surpassed its yearly quota, and most of the farms in South Phyongan Province reaped rich harvests.

What was noteworthy in agricultural production was the fact that many of the regions and units, which had been lagging behind in this regard, made remarkable progress.

To cite an example, the Yokkudo Farm in Paechon County, which had been the lowest-yielding farm in South Hwanghae Province, produced one more ton of cereals per hectare and fulfilled its yearly quota. And the Jungak Farm in Onchon County, which had been in a difficult farming condition for

poor soil fertility, overfulfilled the wheat production plan by 95 percent and donated 20 tons of cereals to the state; it also exceeded the peak-year level and produced an average of 1.2 more tons of cereals per hectare.

In North Hamgyong Province, where spring comes later than in other regions, they had used to take it for granted that all the farming processes progressed later than in other provinces. In 2023, however, all the farms in the province completed harvesting and carried out their quotas for cereals procurement in October. Formerly, the Ryongdo Farm in the city of Kim Chaek, being plagued by the cold weather and tidal wave, had hardly been able to meet even half of its yearly quota for cereals production. That year its average yield per hectare increased by 1.5 tons, and the per-hectare yields from some of its fields, which had stood at three tons on average, more than doubled.

The Pumin Farm in Hamhung, one of the lagging farms in South Hamgyong Province, surpassed the peak-year level by increasing the per-hectare yield by two tons, and it donated dozens of tons of rice to the state. Many other farms



Bumper crop



Farmers dance pleased with their distribution.

and workteams, which had been lagging behind others, made notable progress that year.

The Ogye and Wollang farms in Anbyon County, which had fallen victim to natural calamities, carried out their yearly quotas and donated more than a hundred tons of cereals to the state.

On October 8, the Yokkudo Farm in Paechon County was the first in the country to hold a gathering for the settlement of accounts and distribution of cereals, and from the latter half of the month similar meetings took place in other farms across the country.

Seen at the venues for these meetings were mountains of cereals and happy farmers dancing to the tune of *Harvest Song*. Rejoicing at the shares they received, everyone expressed their determination to reap another bumper harvest in the following years.

The successful farming for the year validated the WPK's policy on adjusting the structure of cereals production and cultivating rice and wheat as major crops, which it defined as a decisive key to an upsurge in

agricultural production.

To cite an example, Jangyon County in South Hwanghae Province took the first place in the provincial meeting for reviewing the harvests of early crops. Formerly, the county had lagged behind others, with its per-hectare yields of maize remaining at two or three tons. After its switch to the cultivation of wheat and barley, some of its workteams fulfilled their yearly quotas for cereals procurement by the early crop alone.

For the Readjustment and Reinforcement of the Irrigation Network

In 2023 the Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK defined revamping the country's irrigation network as part of its new policy for agricultural development.

Thereafter, all the regional areas pushed ahead with this project.

Their successes in this extensive campaign were noteworthy.

First, they attained the irrigation construction goal for the year as set by the above plenary meeting.

Included in the goal were the completion of an irrigation project for over 200 000 hectares of fields, desalination of Lake Kangnyong, projects for making dykes permanent and dredging of medium and small rivers.

The irrigation project for over 200 000 hectares of fields involved setting up an irrigation network for more than 60 000 hectares of non-paddies with drought-hit areas as the main. In a little more than two months, irrigation waterways with a total length of 24 000km were repaired, groundwater tapping facilities in over 12 000 places were built or expanded, irrigation facilities in over 1 500 places were built or repaired, pipes with a combined length of 2 400-odd kilometres were laid for the irrigation of non-paddies, and pumping stations were set up in more than 3 000 places.

The desalination of Lake Kangnyong and the excavation of waterways

running from the lake were of great significance in increasing agricultural production in South Hwanghae Province. The desalination project was completed and waterways running from the lake to Kangnyong and Ongjin counties were excavated.

Projects for making dykes permanent and repairing them proceeded apace in South Hwanghae, South Phyongan and North Phyongan provinces.

In addition, the dredging of medium and small rivers with a total length of over 1 600km and the reinforcement of banks with a total length of nearly 2 000km went ahead according to schedule.

The construction of the Chongchon River-Phyongnam Irrigation Waterway, launched in February 2016, was a huge project.

Completed on June 29, 2023, the project involved building a dam across the river, excavating 1 264 500 cubic metres of earth, removing 671 000 cubic metres of earth, tamping 158 000 cubic metres of concrete, digging waterways and tunnels, and constructing 50 or so structures.

Also, the Hwangju Kindung Waterway, which is the country's sixth large-scale gravitational waterway, was brought to completion.

Launched in June 2020, the waterway project involved digging 20 or so tunnels, setting up structures in more than 520 places and building quite a long waterway with underground pipelines through the excavation of four million cubic metres of bedrock and earth and the tamping of 110 000 cubic metres of concrete.

The completion of this project signified that agricultural production in the western part of the country would steadily grow without being affected by any possible drought.

All these successes provided a sure guarantee for achieving stable growth of agriculture in the regions that are prone to drought and flood and in the main granaries of the country.

The desalination of Lake Kangnyong and the excavation of waterways leading to Ongjin and Kangnyong counties signified that paddies and non-paddies in those counties would be freed from drought damage. This was

a significant contribution to agricultural production in South Hwanghae Province, one of the country's major granaries.

The Chongchon River-Phyongnam Irrigation Waterway added beauty to the scenery of the Lake Yonphung area, while contributing to increasing the per-hectare yields of crops in the surrounding region.

The Hwangju Kindung Waterway in North Hwanghae Province irrigated the fields in Hwangju and Yonhan counties, providing a sure guarantee for reaping good harvests of cereals, vegetables and fruits there irrespective of extreme weather events. It also saved the electric power and equipment used for pumping.

The projects for making dykes permanent in South Hwanghae, South Phyongan and North Phyongan provinces were helpful towards preventing flood damage in the reclaimed tidal flats on the west coast.

The revamped system of irrigation covering the country's hubs of agriculture meant the consolidation of its material and technical foundations to cope with extreme weather events.

The bumper harvests for the year threw into bold relief the significance of the above irrigation projects.

The reinforced irrigation network instilled in farmers the confidence that they could gather abundant harvests irrespective of climate change.

The achievements made in the above irrigation projects laid the groundwork for perfecting the country's irrigation network in the shortest possible period according to the rural revolution programme in the new era.

The Seventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK defined the paddy and non-paddy irrigation systems to be readjusted and reinforced by 2025 as part of a measure to accelerate rural rejuvenation.

The year 2023 marked the beginning of a new history of irrigation construction in the country. Fulfilling the tasks for this significant year was decisive in attaining the ultimate objective of irrigation construction.

The construction workers, together with service personnel, pushed forward with irrigation projects.

There were formed irrigation construction command teams at central, provincial, city and county levels. And ample conditions were provided for supplying on a priority basis the equipment and materials, including water pumps, motors, transformers, cement and steel, which were needed for the establishment of irrigation and drainage networks.

Competent designers were included in the local construction teams, and construction workers grew more skilful.

The successful achievements made so far boosted the morale of the civilians and service personnel involved, inspiring them with patriotic enthusiasm.

They were a fruition of the people's devoted service, which convinced everyone that they could build on them and make a leap forward to attain the goal for the next stage and revamp the country's overall irrigation network.

The most significant of successes achieved in the year's irrigation construction was that rich experience and invaluable assets were provided for completing in three years the gigantic nature-remaking projects to put the country's agriculture on a steady upward trajectory.

For the Acceleration of Agricultural Mechanization

Agricultural mechanization has been one of the WPK's priorities in building up the material and technical foundations for agricultural production and freeing farmers from hard and backbreaking labour.

In 2023, amid the countrywide drive for rural rejuvenation, precious successes were achieved in agricultural mechanization.

First of all, many farm machines were produced and supplied to the countryside.

Various kinds of farm machines from the Kumsong Tractor Factory and many other factories and enterprises were transported to farms speedily.

Factories in the munitions industry also turned out more than 3 100 farm

machines of five kinds and sent them to the countryside, contributing to boosting cereals production.

What was also noteworthy in accelerating rural mechanization was that substantial progress was made in upgrading the farm machine industry.

The management and employees of the Kumsong Tractor Factory completed the automation of the major production lines in the main while pressing on with the second stage of the modernization project. They launched a mass-based technical innovation campaign for better tractor performance, laying the groundwork for improving the performance and shape of its products. They also developed new efficient equipment and upgraded the existing ones to increase productivity and sophistication.

Other factories in the farm machine industry followed suit: The Jongju Tractor Parts Factory was upgraded; the Chongjin Tractor Parts Factory laid solid foundations for producing tillers and motors; the Haeju Farm Machine Factory improved the efficiency of its power transmission apparatuses and set up a new blade production line, thereby providing a sure guarantee for the serial production of small rice harvesters.

All these successes were proof positive of the veracity of the WPK's policy



of the comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy.

The year 2022 was significant in that the country made the first step towards fully realizing the comprehensive mechanization of the rural economy.

In 2023, with this mechanization drive gaining momentum, large numbers of modern farm machines were supplied to all the farms in the country.

As spring began, most of the farms received high-speed rice transplanters and dozens of kinds of spare parts for their machines, with which they did harrowing and transplanted rice seedlings in the right season. Those transplanters were highly sophisticated in operation, being twice as fast and efficient as old models.

Also, unmanned aerial vehicles for the spraying of agrochemicals were provided to the major granaries on the east and west coasts, each of which is capable of spraying agrochemicals on one hectare of field in seven minutes.

Thanks to the supply to all the farms of mobile combined threshers of rice and maize and small rice harvesters, harvesting and threshing were completed one week earlier than in the previous year, and with the introduction of new sowing machines, the sowing of wheat and barley in autumn was done in time.

These successes provided a guarantee for expanding the production of farm machines in the upcoming years.



All the farm machine factories raised a hot wind of learning from workers in the munitions industry, who launched a patriotic movement for increased production and manufactured thousands of farm machines.

These factories, including those that started producing new models of the machines, accumulated considerable experience in the course of going through designing, manufacturing, supplying of materials and other processes. They made efforts to learn from one another and launched a mass-based technical innovation campaign to solidify their scientific and technical foundations for making highly efficient machines as suited to the specific conditions of the countryside.

In the meanwhile, they set up new lines for the serial production of modern farm machines, paid due concern to restoring the original performance of the existing equipment and secured necessary devices and apparatuses.

Housing Construction on an Extensive Scale

As a watershed in the country's history of construction, the year 2023 witnessed housing construction projects making progress on an extensive scale.

The ongoing construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang continued apace, tens of thousands of houses sprang up in the rural communities, and the Komdok area was transformed into a mountain gorge city, a cultured mining city.

The new streets and houses showcase the country's unlimited potential for development and its level of civilization, vindicating the WPK's policies for the benefit of the Korean people.

A New Golden Age of Pyongyang

The year 2023 marked the third year for the project of building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang. The capital city has witnessed a groundbreaking ceremony for a yearly housing construction every February and a loud cheering for its inauguration every April of the following year.

This housing construction was one of the major items on the agenda of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, and it ranks top among the WPK's current priorities in building a socialist paradise for the people.

The year 2023 witnessed a startling transformation of the capital city.

Following the construction of 10 000 flats for the first stage of the housing construction in the Hwasong area, the second stage went full steam ahead.

The first stage in the Hwasong area meant the second project for attaining the long-term goal of housing construction in Pyongyang, and it was also the

first of its kind in building a new urban district in this area.

With the successful completion of this project, there appeared in this area splendid streets and a new residential administrative district with tens of thousands of flats, public buildings and service facilities.

Hwasong Street is a model urban district in terms of formative and artistic beauty, connectivity and practicality, where 40-storey twin and other high-rise apartment blocks, public buildings, service facilities, etc., are arranged in perfect harmony.

With the second stage of the housing construction in the Hwasong area gathering speed, another big architectural group appeared in this area, which symbolized the golden age of capital city construction.

In addition to this, a new residential district was built in the Taephyong area, a suburb of the capital city.

Even as other huge construction projects were underway, this project was added to the state's priority list true to the WPK's principle of subordinating everything to the people's wellbeing.

The new architectural group of a peculiar design in the Taephyong area is characterized by high-rise apartment blocks coming in various shapes and achieving good harmony with nearby schools, clinics and service facilities.

Another notable addition to new residential districts in Pyongyang is Jonwi Street in the Sopho area, a northern gateway to Pyongyang, which is symbolic of the socialist development and future.

An addition to the state plan of building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang in 2023, this project was entrusted by the WPK to the Socialist Patriotic Youth League and the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade.

It was quite big in scale, involving the construction on a 60-hectare area of super-high-rises, some with 80 and 60 storeys, and high-rises of varying shapes with a combined total of more than 4 000 flats.

The youth league members finished the construction of their frameworks in a short period and pushed ahead with other necessary processes in a three-

dimensional way—plastering, tiling, construction of substructure, public buildings and amenities, etc.

The above construction projects were among the major concerns of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

With a view to ensuring that the new streets were built to be immaculate even in the distant future, he inspected the construction sites time and again and went over countless designs in his office.

For example, as for the first stage of the housing construction in the

Hwasong area, he examined more than 1 630 artist's impressions and gave advice on such details as highlighting the modern features of new urban districts by raising the proportion of dry process in the finishing work, setting up all catering, commercial and other welfare service facilities in residential areas, and connecting trunk and branch roads for the convenience of residents.

In February he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the second stage of the housing construction in the Hwasong area and pressed the



Apartment houses completed in the first stage of the housing construction in the Hwasong area

detonator button signalling the start of the construction. He had since gone over hundreds of designs on several occasions and adopted necessary measures.

After initiating the construction of Jonwi Street, he attended the groundbreaking ceremony and delivered a stirring speech to encourage the youth league members. He also saw to it that all the units rendered active assistance to the young builders.

When the housing construction in the Taephyong area was ongoing, he took all necessary steps for ensuring that it proceeded smoothly.

All the people who took part in the above projects, the service personnel and youth league members in particular, performed feats of labour by giving free rein to their patriotic spirit, making another landmark in the history of construction of the capital city.

The first stage of the housing construction in the Hwasong area covered an area of over 150 hectares, which was three times as large as Songhwa Street which was completed in 2022, and it involved building hundreds of apartment blocks, including super-high-rises and high-rises, with a total floor space of more than a million square metres, as well as public buildings and service facilities. And when 2 000 flats were added to it, the builders pushed the project forward.

The construction of Jonwi Street involved the participation of over a hundred thousand young volunteers from across the country, who demonstrated their fortitude through a fast tempo of construction.

Builders also erected a new architectural group in the Taephyong area through their devoted efforts.

These eye-opening transformations convinced people across the country that their capital city would soon become the epitome of socialist civilization.

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held in December 2022 adopted a decision on adding thousands of flats to the housing construction plan for 2023, which envisaged building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang as in the year before.

Witnessing the groundbreaking ceremonies for the first and second stages of the housing construction in the Hwasong area and for new streets in the Sopho and Taephyong areas, all the people learned anew the solemn determination of the WPK to carry out what it promised to do for the people, and raised loud cheers for the Workers' Party of Korea and socialism with renewed optimism about a bright future of their country.

When moving into new houses, everyone was overwhelmed with gratitude; a citizen said that as an ordinary worker, he had never dreamed of having such a splendid home; another said that she had envied others living in new streets and that she was now living in a wonderful flat; looking round new apartment blocks, many said that they would see much better ones the following year.

The substantial progress made in the year's housing construction demonstrated how dynamically the Korean people were advancing towards the goal of prosperity and how great their national strength was.

Construction projects of such magnitude mirror a country's might and potentialities, as they require colossal resources—human, material and technical.

Currently, the theatre of the construction of 50 000 flats in the capital city has become an area that epitomizes a new era of upsurge in socialist construction.

Given the scale of investments in revitalizing the overall economy and improving the people's standard of living, it is not so easy to keep grand construction projects going for several consecutive years.

However, the WPK and the government kept up the pace of housing construction in Pyongyang, even as they were undergoing manifold difficulties. In doing so, they demonstrated how confidently the DPRK was advancing against all odds to transform the capital city and promote its people's wellbeing.

The new golden age of Pyongyang will witness more fantastic creations.

New Houses Multiplying in the Countryside

To develop all rural villages into rich, cultured socialist fairyland is a long-term plan of the WPK and its policy of rural construction.

The year 2022 saw the construction of houses in the countryside going full steam ahead according to the rural revolution programme in the new era.

In 2023 new houses sprang up in many rural communities, boasting their modern features and local peculiarities.

News of farmers moving into new houses hit the headlines throughout the year, the houses being highly advanced in practicality and formative art.

The first month of the year passed with exciting reports about several villages being transformed in South Phyongan, North Hwanghae, North Hamgyong and South Hamgyong provinces. The year's combined total of new houses in the countryside was tens of thousands.

Designed so well as to sustain their regional characteristics, those houses came in various shapes and colours, which offered a glimpse into how the country's rural communities were developing.

The rural housing construction projects in the cities and counties of such provinces as North Phyongan and North Hamgyong, as well as the capital city, were brought to completion.

Also, new models were created in ensuring better quality and efficient use of materials.

Unsan County in North Phyongan Province and Kumya County in South Hamgyong Province introduced material-saving building methods, so as to set an example in building dwelling houses while ensuring quality of construction with a smaller amount of cement.

Thus, every city and county built more dwelling houses with 10 000 tons of cement provided to each of them every year.

Jongphyong County set an example in consolidating the local construction



workforce and solidifying the foundations for the production of building materials.

As a medium- and long-term undertaking that is gaining in scale, rural construction demands that cities and counties secure their own construction workforce and reliable bases for the production of building materials. This was an urgent task in 2023.

Jongphyong County strengthened the construction workforce with building specialists, skilled workers and discharged soldiers in terms of quality and quantity; it built new, large-capacity lines of producing finishing materials from locally-available materials; and it considerably expanded the capacity of existing building-materials production bases.

All the cities and counties in provinces worked hard to learn from this experience, consolidating their own construction workforces and building materials bases under a long-term plan.

Huichon was exemplary in landscaping and dwelling houses, creating a

model for other rural communities to follow in turning themselves into ideal fairyland.

Thaechon County set up communal livestock sheds on a trial basis for a national demonstration.

These sheds were designed to help farmers maintain a clean living environment while keeping domestic animals and handling manure.

Run by a gravitational water supply system, the sheds have veterinary and sanitary sections. They can be used to raise pigs, goats, chicken, rabbits and whatever the owners want, and are equipped to treat animal faeces.

The sheds have proved to be helpful in promoting the convenience of farmers and meeting their interests, another precious experience in transforming the rural communities into cultured ones.

These successes in rural construction were attributable to the patriotic devotion and fortitude displayed by the construction workers and all other people in the countryside.

The construction workers, who had become more skilful in the course of



New houses in the countryside

carrying out the housing construction projects the previous year, worked day and night to fulfil the ambitious plan for 2023.

The collectivist spirit of leading units helping those lagging behind pervaded all the construction sites, and a hot wind of rendering manpower and material support to them blew across the country.

The relevant sectors made a tangible contribution to implementing the housing construction according to schedule by producing plenty of necessary equipment and tools with locally available materials.

Workers in the cement industry made redoubled efforts to supply 10 000 tons of cement to every city and county.

From the beginning of January, day after day, month after month, news of new houses springing up in the rural communities inspired farmers and all the other people to further efforts.

Eventually, changes took place in the rhythm, habits and mode and structure of their life.

After moving into a new house, a farmer said: Still now, I can hardly believe that this fantastic house is mine. I often ask myself whether I deserve



it. My pleasure at seeing this blessing is beyond description.

Those who moved into new houses and all the other farmers expressed heartfelt gratitude to their country and hardened their determination to reap a good harvest.

The successes made in the rural housing construction paved the way for expanding the housing construction projects in the countryside.

As was felt clearly in the first year of the rural housing construction project, the increasing scale of the construction made it imperative for cities and counties to reinforce their construction units with more labour, technicians and equipment, and to build up the capacity of producing finishing materials.

All provinces buckled down and built up their bases for the production of building materials; the Songchongang Tile Factory in South Hamgyong Province set up tile and sanitary ware production lines with an annual capacity of hundreds of thousands of square metres; North Phyongan Province built a fiber board production line fed by locally available reeds; North Hamgyong and North Hwanghae provinces were also proactive in using their local resources to good effect—upgrading such bases as Kyongsong Tile Factory and Kyongam Tile Factory, ensuring that cities and counties focused on increasing the variety and output of finishing materials and improving their quality.

The Provincial Building Materials Exhibition-2023, held on the theme of “Usher in a new era of rural rejuvenation by relying on our own building materials!”, proved to be a good opportunity for provinces to promote their regional development and rural construction by sharing experience in using locally available building materials and improving the quality of finishing materials as suited to their characteristics.

Provinces focused on improving the qualification of officials in charge of rural construction, while cities and counties put the emphasis on enhancing the skills of workers in the course of building new houses in the countryside.

This provided a sure guarantee for provinces to press on with the rural housing construction on an extensive scale.

For the Development of the Komdok Area into a Mountain Gorge City

To develop the Komdok area, in which a large contingent of workers live, into a mountain gorge city without parallel in the world is an important construction policy of the WPK.

One of the country’s mining giants, this area is being transformed beyond recognition.

Being both massive and challenging, the project included erecting 25 000 flats and public and industrial buildings on a total area of nearly 600 hectares at the foot of Machon Pass.

With nearly three years of strenuous efforts the service personnel built modern apartment blocks of various designs, totalling more than 18 000 flats, in Tanchon, specifically Kumgol-dong Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Taehung-dong No. 2, Paekkumsan-dong, Thamsa-dong, Tonsan-dong and Kumsan-dong.

The soldier-builders raised the flames of collective innovation by giving full play to their unyielding offensive spirit, thereby building more than 8 000 flats in 2023 alone.

Magnificent is the scenery of the gorge stretching dozens of kilometres from the Ryongyang Mine through the Komdok Mining Complex to the Taehung Youth Hero Mine, which is dotted with harmonious arrays of single- and multi-storey apartment blocks and terraced ones.

The new apartment blocks were built so solidly as to ensure that the workers lead a stable and civilized life.

Being located in a deep gorge, the Komdok area was particularly prone to floods and strong winds.

Building a few apartment blocks after a natural disaster or distributing clusters of single-storey houses in mountainous counties—this turned out to be no more than a passive stopgap measure. Under the WPK’s ambitious plan to

provide the residents with a safe and cultured living environment by erecting apartment blocks as required by the new century, the soldier-builders worked with devotion to develop the area into a paradise symbolizing prosperity and civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

While pushing ahead with the housing construction, the soldier-builders adopted precautionary measures against any possible flood or strong wind—dredging the riverbed, reinforcing the embankments with stones, building concrete walls on the road and railway sections exposed to the risk of landslide.

This construction project signifies a new phase of Juche-oriented architecture.

Korean architecture has made rapid advances over the past ten-odd years, each one of which witnessed the completion of a project as large as the construction of a street.

Designers and construction workers have laid the groundwork for keeping up the golden age of construction by erecting splendid structures that will serve as the new standards and models of Juche-oriented architecture in urban, rural and industrial construction, as well as the construction of cultural facilities.

In particular, the Pothong riverside terraced houses district project, pushed in 2022, stands out from all other housing construction projects. As a masterpiece of Juche-oriented architecture, this district is characterized by novel architectural styles and innovative construction methods using the geographical features of the largely mountainous country to good effect.

The Komdok area is being developed into a mountain gorge city without parallel in the world, where single- and multi-storey apartment blocks and terraced houses are in good harmony with public and industrial buildings.

This gorge city, which is nearing completion, will serve as a new architectural model for other regions in their future development.

Projects Conducive to the Substantial Development of the Independent National Economy

The major task of economic work for 2023 was to mainly finish the plan for reinforcement and readjustment decided upon by the Eighth Congress of the WPK while revitalizing the production of the overall sectors and units of the national economy.

That year the Korean people made a huge step forward towards ensuring the stable development of the national economy and improving the people's living standards.

The Ryongsong Machine Complex produced high-performance large compressors that were needed for the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex built an energy-saving oxygen heat blast furnace; the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex succeeded in operating components of medium-frequency induction furnaces of a new model on a trial basis; the Musan Mining Complex installed new gyratory cone crushers and remodelled long-distance conveyor belts. A 10 000 or so metre-long section of the long-distance pipeline between Musan and Chongjin for the transport of concentrates was replaced, and the development of the Sohaeri branch mine under the Unnyul Mine was completed, thereby solidifying the foundations of the self-supporting metallurgical industry.

The Taehung Youth Hero Mine established a production line for high-grade magnesia clinker, and the December 5 Youth Mine, for crystal thenardite. The Suncheon Chemical Complex relied on its own resources to build a nutritive liquid fertilizer factory. In addition, a new-type low-

temperature brown coal dry-distillation line and a tar processing line were established in the northern coalfields.

Thermal power stations overhauled thousands of thermal turbine blades, dozens of boilers and turbogenerators, while Sodusu, Suphung and other hydroelectric power stations completed the overhaul of waterway tunnels, totalling scores of kilometres, and dozens of generators and the reinforcement of dams in a short period. Phyonggang and Sepho army-people power stations in Kangwon Province were completed in the main.

These successes proved the vitality of the WPK's readjustment and reinforcement strategy, instilling renewed confidence and optimism in all the people.

A New Model of Oxygen Heat Blast Furnace

In 2023 the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex succeeded in developing an energy-saving oxygen heat blast furnace of a new model, thus providing a sure guarantee for consolidating the Juche-based iron-making system and revitalizing the overall economy.

As an advanced metallurgical product that helps mass-produce iron and steel in an indigenous way while saving a lot of fuel, this blast furnace uses a high temperature of excess heat and gas in drying and preheating iron concentrates and coal.

In developing this new model workers in the metallurgical industry gave full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

This project was 1.5 times larger than the one of building the existing oxygen heat blast furnace. It involved building more than 20 structures, at the same time as maintaining regular production of iron and steel.

Workers at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex completed the challenging foundation work and set up a thousands-of-ton-heavy structure

in a short period. Technicians at the complex came up with novel schemes to apply a three-dimensional designing method, contributing to installing key equipment in no longer than six months, which would have taken two to three years. They also rendered a tangible contribution to assembling scores of equipment, such as expander, cooling accumulator and panels of a separator.

The complex produced thousands of square metres of insulating bricks with locally available raw materials and independently developed such equipment as concentrate dryer and waste-gas cleaner.

The shock brigade of scientists and technicians were fully determined to promote the development of the country's metallurgical industry by their own efforts; they introduced their research findings regarding gravity valve, charge-dropping angle, transport of dust coal, etc., for the floating, preheating and dust coal input systems.

The successful development of this blast furnace was critical in consolidating the independence of the country's metallurgical industry and satisfying its demand for iron and steel.

It proved through practice how reasonable the WPK's policy of establishing the Juche orientation in the metallurgical industry was.

Workers in the metallurgical industry went against all odds to establish the Korean-style iron-making system by relying on their own efforts and technology, not on coking coal that had to be imported from other countries.

This system was a revolution in the metallurgical industry, but its economic effectiveness and stability should be proved through practice.

The enemy disparaged the above Juche-based iron-making system as cost-ineffective, and some were sceptical about the WPK's line of self-reliance, wavering in the face of temporary difficulties and pinning their hopes on imports from abroad.

However, the employees of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex made

persevering efforts to develop a high-performance oxygen heat blast furnace of Korean style.

Supported by a large contingent of such reliable workers and intellectuals, the country's metallurgical industry will demonstrate its might as the main economic buttress.

Sohaeri Branch Mine under the Unnyul Mine

The Sohaeri branch mine, which was developed under the Unnyul Mine in 2023, will have the lion's share in the supply of raw materials for the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Despite its great production potentials and competent technical workforce, the complex failed to meet the domestic demand for iron and steel because of the insufficient supply of iron ores from the Unnyul Mine.

The WPK set out a task of developing the Sohaeri branch mine with a view to ensuring that the complex maintained regular production.

This development project was among the goals of readjustment and reinforcement to be attained by the metallurgical industry during the period of the Five-Year Plan. The WPK took necessary steps for resolving such problems as the selection of the branch mine's location, designing, labour and supply of funds.

The employees of the Unnyul Mine turned out with one accord in the effort to develop the branch mine by their own efforts.

The development project was very challenging, as it involved digging two tunnels, erecting more than ten production buildings, manufacturing and installing various equipment, etc.

In implementing this project the employees of the Unnyul Mine gave free rein to the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

For example, they decided to develop a crew classifier, one of the key

machines for the operation of the branch mine, instead of importing it. While fighting worship of big powers and mysticism about technology, they buckled down and introduced bold schemes. After repeated failures, they made two classifiers in no longer than four months and succeeded in their trial operation.

To assemble a hoist tower without truck cranes was a great challenge, but they used a novel scheme and completed the task in a couple of days. Installing roof beams at the ore-dressing plant was done at one go. The employees also worked closely with scientists to develop a new type of wagon unloading arms, thus ensuring the safe operation of winches.

It was fundamental to the normal operation of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

With the production of magnetite remaining sluggish in the western part of the country, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex was fed by magnetite from the Musan Mining Complex. The problem was the high cost of its transport.

The Sohaeri branch mine being switched on, the abundant deposits of magnetite in the western part of the country can be exploited and transported to the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Fully conscious of the important role they should play in supplying concentrated iron ores, the management and employees of the branch mine are working hard to ensure the full operation of the mining and dressing equipment and fulfil the daily and weekly production plans.

The successful development of the branch mine proved that it is crucial in ensuring the stable and sustainable development of the metallurgical industry to solidify the foundations for production.

The development of the Sohaeri branch mine is not merely significant in that tens of thousands of tons can be added to the national output of iron ores. More importantly, it is a significant step forward towards carrying out the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, and a remarkable contribution

to consolidating the independence and Juche character of the metallurgical industry.

Workers at the Unnyul Mine, at the same time as maintaining regular production, built the branch mine by relying on their own efforts and technology and tapping internal reserves. In this way they laid the groundwork for developing the mine under a long-term plan and rendered a positive contribution to the development of the metallurgical industry as a whole.

High-grade Magnesite Clinker Production System

In 2023 the management and employees of the Taehung Youth Hero Mine set up a high-grade magnesite clinker production system using locally available fuel, thus establishing the Juche orientation of the refractory industry at a higher level and providing a sure guarantee for several economic sectors to increase their production.

The above system consists of the processes for producing high-grade magnesite clinker with magnesite ores and anthracite briquettes.

The high-grade magnesite clinker from the Taehung Youth Hero Mine meets the global standards in terms of all the qualitative indexes, such as the content of silicic acid, and its production potentials are great.

The First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK put forth a plan of securing an international competitive edge in such promising industries as magnesite and graphite.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK indicated directions and methods for raising the country's refractory industry to the international standard, such as upgrading refractory raw materials by using the technical workforce and potentials to good effect, and producing plenty of various high-grade refractories by introducing advanced moulding and sintering

techniques.

The high-grade magnesite clinker production system is a fruition of selfless devotion displayed by the patriots who overcame all manner of difficulties in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Prioritizing quantitative growth would lead to instant successes with less expenditure of cost. Instead of opting to adopt this easy method, the Taehung Youth Hero Mine chose to tread an untrodden path to establish the high-grade magnesite clinker production system with a view to bringing substantial benefits to the national economy.

Producing high-grade magnesite clinker with domestically available raw materials was a highly challenging project.

However, the Taehung Youth Hero Mine did not waver in the least, despite dozens of failures and serious oppositions.

They pressed on with the project by an innovative method—creating a new design of furnace, improving product quality through two-stage calcination, developing a cooling grader, hyperfine pulverizer and all other equipment by themselves, etc.

The completion of this project provided a sure guarantee for establishing the Juche orientation of the refractory industry at a high level and promoting the development of the national economy.

The mine had established the Juche orientation of the refractory industry by developing the Korean-style magnesite clinker production system that relies on the domestically available fuel—anthracite—instead of using coking coal or heavy oil.

For the Juche-oriented refractory industry to gain an international competitive edge, it was necessary to produce high-grade magnesite clinker with anthracite. It had been internationally recognized that heavy oil and natural gas were essential in the production of high-grade magnesite clinker.

The Taehung Youth Hero Mine managed to establish an international-

level system of producing magnesia clinker, a raw material of refractory, with anthracite that is abundant in the country.

This high-grade magnesia clinker production system was a critical factor in establishing the Juche orientation of the refractory industry at a high level.

It will help all the refractory-related sectors achieve sustained growth of production.

The quality of refractory is closely related with the production growth at cement factories, iron and steel plants, and other major enterprises of the national economy. By using the fireproof materials that are made of the newly developed high-grade magnesia clinker, they can increase the maintenance cycles of steel furnaces and kilns by four to five times. It means that the metallurgical, chemical, building-materials and other major industries can increase their production on a steady basis.

It has also taught the truth that they should believe in themselves and work hard to catch up with global standards.

Crystal Thenardite Production Line

The major task facing the extractive industry in 2023 was to establish a crystal thenardite production line at the December 5 Youth Mine.

Those in the extractive industry joined efforts to carry out this task in order to consolidate the independence of the chemical industry and improve the national economy as a whole as well as the standard of living of the people.

The crystal thenardite production line is aimed at processing glauberite, one of the country's abundant resources, and producing crystal thenardite, which is a basic chemical material for sodium carbonate that is urgently needed by the national economy.

With the establishment of a crystal thenardite production line with an annual capacity of tens of thousands of tons, the Namhung Youth Chemical

Complex can now maintain the normal operation of its sodium carbonate production line.

The WPK ensured that the state made a considerable investment in setting up the crystal thenardite production line. It also organized a construction headquarters with competent personnel and resolved all problems concerning the drawing up of technical instructions for production processes, designing, the supply of equipment, materials and funds, scientific and technological measures, labour, etc.

A proud creation to be etched in the history of the Juche-oriented chemical industry, the crystal thenardite production line was a fruition of selfless devotion displayed by the scientists, technicians and construction workers involved.

As a trail-blazing project, the construction was very demanding.

All the officials, scientists, technicians and construction workers involved in the project braved manifold difficulties to carry out the WPK's plan to the letter.

The Nano-Engineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences perfected an effective technology of producing crystal thenardite and succeeded in applying it at one try.

In 2021, facing an unexpected trial, the construction workers created novel methods and saved both labour and materials in conducting 60 000 cubic metres of foundation excavation, removing 70 000 cubic metres of earth and erecting frameworks for more than ten buildings.

In 2022 they launched 12 construction projects and completed the assembling of steel structures and frameworks in a little more than a month, assembled over 280 equipment and succeeded in the trial operation of 360 or so machines.

Despite manifold difficulties they established a new crystal thenardite production system in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and self-development, thereby opening a bright prospect for the development of the

Juche-oriented chemical industry.

The establishment of the crystal thenardite production line made it possible to ensure plenty of raw materials for the sodium carbonate industry.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex had set up a sodium carbonate production line to avoid importing this basic material, but the raw materials for it were not supplied on a regular basis.

In 2023 a system was completed for producing crystal thenardite with glauberite, so the domestic demand for sodium carbonate can now be fully met. This means that light industry, chemical industry and other economic sectors do not need to rely on imported sodium carbonate.

It will bring considerable benefits to the national economy, a significant factor in satisfying the domestic demand for basic chemical products.

It proved the justness of the Party's policy of maintaining close ties among economic sectors on the principle of national self-reliance.

Building the crystal thenardite production line required large quantities of equipment, materials and labour, and involved finding solutions to a number of scientific and technological problems. In other words, it was beyond the reach of a specific unit or sector.

Under the unified direction of the Cabinet the officials and workers of several ministries, central organs and relevant units joined the effort to establish this production line.

The Cabinet earmarked a large fund for the Ministry of Mining Industry so that it could focus on establishing the production line, while ensuring that the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Construction and Building-materials Industry, the Ministry of Forestry and other relevant units supplied the set amounts of cement, fuel and timber on a planned basis.

The Ministry of Construction and Building-materials Industry and the Ministry of Chemical Industry dispatched competent technicians and skilled workers so that they could play the major role in building pipe networks and assembling equipment for refrigeration, crystallization and other processes.

The State Commission of Science and Technology, State Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Education pooled efforts to resolve scientific and technological problems.

The North Phyongan Provincial People's Committee sent necessary workers, means of transport and, 1 500 square metres of turf and 1 000 saplings for landscaping, and rendered sincere assistance to the workers.

The successful completion of this project proved that close cooperation between economic sectors is the key to developing the overall economy against all odds.

Exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023"

In 2023 notable progress was made in light industry, with the result that the material and technical foundations for improving the people's standard of living were solidified. Factories for student uniforms and flour processing were built across the country, and many light-industry factories built up their production capacities. Student uniforms, confectionery and other products of high quality were provided to the people.

The exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" showcased how rapidly this sector was developing.

The event was the best of its kind in its scale and form.

It offered a glimpse into the rapid advances the country's light industry had made over the past ten or so years.

On display at the venue were 12 000 products of 670 kinds from new and other factories—more than 550 in all—under ministries and central organs and in provinces, as well as from daily necessities factories under the munitions industry and in the military sector.

The venue was divided into 16 display compartments on two floors: the first floor exhibiting textile and knitted goods, clothes, household articles, shoes,

bags, school things, office supplies, cosmetics and sanitary goods; the second floor exhibiting foodstuffs, kitchen utensils, daily necessities, articles for cultural activities, furniture, building materials, mobile phones and craftwork.

The exhibition was novel in its form and arrangement.

The venue, covering a wide area, was decorated so well as to give a three-dimensional impression and the display stands came in all shapes and forms.

Illuminations, lighting effect, hologram display and other modern facilities were used appropriately.

Outside of the venue, there were selling and serving sections for the convenience of visitors.

In short, it was a unique model of exhibition highlighting the recent developments in light industry.

At its congresses and plenary meetings, the WPK indicated directions for bringing about a new revolution in light industry—modernizing state-run light-industry factories, modelling all the regional industry factories in provinces on those in Kimhwa County, using more of locally available raw materials and equipment and encouraging recycling, setting improved quality of consumer goods as the key to the revolution in light industry to develop and produce famous products and goods with an international competitive edge, etc.

Subsequently, light-industry factories across the country raised fierce flames of innovation, including the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory, Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, Samjiyon Bog Bilberry Drink Factory, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory.

In addition, hostels for workers in light industry were built in different parts of the country, such as the one at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, based on his analysis of the advances made in light industry over the past decade, initiated holding

an exhibition for light-industry goods with a view to raising the country's light industry to a new, higher level. He named it Development of Light Industry-2023. The state adopted measures for renovating the Light Industry Hall in the Three-Revolution Exhibition House and supplying necessary construction workforce, equipment and materials.

Arrangements were made for introducing the successes in light industry in various forms and by various methods, creating formation plans, logo, signboard and designs for advertising, and opening sectoral sci-tech presentations and experience-swapping meetings, awarding diplomas, certificates, medals and prizes to units, products and individuals.

Necessary steps were taken for ensuring that the exhibition served as an occasion for improving the quality of light-industry goods; the relevant enterprises worked hard to ensure the best possible quality of the products included in the set indexes and produce the set quantity of them in time, while developing more consumer goods for the exhibition that would be



favoured by the people.

The event instilled into the people pride in their own things and optimism about a bright future.

The past ten-odd years witnessed a new phase of civilization in the era of the Workers' Party. The material and technical foundations were laid solid for the rapid development of light industry; more than 110 factories, including the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory and Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, were renovated; 60-odd modern factories such as the Ryugyong Sanitary Products Factory and Taesongsan Ice Cream Factory were built; the Daesong Department Store which is a comprehensive, multi-functional service facility, Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 and hundreds of commercial establishments were renovated as required by the times.

It was also a period that saw the roll-out of new products which are favoured by an increasing number of consumers.

Maebongsan shoes, *Choljjuk* socks, *Pomhyanggi* cosmetics, *Sonamu* schoolbags, *Mindulle* notebooks, *Haebaragi* school things and other products are gaining in popularity, and Kimhwa County has been transformed into a model of regional rejuvenation, even as the country is facing untold difficulties.

The exhibition "Development of Light Industry-2023" provided a good opportunity for light-industry enterprises to swap experience in carrying out modernization projects and making technological advances.

During the period of the exhibition sectoral sci-tech presentations, experience-swapping meetings and lectures on sci-tech trends were held with the objective of sharing successes, experience and technological advances that would be of practical significance in developing light industry as a whole.

Experience and new technological advances made by leading units were shared and transferred to other units, and wide-ranging discussions were held over the future goals and concrete ways for attaining them. The event helped

heightening enthusiasm for competition and modernization across the light-industry enterprises.

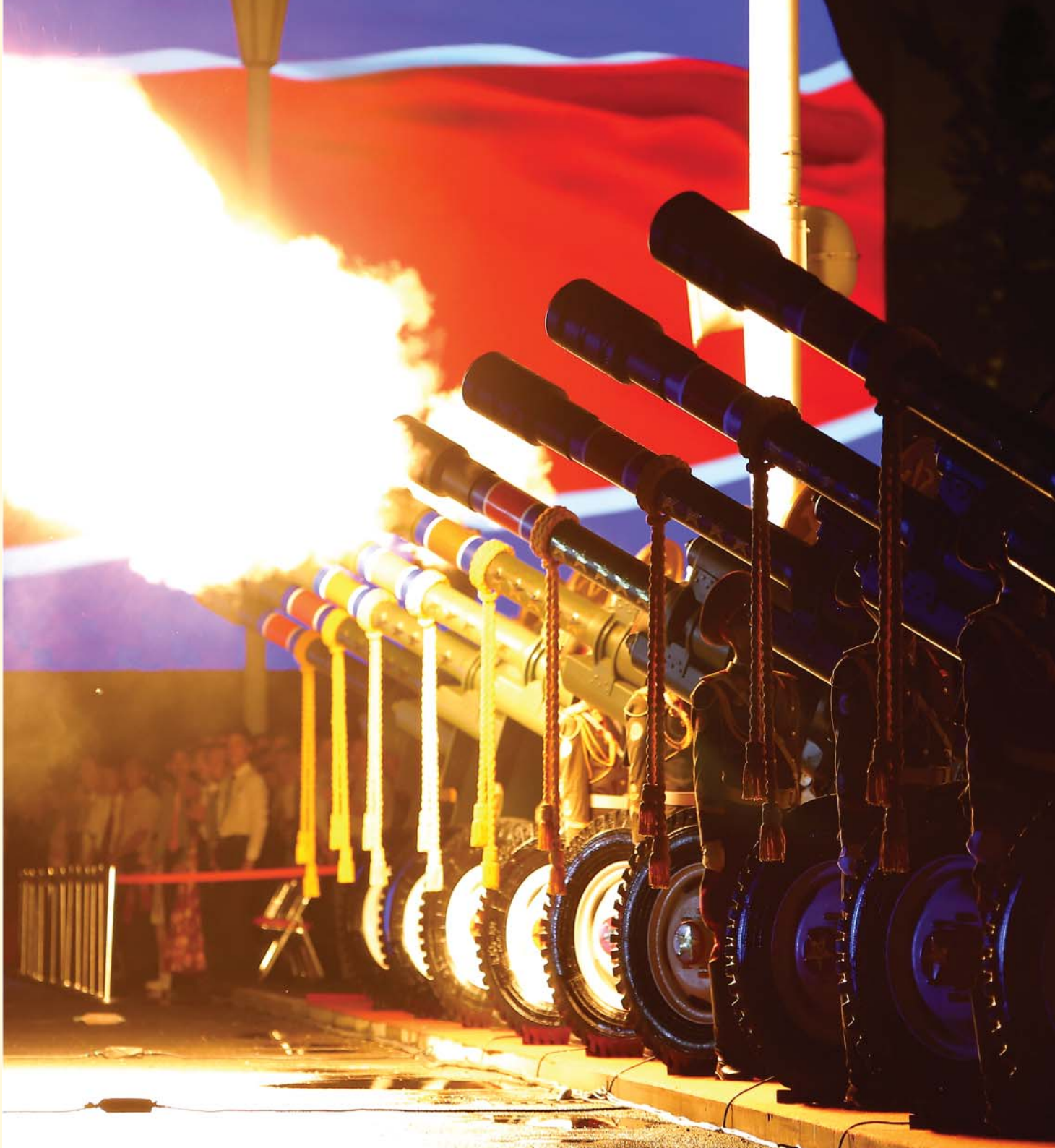
The participating enterprises learned a lot from one another in the course of sharing their experience and technological advances, and they were fully convinced that by listening to public opinions and maintaining an innovative approach, they could catch up with the growing trends.

With the exhibition as the momentum, all those in light industry joined in the drive for new innovations.

3 Demonstration of the Country's Strength and Prestige

In 2023 the WPK and the Korean people demonstrated the country's prestige as a paradigm of single-hearted unity, invincible nuclear power and bulwark of socialism that is independent, self-supporting and self-reliant in national defence.

With the policy of strengthening the nuclear forces being enshrined in law, the country's status as a nuclear weapons state was reaffirmed. Military parades were held on the 75th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army and the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, and grand celebrations, on the 75th founding anniversary of the DPRK. In addition, the relations between the DPRK and Russia reached a new phase. All these demonstrated the politico-ideological strength of the country and instilled pride and confidence in the people.



Enshrining the Policy of Strengthening the Nuclear Forces in the Constitution

The nuclear forces are essential in preventing nuclear war, guaranteeing the existence and development of a state, and protecting the lives and property of the people.

The Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK deliberated and adopted with unanimous approval a draft proposal to amend and supplement the Socialist Constitution, the basic law of the DPRK and the political charter for the building of a socialist power, in connection with the position of the nuclear forces in national defence and the principle of the state activities regarding the building of the nuclear forces.

The new Socialist Constitution stipulates that the DPRK shall, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, radically develop nuclear weapons to guarantee the right to existence and development of the country, to deter a war and to safeguard the peace and stability of the region and the rest of the world, and that the armed forces of the DPRK shall have it as its mission to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and its people's right and interests, to safeguard the socialist system and the gains of revolution from all sorts of threats, and to guarantee peace and prosperity of the country by dint of powerful military strength.

That the policy of strengthening the nuclear forces was enshrined in the Constitution is of great significance in that it provides a sure legal guarantee for securing the country's status as a nuclear weapons state, building up its defence capability and safeguarding the national security and world peace from the threat of nuclear war.

It was a reasonable measure reflecting the urgent requirements of the present era and conforming to the legitimate and long-term demands for building a socialist power.

Above all else, this measure correctly reflected the urgent requirements of the present era for preventing nuclear war and guaranteeing the eternal security of the state and its peace and stability.

Entering the year 2023, the US and the puppet ROK put into operation the "Nuclear Consultative Group" aimed at using nuclear weapons against the DPRK, clamouring about strengthening the "extended deterrent." The US resumed large-scale nuclear war joint drills and put the deployment of its strategic nuclear assets, including a nuclear submarine, in the ROK on a permanent basis.

Worse still, the accelerated establishment of the tripartite military alliance involving the US, Japan and the ROK resulted in the emergence of the "Asian NATO," the root cause of war and aggression. The US went so far as to inveigle NATO forces into the anti-DPRK campaign, posing the greatest-ever threat to the security of the DPRK.

Never before had the US acted so frantically as in 2023 to deploy its strategic nuclear assets in the ROK and conduct nuclear war drills against the DPRK, which it set as a target of nuclear attack.

The only way for the DPRK to guarantee its dignity and security in the face of the aggressive forces' "nuclear supremacy" was to take positive steps for strengthening its nuclear forces.

The policy of strengthening the country's nuclear forces was enshrined in the Constitution with a view to accelerating the modernization of these forces, with the result that a legal guarantee was provided for containing the US and the ROK in their attempt to ignite a nuclear war and for defending its own security.

Second, this measure was reasonable in that it conformed to the legitimate and long-term demands for building a socialist power.

In retrospect, humans have desired to live in a nuke-free world since nuclear weapons emerged and the first nuclear calamity occurred.

The DPRK has been under nuclear blackmail since the outbreak of the Fatherland Liberation War in 1950, so it has made persevering efforts to make itself and the surrounding region free from nukes. For example, in 1959

it brought forward an initiative to establish a peace zone free from atomic weapons in Asia, and in 1981, another to establish a non-nuclear zone in Northeast Asia.

However, disregarding all such initiatives on the pretext of differences in ideology and social system, the US has ratcheted up its nuclear blackmail against the DPRK for scores of years.

Regretting its failure to use A-bomb during the war, the US has stepped up nuclear war preparations, turning the ROK into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East by bringing in nuclear weapons there.

It mobilized large numbers of nuclear strategic assets for military drills year after year, compelling the DPRK to build socialism in the face of existential threats.

These threats left the DPRK with no other choice but to go nuclear. Nuke for nuke—this was an iron truth it kept in mind, keenly realizing that once it possessed nukes, it must preserve them as its eternal strategic assets and guarantee their inviolability under any circumstances.

Since the imperialists are resorting to nuclear blackmail in trying to threaten and stifle socialist countries and others aspiring after independence, socialist construction is conducted under threat of a nuclear war. Therefore, the absolute guarantee for the victory of socialism lies in building up a nuclear deterrent.

The DPRK had to rapidly develop its nuclear forces in order to propel socialist construction and, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, faithfully perform its mission of defending global peace and security.

Its basic law stipulates that it shall upgrade its own nuclear weapons at an increasingly higher level to guarantee its right to existence and development, deter war and safeguard peace and security of the region and the rest of the world. This constitutes a justified measure of historic significance reflecting the legitimate and long-term demands for building a socialist power in the face of the imperialists' persistent schemes for a nuclear war.

This measure raised the legal position of the policy of strengthening the nuclear forces to the highest level, paving the way for consolidating

the institutional and legal basis for guaranteeing the country's security and defending its interests.

The DPRK possessed nuclear weapons for self-defence but the US picked a quarrel with it, misleading the public by claiming that the nuclear forces of the DPRK are threatening global peace and security. In addition, the US tried to induce the DPRK to abandon its nuclear programme, tantalizing it with "economic benefits."

In 2022 the DPRK responded to this mean scheme by affirming that in view of the root cause for its possession of nuclear weapons and their mission, its nukes were beyond dispute and they could not be a bargaining chip. Subsequently, the policy of strengthening the nuclear forces was codified at the Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly.

Later, at the Ninth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, this policy was enshrined in the Constitution, thereby its legal position rising to the highest level. This signified that the country's status as a nuclear weapons state has become permanent, and a firm legal basis has been laid for dynamically propelling socialist construction and the cause of anti-imperialist independence by relying firmly on the build-up of the nuclear forces.

This measure also instilled in the people great pride and confidence in having played a pioneering role in building an independent, self-defensive country and increasing its defence capabilities, providing political incentives for them to give full play to their patriotic enthusiasm and spirit of fortitude in their effort for the comprehensive development of socialism.

Such pride and confidence do not merely stem from the people's appreciation of economic and technological strength and military power. They are primarily based on their admiration of and gratitude to their Party and state, which have the political will and capabilities to do anything they are determined to do, come what may.

The above measure reaffirmed the WPK's and the government's willingness to defend the principles of independence and self-development at any cost.

Aspiration to Carry Forward the Tradition of Victory, as Demonstrated through Military Parades

Military parades were held in Pyongyang on February 8 and July 27, 2023, to mark the 75th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army and the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

These events showed that the WPK and the Korean people were fully determined to build up the country's defence capabilities and add lustre to the history of army-building and tradition of victory in the anti-imperialist, anti-US confrontation by dint of great national power.

They were the greatest-ever politico-military festivals in terms of arrangement, ideological content and style.

The parades had some characteristics that made them different from previous events.

First, they visually represented the advanced features, historical traditions and the past and the present of the DPRK's revolutionary armed forces.

A portrait of President Kim Il Sung in his Marshal uniform was seen at the head of the leading column, which was followed by other columns of the military units symbolizing those in the initial days of the Korean People's Army and the period of the Fatherland Liberation War. These columns marched past, holding high the portraits of their major commanders including anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters and those of the war heroes.

The February 8 military parade had the column symbolizing the 7th Regiment during the anti-Japanese war, which was holding the flag inscribed with "Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army," and others symbolizing the Bodyguard Company, 1st National Defence Division, 2nd Light Infantry Division, 3rd Independent Infantry Brigade and 4th Infantry Division during the Fatherland Liberation War. The paraders in these columns were carrying

portraits of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, members of the Bodyguard Company and other major commanding officers, signalling that the KPA is carrying forward the first-generation revolutionaries' spirit, mission and death-defying mettle.

The July 27 military parade had the leading column symbolizing the commanding officers during the Fatherland Liberation War, with the portrait of Kim Il Sung held high at its head. This column was followed by others symbolizing the Bodyguard Company, Guards divisions including Kang Kon Guards 2nd Infantry Division, Guards regiments, railway workers, service personnel of the Ministry of the Interior, children's and civilians' guerrillas, all holding portraits of war heroes from their respective units. The event showed that the revolutionary army owed its victory to the command of the outstanding leader and that it could carry forward the tradition of victory only by remaining loyal to the leader.

Second, both events were characterized by the military colours, flags of mass movements and smart uniforms.

Newly designed on the occasion of the 75th founding anniversary of the KPA, its colours represented the unique efficiency of the army units. And the flags of mass movements such as model company movement, red-flag company movement, three-revolution red flag movement and movement of winning the title of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment showcased the glorious history of the KPA and its regularized features.

The service personnel's uniforms of a new design highlighted the KPA's modernity, the generals carrying swords and wearing new ceremonial uniforms decorated with orders and medals.

The mechanized columns at the parades showed a striking contrast between the past and the present, bringing into spotlight the tremendous power of the armed forces equipped with both offensive and defence means.

All the columns symbolizing units that fought in the Fatherland Liberation War, illustrated how the KPA, though poorly equipped, could defeat the imperialist allied forces, as well as its service personnel's ennobling spirit of



Military parade in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the KPA

heroism and great feats.

The high-tech military hardware, including the column of the main tanks which are symbolic of the combat efficiency of the KPA, the column of artillerymen who are the primary service of the army, the columns of tactical missiles and long-range cruise missiles and strategic weapons, roared past the square. This clearly showed the rapid development of the defence capabilities of the DPRK.

Third, the revolutionary character of the KPA and the characteristic features of the events were brought into bold relief from start to finish.

The February 8 military parade took on a new style as suited to the revolutionary character of the KPA.

Signalling the start of the event, the air-borne soldiers landed on the square, flying the flag of the WPK and the national flag in the night sky. This accentuated the original features of the KPA which had remained faithful to the leadership of the WPK and advanced straight forward with guns levelled precisely in the direction indicated by it.

The combined military band, with its varied rhythmic patterns, depicted a five-pointed star symbolizing the history and traditions of the KPA, its ultimate mission and invincibility, and letters “February 8,” “75” and “powerful army,” as well as the WPK’s emblem, on the floor of the square. The scene intensively showed the proud course of its development in which the KPA had developed into a powerful army, adorning its 75 years-long history with only victory and glory since its founding.

The highlight of the military parade was the ceremony of hoisting the national flag. The national flag was carried by the guards of honour, being reviewed by the colours of the KPA combined units at all levels arrayed on opposite sides, before being hoisted. The ceremony implanted in the hearts of the people the truth of history that just as the powerful country would be unthinkable apart from a powerful army so the national flag would not be glorifying if the colours lost their light.

The July 27 military parade highlighted the ennobling and profound

meaning of the three years which glorified the unprecedentedly harsh years of the war with victory and the 70 years which had defended the victory.

In the middle of Kim Il Sung Square, the venue of the parade, there was set up the sculpture *Victory* which was permeated with the priceless sacrifice and ennobling soul of the victorious wartime generation and reflected the dignity and spirit of the great victors. The young students held dancing parties around the sculpture and gave bouquets and flowers to the defenders in the 1950s who entered the square of the military parade, revving up the atmosphere of the war victory.

The ceremony of hoisting the national flag was also held solemnly in conformity with the character of the event. With the Medal of Hero, a symbol of the dignity and honour of Juche Korea, being illuminated by lights, the guards of honour of the KPA was given the flag of the DPRK which had been defended at the cost of blood in the flames of the war by war veterans. This clearly showed the will of the new generation to give fuller play to the high prestige and mettle of the country by reliably carrying forward the ennobling spirit and immortal feats of the victorious wartime generation.

Led by the war veterans, the columns symbolic of military units during the Fatherland Liberation War marched past the square, fluttering the colours of the Guards units in the wartime, clearly demonstrating the will of the Korean people to invariably carry forward the great history of victorious war and traditions of victory.

Fourth, the above military parades were characteristic in that newly-developed home-made weapons were made public.

Unlike the previous parades, the February 8 military parade revealed more than ten transporter-erector-launcher vehicles loaded with ICBM *Hwasongpho-17* led by Hero transporter-erector-launcher vehicle No. 321, thereby demonstrating the unfathomable potentialities and prestige of the DPRK’s nuclear forces.

The world’s major media gave wide publicity to the record-breaking numbers of ICBM in the parade, commenting: ICBM *Hwasongpho-17* is the



Military parade in celebration of the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War

DPRK's top-notch ballistic missile which can reach the US mainland and succeeded in the several rounds of its test-fire; they went past the square in a single row in the previous parade but this time, they have passed in two rows; this verifies that the DPRK has mass-produced long-range missiles and possessed a greater number of strategic weapons.

In particular, the new-type ICBM *Hwasongpho-18* made its debut, marking the end of the parade and making the people dumbfounded.

Many foreign media and analysts commented that a stripe-patterned missile carried on a 9-axle transporter-erector-launcher vehicle newly appeared in the military parade and it might be a new type of missile propelled by solid-fuel engine.

Various kinds of ultra-modern military hardware, which had not yet been opened to public, made their debut in the July 27 military parade, clearly showing the development and potential power of the Juche-based defence industry.

The DPRK's ICBM *Hwasongpho-17* and *Hwasongpho-18*, which demonstrated its nuclear attack capability to the maximum, newly-developed strategic reconnaissance drone and multi-purpose attack drones and nuclear unmanned underwater attack boats also went past the square. This was the eloquent proof of the level of the DPRK's military capabilities.

The world's mass media commented: The military parade has made public the ICBM *Hwasongpho-18* with a solid-fuel engine and the new-type ICBM *Hwasongpho-17*, which can reach the US mainland, and the nuclear unmanned underwater attack boat *Haeil*; the newly-developed strategic reconnaissance drone and multi-purpose attack drone have made circular flights in the sky above the square before the start of the parade; the DPRK has developed a new-type drone in a short period to demonstrate its possession of military hardware which can counter the US army; the country has also added reconnaissance drones, as well as attack ones, to the list of its new weapons.

The above military parades clearly demonstrated the will of the DPRK to add eternal lustre to the invincible spirit, might and proud history of the KPA

which had won one victory after another in the showdown with imperialism.

The invincible military strength underlies the self-respect and dignity of the state, and the justness of the revolutionary cause is proved only through its triumph. The success in the showdown of strength is guaranteed by the national defence capability. And independence and self-sufficiency are only guaranteed by self-reliance in national defence.

The correct answer to what strength propels the unprecedentedly arduous Korean revolution, why the DPRK is invincible and how its bright future is shaped, as well as the most justifiable judgement of history, can be found in every page of the 75-year-long history of the KPA and the 70-year-long history of the country after its victory in the war.

The above military parades were a review of the proud history of the KPA, the history in which the tradition of victory in the three-year-long war had been glorified for seven decades; it was in effect a demonstration of the will of the revolutionary armed forces to add eternal glory to the tradition of victory.

The columns of the first-line field forces, the columns of the naval and air forces, which are a death-defying corps of the sea and a shield of the sky, the columns of the Strategic Force and the Special Operations Forces, which are symbolic of the tremendous strength of the DPRK's armed forces, marched past the square, displaying their courageous spirit and combat readiness to annihilate the enemy at a stroke.

The columns of tactical nuclear operation units and ICBMs, which boasted their high manoeuvrability and striking power, and those of other ultra-modern weaponry, passed the square, declaring their will to deal a merciless punishment to the descendants of aggressors in the acute confrontation with the imperialists that had lasted from one generation to the next.

At the July 27 military parade the armed forces of the DPRK solemnly declared that it would not tolerate any acts of military intervention encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the state and would take more offensive counteractions to frustrate them.

The enemy's media commented that the DPRK sent a warning of possible

pre-emptive strike by stating that if the US and the ROK resorted to military confrontation, its armed forces would go beyond the range of defence.

The military parades are of epochal significance in that they clearly showed the world its unshakeable will to carry forward the traditions of victory down through generations by mercilessly defeating the aggressors, just as the first generation of building the army—the great wartime generation—had crushed the imperialist allied forces.

Fifth, the military parades powerfully demonstrated the tremendous national power, thus dealing a telling blow at the hostile forces and instilling confidence in victory and courage into the people.

As a demonstration of a country's strength, a military parade offers a glimpse into its level of overall development—political, military, economic, cultural, scientific and technological. Through this event, its economic, scientific and technological potentials, as well as its political and military might, are evaluated. So, making preparations for it requires both time and effort.

The DPRK held two military parades of its regular armed forces in a few months.

The world public health crisis had yet to subside, and repeated war drills around the country were threatening its security. So, such large-scale military parades showcased how powerful the DPRK and its armed forces were.

In particular, the news of Kim Jong Un's reviewing the army units during the July 27 military parade together with heads of the visiting Russian and Chinese delegations hit the headlines of the world's mass media, some titles being "Leader Kim Jong Un takes the centre of the rostrum with the Chinese and Russian delegates," "The General Secretary reviews the parading units with the Chinese and Russian delegations" and "The DPRK displays missiles in front of the Chinese and Russian delegations." The enemy's media said that Pyongyang sent a signal that it was ready to militarily counter the strategic threats from the US and its allies by showing its improved relations with Russia and China, and that China and Russia appeared together in the celebrations

related with the DPRK's missiles whose development was prohibited by the UN Security Council and they seemed to be no longer avoiding any actions which might implicate them in Pyongyang's development of weapons.

While witnessing the ever-growing revolutionary armed forces even in the face of trials and the inexhaustible national strength of their country as shown during the above military parades, the Korean people were filled with great pride and confidence and hardened their resolve to turn out in the struggle to carry out the decisions of the plenary meetings of the WPK Central Committee.

After watching the events, a citizen said: We have come to realize once again that our country has grown stronger, especially militarily; as we are led by General Secretary Kim Jong Un who has built such a self-defensive military capability which even economic giants can neither possess nor imitate, we will achieve a leap forward also in economic construction. The other said: Through the current celebrations we have been convinced of our invincible national power and inexhaustible potentials; we can revitalize the economy by relying on science and technology under the unfurled banner of self-reliance and courageously brave out the trials and difficulties by dint of collectivism.

The military parades, along with the year of great transformation, recorded another brilliant page in the history of Juche Korea.

Strength of the People Demonstrated in September

The founding anniversary of the DPRK is a proud festival for the Korean people noted for their strong sense of independence.

In September 2023, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the DPRK, a national meeting, paramilitary parade, torchlight procession of the young vanguard, grand artistic performance and other political and cultural celebrations were held in Pyongyang amid the great expectations and concern of the people across the country.

Invited to the celebrations were nearly 10 000 citizens including deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, exemplary deputies to the provincial, city and county people's assemblies, labour innovators in different sectors of the national economy who distinguished themselves in carrying out the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the plenary meetings of its Central Committee, and model service personnel.

On the evening of September 8 the national meeting was held in the presence of Kim Jong Un in front of the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

In his report an official said that the DPRK had developed into a powerful state recording a 75-year-long history resplendent with dignity and glory, stressing that it signified the victory of the WPK's ideas and policies, the people's government and the Korean-style socialist system, as well as the victory of the self-respect and fortitude of the Korean people, and that this was testified by the past ten-odd-year-long struggle waged under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

He continued that the DPRK government would thoroughly embody the WPK's Juche-oriented state-building idea and line to consolidate the people's power and bolster up the overall national strength in every way, and that it would remain boundlessly loyal to its sacred duty of realizing the people's

rights and interests while taking full responsibility for their destiny and life. He called upon everybody to become performers of feats and honourable victors in the ongoing struggle for winning a fresh great victory and achieve national prosperity with one mind under the leadership of the WPK.

The report won loud applause from the participants and support from the people across the country, as it reflected the revolutionary stand and will to reliably preserve and glorify the proud history and tradition of the genuine people's country and open up a new horizon for the overall development of



the state, while following the road of independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in national defence, the road of socialism guided by the ever-victorious WPK.

It was followed by a paramilitary parade at Kim Il Sung Square.

At the parade, the column of the division of the capital city Party members, the columns of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards of every province, and the columns of the WPRG of the State Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Sports and Physical Culture, and Ministry of Public Health marched past the square, displaying the might of the revolutionary armed forces which had developed into a reliable wing of the KPA, the backbone of national defence, and the pivotal force for the defence of the rear and home towns that made a tangible contribution to consolidating the all-people and nationwide defence system.

The columns of motorcycles, anti-tank missile launchers towed by tractors, anti-aircraft artillery pieces, multiple rocket launchers in camouflage and other mechanized columns of the WPRG roared past the square, demonstrating their full readiness to deal merciless blows at the aggressors and the might of a



great country, where all the people hold arms and the whole of which has turned into an impregnable fortress.

The parade fully demonstrated the will of all-people resistance to deal a merciless blow at the enemy in times of emergency and make miraculous achievements at their workplaces in peacetime.

The parade was followed by a torchlight gala of the young vanguard titled “Forward, Patriotic Young People, for Our Great State!” at Kim Il Sung Square.

The participants displayed in turn the letters “1948-2023,” “Eternal Leaders,” “Eternal Victory,” “A Powerful Nation” and “Devoted Service for the People” and the figures of the DPRK flag, in order to convey the undying exploits of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who regarded prioritizing young people as the most important of all state affairs and ushered in an era of prosperity in which the country grew powerful by dint of the valiant spirit of young people.

They also displayed such letters as “Comprehensive Development,” “Our State-First Principle,” “Revolutionary Enthusiasm,” “Fighting Zeal,” “Patriotic



Enthusiasm,” “Revolutionary Faith,” “Five Million Young People,” “Spirit of Defying Death in Implementing the Party’s Lines and Policies” and “Patriotic Youth,” showing the steadfast will of young Koreans to exalt the name of socialist patriotic youth most honourably by carrying forward the baton of



loyalty and patriotism bequeathed to them by the preceding generations.

The torchlight procession was significantly crowned with the impressive letter “Do Prosper, My Motherland!”

It demonstrated that the future of the country would be rosy forever as it has millions of young people who carry forward as their bloodline the history of patriotism and loyalty which had adorned the sacred national flag with victory and glory.

A grand performance in celebration of the 75th founding anniversary of the DPRK was given in front of the Mansudae Assembly Hall on the evening of September 9 to the delight of the people.

With the playing of the solemn melody of the prelude *Our National Flag*, the flag of the DPRK symbolic of the independent dignity and mettle of the state and the letters “75th Anniversary” were depicted over the nocturnal sky. Put on the stage were such colourful numbers as songs in praise of the leaders which reverberated during the building of the state and development of Juche Korea, hymns to the Workers’ Party of Korea and other songs of struggle and creation produced in the course of struggle to defend and glorify the genuine people’s country.

The performers truthfully represented with cheerful songs and dances the ideological sentiment of all people to glorify the socialist country, which they had defended generation after generation, century after century by displaying inexhaustible enthusiasm, wisdom and devotion.

The performance ended with the song *The Glorious Motherland* and the finale *Our National Flag*.

It powerfully demonstrated the steadfast faith and will of the Korean people to glorify forever the immortal history of their country, which had always emerged victorious with the indomitable spirit for 75 years, by dint of single-hearted unity.

Meanwhile, a national symposium, a national photo exhibition, a national art exhibition, a stamp exhibition and a national book exhibition took place in the run-up to the 75th founding anniversary of the DPRK. And central and local art troupes, including the central youth artistic motivational team, the workers’ artistic motivational team of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and the artistic motivational team of the Central Committee of the Socialist Women’s Union of Korea, gave colourful performances, revving up the festive atmosphere of the country.

The Alexandrov Academic Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Russian Army, on a visit to the DPRK, gave a grand performance to warmly congratulate the Korean people on the founding anniversary of their country.

Those celebrations instilled into the people the conviction that brilliant victory, glory and eternal prosperity are in store for the Republic as there

are the outstanding ideology and guidance of the great leader and the united strength of the people closely united behind the Party Central Committee.

They were a political event which proudly reviewed the 75-year-long history, during which the country created splendid examples in building a socialist state even in the face of all challenges and trials of history, regarding single-minded unity as the foremost weapon, and demonstrated to the whole world the dignity and prestige of the DPRK which ushers in a new era of self-respect and prosperity under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

They clearly showed the Korean people's boundless reverence for and absolute support to Kim Jong Un and their unshakeable faith and pure sense of moral obligation to follow him invariably.

After watching the paramilitary parade and the torchlight procession, the members of the Alexandrov Academic Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Russian Army said: We were deeply moved at the sight of the Korean people, who gathered in Kim Il Sung Square, warmly welcoming Comrade Kim Jong Un. Only the faithful people who are united around their leadership can create a beautiful life. Looking at the smiling images of the Korean people in the events, we could feel their happiness.

The celebrations powerfully demonstrated the valiant mettle and will of the Korean people who safeguard the national dignity and sovereignty and usher in a new era of national prosperity by dint of single-minded unity.

The majestic parade of the Juche-oriented paramilitary forces showed the will of the Korean people, shoulder-to-shoulder with the People's Army, to annihilate all the aggressors in the flames of all-people resistance, if they dare provoke. And the torchlight procession clearly showed the indomitable faith and militant spirit of the successors to always advance straight ahead following the Party.

Through the events, the Korean people fully demonstrated the superiority of their strong spirit of unity, organization and teamwork based on a high sense of self-consciousness and good discipline.

The celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK instilled in the people the great dignity and self-confidence in the strong country that had created a brilliant example in the independent development of a state and was carving out its future more staunchly in the face of harsh trials.

The national meeting held to celebrate the anniversary proved the iron truth that the 75-year-long history of the Republic adorned with victory and glory was inconceivable separated from the word "self-respect," and that the Republic emerged victorious in the fateful confrontation with imperialism and worked a new miracle of building in Korean style a powerful state with strong army, thanks to the great guiding ideology, a powerful political weapon of its government, and patriotism and wisdom of its people. It also engraved deep in the mind of the people that self-respect and dignity epitomize the history of the DPRK and are powerful weapons for occupying a position of a strong country.

The parade of the paramilitary troops that have stoutly supported the prosperity of the country with a rifle in one hand and a hammer or a sickle in the other and the torchlight gala of young people filled with mettle and enthusiasm to add glory to their precious title of socialist patriotic youth inspired the people with self-respect and pride in being the strong which no one dares to belittle, and confidence in eternal victory and bright future of the country.

Enjoying the grand artistic performance that eulogized the proud history of the country, which has pioneered and adorned the road towards an independent powerful state, with songs created in the stirring periods, the people cherished again the dignity and pride in being citizens of a prestigious powerful country.

The celebrations inspired the people with firm determination and passion to devote themselves to the eternal prosperity of the Republic.

They were a grand festival of victors that proudly reviewed the history of the Republic which prizes self-respect more than life and has heroically paved the untrodden path to defend it, that of single-hearted unity which demonstrated the mightiness and prestige of the country, solid and promising thanks to the strength of the great people faithfully supporting the leader with one mind and purpose.

Historic Event That Opened up New Chapter in DPRK-Russia Friendship

To consolidate unity and cooperation with anti-imperialist independent forces is the consistent policy and stand of the Workers' Party of Korea with regard to its foreign relations.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un visited the Russian Federation from September 12 to 17, 2023, at the invitation of Russian President Putin.

The official goodwill visit to the Russian Federation by Kim Jong Un was a historic event that put the DPRK-Russia relations to a new, strategic height and drastically changed the world's political landscape.

At that time the United States and the West were threatening that they would impose sanctions against the countries supporting and sympathizing with Russia, so many countries hesitated to give official support to Russia and, worse still, sided with the US and the West in their anti-Russia sanctions. Therefore, it was not an easy determination to make to render support to Russia.

Kim Jong Un's visit to the Russian Federation set up a new landmark in re-formulating the DPRK-Russia relations as those of comrades-in-arms and strategic ones of lasting significance.

To promote the bilateral friendly relations with a long history and traditions to a new high fully accords with the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

The Russian leadership focused an all-out effort on ensuring the personal safety of the DPRK leader during his stay in their country as it was at war.

The moment the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un set foot on Russia, the Russian leadership mobilized large forces for guarding him along the long route from Khassan, border area, to Vladivostok, via Vostochny Cosmodrome and Komsomolsk-on-Amur. They even blocked the ground, air and waters for a three-dimensional operation for the security, and selected the places

favourable for security work to be visited by him and took detailed measures beforehand.

Russian President Putin and the Russian leadership welcomed Kim Jong Un as the most honoured guest.

They had official welcoming ceremonies arranged in a grand style from the border railway station. Wherever the DPRK leader visited, he was greeted by cadres of national and local organs and escorted by them throughout his itinerary courses.

The Russian President welcomed Kim Jong Un at the entrance to the carrier rocket assembly and test complex of Vostochny Cosmodrome and accompanied him around it for over five hours. It was the first time for the Russian President to visit the Vostochny Cosmodrome with a foreign head of state and personally guided him around it.

A Russian official said: President Putin flew 1 000km to the Vostochny Cosmodrome to welcome Kim Jong Un just after taking part in the Eastern Economy Forum; he had waited for the Korean guest at the cosmodrome since half an hour before his arrival. For a Russian president, this is unprecedented. Never before in the history of Russia has there been an instance where all state organs have been involved in welcoming a foreign head of state.

Putin, as well as central and local organs, bodies and persons, presented souvenir gifts to Kim Jong Un.

During his visit, Kim Jong Un met Putin on several occasions.

The top leaders discussed the issues of further consolidating the bilateral friendship and solidarity and cooperative relations and boosting mutual trust by deepening the many-sided exchanges and cooperation in various fields including high-level visits. And they agreed to make joint efforts to promote the well-being of the peoples of the two countries and steadily expand comprehensive and constructive bilateral relations.

Kim Jong Un expressed his will to work out a far-reaching plan for the DPRK-Russia relations in the new era, stable and future-oriented, together with Putin, and to dynamically promote the powerful nation-building cause

in the two countries and realize genuine international justice under the plan.

Putin also expressed his will to expand bilateral cooperative relations with the DPRK in various fields in a many-sided way.

In connection with this, experts in Russia and elsewhere said that Putin buckled down to developing the relations with the DPRK in all fields including military technological cooperation.

Kim Jong Un's visit to the Russian Federation resulted in the formation of a DPRK-Russia anti-US allied front, and this was a heavy blow to the US imperialists and their followers.

International solidarity and cooperation between the countries aspiring after anti-US independence are a critical factor in frustrating the high-handed and arbitrary practices by the US and realizing international justice.

Kim Jong Un visited Russia when the new Cold War was brewing between Russia on the one hand and the US and its allies on the other. So, by contributing to strengthening the strategic and tactical cooperation between the world-class nuclear powers of the DPRK and Russia, this tour marked a watershed in reversing the structure of dynamics between Russia and the US and changing the international balance of forces.

By guiding the Korean delegation to the off-limits strategic objects, the leadership of Russia declared its willingness to strengthen military and technological cooperation with the DPRK.

Putin showed the Korean guest around the cosmodrome that had been out of bounds to any other heads of state. At the Komsomolsk-on-Amur Yuri Gagarin Aviation Plant, the Russian side even showed him Su-57, the fifth-generation fighter jet whose inner structure and flight deck were top secret as well as the special test flight of a Su-35 fighter jet produced by the plant. And at the Knevichi Airbase and the Pacific Fleet base, they gave him a detailed account of the up-to-date military planes of the Russian air force and new warships—the strategic bombers, multi-purpose fighters, pursuit fighters, raiders and frigates.

Regarding this fact, the mass media said: Russia has opened all its warplanes

and warships to Kim Jong Un. It seems that an armament exhibition is going on for him. This is the best form of hospitality extended to the Korean leader. It is amazing to see him reviewing the Russian armaments.

Experts and mass media of the countries hostile to the DPRK commented that Russia's will to form a military alliance with the DPRK was very strong and a powerful alliance targeting the West came into being.

The leaders of the two countries discussed the issues arising in defending the sovereignty and development interests of the two countries, peace and security in the region and the world beyond and international justice by further strengthening strategic and tactical cooperation between the two countries and extending strong support to and solidarity with each other on the common front to frustrate the imperialists' military threat, provocation and high-handed and arbitrary practices aimed at undermining independence, progress and peaceful life of humankind, and reached a satisfactory agreement and consensus of views.

With the formation of the anti-US common front between the two countries, America's pressure policy against the DPRK and Russia became doomed to failure.

As a result, the expansion and development of the DPRK-Russia cooperation produced a new fatal strategic variable that could thwart the US schemes to bring pressure to bear upon the DPRK and Russia, and this meant another incurable strategic headache for the US.

Russian mass media and experts said that Kim Jong Un's tour highlighted the strategic alliance between the DPRK, Russia and China and solidified their common front against the US.

4 Golden Age in Strengthening the Country's Defence Capability

The year 2023 witnessed a leap forward in bolstering up the DPRK's defence capability and the nuclear war deterrent.

The KPA reliably defended the peace and security of the region through its effective and powerful military drills in order to clearly show the DPRK's absolute will and practical war deterrent to the US imperialists and warmongers of the ROK who maximized the threats of a nuclear war against the DPRK.

With the building of the first tactical nuclear attack submarine and rapid progress in developing and producing the Juche-based weaponry, it demonstrated the reliability of the DPRK's nuclear strategic forces and struck unavoidable terror and threat to the hostile forces.

Not only as the main force in national defence but also as creators of the people's happiness, it fully displayed the militant mettle and might on all major fronts of socialist construction. By doing so, it etched great feats in the history of the development of the country.

In particular, the DPRK demonstrated its might as a powerful nation through the successful launch of the first military reconnaissance satellite.



KPA's Resolve to Annihilate the Enemy Recognized by Military Drills

Nuke for nuke and all-out confrontation for all-out confrontation—this is the unshakeable will of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK.

The KPA's military drills conducted in 2023 neutralized the manoeuvres for starting another war by the US imperialists and warmongers of the ROK who drove the situation to an extreme phase, thus providing a military guarantee for the struggle of the Korean people to open up a new era of prosperity for the country.

A notable feature of the KPA's drills was that they were aimed at dealing a nuclear strike in an offensive and consecutive way to mercilessly frustrate the hostile forces' manoeuvres to ignite a nuclear war.

Even revealing their intention to use nuclear arms against the DPRK, the US and the ROK conducted the exercise for the application of extended deterrent—making it a fait accompli to make a pre-emptive nuclear attack—and the massive-scale joint military exercise *Freedom Shield* and the largest-ever joint landing drill *Ssangryong*. Thus they drove the situation to the brink of a nuclear war.

The KPA responded to such acts for a nuclear test war with its tough military counteraction, as the enemy was clamouring for the “end of the regime,” “beheading operation” and “occupation of Pyongyang.”

On February 18, 2023, the 1st Red Flag Hero Company of the KPA successfully staged a firing drill for the ICBM *Hwasongpho-15*, and on February 20, the multiple rocket sub-units under the long-range artillery units on the western front hit virtual targets with 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rockets, which were among the most powerful of the army's tactical nuclear strike means. By doing so, they demonstrated its preponderant control

readiness over the joint air forces of the US imperialists and the ROK puppet army.

The ground-based firing drills of strategic cruise missiles on February 23 and March 22 and another underwater launching drill on March 12 by the KPA strategic cruise missile units fully verified the reliability of its weapon system and their readiness of rapid response.

Several drills simulating nuclear counterattack, conducted under Kim Jong Un's direction, dealt a consecutive blow to the hostile forces.

According to Kim Jong Un's order, on March 9 the sub-unit of the Hwasong artillery unit on the western front fired a powerful volley at the targeted waters in the West Sea of Korea set under the simulated conditions of the major elements of the enemy operation airport, thus confidently demonstrating its capability to counter an actual war.

The firing drill of ICBM *Hwasongpho-17* on March 16 and the combined tactical drills simulating a nuclear counterattack conducted on March 18



Strategic cruise missile firing drill

and 19 by the DPRK's nuclear forces, which were followed by similar drills in August and September, were a clear warning sent to those hostile forces clinging to derelict and reckless military threat.

Another important feature was that the command drill, involving the whole army, was conducted in an atmosphere of actual war to strategically and tactically control the attempts of the hostile forces to ignite an all-out war against the DPRK.



Hwasongpho-17 firing drill

To cope with the situation in which the US and the ROK military gangsters staged extremely dangerous large-scale joint exercises simulating an all-out war against the DPRK, the KPA General Staff launched a command drill involving the entire army on August 29 to judge and inspect the operation organizing and commanding abilities of the commanding officers and the staffs of the large combined units and combined units at all levels.

The drill, whose general goal was to occupy the whole territory of the ROK by repelling the enemy's sudden armed invasion and switching over to an all-out counterattack, was aimed at getting all the commanding officers and staffs of the entire army to make full preparations for war and have strong military response capability by helping them get familiar with action procedures in a period of transition to war system, further enhancing their combat operation organizing and commanding ability and confirming the feasibility of operation plans.

With a will to mercilessly defeat the enemy and win a victory, should they receive an order, the commanding officers conducted the drill in an atmosphere of actual war.

All those drills reliably defended the security of the state and peace in the region from nuclear war threat by the hostile forces, demonstrating the dignity and might of the country as a nuclear power and a military power.

The reality shows that a fundamental factor in controlling the US nuclear blackmail is the courage and boldness of a leader who commands nuclear armed forces, not nuclear armament itself.

The US imperialists, on the pretext of strengthening the extended deterrent, brought into the ROK a large amount of nuclear strategic assets composed of lethal weapons and equipment including nuclear strategic bombers B-52, B-52H and B-1B, stealth fighter jets F-22 and F-35B, air combat drone MQ-9 Reaper, nuclear carrier, nuclear submarine and missile pursuit craft, all of which they mobilized in conducting the largest-ever nuclear war exercises.

To cope with the situation, Kim Jong Un called several enlarged meetings of the Central Military Commission of the WPK, which decided upon important practical measures and military counteractions to exercise the country's war deterrent more effectively and apply them in a powerful and offensive way.

The KPA launched a succession of drills in a real-war atmosphere to frustrate the US manoeuvres for a nuclear war, thereby making the enemy realize how dearly the enemy would pay for its recklessness.

In conducting these drills it focused on achieving maximum efficiency by using the optimal means as appropriate for the circumstances.

While keeping a sharp watch on the enemy movements and provocations, it used to the best possible effect attacking means, striking methods and training modes at the most appropriate time to deal a fatal blow to the enemy.

For example, the KPA launched the firing drill of 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rockets on February 20, in response to the enemy's February 19 joint air drill involving strategic bomber B-1B and stealth fighter jet F-35 numbering a dozen.

As a tactical nuclear attack means capable of distributing one vehicle and four rockets for an enemy operation airport, the KPA's 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rockets shot the simulated targets within 395km and 337km ranges. The ROK puppets were at a loss what to do, talking the drill was conducted under the simulated conditions of attacking the US airfield in Kunsan and the airfield in Chongju.

Through the intensified practical actual drills, the KPA selected the stage and order of its nuclear counterattack drills and organized repeated training so that all the soldiers could get familiar with their action order and combat methods for rapidly switching over to a nuclear attack.

Through such intensive drills the KPA made it clear that it was ready for nuclear pre-emptive strike and nuclear counterattack, local war and all-out war, and that should the enemy dare to unleash a nuclear war, it would crush them by making a pre-emptive, super-intense nuclear strike.

The above-mentioned military drills were conducted at different places, at different times and by various methods, and this showed that the KPA would punish the nuclear warmongers' outrageous acts with more fierce attacks by using its reinforced nuclear means, wherever they were—in the US mainland or any other places.

On March 18 and 19 the KPA conducted its tactical nuclear operation units' combined tactical drill simulating nuclear counterattack.

With regard to it, the US media commented: Air explosion simulating the use of a nuclear warhead is a method to maximize its destructive power; before our nuclear pre-emptive attack against the DPRK, it will promptly launch its nuclear counterattack missiles towards us; the DPRK's development of ballistic missiles, a typical nuclear attack means, can neutralize our missile defence system.

When a foreign media said that the DPRK's ICBM could hit the central part of the US within 33 minutes, the US military authorities were aghast.

The ROK media said: If the US uses nuclear weapons against the DPRK, the latter's nuclear retaliatory means will raze the main part of the former's mainland. Biden's "quick, overwhelming and determinate response" is a mere "consolation speech" and honeyed promise for the Yoon Suk Yeol regime. Underwater missile is quite difficult to detect before its launch. What makes matters worse is that it can take low-altitude flight to avoid a missile defence system after its launch and it can also be controlled during its flight.

Through nuclear attack drills on several occasions, the KPA reexamined

its weapon systems, enhanced the actual war capabilities of the DPRK's nuclear combat armed forces while encouraging the people and giving them confidence in sure victory.

The general tactical drills simulating a nuclear counterattack conducted on March 18 and 19, which were aimed at checking up the procedure of giving and receiving an order of nuclear attack in a simulated emergency situation, regulations pertaining to handling nuclear weapons and their operation procedure according to various nuclear attack schemes and mastering the action order and combat methods for making the nuclear combat units switch over to a nuclear counterattack, contributed to completing the country's nuclear counterattack capability.

Witnessing the thrilling actual war drills, the Korean people were fully convinced that strengthening the nuclear forces in the face of all hardships and trials was the absolutely correct choice and their happy life and future lay in further consolidating the country's nuclear deterrent.

The KPA will further develop the country's war deterrent to control and smash the warmongers' confrontation moves with powerful nuclear counteractions, thus reliably defending the sovereignty of the country, well-being of the people and peace and safety of the region.

KPA's Death-defying Spirit Displayed in Economic Construction

To remain absolutely loyal to the Central Committee of the WPK and carry out its instructions unconditionally is the fighting spirit and mettle peculiar to the KPA.

In 2023, it demonstrated its revolutionary mettle in the projects for recovering from natural disasters and the major fronts of socialist construction, as well as in defending the country.

It is a natural duty of the KPA to defend the interests of the people and assets of the country, while coping with a war and unexpected non-military missions such as recovering from natural disasters.

On August 10, the heavy flooding caused by Typhoon No. 6 and tidal waves hit the Ogye-ri area, Anbyon County, Kangwon Province, breaking the banks and inundating over 250 hectares of paddy fields in the Ogye and Wollang farms.

On the order of emergency, KPA units immediately rushed the affected areas, repairing the dams in 12 hours and undoing damage that had been inflicted on the crops.

And when hundreds of hectares of rice fields were inundated in the heavy flooding which breached the dam of the reclaimed Ansok tideland in Sokchi-ri, Onchon County, Nampho, KPA units played a pivotal role in the rehabilitation project.

In 2023 the KPA service personnel built numerous monumental structures for the good of the people.

Those who were involved in the construction of 10 000 flats for the first stage of the Hwasong area housing construction completed the tasks for the stage—entresol building, roads, revetment of the Hapjang River, substructure construction and land levelling—and built 2 000 more flats. The inauguration

of the new street was held on April 16 in the presence of Kim Jong Un.

For the construction of another 10 000 flats for the second stage of the Hwasong area housing construction, they worked day and night and completed all processes in a three-dimensional way to add an ideal street to the capital city. Those who were seconded to the Komdok area housing construction built several- and multi-storey apartment houses for thousands of families to develop it into a wonderful mountain gorge town.

True to the WPK's ennobling intention to better the capital citizen's diet, the service personnel built modern greenhouses in the Kangdong area; they also finished the coastal dike construction, desalination project of Lake Kangnyong and repair of irrigation waterway, and rendered positive support to the farmers, thus making a tangible contribution to the rural rejuvenation.

In pushing ahead with the above projects the KPA demonstrated its revolutionary spirit of carrying through the instructions of the WPK Central Committee.

All these construction projects were massive in scale and unexpected hardships hindered their implementation.

However, the KPA service personnel achieved miraculous successes by turning impossible into possible, demonstrating their indomitable spirit of progress and fighting efficiency of the revolutionary army that unconditionally translates the plans and instructions of the WPK Central Committee into reality.

For example, at the construction site in the Hwasong area they, defying the biting cold of around 20°C below zero, set up a boiler for concrete mixing and applied a method of using electricity for mixture hardening. For the construction of greenhouses in the Kangdong area, they overfulfilled their daily quota at 250%, even levelling a hillock to secure enough supply of stones.

At the rehabilitation project site on the Anbyon Plain, the service personnel repaired the bank by running for ten or so hours with sacks of sand weighing

dozens of kilograms on their back. When the stream of water got strong enough to push away big rocks, all the officers and soldiers plunged themselves into the rapid stream to save the bank.

Thanks to their death-defying spirit the major socialist construction projects made rapid progress.

That year the KPA service personnel's campaign of gigantic creation instilled in all the people across the country a strong sense of patriotism.

The militant spirit and mettle, which they displayed in building structures and saving crops in the natural disaster areas, taught the people the true meaning of sincere devotion for the prosperity of their country.

When their paddy fields were inundated just before the harvest season, the officials and farmers of the Ogye and Wollang Farms in Anbyon County lost all their hope. They never thought they could reap a good harvest from them.

However, thanks to the soldiers' ardent love for their country, those affected fields yielded better crops than the previous year.

On receiving an emergency order, the soldiers were immediately deployed for the rehabilitation. Seeing this, the officials and other people of the county were very surprised. One of them said: When the Party Central Committee issued the order, the service personnel acted immediately. They arrived at the spot several hours earlier than the locals did. We felt keenly what it means to accept and implement the order of the Party Central Committee immediately.

The soldiers defied death to block the stream of water flowing into the paddy fields and cleaned the mud-stained rice plants with their hands. Seeing this selfless devotion, the locals and all the other people across the country came to a full realization of how they should work to protect the assets of the country.

The service personnel safeguarded the assets of the country and built many structures for the people in a full display of their death-defying spirit and their strong sense of patriotism in the most dangerous and challenging

theatres of socialist construction.

Witnessing their heroic struggle, the local people hardened their resolve to emulate them and work hard for a better future. One of them said that the valiant mettle displayed by the soldiers in taming the nature was very impressive, and another observed that they could achieve anything if they worked in the same fighting spirit.

First Reconnaissance Satellite *Malligyong-1*

The successful launch of the country's first reconnaissance satellite *Malligyong-1* ranked top among the innovative achievements the WPK and the people had made in building up the national defence capability in 2023.

The reconnaissance satellite achieved orbit on November 21.

The new-type launch vehicle *Chollima-1*, which blasted off at the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground, Cholsan County, North Phyongan Province, flew along the preset trajectory and succeeded in putting the reconnaissance satellite *Malligyong-1* into orbit 705 seconds after blast-off.

Kim Jong Un directed the whole course of the project.

Having visited the Pyongyang General Control Centre of the National Aerospace Technology Administration (NATA) on November 22, 24 and 25, he examined the aerial photos of Anderson Air Force Base and Apra Harbour on Guam in the Pacific, major military bases of the US forces—a naval base in the Pearl Harbour and the Hickam air-force base in Honolulu—and other photos of major target areas in the enemy region, including Mokpho, Kunsan, Phyongthaek, Osan, Seoul, Jinhae, Pusan, Ulsan, Phohang, Taegu and Kangnung taken by the reconnaissance satellite, acquainting himself with the preparatory work for its operation.

On the morning of the 27th and at dawn on the 28th and the 29th, he went over the satellite photos of Anderson Air Force Base on Guam in the Pacific, Norfolk Naval Base, the Newport News Dockyard and an airfield in Virginia,

the US, and the White House, the Pentagon and other objects in Washington, the San Diego Naval Base in California, the US, the Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa Prefecture of Japan from the Pyongyang General Control Centre of the NATA, and expressed his great satisfaction over the good preparations made for the operation of the reconnaissance satellite.

The successful launch of this reconnaissance satellite added a brilliant page to the history of the country.

Developing space science and technology is a key factor in securing the position of a military, economic and sci-tech power, and in demonstrating its overall national strength.

In particular, the situation, in which the US imperialists were not only using the ROK as an advance base for aggression and powder keg, while putting the deployment of reinforced nuclear strategic assets in the waters around the Korean peninsula on a permanent basis, but also growing undisguised in militarily threatening the DPRK's national sovereignty and territorial integrity on the pretext of combined readiness posture, urgently demanded that the DPRK rapidly develop its space defence science and technology and possess a reconnaissance satellite.

The Eighth Congress of the WPK set possessing a reconnaissance satellite as soon as possible as one of the five major goals for building up the country's defence capability, and as the most important of the tasks for strengthening its defences.

And the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK defined launching the first military satellite at the earliest date possible by stepping up final-stage preparations for developing the satellite and its launch vehicle, as the core task of the 2023 strategy for the development of the nuclear forces and national defence.

For the DPRK with a short history of space exploration, developing such a satellite, the core of space and military technology and an ensemble of advanced science and technology, was a huge challenge.

On March 8, 2022, Kim Jong Un visited the then National Aerospace

Development Administration (NADA) and learned in detail about the process of scientific research and development intended to attain the goals of space defence science and technology and encouraged the officials, scientists and technicians in the relative sectors to successfully develop a Korean-style reconnaissance satellite within the period set by the WPK Central Committee by getting united and closely cooperating with one another. And during his March 10 visit to the Sohae Satellite Launching Ground, he advanced the task of expanding it so that various rockets could be launched to carry multi-purpose satellites, including a military reconnaissance satellite, and illuminated ways for doing so.

On April 18, 2023, he visited the then NADA again and explained the role, strategic value and significance of the possession of military reconnaissance satellites in strengthening the self-reliant defence capability. Then he stressed that final preparations should be stepped up for launching the military reconnaissance satellite No. 1 within the set period, adding that the satellite intelligence-gathering capability should be established through the deployment of several reconnaissance satellites in different orbits.

On May 16 he visited a non-permanent satellite-launching preparatory committee to see the military reconnaissance satellite No. 1, for which the overhauling of assembled parts and the test in a space environment was completed before being loaded on a launch vehicle.

On May 31, the military reconnaissance satellite was launched amid the greatest expectations and concern of the WPK and the state, but it failed to achieve orbit.

Kim Jong Un reviewed the mistakes in the development of military reconnaissance satellite, and underlined that the officials and scientists in the sector of national defence science should be well aware of their mission and identify the cause for the failure before launching another in a short time. His encouragement inspired them with confidence in themselves.

Shortly afterwards, they succeeded in launching the reconnaissance satellite. The DPRK has now possessed its own aerospace reconnaissance

capability, and its armed forces have taken in their hands both the “eyes” to look over a very long distance and the strong “fist” to strike a target a very long distance away.

Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang General Control Centre of the NATA on November 22 and learned about the operation of the reconnaissance satellite in its orbit, its fine-tuning process and the state of aerospace photographing of a specific area under the ground command. And he highly praised the scientists and technicians in the field of space research for making a tangible contribution to the WPK’s cause of building a powerful and modern army.

The first reconnaissance satellite *Malligyong-1* is just a national strategic asset of Juche Korea.

The launch of the aforesaid satellite was a legitimate right of the DPRK for strengthening its self-defensive capabilities, and it made a significant contribution to definitely ramping up the war readiness of the armed forces in the security environment created in and around the country owing to the enemies’ dangerous military moves.

It was a huge step towards bolstering the country’s war deterrent and military capability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

To develop and operate a military reconnaissance satellite is of great strategic significance in modern warfare, in which the collection, analysis and control of information are conducted in real-time by means of ultra-modern equipment.

In the case of the DPRK, keeping a sharp watch on the military actions by the US and its vassal forces and identifying their character is a vital task directly related to the country’s security.

In order to possess perfect capabilities for rapid military response and for fighting a war, the DPRK’s armed forces should have their own military reconnaissance satellites at all costs.

With its own reconnaissance satellite orbiting the earth, a sure guarantee was provided for the KPA to build up its reconnaissance capability in the areas of operational interest, including the ROK, and increase its capability of

striking any part of the planet.

This meant that a reconnaissance satellite was no longer the monopoly of the hostile forces.

When the satellite's intelligence-gathering capability is established through the deployment of several reconnaissance satellites in different orbits, the KPA can get access to plenty of valuable real-time information about the hostile forces' anti-DPRK military moves.

Next, by launching this military reconnaissance satellite, the DPRK exercised its self-defensive right, raised its prestige and took a shortcut to rapid progress in its space exploration programme.

The development of a reconnaissance satellite is not merely a scientific research project, i.e. a project of developing a reconnaissance intelligence-gathering means. It contributes to defending the country's sovereignty and national interests, exercising its legitimate right to self-defence and elevating its prestige.

The United States is getting undisguised in trying to unleash a nuclear war against the DPRK, committing lots of equipment and means to detecting the latter's actions and sharing reconnaissance information with its vassal forces.

For the DPRK to develop its own reconnaissance satellite was the exercise of its legitimate right to self-defence, which it must never concede or waive to defend its security and deal with potential threats.

The birth of *Malligyong-1* demonstrated the DPRK's prestige as a military power to the whole world, reaffirming the fact that by developing the reconnaissance satellite, it fully exercised its sovereignty and legitimate right to self-defence which it would never renounce or barter for anything else.

It is the steadfast stand of the WPK and the DPRK government to turn the country into a space power by accelerating its space exploration programme.

At its historic plenary meeting held in March 2013, the WPK declared a line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the nuclear forces and put forward the task of focusing on the development of space science and technology to develop and launch more application

satellites including communications satellite.

The officials, scientists and technicians in the fields of space science research and defence science research achieved remarkable successes in their core space sci-tech studies to attain the immediate and long-term objectives of the space policy set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the fifth and sixth plenary meetings of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, the most significant of which was the successful launch of the country's first military reconnaissance satellite.

By doing so, they gained valuable experience in stepping up the development of various multi-purpose satellites, including weather and earth observation and communications satellites.



Commissioning of Tactical Nuclear Attack Submarine

The nuclear weaponization of the warship is an indispensable prerequisite for developing the KPA Navy as appropriate for reliably defending peace and security in the region and the rest of the world as well as the security of the country and the people.

September 6 in 2023 was an auspicious day of national significance, when a tactical nuclear attack submarine was commissioned and the KPA Navy marked the start of its renewed development.

That day the country's first tactical nuclear attack submarine was launched with due ceremony in the presence of Kim Jong Un, a remarkable contribution made by the workers of the country on the occasion of the 75th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

The No. 841 Hero Kim Kun Ok submarine was a new type of attack submarine, a standard model of tactical nuclear submarine, based on which the existing medium-sized submarines would be converted.

Designed to satisfy the demands of the Navy's strategy and the country's defence strategy and of its military planning for possible war, the submarine will be a real menace to the enemy, since it is capable of carrying many means of delivering nuclear warheads of various intensities and of launching a pre-emptive or retaliatory strike at a hostile state from any waters.

The WPK, in addition to the development-oriented, long-term plan for building nuclear submarines, mapped out an original plan to remodel all the other existing medium-sized submarines into attack ones which are capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons and of playing a key role in modern warfare.

Since the emergence of a nuclear submarine after World War II, it has been recognized that a nuclear submarine is powered by nuclear energy, and the power system, underwater cruising speed and standard of navigation

equipment—known as the operational capabilities in general—are very important.

But the WPK, from the original view that what type of weapons it is equipped with is most important and that when equipped with nuclear weapons, it is precisely a nuclear submarine, suggested a plan of building the tactical nuclear attack submarine as soon as possible at a low cost.

The country's first tactical nuclear attack submarine was a bright fruition of the Korean workers' tireless efforts.

The workers in this industry fully supported and applied with ardent patriotic loyalty the vital decision taken by the WPK at the crucial point that was decisive of the future of the naval forces and the security of the country,

Thanks to the devoted efforts of the workers, the DPRK's first underwater nuclear attack warship was launched into the inviolable territorial waters of the country.

The birth of the first tactical nuclear attack submarine was a great event promising the remarkable improvement of the national defence capability with the nuclear deterrent as the main axis, along with the rapid expansion of the combat capabilities of the KPA Navy, and a demonstration of the tremendous national strength which had been consolidated in the face of trials.

First of all, the birth of this tactical nuclear attack submarine marked the start of a new golden age in bolstering up the Juche-oriented naval force.

In view of the geopolitical peculiarity of the country, the global trend in warship development and the aggressiveness and character of the enemy's military actions, accelerating the development of the naval force was the most pressing task for national defence.

In order to take the initiative in the three-dimensional naval battle and fully exercise the right to self-defence in the sea, the Navy's military technical growth must be maintained in keeping with the ideological and spiritual superiority of the sailors, and the most important issue in this regard was nuclear weapons.

The workers in the munitions industry and scientists and technicians in

the defence science sector, who had joined the effort to implement the line of bolstering up the naval force set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK, built the tactical nuclear attack submarine without wavering even for a moment on the road for the country, revolution and people.

The establishment of the standard model of tactical nuclear submarine, which embodied the WPK's plan to convert the existing medium-sized submarines into attack ones, signified that the Navy's hardware took a leap of several decades and made a huge step forward towards nuclear weaponization.

Second, the commissioning of this tactical nuclear attack submarine made it possible to pre-emptively contain the US imperialists' moves for a nuclear war in the sea.

Over the past decades the DPRK's warship-building industry had directed its main efforts to building small submarines as a means of defeating the invading enemy in one stroke, in line with the Navy's mission of defending the country's territorial waters.

However, with the passage of time, much had altered in naval armaments and operational aspects.

It is the determination and will of the WPK to take preventive actions

against any possible intrusion into the territorial waters and make thorough preparations for dealing a fatal blow to the aggressors at any place in the sea, so as to put an end to the arrogant acts of the US imperialists who were resorting to nuclear threat while sailing around the world, and ensure the security of the state.

The commissioning of the tactical nuclear attack submarine signalled the start of the DPRK's ambitious voyage.

With the advent of this vessel, nuclear attack submarine, which had been regarded as a symbol of aggression against the DPRK for decades, now represented the might of the country, striking the impudent enemy with terror.

This made a breach in the maritime hegemony of the US, and a new change began to take place in the balance of naval forces between the DPRK and the US. The US is now compelled to face the reality which it hates to see and is most afraid of. It has no other option but to admit that its maritime supremacy would collapse shortly.

The pace of the DPRK arming its Navy with nuclear weapons will accelerate.



Powerful Weapons of the Juche Type

With the country being under ever-growing military threat, the WPK and the government of the DPRK has made persevering efforts to develop more advanced and powerful weapons.

The nation's defence capabilities, the nuclear war deterrent in particular, witnessed rapid growth, thanks to the defence scientists and workers in the munitions industry who achieved a great leap forward in 2023 in developing and producing weapons of the Juche type.

First, they developed new-type strategic weapon systems as a key component of the national strategic forces.

The defence industry made great strides in upgrading the long-range nuclear strike capability which is of strategic significance in implementing the five core tasks of the five-year plan for increasing the national defence capability set forth at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

April 13 saw the test-firing of new-type ICBM *Hwasongpho-18*, which would discharge its mission as a core, major means of the strategic forces of the DPRK, as an important war deterrent.

This was aimed at confirming the performance of high-thrust, multistage solid-fuel engines, stage separation technology and reliability of the functional control systems, and at assessing the usefulness of the new-type strategic weapon system for military purposes. The missile hit the targeted waters in the East Sea of Korea. The numerical values of the test showed that all the essentials of the new-type strategic weapon system satisfied the requirements of the design, guaranteeing that it could become a more powerful strategic offensive means effective for military purposes.

Another test-firing of new-type ICBM *Hwasongpho-18* was conducted on July 12, aimed at verifying the technical features of the weapon systems at maximum range. The missile hit the targeted waters in the East Sea of Korea.

The defence industry also developed the unmanned underwater nuclear attack boat *Haeil*, a newly-developed underwater strategic weapon system.

The boat, able to be put into operation on any coast, port or a vessel, can make super-powerful radioactive tidal waves through an underwater explosion after sneaking into operational waters, destroying warship flotilla and military port of the enemy.

In March a test was conducted on the underwater operation of the boat and the explosion of its warhead to assess the tactical and technical specifications and navigational indices. The results verified reliability and stability of the boat, as well as its lethal strike capability.

The defence industry developed new-type high-thrust solid-fuel engines for medium-range ballistic missiles of strategic significance, conducting the first static firing test of the first-stage engine on November 11 and the first static firing test of the second-stage engine on November 14.

The first static firing tests of the first- and second-stage engines produced satisfactory results, clearly reconfirming the reliability and stability of the designing and manufacturing technical capabilities of the high-thrust solid-fuel engines. This provided a sure guarantee for stepping up the development of new-type medium-range ballistic missile systems.

In addition, a virtual drill for nuclear counterstrike was staged to verify the scientific accuracy, reliability and stability of the state's combined nuclear weapon management system *Nuclear Trigger*.

The above innovative successes paved the way for the country's strategic forces to prevent war and safeguard peace and prosperity by means of advanced and diversified nuclear attack capability.

Second, rapid progress was made in upgrading military hardware.

The defence industry developed strategic reconnaissance drone and the multi-purpose attack drone, both of the latest type, thereby carrying out one of the major tasks of the five-year plan for the development of defence science and weapon systems that was put forward at the Eighth Congress of the WPK.

The drones, which were made public at the Weaponry Exhibition-2023,



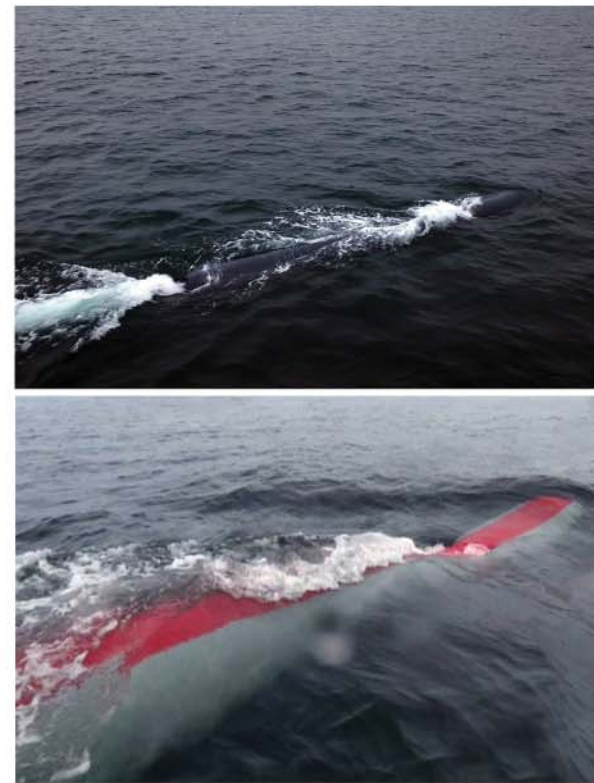
First test-firing of *Hwasongpho-18*

flew over Kim Il Sung Square during the military parade held to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War. During the event the scene of a missile from a multi-purpose attack drone striking the ground target was shown on a large LED screen.

The defence industry achieved remarkable successes including the realization of remote control of multiple launch rockets and the development of multi-purpose armoured vehicle.

All the above achievements rendered a tangible contribution to strengthening the KPA's combat capability to cope with modern warfare.

They showcased the enormous potentials of the DPRK's defence science and technology.



Test-firing of strategic underwater weapon

The newly-developed ICBM *Hwasongpho-18*, an upgraded version of the previous model *Hwasongpho-17* developed in the previous year, and other cutting-edge military hardware such as unmanned underwater nuclear attack boat *Haeil*, strategic reconnaissance drone and multi-purpose attack drone, offered a glimpse into the level of the country's defence science and technology.

The world media and military experts commented: The DPRK is rapidly developing latest weapons by itself. It succeeded in the test-firing of *Hwasongpho-17* with a liquid-fuel engine, 25 months after its being made public at a military parade. But in the case of the solid-fuel-propelled ICBM *Hwasongpho-18*, it was five months. In other words, it has taken only two test-firings for it to verify the solid-fuel technology.

Regarding the drones that were made public in the military parade held to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the Ria Novosti, Reuters and other mass media and military experts commented: The DPRK's drones are very similar to the US strategic assets RQ-4 and MQ-9 Reaper. The weather was bad, but these drones flew at low altitude. This proves that they are highly advanced weapons capable of achieving their missions irrespective of climatic conditions, whether rain or whirlwind.

The successes achieved in developing and manufacturing Juche-oriented weapons struck extreme uneasiness and horror in the hostile forces and encouraged the Korean people in their struggle to usher in a new era of national rejuvenation.

The powerful entities demonstrated the golden age of consolidation of the defence capability.

The test launch of the new type of ICBM was a practical warning that clearly showed the United States and its allies the country's unshakeable will of overwhelming counteraction and the entity of its physical strength and made them realize the danger and recklessness of their military option against the country.

As for the successful launch of *Hwasongpho-18*, the US media and experts commented:

It is difficult to detect the pre-launch signs of the ICBMs of *Hwasongpho-18* version even with the help of the monitoring and reconnaissance assets. They have neutralized the missile defence system of the United States and Republic of Korea. A hole has been created in the missile defence policy of mainland US. The DPRK's solid-fuel ICBM will be a major concern of the United

States. Its recent test launch constitutes a great progress in the capability of its nuclear weapons.

When the news of the DPRK's test of underwater strategic weapon system was made public, the enemy media analyzed it with extreme fear, commenting that *Haeil* is a kind of "nuclear torpedo" and an "ultimate tactical nuclear weapon," and its destructive power is equivalent to "the terminator of the earth," and it is an "undetectable stealth weapon."

As for the country's drones, the enemy media and experts commented:

The world-class drones, developed two years after the WPK advanced the strategic task of developing drones at its Eighth Congress, have become a real threat. The strategic reconnaissance drone carries an image collecting device at its head, which looks like a synthetic aperture radar, and the fighter drone has three weapons pods on each wing, surpassing the US drone with two pods.

The super-strong Juche-based weapons, developed at a great speed with the *Hwasongpho-18*, the major weapon of the country's strategic forces, as a start, instilled great confidence and courage in all the people across the country in their struggle to glorify the year 2023 as the one of great turn and transformations. Witnessing the continued development of nuclear deterrent, the people realized once again the strength and potential might of their country and were convinced of the great victory of the comprehensive development of socialism and of the future of a stronger and more prosperous country.

After seeing the military parade held in celebration of the 70th anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, they said:

"Seeing the weapons passing the square of parade, symbolizing the inexhaustible defence capability, I could not suppress surging excitement."

"I became sure of the indomitable might and unquenchable development potential of our Republic."

"I was firmly convinced of the bright future of a powerful socialist country."



Conclusion

The Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held from December 26 to 30, 2023.

The meeting proudly reviewed the successes achieved by the united efforts of the Party and the people in 2023.

In waging the struggle that year, the Korean people did not simply spend the third year in implementing the five-year plan; they created favourable conditions and a durable springboard for accelerating the speed of advance in all fields of socialist construction and national defence.

The national economy attained all the 12 major goals it had set for the year.

Grain by 103%

Electricity, coal and nitrogen fertilizer by 100%

Rolled steel by 102%

Non-ferrous metals by 131%

Timber by 109%

Cement and cloth by 101%

Seafood by 105%

Rail transport of cargoes by 106%

Houses under construction by 109%

Other economic sectors fulfilled or overfulfilled their production quotas, showing the remarkable production growth in the overall economy and the establishment of discipline in the implementation of the plan. The results are as follows:

Electromotors by 220%

Transformers by 208%

Bearings by 121%

Electrolyzed zinc by 140%

Lead by 121%

Paper by 113%

Salt by 110%,

Cosmetics by 109%

Plate glass by 100%

Magnesia clinker by 104%

The sectors increased the production of *samhwa* iron by 3.5 times, pig iron by 2.7 times, rolled steel by 1.9 times, machine tools by 5.1 times, cement by 1.4 times and nitrogen fertilizer by 1.3 times as compared to the year 2020 prior to the Eighth Congress of the WPK; and the GDP increased by 1.4 times.

In general, 2023 was a year of great turn and transformations, which left an indelible trace in the course of development of the Republic in bolstering the national strength and raising the national prestige.

This was the fruition of the heroic struggle of the people to open a new phase of prosperity and development with a firm determination and through tenacious efforts.

The Korean people will brilliantly carry out the cause of building theirs into a powerful country, upholding the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea with loyalty in the future, too.

2023: Year of Transformations

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Published by Foreign Languages Publishing
House, DPR Korea

Issued in December 2024

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In 2023 the DPRK demonstrated its prestige and national strength to the whole world and achieved one miraculous success after another.

The people gained remarkable successes in all fields of socialist construction, overcoming harsh trials by dint of patriotism.

