



## June 15 Joint Declaration marked in Pyongyang



Delegates attend the Grand Festival for National Reunification, Pyongyang.

PYONGYANG, June 17 (KCNA) -- The grand festival for national reunification marking the fifth anniversary of the historic June 15 joint declaration opened here on June 14 with splendor closed on June 16. The festival reinforced the conviction that the Korean nation with a five thousand-year long history and brilliant culture can no longer live separated and there is a

bright prospect of national reunification only when the Koreans uphold and implement the noble idea of "By our nation itself".

A closing ceremony took place at the Ryugyong Jong Ju Yong Gymnasium on the bank of the River Pothong.

Present there were Yang Hyong Sop, vice-president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, delegations of authorities of the north and the south respectively led by Kim Ki Nam, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, and Jong Tong Yong, minister of Unification of south Korea, delegations and representatives of the north, south and overseas sides and the delegation of Hyundai Asan that participated in the festival.

Ri Yong Duk, co-representative of the labour headquarters of the south

side's preparatory committee, said in a speech that through the grand festival for national reunification the south and the north took a giant stride forward in strengthening the June 15 joint committee, adding it would lead to a grand march of the 70 million Koreans for peace on the Korean peninsula and the great unity of the nation.

Yang Yong Dong, honorary chairman of the overseas side's preparatory committee, in his speech called for making the desire of the nation for reunification that surged high with the festival as a momentum result in the grand chorus of the 70 million Koreans, adding this would lead to patriotism and national prosperity.

Kang Chang Uk, vice-chairman of the north side's preparatory committee, in a speech (see p 10)

### KFA October delegation opened

The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) has opened pre-inscription for its third delegation to the DPR of Korea in 2005, scheduled to take place October 2-18. Both KFA and non-KFA members are invited to apply, except for citizens of South Korea and the US, who cannot be accommodated due to special

protocol. Exceptional visas, however, may be awarded to a few US citizens who, being KFA members, have demonstrated outstanding work towards building the KFA and cultivating friendship with the DPR of Korea. Chinese passport holders must contact Zhang Ren Fan, KFA-China (see page 2)



Official Delegate, as additional procedures are required.

The October trip will be the final KFA delegation to the DPRK this year, following two in August. Participants will have the exciting opportunity to join festivities commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, including a chance to witness a parade in central Pyongyang by the Korean People's Army, accompanied by displays of new DPRK weaponry. Participants can also expect to attend the famed Arirang Mass Gymnastics Display at Pyongyang's May Day Stadium, an exquisitely choreographed and vast showcase combining dance, acrobatics, laser effects and a stunning animated visual performance produced by the carefully crafted placement and motion of large placards by over 100,000 students.

Participants in all KFA delegations enjoy the rare experience of not only touring the DPRK's many renowned monuments and spots of scenic and historical significance, but also many chances to interact with locals through sport and volunteerism, seeing ordinary life in North Korea first hand. In addition to excursions around Pyongyang, the modern, scenic and well-planned capital of the DPRK, the October delegation's itinerary may also include travels to multiple parts of the country, such as Kaesong and Panmunjom. On October 12, participants will visit the Kochang Cooperative Farm in Nampho Province, where KFA delegates will deliver donations acquired from the KFA fertilizer fund drive.

The delegation is limited to 25 participants, applicants being selected on the basis of order of arrival and merit and accepted into the delegation only after fulfilling all of the necessary conditions and procedures. Prospective applicants are encouraged to pre-inscribe as soon as possible, as KFA delegations

fill up very quickly. Also, applicants should be aware that this is not an ordinary tourist trip, but a KFA delegation of solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle against US imperialism. Non-KFA member participants, regardless of their political viewpoints, are expected to participate in conferences and friendship activities together with Koreans in the spirit of goodwill.

Interested parties can obtain more information or pre-inscribe to join the delegation at the newly redesigned KFA travel webpage, [www.korea-dpr.com/kfa2005/](http://www.korea-dpr.com/kfa2005/).



## KFA now available via WAP

You can now access the Korean Friendship Association (KFA) on your cellular phone!

According to Bjornar Simonsen, KFA International Counselor, individuals using a mobile phone with Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) support can now set their mobile WAP clients to [www.korea-](http://www.korea-dpr.com/wap/)

[dpr.com/wap/](http://www.korea-dpr.com/wap/) and enjoy features such as the latest headlines from the Korean Central News Agency, updated daily. Visitors can also download a variety of free DPRK polyphonic ringtones.

The user's mobile phone must support polyphonic ring tones for the downloadable ring tones to work. According to Simonsen, most modern Nokia, Motorola, Ericsson and Siemens phones can support the downloads.

Also, users can only download the polyphonic ring tones if their mobile plan is WAP/GPRS enabled and if they have downloaded WAP/GPRS settings to their phone. Simonsen advises users to contact their mobile operator for information on how to download the necessary settings over the air if they encounter difficulties accessing the site.

Simonsen encourages anyone with questions or ideas to contact the KFA WAP developer at [support@korea-dpr.com](mailto:support@korea-dpr.com).

## KFA to organize online seminar

On September 24-25, individuals from around the world will have the unique opportunity to interact with figures from North Korean politics, society and academia through the medium of the Internet. The first-of-a-kind event, known as the European Online Seminar on Songun Politics, will bring together professors from Kim Il Sung University and officials of the DPRK government who will answer questions fielded by participants focusing on life and politics in the contemporary DPRK. Many DPRK friendship organizations from around the world are expected to participate in the seminar.

The event is part of a larger KFA campaign to confront the seemingly endless flow of anti-DPRK propaganda turned out by Western

media, rightwing ideologues and the governments of belligerent states such as the US. "Setting the record straight," the DPRK representatives will address topics such as state policy, foreign relations, the economy and *Juche* socialism. Individuals can participate in the seminar in a variety of ways, either by contributing thoughtful questions to the dialogue, or by submitting various forms of artwork to a series of online galleries celebrating the occasion. Those interested in joining the event are also encouraged to participate in pre-seminar discussions at the KFA Forum, where participation guidelines and logistical information will be posted in the coming months.

## KFA travel webpage redesigned

The travel webpage ([www.korea-dpr.com/travel](http://www.korea-dpr.com/travel)) of the Korean Friendship Association (KFA) has been updated and redesigned, providing a comprehensive source of information on travel opportunities to the DPR of Korea through the KFA in a visually enhanced and more user-friendly format.

According to Bjornar Simonsen, KFA International Counselor, the new webpage was created in conjunction with the opening of the October KFA delegation to the DPRK, which will honor the anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The webpage offers a wide array of information including detailed program descriptions and pricing, as well as links to the travel account of a past KFA delegation participant and the KFA gallery, containing a large collection of photos from prior delegations. Users can also pre-inscribe to join a KFA delegation using the new webpage.

The KFA sends multiple delegations to the DPRK every year, varying in size. KFA delegations

offer participants the unique chance to not only visit the country's many places of scenic and historical interest, but also to experience life in the DPRK through opportunities for interaction with locals. This year, the KFA will send three delegations, including two in August and one in October.

The next upcoming KFA delegation will take place from August 7-20, and will join in festivities commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese imperialism.

Presently, only the October delegation remains open for pre-inscription.

## KFA Eastern European regional meeting planned



The first regional KFA meeting will take place October 1-2 in Belgrade, capital of Serbia, uniting KFA delegates from across Eastern Europe. All KFA members are welcomed to attend the event, and to share their proposals and ideas for the conference. To confirm your participation, or to offer suggestions, write to: [serbiamontenegro@korea-dpr.com](mailto:serbiamontenegro@korea-dpr.com).

## KFA FAQ page created

The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) has launched a webpage containing questions frequently received by the KFA concerning the DPR of Korea, as well as corresponding answers.

The new FAQ page was designed by KFA International Counselor Bjornar Simonsen and International

Organization Secretary Jason LaBouyer in an effort to present inquirers with brief yet authoritative answers to questions on the minds of many about the DPRK, a nation mystified by Western media and subject to a vicious propaganda campaign by right-wing US officials. One of the KFA's central aims is to spread the truth about life in the DPRK.

The FAQ page contains a series of questions relating to the DPRK on subjects ranging from national defense to religion, with concise answers based upon information gathered by Simonsen and LaBouyer from their first-hand experience in the DPRK and sources in the country.

According to Simonsen, the page is meant to provide truthful answers to many questions that have not been dealt with fairly by corporate media, which has a propensity to sensationalize the DPRK.

Simonsen also noted that the webpage is only one of many KFA efforts to dispel the myriad of myths and rumors circulating in Western media, governance and academia regarding the DPRK. The KFA Forum ([www.korea-dpr.com/forum](http://www.korea-dpr.com/forum)) and *Lodestar* magazine ([www.korea-dpr.com/lodestar.htm](http://www.korea-dpr.com/lodestar.htm)) are two other initiatives undertaken by the KFA in recent years to provide the international community with accurate information about society and politics in the DPRK.

Disseminating the truth far and wide, observed Simonsen, is the best way the KFA can help open up the world to North Korea.

## KFA badges to be issued

The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) will soon issue member badges, according to KFA International Counselor Bjornar Simonsen.



"KFA badges are now being produced in three categories," said Simonsen. "The Third-class one, made of copper, will be available by purchase. The Second- and First-class badges, silvered and golden, respectively, will be awarded to outstanding KFA members and leaders on the basis of merit at KFA meetings worldwide."

According to Simonsen, the silvered and golden badges are meant to reward KFA members for their hard work in building the association internationally and locally. The copper badge will be available for purchase by the general public, and can be worn by all KFA members who wish to show their pride for the KFA and their friendship with the DPR of Korea.

The Third-class badge will be available for purchase at the KFA Shop ([www.kfashop.com](http://www.kfashop.com)), to be inaugurated later in the summer.

## KFA webshop updated



The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) webshop ([www.korea-dpr.com/catalog/](http://www.korea-dpr.com/catalog/)), an online source of souvenirs and merchandise from the DPR of Korea, has been updated and redesigned. New products are now available for purchase in a new and easy-to-use format that allows users to "shop around" and pay for various products via *PayPal*.

Advantages of the new webshop configuration include "permanent cart," meaning that any products added to the shopper's online cart remain there until they choose to remove them or "check out," as well as an address book that enables the KFA to deliver products to locations other than the purchaser's own home address. Users will now also have access to customer reviews of

products, and their own order history, allowing purchasers to keep track of their past orders.

According to Bjornar Simonsen, KFA International Counselor, the updated webshop is only a prelude to an extensive array of KFA- and DPRK-related products soon to be sold through the KFA's merchandising arm at the KFA Shop ([www.kfashop.com](http://www.kfashop.com)), which will be unveiled in the summer of 2005. The present KFA webshop page will be integrated into the KFA Shop upon the website's completion.

The KFA Shop will play an important role in meeting burgeoning global demand for DPRK-made artwork, videos, music and other products, which are not easily available on the market. Presently, the KFA webshop includes products such as DPRK videos, musical compact discs, porcelain and jade products, and political badges.

## KFA President visits DPRK

Alejandro Cao de Benos, President of the Korean Friendship Association, visited the DPR of Korea June 3-21. During his stay, Cao de Benos joined celebrations commemorating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North-South Joint Declaration, including a large rally and march comprised of more than 50,000 DPRK citizens and 300 delegates from South Korea.

"The festive mood for the 19<sup>th</sup> of June was present everywhere in the cities with flags of the Workers' Party of Korea displayed prominently and many evening galas and dances," said Cao de Benos. He noted that "reunification is closer every day despite the interference of the USA."

Cao de Benos also had the opportunity to visit Ryongchon Township, site of last year's tragic and destructive train explosion. The

vicinity surrounding the blast has since been completely reconstructed.

## KFA Fertilizer Campaign briskly underway

With the aim of ending the nation's food crisis once and for all, the DPRK government issued an international appeal in January for assistance in acquiring fertilizers to significantly boost production of fruits and cereals this growing season. The Korean Friendship Association (KFA) immediately responded by launching its own fund drive in contribution to the Korean people's efforts. To date, the KFA has received generous donations from members and supporters around the world, but we still have a long way to go.

To make contributing to the fund drive easier, individuals can now donate via *PayPal* at the KFA webshop, <http://www.korea-dpr.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=29>, as well as at the campaign website, [www.korea-dpr.com/donation](http://www.korea-dpr.com/donation). All KFA members and Official Delegates financially able are asked to contribute at least 10 euro to the campaign, although the request for contributions is not limited to KFA members.

The campaign concludes in October, when KFA delegates present funds in person to the Kochang Cooperative Farm in Nampho Province. As only 100 euro can purchase a ton of fertilizer, even the smallest contribution can make a difference.

Donors can remain anonymous or be included in a public list including each contributor's name and donation amount that will be issued at the end of the campaign.

For donations by check or cash, please write to Jason LaBouyer at [jlbouyer@yandex.ru](mailto:jlbouyer@yandex.ru).

# Korean News



One of several new posters released to commemorate the June 15 Joint Declaration

## New posters for June 15 Grand Festival for National Reunification released

PYONGYANG, June 10 (KCNA) -- Posters were released in the run-up to the grand festival for national reunification (June 15 grand festival of national reunification) marking the 5th anniversary of the June 15 joint declaration. A poster describes all the fellow countrymen shouting hurrah of reunification against the background fireworks of reunification set in the sky above the country with the letters reading "June 15 Grand Festival for National Reunification" and "By Our Nation Itself!" It shows the will of the compatriots in the north, the south

and abroad to strengthen the great unity of the nation and open up a new epochal turn for peace and reunification of the country in the idea of the historic June 15 joint declaration.

Other posters show the firm will of youth and students in the north and the south and abroad to keep pace in mind and footstep in the drive for national reunification and joyful children running by forming a train of reunification, longing for the day when they will live a happy life in a reunified country.

A poster in which a Korean map is depicted and a bouquet engraved expresses warm welcome to delegates to Pyongyang to participate in the grand festival from south Korea and different areas of the world.

Meanwhile, commemorative badge for delegates to the festival and certificates of assistance to be awarded to organizations and individuals in the north and the south and abroad who have contributed to successfully holding the festival have been made.

## Anniversary of June 15 Joint Declaration marked in S. Korea

PYONGYANG, June 22 (KCNA) -- A grand festival for national reunification was reportedly held at the plaza in front of Pusan Railway Station on June 19 under the sponsorship of the Pusan Regional Headquarters of the South Side's Preparatory Committee for Joint Functions of Koreans in the south and the north and overseas to implement the June 15 joint declaration. Prior to the grand festival, members of 16 civic and social organizations, citizens and youth and students, at least 900 in all, gathered at the plaza and held colorful functions including drawing paintings on the theme of reunification and throwing balloons containing water at the boards on

which ugly faces of anti-reunification elements were drawn.

Speakers at the festival called upon all the Koreans to move ahead to implement the joint declaration, noting that the formation of the June 15 Joint Committee reflected the will of the fellow countrymen to build a reunified country at an early date, true to the joint declaration.

Honorary Representative of the Pusan regional headquarters So Sang Gwon, who visited Pyongyang as a delegate to the June 15 grand festival for national reunification, said that though it rained on the day of the opening ceremony for the grand festival, he was greatly excited to march from the Chollima Statue to the Kim Il Sung Stadium. All of us were very thankful to all the compatriots in the north for having warmly welcomed the south side's delegations despite heavy rain, he added.

An art performance was given and a video tape on which the days the historic Pyongyang summit took place and the June 15 joint declaration was published in June 2000 are recorded and others were shown at the festival.

Functions took place on Wolmi Islet on June 18 to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the publication of the joint declaration under the co-sponsorship of the Incheon Regional Headquarters of the South Side's Preparatory Committee and the Incheon Ilbo. Those functions were attended by over 500 members of civic and social organizations, citizens and youth and students in Kyonggi Province and Incheon."

## Over 1.7 million people help farmers on May 19

PYONGYANG, May 21 (KCNA) -- More than 1.7 million people including officials of ministries and

national institutions, workers and office workers Thursday helped farmers in farming in response to the militant appeal of the Party to mobilize all labor forces in doing farm well this year. Upon hearing the joint New Year editorial, senior officials and officials of the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Chemical Industry and the Ministry of Light Industry sent fertilizers, fuel oil, small farm implements and others to the countryside with their sincerity from the outset of the year. They are now out in helping and stepping up rice-transplantation as scheduled.

Aware that labour assistance is important to finish the rice-transplantation in time, officials of the Central Committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the Ministry of Metal and Machine-Building Industries and the Ministry of Food Procurement and Administration went to farms from the beginning of the rice-transplantation to help farmers in harrowing, building the ridges of rice-field plots and plucking rice seedlings and encourage them. The rice-transplanting campaign is also helped by all provincial, city and county organizations.

In South Hwanghae and South Phyongan provinces, workers, office workers and housewives, more than twice at the same time last year, have turned out in helping the farmers in plucking rice seedlings, building waterway, weeding in maize fields and other farming work.

Those in Pyongyang and North Phyongan and North Hwanghae provinces also helped farmers in rice-transplantation.

## May Day celebrated in DPRK

PYONGYANG, May 2 (KCNA) -- Working people in the DPRK significantly celebrated the 115th

May Day. Put up in streets of Pyongyang and provinces, cities and counties and in the compounds of industrial establishments were "Long live May Day, the international holiday of the workers around the world!", "Let all of us turn out in the building of a prosperous powerful nation!", "Celebration of May Day" and other slogans. And flags of the DPRK and red flags fluttered, adding to the holiday mood.

Artistes of the Mansudae Art Troupe, the State National Art Troupe, the Pyongyang Circus and other central art organizations performed at the Rungrado Pleasure Park, the Mangyongdae Fun Fair and other parks and recreation resorts in Pyongyang Sunday.

Working people across the country enjoyed the fete with merry and joyful sports and amusement games at parks, recreation grounds and scenic spots. Conspicuous were the games at the Rakwon Machine Complex, the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, the Ryongsong Machine Complex, the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, the Wonsan Disabled Soldiers' Plastic Daily Necessities Factory and other industrial establishments.

On the holiday working people of the country were overflowing with revolutionary zeal to fulfill their historical mission and duty, true to the Songun leadership of Kim Jong Il.



### ***Congratulations, Choe Un Sun!***

PYONGYANG, June 28 (KCNA) -- Female pro boxer Choe Un Sun of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea captured the championship title of the WBCF in the women's light flyweight category (48.98 kg). Choe Un Sun settled the bout by a unanimous decision over Yvonne Caples of the United States.



Korean children celebrate International Children's Day

## International Children's Day celebrated

PYONGYANG, June 2 (KCNA) -- Korean children marked the International Children's Day with various sports and amusement games Wednesday. Every nursery and kindergarten were beautifully decorated with stringed miniature flags, balloons and flowers. They were animated with children, nurses, kindergarteners and mothers in holiday best.

Pyongyangites were delighted to see children's colorful sports and amusement games held in parks, recreation grounds including the Mangyongdae Fun Fair, Mt. Taesong, Rungna Islet and Moran Hill and nurseries and kindergartens in Pyongyang.

Children presented rhythmic gymnastics and dances with flowers, ribbons and balloons to the tune of songs "We Offer Greetings to Marshal Kim Jong Il" and "Today Is June 1."

Through this they represented their happiness of growing with nothing to desire more under the benevolent care of their father Kim Jong Il, holding President Kim Il Sung in high esteem as the eternal sun.

The programs at the Kim Jong Suk Creche and other nurseries included three or four years old children's games of winning toys, running out of a ring and crossing a stone bridge,

tricycle race and obstacle race. Songs and happy laughter of the children enjoying their holiday could be heard from every nook and corner of the country from the Mubong village at the foot of Mt. Paektu to the villages near the Military Demarcation Line and remote islet villages in the East and West Seas.

# *Opinion*

## When friends become enemies

### Understanding leftwing hostility to the DPRK

By Jason LaBouyer

“North Korea is on the verge of collapse and only foodstuffs from China and the UN prevent it,” a prominent Czech political figure recently asserted. These comments were relayed at a press conference in Prague on June 10, following the politician’s return from a visit to the DPR of Korea. He continued to criticize the DPRK for what he described as “an excessive cult of personality” and defense policies he claims “consume 33 percent of the nation’s GDP.”

Well, just to set the record straight, the DPRK is far from collapse. To most individuals who visit the country and see what life is really like in North Korea, that is plainly obvious. The real percentage of national GDP devoted to military spending in the DPRK, moreover, is not over 15 percent, according to official figures released in budgetary documents by the Supreme People’s Assembly earlier this year. And what

this politician (as well as many other anti-DPRK activists in the West) frequently and ignorantly describe as a “cult of personality” is more accurately understood by those who actually know and understand Korean society as the people’s overwhelming support not only for their nation’s leadership, but for the philosophy of *Juche* socialism that has guided their economic and social development for over half a century. In other words, the Korean people’s dedication is not limited to Chairman Kim Jong Il, or to the late President Kim Il Sung, but to an entire ideology.

But these points would no doubt be lost on our Czech friend; like many other political figures across the Western world, his beliefs concerning North Korea echo the same line handed down to him from the Bush administration, corporate media and other forces hell-bent on destroying North Korea once and for all. However, this official is different in one striking respect: he happens to be Miroslav Grebenicek, party boss of the Czech Republic’s KSCM, or the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

Grebenicek’s comments reflect a bizarre trend that seems to have swept across the worldwide communist movement in recent years as a number of national communist parties seek to up their political appeal by radically redefining just what it means to stand for socialism. There once was a time when the DPRK enjoyed the unwavering friendship of Czechoslovakia’s ruling communist party, as well as communist parties throughout the socialist world. Back then, it seemed that socialist nations were united in a common ideological goal, sharing conceptions of socialism that, more or less, were similar.

But those were different times, and that was a different party. The disintegration of socialism throughout East Central Europe, and the accompanying destruction of the

USSR, resulted in a dramatic paradigm shift in the political discourses of many parties, nations and the international community at large. The perceived “discrediting” of socialism, in short, gave rise to the re-ascendancy of Western liberal capitalism throughout Eastern Europe, while the shattered remnants of the world communist movement were put on the defensive.

### Alternate paths to socialism

Since the early 1990s, many communist and leftwing parties have attempted to “recalibrate” socialism in an effort to introduce a developmental model viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In China, Vietnam and Laos, the ruling communist parties abandoned “traditional” socialism in favor of “market socialism,” retaining some degree of public ownership while privatizing many vital national industries and “opening up” the nation to the global market in the name of “long term economic growth.” These communist parties have rejected capitalism in principle, but have embraced it in practice under the belief that certain “concessions,” namely class stratification, cut-throat competition and consumerism, were a small price to pay in favor of “growth-oriented” economic policies that would create material wealth in the long run.

Grebenicek is very fond of market socialism, as it turns out. His trip to the DPRK was followed by two additional visits to Vietnam and China, and both received his highest praise for the “huge miracle that has got moving there.” Indeed, Grebenicek’s praise neglected reference to the many societal problems arising from economic liberalization in formerly planned economies—or perhaps he too believes that pesky little nuisances like class antagonism, rampant greed, environmental degradation and corruption are simply “side affects”



of progress. The “ends justify the means.”

Whether or not the “trade-offs” arising from “growth-oriented” economic policies are ultimately justifiable, or capable of being resolved, is a decision to be made solely by the ruling communist parties of “market socialist” states. The *Juche Idea* stresses that all nations must follow a blueprint for national development that best suits their unique characteristics and circumstances. Why, however, should the DPRK, a country that pursues a developmental model in which social well being is not subordinated to the goal of economic growth, but complimented by it, be subject to denunciation?

The Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK), unlike its many fraternal parties around the world, has chosen not to embrace market socialism. Instead, the WPK promotes an economic program that retains full public ownership of the economy, putting people before profits. And it hasn’t been a cakewalk: over the course of the past 15 years, the DPRK has lost its major trade ally, the USSR, and endured multiple years of destructive floods and drought. The result, as we all know, was a major food crisis that only recently has been overcome. In addition, the DPRK has experienced seemingly incalculable economic losses from the US government’s manifold efforts to destroy it, from harsh economic sanctions that prevent the country from receiving much-needed capital and investment, to an interminable military threat which forces the DPRK to divert a full 15 percent of its GDP to national defense.

Yet socialist Korea’s industrial production, trade and GDP have steadily grown for years now, a reality conceded even by foreign “experts” and international financial institutions who for years declared the country would collapse at any

moment. Could it be that sensible economic planning and public ownership can also generate growth and prosperity?

Not according to Grebenicek. The DPRK may be making tremendous strides in economic development, but this is not a side of the DPRK that Western media and the US government will have you see. Their image of North Korea, one of starving children, rampant poverty, oppression and decay, though totally divorced from reality, is all that most people in the West really know. Rather than fighting these lies, some self-described communists have decided to turn their backs on the Korean people altogether.

There are at least two reasons for this unfortunate development. One is the growing belief amongst Western leftwing parties that North Korea represents a model of socialism that has long since gone the way of the dinosaurs. As the only country on earth maintaining complete public ownership of all economic resources, it is arguably the last remaining “traditional” socialist country. Yet the Soviet experience has convinced many that full public ownership simply cannot work. In their eyes, “market socialism” is the wave of the future. Other anti-DPRK leftists, however, have little concern for theory at all. Their aim is to boost their own electoral fortunes, to sell a watered-down platform palatable to the middle-class in an effort to win over votes to their party. And they’ll sell their souls to achieve it.

### **Left-wing betrayal?**

Grebenicek’s comments likely arise from both cases. The KSCM, like many other left-oriented parties throughout the world today, may yearn for a “new theory,” an alternative path to communism in a time when many feel the “old” one, as embodied by the Soviet Union, has led to a dead end. Grebenicek, as his

comments reveal, has embraced “market socialism;” North Korea has not. Yet this fails to explain his public vituperation against the DPRK. It is one matter to personally disagree with the DPRK’s economic and political model, but publicly condemning it is another matter altogether. That, it seems, can be explained by his party’s own political maneuvering.

*That the WPK and the Korean people are actually building socialism in practice, turning out feat after feat in the face of great travail, is simply irrelevant to these “communists.” They’re on the fast track to the political mainstream.*

The KSCM, after all, is presently the Czech parliament’s junior opposition party. It has an image to maintain. If the Czech public, like the rest of the world, is fed a daily dose of propaganda depicting North Korea as hell-on-earth, defending the DPRK, Grebenicek likely reasons, will simply not resonate well in the minds of voters. So the KSCM joins the anti-DPRK bandwagon. That the WPK and the Korean people are actually building socialism in practice, turning out feat after feat in the face of great travail, is simply irrelevant to these “communists.” They’re on the fast track to the political mainstream.

The KSCM is not the only “legislative” communist party lacking ideological backbone. The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) has a much longer and far more disturbing legacy of following an anti-DPRK line,



serving as one of the leading forces in Japan's political establishment in favor of hard line policies against the socialist state. An endless flow of anti-DPRK rhetoric by JCP leaders disseminated through their party's widely circulating newspaper, *Akahata*, has been instrumental in rallying the Japanese public behind the aggressive ambitions of militarists in Japan's ruling establishment.

The JCP, for example, has openly criticized the DPRK for developing a nuclear deterrence against the US, labeling the country a "threat to the world" and demanding that the DPRK "disarm at once." The JCP has in effect joined forces with anti-communists by promoting an image of North Korea depicting it to be a threat to the world, a conceptual absurdity considering the unilateral reality of modern geopolitics and the US government's longstanding history of aggression not only toward the DPRK, but to all countries that have sought to take their destinies into their own hands. Yet JCP leaders haven't stopped there. Like Grebenicek, they too have attacked the Korean people for their "cult of personality," even making a point of advertising the unwillingness of certain JCP representatives to bow to the late President Kim Il Sung at Kumsusan Palace during past delegations to the DPRK, amounting to a slap in the face to the nation and its leadership.

The Japanese people have long been subject to the crudest and most grotesque of anti-DPRK propaganda by their nation's government and press, and it seems that the JCP leadership decided early on that "going against the grain" would not do much to boost their electoral fortunes. Their tactics in the end might not have been very fruitful (the JCP today is, at best, on the margins of Japanese politics), but they hold firm, and frequent press releases make a point of condemning North Korea for one thing or another,

whether it be because of that nation's actions to protect itself or the highly-publicized "abduction issue," exploited for political purposes by the JCP and militarists alike.

Unfortunately, the KSCM and JCP present only two of the more rabid cases of a much broader trend amongst some leftist parties around the world to "keep a distance" from the DPRK. A few, like the KSCM and JCP, have done so having embarked upon a futile mission to integrate themselves into the political mainstream—futile because, by definition, communist parties in bourgeois societies should seek to overthrow the mainstream. Challenging the many misperceptions and lies surrounding North Korea is seen as being too "risky" by these "communists," who seek not to change the political establishment in their capitalist homelands, but to join it. Other communists have become awestruck by the "miracle" of market socialism, and have abandoned Marxism-Leninism entirely in pursuit of a "New Theory" of socialism. To communists of this type, the DPRK is commonly regarded as anachronistic.

These developments pose serious implications for the viability of the world communist movement. Parties such as the KSCM and JCP have not only betrayed North Korea; they offer their nations platforms seemingly devoid of substance as their leaders pursue greater numbers of votes, seeking not to win over popular opinion to the cause of socialism, but to "redefine" socialism to conform to popular opinion. Yet as people everywhere are subject to a barrage of anti-communist propaganda by the media and by their governments, such a task is not simply futile, but deadly. The KSCM and JCP may indeed succeed in joining the political mainstream, but they will compromise their ideological integrity in doing so.

If Grebenicek's remarks serve as a testimony to a serious theoretical and

moral dilemma prevalent in today's worldwide communist movement, the endurance of the Korean Revolution is a testimony in itself to the Korean people's spirit of perseverance, dedication and resolve—virtues that have kept the DPRK strong in the face of enemies, as it seems, on both sides of the political spectrum. The Korean Friendship Association has attracted many communists from around the world disillusioned by their parties' failure to recognize and support Korea in its heroic struggles. To communists such as these, socialism still means social equality and collective prosperity, values held dear by Chairman Kim Jong Il and the late Kim Il Sung and revered by the Korean people for it. Together, our global KFA family will work to ensure that Korea's people-centered socialist system remains alive and well for epochs to come.



Join the Korean  
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and fight for Socialist  
Korea's right of self-  
determination!

[www.korea-dpr.com/member.htm](http://www.korea-dpr.com/member.htm)

**lodestar**

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## Kim Jong Il is to Korea as a captain to a ship

By Bjornar Simonsen

On June 19, 41 years ago, comrade Kim Jong Il began his work at the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). This marks the day when his brilliant talent first guided and inspired the WPK and made Korea into a *Juche* Korea paved with a golden road to success, independence and victory against all enemies and hardship.

Thanks to Kim Jong Il, who always stood by the side of President Kim Il Sung, showing boundless reverence for him, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has defeated all kinds of revisionist ideas and reformism in accordance with the teachings of President Kim Il Sung, who said that revisionism and factionalism are of the utmost importance to guard against. Seeing today that the glorious WPK is strong and healthy is eternal proof that our leader Kim Jong Il has succeeded in every way in protecting the party, nation and people against every kind of threat.

Thanks to the guidance of leader Kim Jong Il, who is like a captain of

a ship, the DPRK has endured countless storms, and has always found its way to its port. Just like a ship relies on its captain to know intimately each function of the ship, in order to navigate with confidence and to guide the crew in running the ship, so the DPRK relies on Leader Kim Jong Il. This explains why Kim Jong Il, for example, is so often busy giving on-the-spot guidance, having taken a keen interest in knowing everything in great detail such as a captain knowing every inch of his ship. In this way Kim Jong Il can best serve his people, and the people in return have endless love for him.

Just like a ship needs a crew, so the DPRK needs the WPK. The crew is responsible for carrying out various duties given by the captain, and in such a way millions of members of the WPK work in all areas high and low, to make sure that the ship is clean, repaired and that everyone on board has everything he or she needs. Most importantly, it assists the captain in making sure the ship is functional and going in the correct direction. The Korean People's Army and the workers are all part of this crew, too; indeed every citizen of the country works actively to advance vigorously the great ship with Kim Jong Il at its helm.

Though the ship is somewhat small, the banner of this ship is the tallest banner of them all. It is the fastest ship in the world, and when it sails through the foaming sea, it looks as if to be an exquisite painting, a visual representation of pure poetry.

In the DPRK you can often hear the song "No Motherland Without you" being sung with boundless loyalty and respect for leader Kim Jong Il. Indeed, without the captain, the ship could go nowhere. And just like poetry, the guidance of Kim Jong Il is inspiring, beautiful, and eternal. Through the Korean Friendship Association, people from all walks of life can now visit this ship anytime by learning about Korea and taking

an active interest in the DPRK, studying the ideas of our captain, Kim Jong Il.

### REUNIFICATION continued



said: We will consolidate the success of the festival to strenuously conduct the movement for reunification till

November on which will fall the centenary of the fabrication of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty" to glorify this year which marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the country as a meaningful year of a turning point in the movement for national reunification.

The festival is going to close, but the ardent desire of all of us present for reunification and patriotism will always remain strong, he noted, calling for making a more dynamic advance towards reunification, not forgetting the warm kindred feelings they shared during the festival.

Paek Rak Chong, chairman of the south side's preparatory committee, in his closing address expressed thanks to the representatives of the south, north and overseas sides, those concerned with the festival and citizens of Pyongyang for the enormous efforts exerted for the success of the festival.

He declared the festival closed after calling on all the 70 million Koreans to work hard to lead this successful holding of the festival to the dynamic trend towards national reconciliation and cooperation, peace and reunification. A large Korean Peninsula flag was slowly lowered amidst the playing of song "May the Korean Peninsula Flag Flutter".

Before the closing ceremony there was a ceremony of awarding certificates of assistance to the organizations and representatives of the north, the south and overseas sides who have contributed to making the festival successful.