



On the Road for People's Wellbeing

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Preface

The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il devoted himself heart and soul for the wellbeing of the Korean people.

In leading the revolution he found the joy and worth of his life in the happy smiles he saw where he visited. His trips for field guidance continued around the country, his heart burning with love for his people all the time.

As the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un said, General Kim Jong Il's patriotic mind had always been filled with the word *people*.

Whatever he was thinking of or planning to do, the great General's first consideration was the people's interests.

This book contains a selection from the countless stirring anecdotes that tell of his lifelong devotion to the people.

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Go Among the People

On the morning of one June day in 1964, an official was talking on the phone in his office, when he noticed Kim Jong Il standing close by.

He jumped to his feet, feeling sorry that he had kept Kim Jong Il waiting for so long.

Kim Jong Il motioned him to sit down and continue with his work. He himself stood still for a good while, his eyes resting on the documents piling up on the desk.

Then he asked the official whether he had inspected Sunan or Samsok lately.

The latter replied no.

Kim Jong Il said:

You should have done so. These days some people complain about the difficulty they have catching buses and trains, and also about the crowded restaurants, I have been told. Instead of making phone calls and going over documents, you should go among the people to acquaint

yourself with the actual state of affairs. Then you will have a good understanding of their wants and sentiments and satisfy their needs in time. Our Party's important mission is to formulate correct lines and policies in time by reflecting the people's demands and aspirations and rouse them to the effort for their implementation. This requires that the Party learn in detail about the people's demands and the difficulties they experience. So, we, Party officials, should go among the people.

Listening to this, the official reflected remorsefully on his work style.

Kim Jong Il resumed that as a Party official, he should set an example in this respect, adding that then other officials at lower echelons would follow suit.

The official said yes.

From then on, he made efforts to get first-hand knowledge of how things were going in the capital city. As he found out, in addition to the above problems of bus, train and restaurant, the people were unhappy about a lack of recreational parks in the city.

After being briefed on the situation, Kim Jong Il said:

I am glad that you now have a correct view on the

masses. If you hang around in your office, you will know nothing about the people's opinions. As you have learned, they say that there are not enough parks in the city though we have built new parks like the Youth Park and the Taesongsan Pleasure Park. And we do not have plenty of restaurants, trains and buses. What does this reality teach us? This is, in effect, a criticism that our officials lack loyalty to the Party, the working class and the people. What they say is right. We should lend an ear to their opinions. We should go among the people.

Rebirth of a Traditional Dance Piece

In March 1970 Kim Jong Il was directing the preparations for a music and dance performance to be given at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre on the occasion of the March 8 International Women's Day.

He studied the programme of the performance for a long while, and asked officials if it would be good to add the Sadang dance to it, as suggested by some people.

An official answered that they did not include the dance piece in the programme because it was an outdated dance created by wanderers in olden days. In saying this, he wondered why Kim Jong Il was interested in such a thing, and others looked dumbfounded by this question.

Reading their minds, Kim Jong Il smiled and said that they all had a misguided idea of what this dance was about.

He began to explain:

Dating back to the feudal age, the dance was created by Korean wanderers who earned their living by singing and dancing in towns and villages. Such people were called *sadang*. Performed mainly on holidays or in crowded places, it helped enlivening the mood as it consisted of extemporary and dexterous movements. It had neither set pattern nor clear ideological and thematic content or styles. Yet, simple and unique, its movements vividly reflected the national feelings.

This explanation came as a surprise to all the officials and creative workers, who had long held a wrong idea of the word *sadang*. Yet, they stood dumb as they were unable to decide what to do about it.

Kim Jong Il suggested renaming it trio dance and gave advice on where to put it in the programme.

After inquiring about the selection of dancers, he stressed that all the artistes should perform well as the audiences would include all the foreigners in Pyongyang.

This was how the traditional dance piece was put on stage to add value to the excellence of the nation.

Transplanting Rice Seedlings

The following happened in May 1971 when Kim Jong Il visited Chongsan-ri.

He was standing on a threshing ground overlooking a broad expanse of paddy and non-paddy fields.

Some artistes, who had been helping farmers there, rushed towards him.

When he held out his hand in greeting, they looked hesitant with their eyes falling on their soil-stained clothes. He told them that he was there to see them working in the fields, adding that he would not mind holding their grubby hands. He shook hands with them one by one, reiterating

that he came there to hold their soil-stained hands.

He asked if there was anybody who fell sick, saying that he was very pleased to see them working in high spirits.

Then he offered to go to the fields where the artistes were working, before leading the way.

Upon seeing him walking towards the paddies where they were transplanting rice seedlings, the artistes hurried out and greeted him.

He said hello and shook hands with them one after another.

A woman was seen hiding herself behind another's back, apparently feeling too shy to appear before him with a stained face.

Kim Jong Il smiled at her and said that he was not there to see how well she had made herself up to perform on the stage, adding that he had wanted to see the artistes working in the paddies.

Then he gripped her dirty hand and then those of some others who came late.

After shaking hands with all of them, he took a bunch of rice seedlings and stepped into a paddy where the muddy water was knee-deep.

The artistes and the officials in his company did not imagine that he would do the transplanting himself.

Time seemed to be running on, and an official asked Kim Jong Il to stop working.

Kim Jong Il continued working, saying that he should finish the bunch he was holding.

Key to Solving Problems

As the year 1975 began, the officials of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea made concerted efforts to draw up a plan for the 30th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

As they thought that the plan was quite good, they wanted to ask Kim Jong Il for advice on the direction for their work in the year.

In January Kim Jong Il met a woman official of the above federation.

He said that as she and her colleagues wanted, he found the time to talk with the official, who was representing the working class.

He then asked her what they were going to do for the good of workers.

The official began to explain the plan. After listening to what she had to say, Kim Jong Il spoke highly of their plan, and asked if they had discussed it with workers.

To the official, the question came as a great surprise, as they thought they would carry out the plan if Kim Jong Il agreed on it.

Noting that they did not seem to be working properly, Kim Jong Il told her the following story:

Formerly, rice plants often collapsed at their ripening season in the countryside.

President Kim Il Sung tasked agricultural officials and scientists with identifying the causes and taking necessary steps. However, this problem proved to be a hard nut to crack, remaining unresolved for years. Some officials argued that as grains of rice ripened, the upper part of the plants grew heavy and the rainy wind could bring them down.

It was a pity to let those precious grains go to waste when they almost ripened, having been cultivated with so much effort.

In trying to find a solution to this problem the President travelled around the countryside—paddy fields in the lowlands, terraced fields in the intermediary zones and the highlands. He studied how the paddies in which rice seedlings had been transplanted early differed from the seedbeds where the transplantation had been done later. He also compared the amounts of manure and fertilizer, as well as the year-on-year weather conditions.

In doing so he never failed to seek advice from those working at farms—technicians, workteam leaders, sub-workteam heads and farmers in charge of water control—to say nothing of agricultural scientists.

While talking with these farmers, he found out that rice plants collapsed on the paddies where an excessive amount of nitrogen fertilizer had been applied. To cite an example, the site of a seedbed was fixed where the soil was mostly clayey, a place rich in nitrogen. Before rice seedlings were transplanted in this seedbed, a large amount of manure and then nitrogen fertilizer were spread. This made matters worse, which resulted in the rice plants falling in the ripening season.

Finishing his story, Kim Jong Il continued:

As you can see, the masses of the people hold the key to solving problems. Go among workers and ask for their opinion about your plan. The opinion of workers is just the thought of our Party, which is what our revolution demands. In a word, our Party does what the working class wants to do.

Perfume Sprayer

It was in September 1979 when the construction of the Changgwang Health Complex was at its final stage.

Looking up at the building, Kim Jong Il asked about the people's opinions on the construction project.

An official answered that they liked it and there were a lot of volunteers who were working at the construction site.

Beaming broadly, Kim Jong Il said that he was glad to hear it.

After going over the designs and some samples of the finishing materials in the corridor of the first floor, he suggested putting perfume sprayers at the bathrooms.

Officials wondered what a perfume sprayer was.

With a smile on his face, Kim Jong Il said that with such a sprayer installed at the bathroom, the people could apply perfume after a haircut or a bath.

Then he recalled what had happened during his foreign trip, saying:

During my visit to the Soviet Union I saw an old man putting a coin into a machine, which immediately sprayed perfume. The machine made in that country was quite good.

Witnessing the scene, Kim Jong Il had decided that he would have such machines installed in his country.

He went on to say:

When they see a perfume sprayer at the bathroom, our people will like it.

This was how perfume sprayers were put in the health complex.

Design Rejected

One day in January 1980 Kim Jong Il, proposing building an ice rink in Pyongyang, said to officials:

If the ice rink is built in Pyongyang, we will have completed all the projects which President Kim Il Sung wished to have built. The ice rink should be built well so that it can host even international games. It would be a good idea to roof it so that it can be used both in winter and in summer. The ice rink should be smaller than a football stadium, yet it should be designed to host both hockey and figure-skating games.

The designers, true to his intention, completed a unique style of design.

One day, while going over the design, Kim Jong Il asked why the ice rink was designed to suspend its operation from June to October.

An official answered that they thought it would be reasonable to suspend the operation in the warm months as cooling equipment, more expensive than the equipment

freezing the water, had to be used to cool the indoor air in summer.

Kim Jong Il suggested redrawing the design, adding that if the ice rink had to suspend its operation for five months a year there was no need to build it, and that he would have all the necessary cooling equipment provided so that it could be operated all year round.

And having found that the equipment for artificially changing the stale indoor air was not foreseen in the design, he said:

We can never allow even an iota of polluted air to remain inside the ice rink. We should replace the 100 per cent of air in it with fresh air. Capitalists are attentive to the costs of construction and operation of a structure, but in the construction for the good of our people money is not the major factor. You should draw a design again with a people-oriented viewpoint.

Thus, the first design was rejected.

The designers worked on a new design with a focus on ensuring that the ice rink was operated in all seasons and filled with fresh air all the time.

At the Chongnyu Restaurant

Kim Jong Il visited the Chongnyu Restaurant in November 1981, just before its inauguration.

Being guided around the dining rooms for families, he halted at the door of room 1.

He commented that the tables in the restaurant were designed well, adding that the table in the dining room for families, which was designed in a traditional style, was good.

Then he asked an official to sit at the table and see whether it was not high.

Seeing the official sitting at the table, Kim Jong Il compared his sitting posture with the height of the table.

After thinking carefully, he said:

The table is rather high. It should be taken into account that this dining room is for families. It would be all right with adults, but children will be very uncomfortable sitting at that table. This room is supposed to provide a happy family setting, and how will parents feel if their

children are complaining? The table should be lower for the convenience of children. Obviously, it is high. With dishes laid on the table, what will it be like?

Then, making the rounds of the dining halls on the second floor, he asked an official how many customers the restaurant could accommodate a day after its inauguration.

After listening to the official's reply, Kim Jong Il asked how long they were presumed to sit in the rooms.

The answer was 40 minutes.

After a moment, Kim Jong Il said it was too short.

Officials looked confounded, as his comment was far from what they had expected. The time for dining had been a key subject of discussion among them, with some claiming that half an hour was enough and some others arguing that it should be up to 40 minutes. At last they had agreed on 40 minutes, as it was the longest time they insisted on.

Kim Jong Il said:

When they have long-awaited guests at home or happen to meet friends, people will take them to this restaurant. They will not be parting after a short meal here. Probably, they will enjoy themselves here having a long chat. In my

opinion, even an hour is short.

After a pause, he went on:

We have expended a huge fund and large quantities of materials to build this excellent restaurant. We have never done so to earn money. Our intention is to ensure that the people have a pleasant time here taking their favourite dishes to their heart's content. You should reconsider the time and operate the restaurant well.

Later, the time for dining was set to be much longer than 40 minutes.

Who Is the Banquet Hall for?

It happened in July 1990 when Kim Jong Il visited the Sinhung Restaurant during his field guidance trip around South Hamgyong Province.

After exchanging greetings with its officials, he said that he wanted to see how the restaurant was serving noodles as he remembered its noodles had been famous previously. He then added, jokingly, that he came to "inspect" the restaurant.

After being shown around several rooms of the restaurant, which had been built by the province, he stopped at a banquet hall.

He looked carefully at the interior of the hall, and asked the officials whether it looked bigger than that at the Okryu Restaurant.

He smiled, saying that the people of South Hamgyong Province would not want to be inferior to others and they had built the Hamhung Grand Theatre to be the second largest theatre in the country after the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

He was pleased, saying that it was good for the province to have such a wonderful banquet hall.

Then he asked a woman official of the restaurant how they were using the banquet hall.

“We use the banquet hall when there are important national events and provincial ceremonies,” she replied.

Kim Jong Il paused for a second and said:

This large banquet hall at the Sinhung Restaurant should be used by the citizens of Hamhung in ordinary days. You have said that it is used for provincial banquets and the like, not in ordinary days. This is wrong. It can be

used for provincial banquets and for the events attended by foreigners, but in ordinary days tables should be set up here to serve the citizens noodles.

He continued to say that there was no need to keep the wonderful banquet hall closed most of the time, adding that it would be better to use it for the working people.

In fact, the officials had never thought of using the banquet hall for ordinary customers.

Kim Jong Il went on:

The banquet hall at the Okryu Restaurant is being used by Pyongyang citizens every day. You should open the doors for the people. The best facilities in our society should serve the people. It seems that lighting will not be strong enough if the banquet hall is filled with people. It should be brighter. And as the humidity level in the interior is somewhat high, an air conditioner should be installed here.

When taking his departure, he told the official of the restaurant that they should work hard to decorate the restaurant better and improve the quality of its dishes, and promised that he would come again later.

New Year's Day Spent with Children

On New Year's Day in 1997, when it was sleeting, Kim Jong Il visited Mangyongdae Revolutionary School.

One of its students put a red tie around his neck as a way of greeting.

Kim Jong Il patted the boy affectionately on the back.

Then he was guided around the classrooms, bedrooms, dining hall, etc.

In the dining hall he learned about how lunch was prepared for the students, and in a bedroom, he sat on a bed to feel whether the mattress was soft.

While he was watching an artistic performance given by the children, he often wiped tears from his eyes with his handkerchief.

When the performance was over, the children on the stage dashed towards him, calling, "Father!"

Some snuggled into his chest and some others clung to his arms, all asking him to have a photo taken with them.

Kim Jong Il readily agreed, but after a moment's thought said that it was not a good day for photographing and suggested delaying it till a spring day.

A senior official of the school said that it was an ardent wish of the students.

Seeing the children who were on a stand to pose for a camera, Kim Jong Il said that as they had already stood there, he would have a photo taken with them that day and another one, during his next visit.

So, as they wished, the students had a photo taken with him.

Some hours after his departure, several trucks arrived at the school, carrying loads upon loads of pheasants, confectionery, school things and articles for their sporting and cultural activities.

All wept tears of joy and gratitude.

What the People Like Most

On the afternoon of one March day in 1997, Kim Jong Il was going round the Central Zoo.

After seeing the cages for animals of prey and horses, he went to the aviary, in which vultures and golden eagles were flapping their big wings.

Recalling that the birds had been caught in the Maengsan area by the soldiers and he had them sent to the zoo, he said that they were big and looked brave.

He then changed the subject and asked an official what the people liked most at the zoo.

After listening to the latter's reply, he smiled, looking as if he was picturing in his mind the happy faces of the visitors.

He said: I am pleased to hear that what visitors to the zoo liked most is to see the horses, which I sent to the zoo, running in its compound. You have said that they also like to see various species of pet dogs and hounds here. It is good. As it is a place for the people, the zoo should have

many animals liked by the people. Whenever I have rare species of dogs and other new animals, I have them sent to this zoo.

The official of the zoo said to him:

The pony sent by you gave birth to a baby. We had a small cart decorated with flowers and the horse harnessed to it. Children really enjoy touring the zoo on the cart.

Kim Jong Il smiled again, saying that it was good to have the children look around the zoo on the flower-decorated cart.

Acorn Jelly

In October 1998, in a talk with officials, Kim Jong Il asked about food supplies for the people.

The officials felt guilty for not supplying enough food to the people, and could not find the words to say about the food shortage they were suffering from.

Kim Jong Il urged them to speak, and one of them replied that as the food situation in the country was serious,

some people had to take acorn jelly at mealtimes.

Kim Jong Il was lost in thought for a while and suggested that he and the officials should eat acorn jelly for lunch that day.

By this offer the officials were nonplussed, one of them dissuading Kim Jong Il from doing so. He added that the people would not forgive them if they knew it.

Kim Jong Il smiled and said that he was alright and he should eat whatever the people ate.

Lunchtime came, and acorn jelly was served at the table.

Kim Jong Il said: I ate twists made of corn flour during my last trip for field guidance. Now we are taking acorn jelly.

After taking some of it, he went on to say:

As we have suffered from the shortage of food for several years, our people have developed substitute foods to supplement the diet. Officials should always mingle with the people, taking what they eat and sharing weal and woe with them. Then they can faithfully serve the people with a good understanding of their living conditions and sentiments. We are blessed with the people, a source of

unique pride for us. Today, when the country is undergoing the forced march, we should not lord it over the people. We should become faithful servants working hard for their benefit.

Warm Affection

It happened in September 1999 when Kim Jong Il visited Jagang Province for field guidance.

One day, when meeting with exemplary women officials in the province, he said:

Today I summoned you as I wanted to have a meal with you, who are exemplary officials in Jagang Province. You have probably taken cold noodles at the Okryu Restaurant when you were in Pyongyang for a meeting or during your business trip to the capital. So, I wanted to serve you the noodles here.

The women said thanks almost in a chorus.

Acknowledging them, Kim Jong Il urged them to sit and take the noodles.

As the women were sitting still with tears filling their

eyes, he urged them repeatedly and pushed the bowls closer to them, saying that he would take the noodles after them.

He gave them rolls of cloth as his gifts and filled their glasses to toast them as he was having the noodles with them.

A family atmosphere pervaded the room.

Kim Jong Il spent quite a long time with them, highly praising them for their patriotic deeds and the successes in their work.

In particular, he asked the manageress of the Kanggye Winery to take good care of her ailing husband. The day before, when talking with the manageress at the winery, he had learned that her husband was bedridden. He had told her, half jokingly and half consolingly, that her husband must have been drinking too much, emphasizing that heavy drinking was bad for health.

Recalling this, the manageress was deeply moved by his close concern.

Later, in May 2007, Kim Jong Il visited the winery again. He recognized the manageress and smiled, asking about her health and work.

One of his entourage gave him a detailed account of how she was working.

After listening carefully, Kim Jong Il spoke highly of her. When he was guided into a wine storage chamber, he said to the chief secretary of the provincial Party committee:

Since olden times Kanggye has been widely known for having many beautiful women, and there were lots of prostitutes here. You, chief secretary, are now in charge of this province, and, formerly, it was a provincial governor who was in charge. As I have heard, successive governors of the province were unwilling to leave this place as they were seduced by prostitutes. I am afraid you would refuse to leave the province as you are strongly attached to this trove of wine.

All the officials laughed at this joke.

At that moment the manageress said, in trying to defend her superior, that the chief secretary was teetotal.

Kim Jong Il laughed louder, saying that he knew it.

The manageress now smiled shyly, realizing that Kim Jong Il was making this joke as a way of appreciating her for her past successes.

Noodles Garnished with Meat

One day in November 1999, while talking to officials about serving the people traditional foods at public catering facilities, Kim Jong Il broached the subject of brisket-garnished cold noodles in flat vessel.

The officials were surprised, for such noodles had been enjoyed only in the royal court in the past.

In those years the country was experiencing economic difficulties, and the officials had never conceived of serving the people noodles garnished with brisket.

As if he was reading their minds, Kim Jong Il said that it would be a good idea to garnish the noodles with chicken instead of brisket and the Okryu Restaurant should serve the noodles to the people.

He continued:

If the noodles garnished with chicken are named meat-garnished noodles and are served to the people, the people will be delighted. Since the Party is determined to build many modern chicken farms to solve the chicken

problem, it will be possible to prepare the noodles in flat vessel with chicken to be produced from those farms and serve them to the people. As chickens to be produced from the chicken farms are big, it will be possible to garnish several vessels of cold noodles with a chicken. The chicken meat for a vessel should be large in amount. As I told you, you should have some noodles prepared, and let the officials in relevant sectors and those at the Okryu Restaurant try them and then the restaurant serve the noodles to the people. You should ensure the quality of the noodles from the start.

Soon afterwards, the Okryu Restaurant began to serve the meat-garnished noodles.

Focus on Workers

One April day in 2001 Kim Jong Il visited a goat farm.

After looking round the farm, he suggested having a photo taken and asked which would be an ideal place.

There came no answer from the officials.

Pointing to the steps under the plaque reading “Milk-

processing Room,” Kim Jong Il said: This spot seems good. Let us pose for a photo here.

With the officials of the farm standing on both of his sides, he looked back and said that he could not find the girls. By the girls, he meant the workers whom he had seen in the milk-processing room.

An official explained that they were still working inside the room.

Kim Jong Il urged the official to bring them there for the photo.

An official rushed into the room.

Actually, the girls were looking out of the window when the officials were posing for a photo with Kim Jong Il.

Upon learning that they were being called, they ran outside and stood beside the officials.

Kim Jong Il motioned the workers to come closer, saying that the focal point should be on them.

They moved as he said, two of them holding his arms. The workers now standing close to him, the camera clicked.

Chickens, 270 Days Old

It happened in December 2001 when Kim Jong Il visited the Kanggye Chicken Farm.

He enjoyed a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains and the buildings of the farm, before commenting:

The chicken farm sits in a quiet mountain valley. Its location is very appealing. The surrounding scenery is so wonderful that I feel as if I were in a holiday resort.

When he was coming out of building No. 1 at the fattening workshop, he found some of the chickens were much bigger than others. So, he had one of them weighed out.

Smiling, he asked how much it weighed.

An official answered that it was 7.8kg.

Looking at the scale of the balance, Kim Jong Il said that the chicken weighed 7.8kg and that its feet looked like those of an eagle.

A senior official of the province told him that some of

the big chickens weighed more than 9kg.

He began to explain why they had been kept till that day, saying:

Soon after the eggs sent by Kim Jong Il arrived at the farm, they started hatching. The employees wanted to show the chicks to him. Their wish could not come true, since, by that time, he was on a historic trip to the Russian Federation. Upon learning about production at the farm during his trip, he sent a senior official of the provincial Party committee, who was among his entourage, to the homeland to ensure that the chickens and eggs produced by the farm were supplied to the residents before August 15. On hearing this news, the employees grew stronger in their wish to show him the first chickens. So, they decided to keep the dozens of chickens that had been left after the supply work. The chickens were now 270 days old.

Moved by this story, Kim Jong Il remained silent for a long while.

Then he said:

I feel grateful to the officials and employees of the Kanggye Chicken Farm for having raised the chicks,

which were hatched for the first time in their farm, for 270 days until they weigh more than 9kg, so that I could see them when I came to visit their workplace. I am very impressed with this.

A Package of Dry Soy Sauce

In July 2003 Kim Jong Il visited the Kanggye Condiments Factory.

Looking round the production lines, he highly praised the employees for working hard to improve the diet for the people.

Guided to a room where various samples of the factory's products were on display, he halted in front of the samples of dry soy sauce.

He looked carefully at their plastic packages and the labels on them, before asking how they should be diluted.

An official of the factory answered that each package should be diluted with the amount of water ten times larger.

Kim Jong Il smiled and said that he would take one of

the packages with him.

The official said that he would have a special package prepared for him. Kim Jong Il refused, saying that what he wanted to taste was not anything special but the soy sauce to be supplied to the people.

Listening to this, all the officials realized once again how much he was concerned about improving the people's living standards.

In Cold Rain

One April day in 2004 Kim Jong Il inspected a unit of the Korean People's Army.

Guided by the officers of the unit, he went up to a newly-built observation post to see the soldiers under training.

He was very pleased to see the training being conducted by subunit and going ahead in various styles.

When the training was at its height, dark clouds gathered in the sky and it started to drizzle.

As Kim Jong Il was standing under the roofed

structure, his entourage felt relieved and hoped the soldiers' training would proceed smoothly.

At the moment Kim Jong Il said to them:

It is raining now. We should move out of the observation post and watch the soldiers under training. The soldiers are in the cold rain, and how can we watch them inside the post?

The officials tried to dissuade him from leaving the post, but he dug his heels in, saying:

I know you are worried about my health. But when the soldiers are training in the rain, I, their Supreme Commander, should stand in the rain.

He immediately stepped out of the post and stood long in the rain, praising his soldiers for their skilful training.

Why He Was Satisfied

The following happened in February 2006 when Kim Jong Il was being shown around the renovated Hungju Chicken Farm.

Accept Thanks as Request

Guided to an egg-laying hens block, Kim Jong Il was delighted to see a cascade of eggs.

To him, an official of the farm said:

After being supplied with chicken and eggs, the citizens of Kanggye say thanks to us. It is embarrassing for us to acknowledge them, as their thanks should go to you first.

Kim Jong Il praised the officials of the farm, saying that the citizens' greeting was an appreciation of their work.

The officials felt abashed, saying that they did not deserve such a praise.

Kim Jong Il went on to say:

The citizens of Kanggye say thanks to you, and you should accept this as their request that you work harder. You said they should thank me first, but I think it is quite natural for them to appreciate you for working for their sake.

Staff Only

At the egg-laying hens block No. 1, Kim Jong Il inquired about the number of hens and the daily output of eggs. Then he asked if the hens of the farm were not infected by a disease.

In those years the rapidly-spreading avian flu was playing havoc with poultry farming in many countries.

An official of the farm answered that no infectious disease developed in the farm, and Kim Jong Il praised it for being effective in the hygienic and anti-epidemic work.

Then he said that as this block was for staff only, he and his entourage should not have entered it.

He urged the officials to go out and led the way to the egg-collecting section.

The official of the farm said that it was alright, but Kim Jong Il stressed that the chicken farm should pay

primary attention to the hygienic and anti-epidemic work, adding that as a rule, no one else, except the staff, must be allowed to enter the farm.

At that moment a hen was seen roaming about on the floor of the above block after slipping out of a box-shaped coop.

As the officials looked regretful that they had to stop halfway in the block, Kim Jong Il said in a humorous tone that the hen, too, was acting against the rule.

Laughter burst out.

Majon Recreation Ground Renovated

A scenic spot on the east coast of the country, the Majon Recreation Ground in the industrial city of Hamhung is noted for a wide expanse of sandy beach and dense pine forests.

In the mid-1960s President Kim Il Sung fixed the site of the recreation ground on the seashore and visited it several times with a view to developing it into an excellent seaside resort with restaurants, holiday camps and other

necessary facilities.

Later, the recreation ground attracted an endless stream of people, especially workers in Hamhung, in summer and other seasons.

Around the mid-1990s, when the country was undergoing the Arduous March, the seaside resort withered and the number of vacationers kept declining.

In November 2006, while on his inspection tour of South Hamgyong Province, Kim Jong Il inquired in detail about the resort.

He said to officials:

We should renovate the Majon Recreation Ground so splendidly as to attract many workers. This is a socialist society for workers. It does not stand to reason that in the era of the Workers' Party we fail to build it into a wonderful recreation ground for them.

After a pause, he resumed:

Hamhung is a big industrial city in which a lot of workers live. Before the country's liberation many workers lived in the city, but there was not a recreation ground for them. At that time they never dreamed of enjoying themselves in a recreation ground. In the era of the Workers' Party, we

should build an excellent recreation ground for the workers in such a big industrial city. I attach particular importance to Hamhung and direct close concern to it because it is inhabited by a large number of workers. As the Majon Recreation Ground is a favourite resort for workers and other citizens of Hamhung, its buildings should be repaired and refashioned. Enough electricity should be supplied for illuminations and heating at the buildings in the Majon area. The state should make an investment in developing this area into a cultural resort for the workers. No matter how difficult the country's financial situation may be, we should never spare money for workers. Then, in the distant future, our later generations will say that our Workers' Party developed the Majon area into a comprehensive cultural resort to improve the wellbeing of workers and other people there.

Afterwards, the Majon Recreation Ground transformed itself with a newly-built hotel, refashioned buildings, facelifted artificial lake, well-tended forests and flowerbeds, etc.

A popular haunt for working people, it still boasts picturesque scenery.

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