



Regional Development 20×10 Policy

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Preface

A new era of regional transformation has dawned in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

According to the new policy of regional development that began to be implemented in 2024, modern regional-industry factories have already been built in the regions, whose area is equivalent to one-fifth of the country's territory. Besides, the new offshore farms, which went online in the city of Sinpho and Ragwon County, South Hamgyong Province, are promoting the development in these regions.

In 2025, as part of an additional measure for the extension of this policy, new hospitals and leisure complexes were built in some cities and counties so that the local residents can enjoy modern civilization.

Also, the projects of building new houses in the rural communities have gone full steam ahead year after year, affording a glimpse into how the Korean people's ideals are coming true and how the comprehensive development of the state is progressing.

The mass media organs of the DPRK are busy giving coverage of the groundbreaking and inauguration ceremonies of the above facilities, with the news of people moving into new houses coming under the spotlight.

Credit for this amazing reality goes to the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the DPRK, which are consistent in pursuing policies for the benefit of the people.

Particularly, the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, which was named so in January 2024, is unprecedented in the history of the DPRK.

1. Gist of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy

Advanced by the Workers' Party of Korea, the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is aimed at turning all the regions of the country into ideal places for the people to live in. This is a ten-year plan which involves laying solid foundations for the development of the regions through the promotion of industrial growth in a comprehensive, balanced and characteristic way, and building essential facilities including hospitals, leisure complexes and grain storages.

Essence of the New Regional Development Policy

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy was adopted at the Tenth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on January 15, 2024.

The essence of the policy is to eliminate the centuries-old backwardness of the regions, promote the wellbeing of all the people and defend their rights and interests by pushing ahead with the regional industry revolution.

It had long been taken for granted that there is a gap between the capital city and the provinces and that the countryside falls behind the towns. This led to the drawn-out stagnation of the regions in the country.

The WPK adopted the above policy as it could not state proudly that the comprehensive development of the Korean-style socialism and the state was on track, while leaving intact the imbalance between the centrally-run and regionally-run industries and the gap in living standards between the capital citizens and the regional populations. It has since pressed on with projects for the implementation of the policy.

Even development of all the regions is an objective of comprehensive prosperity of the state and, finally, of socialist and communist construction, as stated by the WPK.

The WPK is committed to ensuring even development of all the regions so that all the people of the country lead an abundant and cultured life while enjoying all the benefits of socialism.

Construction of Regional-Industry Factories

The regional industry is established with the aim of mainly satisfying the regional demand for consumer goods by enlisting locally available raw materials.

As its production bases and places of consumption, consumers and suppliers, are not far away from one another, the costs of its raw and other materials are low, and the costs for the transportation of raw materials, production and marketing are relatively low.

It is also possible to lower the prices of consumer goods and increase the income of the regional people in a systematic way by reducing social labour for production.

The main goal of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is to renovate the industries in the country's cities and counties, totalling more than 200, in ten years by building modern factories in 20 cities and counties every year.

A consistent principle maintained in implementing this policy is that the level of modernization of new factories should be steadily improved as they are built year after year.

Setting a higher goal and making an uninterrupted advance and leap forward—this is a key requirement to be met in executing the regional-industry development strategy.

Another principle is that the regional industries should be



developed in a comprehensive, balanced and characteristic way.

To develop the regional industries in a balanced way means to ensure good balance in increasing the speed and level of industrial development in all cities and counties by taking into account the local populations and economic potentials.

To this end, it is important to set an optimal size for every factory and arrange its production lines in a reasonable way, as suited to the sizes of cities and counties, their residents' demand, local economic potentials, etc.

To develop the regional industries in a characteristic way means to develop the industries in cities and counties in conformity with their physiographical features and in consideration of locally available natural resources.

The key factors in doing so are to build the production lines in conformity with the physiographical features of the relevant regions and in consideration of locally available raw and other materials, explore and make active use of raw and other materials available in the regions, and protect and promote local specialties to use them to good effect in developing the regional economy.

Another goal of the regional development policy is that the regional-industry factories should focus on improving the quality of their products and increasing their product range in keeping with the regional characteristics.

To this end, it is indispensable for every new factory to set up a proper quality control system, learn about the customers' opinions

on a regular basis to adjust the production lines accordingly, and establish a climate of the producers working with pure conscience to ensure good product quality.

It is also necessary for the regional-industry factories to conduct an intensive campaign for overtaking and modelling after others and sharing experience with one another, as part of an effort to improve the quality of their products and increase their product range.

All of these are fundamental to ensuring that the modern regional-industry factories to be built in each region render a substantial contribution to improving the residents' standards of material life.

Construction of Offshore Farms

The Tenth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK adopted a decision on building an offshore farm in the city of Sinpho as befits a new model of offshore farming, as part of a measure to provide a substantial guarantee for the regional industry revolution.

To secure a driving force for regional economic development by making active use of locally available resources and physiographical conditions in every region is a major requirement of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

In order to implement this new regional development policy and ensure that it contributes to improving the regional populations'

Sinpho City Offshore Farm



Ragwon County Offshore Farm



living standards, all cities and counties should have appropriate conditions for developing the regional economy in keeping with their local features.

Adjoined by sea on two sides, the country will produce large amounts of seafood in an industrial way by building modern offshore farms. This will make a tangible contribution to regional development, particularly the normal operation of regional-industry factories, and to the improvement of the local residents' standard of living.

Recently, new offshore farms were built in the city of Sinpho and Ragwon County, and the projects have provided valuable experience in this regard.

An important task facing cities and counties in laying solid foundations for the development of their regional economy is to make effective use of the sea in coastal regions and the mountains in mountainous regions and promote tourism wherever appropriate resources are available.

Cities and counties should constantly expand the spaces for their economic development; they can do so by setting a proper direction for long-term development and drawing up reasonable plans for tapping all the conditions and resources in ways that will contribute to developing the regional economy, and also by effectively using and developing local economic resources and potentials.

Construction of Hospitals, Leisure Complexes and Grain Storages in Cities and Counties

To include the construction in every city and every county of three essential facilities—hospital, leisure complex and grain storage—in the Regional Development 20×10 Policy was on the agenda for the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

This meant an extension of the regional development policy to economic and cultural realms.

The WPK's intention in building modern hospitals in cities and counties is to protect the lives of the residents and promote their health.

In the present era, solidifying the foundations for the public health sector has presented itself as a task that has a direct bearing on the security of the state and its future, and the people's demand has grown remarkably for the protection of their lives and the promotion of their health. Such being the case, the WPK is intent on prioritizing the development of the public health sector over the improvement of the people's material life.

With regard to the construction of modern hospitals in cities and counties, the WPK has laid down a set of principles: To ensure practicability and functionality while avoiding a waste of money;



Kangdong County Hospital



to fix reasonable sizes and suitable sites for these hospitals; to set up first-aid posts between the hospitals and clinics; and to ensure adequate supply of medicines and effective training of medical workers.

The construction of multi-functional leisure complexes in cities and counties is an indispensable part of the above regional development policy.

A leisure complex will comprise a sci-tech learning base furnished with the latest IT means, facilities for the people to see films and enjoy sports and cultural activities, commercial outlets with a clean sanitary environment, and various other welfare service facilities. It will render a contribution to educating the local residents and improving their cultural life.

The core of this leisure complex is a library, in which there should be a high-performance server and enough computers commensurate with the size of a given city or county and its population, and which will have a sci-tech learning space, online lecture rooms, e-reading rooms, and other types of reading rooms.

The leisure complex will also include commercial outlets with a clean sanitary environment and various other welfare service facilities, all designed to provide convenience for the local residents in their living and meet their cultural needs—bathhouse, barber's, beauty parlour, laundry, cinema, shops for selling local products such as daily necessities, foodstuffs, school things and furniture, restaurants for serving local specialties, market stalls, etc.

The third essential project is to build a grain storage in every city and every county.

As a comprehensive and integrated facility that is indispensable to regional development, the grain storage is intended for the drying, processing and storing of grains.

It will be provided with necessary equipment for the treatment of rice, wheat and other grains in order to integrate all the processes of their drying, selection, processing and storage, and it will also be furnished with effective means for scientifically and automatically controlling all elements such as those for optimal temperature and humidity and sterilization for insect control.

In the near future, when the above-mentioned three projects are brought to completion along with regional-industry factories in all cities and counties, all the regions will be in a position to provide their populations with more improved living standards, based on the foundations of light industry and the sustained development environment that relies on modern civilization and technology and, furthermore, bring about a significant advance in implementing the comprehensive development programme of the state with the progress in science, education and public health as the core driving force.

As mentioned above, the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is designed to meet the basic material and cultural needs of the people throughout the country and achieve the prosperity of the state.



Kangdong County
Leisure Complex

2. Policy Oriented Towards Independent Development of the Regions

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy is oriented towards achieving independent development of the regions on a long-term, sustainable and steady basis by building up human, material and technical means, and all the other forces and potentials in the regions under the guidance and assistance of the state.

In view of both the lessons drawn from the annals of regional development that has remained stagnant over the past decades and the prospective requirement that regional development should be a powerful driving force for the development of the state, the issue of each region building up its own self-supporting development capability is the key to successful implementation of the policy.

Ensuring a High Level of Spiritual and Cultural Preparedness

What is most important in building up the self-supporting development capability of cities and counties is the spiritual and cultural preparedness of the people who will develop the economy and culture in their regions.

It is necessary to train many talented personnel who are qualified spiritually and culturally in order for every city and every county to ensure smooth operation of their modern regional-industry factories and to make effective use of their specific conditions in achieving varied and characteristic development.

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy makes it possible to bring about a turn in the realms of understanding and ideological consciousness of the regional people, who are responsible for regional development, so as to rouse their awareness and enthusiasm befitting masters.

When they use the goods produced in their own regions, receive advanced medical services and enjoy cultural and leisure activities no inferior to those in the capital city, the regional people will have confidence in the validity of the socialist cause and their own strength and devote their wisdom and zeal for the development of their own regions.

The regional development policy plays a great role in training the regional people in technical and cultural aspects.

The hospitals and multi-functional leisure complexes to be built in all cities and counties will make it possible to promote the health of the regional people, help them keep up to date with the latest scientific advances and provide them with sustenance of civilization without interruption so that talented personnel capable of running modern industry on their own can be identified and trained.

The sci-tech learning bases, furnished with databases of various

up-to-date sci-tech achievements, will help the regional people have ready access to modern science and civilization and acquire the insight and qualifications needed for leading their regional economic and cultural development. In the course of such cultural and leisure activities, they will prepare themselves to be pioneers and creators of a new culture.

When the populations in cities and counties are fully prepared spiritually and culturally, their self-supporting development capability will be increased remarkably, and this will result in building up the national strength.

Laying Solid Material and Technical Foundations

Cities and counties should lay solid material and technical foundations for improving the local residents' living standards, running their economy by themselves and thus achieving regional prosperity.

By implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, they can modernize the regional-industry factories and solidify the foundations for the development of the regional economy.

Development of the regional industry immediately means development of the regional economy. Modernization of the regional-industry factories makes it possible to increase the output of products with locally available resources and accelerate the

growth of the regional industry.

Industry, agriculture, commerce and other economic sectors in cities and counties are closely linked together through production and consumption; they form an organic entity, i.e., a regional economy.

So, it is by developing the regional industry that every region can establish close ties between industry and agriculture and between production and consumption and strengthen the production-consumption relations. This will result in boosting the consumption of industrial and agricultural products and facilitating the expansion of commerce.

All of this will be helpful towards increasing agricultural workers' zeal for production and facilitating agricultural development in the relevant regions.

The regional development policy will enable every region to make the most of the locally available raw and other materials and solidify the foundations for the development of the regional economy.

As the regional industry relies on locally available raw and other materials, every region should ensure regular production of the newly built regional-industry factories by building up their own raw materials bases and tapping their economic resources to the maximum.

According to the new regional development policy, a nation-wide emulation drive will get underway to make active use of the

reserves and potentials as suited to the physiographical, economic and cultural characteristics of the relevant regions including those of mountainous, lowland, coastal and industrial areas.

The people across the country will make effort to lay the groundwork for the development of the regional economy and the improvement of the living standards. In mountainous areas, they will focus on collecting and storing such natural resources as wild fruits, medicinal herbs and industrial crops, and building raw materials bases. In coastal areas, they will work hard to increase the production of seafood including fish and seaweeds and make tasty and nutritious products with them.

In the areas with favourable conditions for livestock farming, they will develop animal husbandry; in the areas with favourable conditions for tourism, they will focus on developing tourism. And in the areas with building stones and other natural resources, they will use them to good effect. In this way all cities and counties will develop their regional industry in a characteristic way and increase their development potentials.

In a nutshell, the new regional development policy is mainly aimed at fostering the self-sufficiency of the regions by all means while ensuring effective guidance and assistance by the state.

3. Perfectly Feasible Policy

The validity and vitality of a line or a policy are proved through practice.

Any line or policy that cannot be translated into reality or whose feasibility is not guaranteed will serve no purpose.

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy is one whose implementation is fully guaranteed.

Based on Rich Experience

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy is, above all else, scientific, since it was formulated after its feasibility was confirmed in all aspects through the stage of gaining rich experience.

In March 2021, the First Workshop for Chief Secretaries of City and County Committees of the WPK was held, in which a new policy orientation was defined for opening up a new era of regional development. It was to gain experience by building regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County on an experimental basis and operating them normally to suit the specific conditions of the region, and, after reviewing their cost-effectiveness, profitability and practicality, to build similar modern regional-industry factories

in all cities and counties across the country.

Kimhwa County in Kangwon Province is a mountainous region with unfavourable physiographical features and poor economic conditions.

The area under cultivation is no more than 9.04% of the county's entire area.

Worse still, the region was hit by heavy rainfall in September 2020.

Now, modern regional-industry factories in the county are up and running to bring substantial benefit to the residents.

This showed that if similar regional-industry factories were built in other cities and counties, they could produce popular consumer goods.

The products from the factories in Kimhwa County enjoyed popularity at several exhibitions held in the capital city and in Kangwon Province.

In the course of modernizing these factories experience was accumulated, and solutions were sought to the problems that might arise in the operation of the regional-industry factories to be built in other regions of the country, including those of defining their sizes and production capacities, providing them with manpower, materials and funds, training technicians and skilled workers in a far-sighted way and creating raw materials bases.

As for the construction of new regional-industry factories, higher standards have been established than those for the ones in

Kimhwa County; the principle is being maintained of setting more advanced architectural styles and modernization levels, i.e., steadily introducing new things with an innovative and creative attitude, instead of mechanically modelling after and emulating the factories in the county.

State measures have been taken to this end by drawing on the above experience.

Supported by the People

The successful implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is firmly guaranteed by the active support of all the people.

A policy can give full play to its vitality only when the masses sympathize with and accept it as their own. This is the most precious and greatest strength that provides a sure guarantee for the successful implementation of the policy.

The Regional Development 20×10 Policy is welcomed by all the Korean people as it reflects their ardent aspiration and demand for a more affluent and cultured life.

The WPK regards the happy laughter of the people as an absolute criterion for assessing the strength of the country.

Embodied in the policy is the desire of the regional people to enjoy a life no inferior to that in urban areas, free from the

backwardness that has existed for decades in their regions.

Every word and every figure in the policy are symbolic of the WPK's affection for the people, as it is committed to taking responsibility for the living of the regional people with parental care.

The WPK never fails to carry out any project which is in the interests of the people, and this is a mode of its creation.

That is why the people accepted the Regional Development 20×10 Policy as their own; fully convinced that it will surely be implemented with credit, they actively support it and work hard for its successful implementation.

Witnessing the appearances of ever-changing local areas in the course of implementing the policy, they harden their resolve to dedicate all their wisdom and passion to its full implementation.

* * *

It is easier said than done to transform a country in a matter of ten years; all the regions in the DPRK have to secure enough potentials for their sustainable development based on modern civilization and technology and for providing the local residents with a new, better life.

All the regions, however, are changing day by day thanks to the sincere efforts made by the service personnel and other people.

Through their firsthand experience everyone has realized the

validity and vitality of the leadership of the WPK, which makes selfless, devoted efforts for the prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the people, as well as of its regional development policy.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, while leading the efforts to implement this policy in the first year of its adoption, steadily expanded the scope for its implementation.

As he committed himself to protecting the lives of the regional people, promoting their health and providing them with sufficient conditions for a cultural life, he initiated including the construction in every city and every county of three essential projects, such as hospital and leisure complex, in the above policy.

Afterwards, he paid special concern to building modern hospitals in cities and counties.

He once said that it was his first and foremost cherished desire to have city and county hospitals built, which would greatly contribute to improving the regional public health situation, which is relatively inferior, and protecting the lives and security of the regional people and promoting their health. It is necessary to add the construction of modern public health facilities to the Regional Development 20×10 Policy and complete their construction in the set year for the sake of the people in different regions however difficult and challenging it may be, he continued, stressing that this would be regarded as the first task entrusted to the WPK and the government by the Korean revolution and the times.

On February 28, 2024, he attended the ground-breaking ceremony

for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County. Personally handing over the regimental colours to the 124th regiments of the Korean People's Army, which were newly formed to implement the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, he expressed his greatest trust in them, saying that the twenty flags awarded to them would be adorned with great feats and unparalleled patriotic exploits of the most revolutionary army of the people.

True to his trust, the KPA, the foremost guardian and creator in the country, began to play the leading role in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

Indeed, this policy embodies his ennobling intention to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

As all the people in the country make redoubled efforts to carry out the policy true to his intention and bring forward a bright future for themselves, all the regions are changing beyond recognition.

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