

The Pyongyang Times

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

No. 4 (3 040) weekly

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Sat, January 26, Juche 108(2019)

RESPONSE

International community hail DPRK leader's New Year Address

Personages and political and other organizations of different countries issued statements in support of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's historic New Year Address.

Atanas Ivanov, honorary chairman of the Bulgarian Communist Union, said that Kim Jong Un's New Year Address clarifies the tasks to be fulfilled by the Korean people this year.

The DPRK leader reviewed the proud achievements made last year and called for bringing about a revolutionary upswing on all fronts of socialist construction, he stated.

We fully support his New Year Address and are convinced that the Korean people will make great strides in socio-economic development and inter-Korean and external relations, he added.

Mexican political parties and organizations including

the People's Socialist Party and the National Coordinating Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea, in their joint statement, extended firm support and solidarity to the Korean people in their efforts to defend peace in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

Kim Jong Un brought about a fresh turn in the development of inter-Korean relations through the three rounds of north-south summit meetings and talks, the statement said.

He, in his New Year Address, brought forward practical proposals for making the Korean peninsula a durable and lasting peace zone, it noted.

Expressing the belief that all lines advanced by him are just, it hoped that the Korean people would win good successes in 2019 in their efforts to improve the people's livelihood and ensure peace and security on the peninsula under the leadership

of the Supreme Leader.

Such events as seminars and gatherings for newspaper reading were held in Italy, Nepal, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea and other countries to support his New Year Address.

The administrative chief of a Guinean company referred to the fact that the DPRK made notable achievements in economic construction last year under the wise guidance of Kim Jong Un and the Korean people made remarkable progress by relying on their own efforts, technology and resources without yielding to harsh sanctions by hostile forces.

This year, too, the world will witness the might of the single-minded unity of the DPRK, he said.

A congratulatory message to the DPRK leader was adopted at an event in Nepal.

By Pak Song Min PT

National memorial days designated

The Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly on Thursday issued a decree setting national memorial days.

The decree says that July 8 and December 17, death anniversaries of President

Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, are set as national memorial days and it has been decided to fly flags at half-mast on the days every year.

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EVENT

Kimjongilia Festival to open

The 23rd Kimjongilia Festival is to be held on a large scale in Pyongyang to mark the Day of the Shining Star, birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il and a greatest national holiday.

Kimjongilia shows will also take place and visits to Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia greenhouses be made in local areas during the festival.

It will add festive mood to the February spring holiday as a flower festival in praise

of the peerlessly great man that is held supported by the profound reverence of the Korean people and progressive humankind for the Chairman, who made a great contribution to accomplishing the cause of independence for the masses of the people and the cause of global independence by devoting his whole life to the prosperity of the country and wellbeing of the people.

Compiled from KCNA

MEETING

Joint conference adopts appeal to put inter-Korean declarations into practice

A joint conference of the DPRK government, political parties and organizations took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on January 23.

It was attended by senior officials Yang Hyong Sop, Kim Yong Chol and Ro Tu Chol, the leader of a friendly party, officials of public organizations, members of the North Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration, the north headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification and the Pan-National Alliance of Youth and Students for Korea's Reunification and the National Reconciliation Council, and representatives of the government, political parties and organizations.

The conference discussed the tasks to be tackled by the government, political parties and organizations in carrying out the tasks for national reunification set forth by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address.

Yang Hyong Sop, vice-

president of the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, made a report, followed by speeches delivered by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Country, Kim Yong Dae, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, and Ju Yong Gil, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea.

The way to national survival and the future of the fellow countrymen lie in adhering to and implementing the Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration, the speakers said, pointing to the need to check and frustrate all obstructive moves of anti-reunification forces and accelerate the nationwide advance for implementing the declarations with a firm belief in their validity.

They called on all the fellow countrymen in north, south and abroad to respond to the fervent patriotic appeal of the Supreme Leader with the nationwide

advance for carrying through the north-south declarations and thus glorify this year as a historic one when another radical change is brought about in the journey for the development of inter-Korean relations and peace and prosperity.

The meeting adopted an appeal to all the Koreans at

home and abroad.

The appeal referred to the fact that dramatic changes, which were unprecedented in the history of national division, and successive eye-opening events of last year made all the fellow countrymen bubble with great excitement and optimism.

It appealed to all the fellow

countrymen to eradicate military hostility between north and south so as to make the Korean peninsula a durable and lasting peace zone, upholding the slogan "Let us usher in a heyday of peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula by thoroughly implementing the historic north-south declarations!"

When the Korean nationals unite as one, they can carry out any great work, it said, calling for glorifying this year as a historic one.

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