

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

**OPENING SPEECH
AT THE EIGHTH CONGRESS
OF THE WORKERS' PARTY
OF KOREA**

January 5, Juche 110 (2021)

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Dear delegates,

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, for which millions of Party members have made sincere preparations with hearts that are burning with patriotism and loyalty, and to which they have been so looking forward, is convening at a significant and crucial time in the development of our revolution.

First, reflecting the boundless loyalty of you, dear delegates, and all the other Party members, people and service personnel across the country, I offer noblest respect and greatest glory to the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, the founder and the builder of the Workers' Party of Korea and the eternal leaders of our Party, state and people.

Dear delegates,

Five years have passed since our Party and all our people embarked on a new advance to attain the immediate goals and tasks for socialist construction set by the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

During this period, unprecedented trials, worse than any seen previously, placed enormous obstacles in the way of our revolution's advance. Yet our Party,

through tenacious and well-conceived practical action aimed at implementing its fighting programme, still registered great successes.

During the period under review our internal forces were further expanded and strengthened, while externally the country significantly enhanced its prestige. All this is a clear signal that a new era has dawned in which socialist construction will record a fresh upsurge and massive transformation.

The Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee held in August last year, based on an in-depth analysis and assessment of the new development trend of our revolution and the demands of the prevailing situation, both objective and subjective, took the decision to convene this Congress of the WPK.

The convocation of this Congress amid the current arduous circumstances is a noteworthy political event of great significance in view of the influence it will exert on changes and developments in the internal and external situation, and of the future struggle of our Party, a socialist ruling party.

When the historic decision to hold this Congress was announced, all the people across the country were overwhelmed by great emotion and expressed their

warm support for it. This came as a telling blow to the reactionary forces of all hues who are hostile to our cause and are attempting to check its advance.

The fact is that the WPK, by convening its highest-level meeting, is expressing resolute self-confidence in its ability to lead the revolution to a higher stage of victory and demonstrating its ardent will and solemn commitment to live up to the people's great trust and expectations by shouldering the future of the state and fully discharging its duties and responsibilities.

The Central Committee of our Party has declared at home and abroad that it will make this Congress a Congress for work, struggle and progress.

It has promised the Party's members and the other people that it will be strict in assessing its work during the period under review, will explicitly decide once again the correct orientation and struggle tasks for achieving fresh victories in building our style of socialism, and will adopt substantial measures to this end.

The successes registered by our Party in the revolutionary struggle and construction work over the last five years of arduous, yet glorious struggle are by no means small.

Through the miraculous victories and the events, noteworthy in the 5 000-year history of our nation, it has achieved and recorded since its Seventh Congress, the WPK has furnished a sure guarantee for reliably defending the future of the country and people from one generation to the next. At the same time, it has achieved a number of significant and valuable successes in laying the foundations for promoting economic construction and raising the people's standard of living.

However, when the period for implementing the Five-Year Strategy for National Economic Development ended last year, almost every sector was found to have fallen a long way short of its set objectives.

Various internal and external challenges still exist that are hampering and hindering our efforts and advance to achieve renewed, continuous victories in socialist construction.

The key, if we are to overcome the prevailing manifold difficulties with the greatest certainty and urgency, is to consolidate our own strength, our internal forces, in all respects.

Proceeding from the principle of finding the causes of mistakes not in the objective but in the subjective conditions, and of resolving all problems by enhancing

the role of our motive force, this Congress will conduct a comprehensive and profound analysis and assessment of the experiences, lessons and mistakes we have recorded during the period under review and, on this basis, define the scientific struggle goals and tasks we can and must accomplish without fail.

The successes we have achieved to date are priceless, as are the bitter lessons we have been taught.

As valuable assets for achieving fresh victories in the future, they are something that cannot be bartered, not even for gold.

We should further promote and build on the victories and successes we have gained at the cost of our sweat and blood, and prevent a repeat of the painful lessons.

In particular, we should have the courage to acknowledge those mistakes that, if left unaddressed, will develop into bigger obstacles and stumbling blocks, and adopt resolute measures for stopping them being repeated.

It's on the basis of this courage and resolve that this Congress has been convened.

If the Eighth Party Congress, a Congress for struggle, does substantial work and issues a correct line and appropriate strategic and tactical policies, the

Korean revolution will greet an era of a new leap forward and fresh upsurge.

In addition, with this Congress as the turning-point, the WPK's struggle to achieve national prosperity and the people's happiness will move to a new stage.

Dear delegates,

To ensure that this Congress is a substantial Congress for work, struggle and progress, the WPK Central Committee has, over the past four months, focused on the following issues:

First, it conducted a comprehensive, three-dimensional and detailed analysis and assessment of how the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress were implemented, and it learned the experiences and lessons for achieving future progress and development.

To this end, the Party Central Committee formed a non-permanent central inspection commission, which it sent to lower units. Its mission was to investigate the actual situation and listen carefully to the opinions of those workers, farmers and intellectuals who are Party members doing frontline labour.

The non-permanent central inspection commission performed its work by dispatching teams to the provinces. After learning about the actual situation

there, it sent them to ministries and central institutions according to the location and sector to conduct brisk, comprehensive and detailed inspections.

The teams thoroughly examined all aspects of the actual situation, including what was wrong, what could be done but was being neglected, and what was being implemented in either a beneficial or formalistic way in executing the decisions of the Seventh Party Congress, and if there were any shortcomings, what were their causes and what shortcomings were revealed in Party guidance.

During the preparations for this Party Congress, the various departments of the Party Central Committee and other Party organizations across the country submitted to the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and the preparatory committee for this Congress reports on their work over the last five years and innovative and detailed suggestions for their future struggle goals and plans.

In the course of this, we confirmed once again the precious truth that the masses are excellent teachers, and we became convinced that we were absolutely right in deciding to heed the opinions of the Party's organizations and members in making the preparations for this Congress.

This will be of great significance in making this Congress a revolutionary and militant one, both in name and in reality, which will embody the general will of all Party members, and which will adopt decisions that become the organizational will of the entire Party.

As part of the preparations for this Party Congress, we analyzed and reviewed the finances of the Party over the last five years and examined measures for improving them.

We also conducted a thorough study aimed at revising those parts of the Party Rules that, as an automatic repetition of what had gone before, were outdated or, as a copy of what others did, were irrelevant in our present reality. This was in line with the requirements of the developing revolution and the principles for building a Juche-oriented party.

We also carried out a comprehensive appraisal of the work of the members of the leadership body of the Seventh Party Central Committee, evaluating the extent of their contribution to strengthening and developing the Party and the revolution.

In the lead-up to this Party Congress, the basic Party organizations, provincial, city and county Party committees and other Party committees performing

equivalent functions to them, conducted an effective review of the work of their leadership bodies and held successful meetings for electing delegates to this Party Congress, with the main emphasis on selecting Party members who will play a core role in implementing the decisions of this Party Congress in the future.

This Eighth Party Congress will illuminate the road ahead of renewed struggle for the Korean revolution, and in preparing for it all the Party's members and all the other people across the country achieved brilliant successes by turning out as one in the 80-day campaign of loyalty. They did so, having glorified the 75th anniversary of the Party founding as a great, auspicious event through a frontal attack for achieving breakthroughs to ensure its successful opening.

The high political zeal demonstrated by our Party members and other people in making such sincere efforts to add glory and strength to their dignified Party prior to its Congress, represents an explosion of their extraordinary revolutionary spirit, the like of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world now.

Last year was quite a difficult one; amid a global public health crisis that was unprecedented in its length, we ensured enduring and complete stability in

our disease prevention work by stubbornly overcoming the difficulties. By making people understand that this work was their patriotic duty, we maintained the conscious unity of them all. They also joined the struggle to recover from the natural disasters and built more than 20 000 splendid new houses in various parts of the country. This great achievement marked another proud chapter in our Party's history of struggle.

In addition, Party members and other working people from all walks of life submitted reports to the Party Central Committee, detailing the valuable successes they had recorded in many theatres of struggle nationwide.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and militant greetings to all the Party members and all the other people and service personnel across the country who, by demonstrating at a higher level the might of their firm unity around the Party even amid the flames of the arduous struggle to overcome the manifold difficulties, firmly defended the Eighth Congress of the Party with burning patriotic devotion and great victories.

As I stand on this glorious podium, I would like to extend warm greetings to the organizations of our

overseas compatriots, including the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, and all our other overseas compatriots.

On behalf of the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, I pay noble tribute to all the patriotic martyrs, the unforgettable comrades-in-arms who cannot be present here, recalling with deep reverence these revolutionary comrades who devoted their precious lives to the development of the Party, the prosperity of the country, the happiness of the people, and posterity.

Dear delegates,

We have gathered at this significant venue at an important and crucial moment, charged with a highly honourable and sacred mission.

We are standing at a great turning point when the revolutionary cause of Juche that was launched on Mt Paektu is being led to further victory, and at a decisive moment when the 75 years of rule by the glorious Workers' Party of Korea will attain 80 years. We, here, are representing the destiny and future, the resourcefulness and wisdom of the millions of Workers' Party of Korea members and tens of millions of Korean people.

We are entrusted with the important mission of

making our country more powerful and wealthy and showing our people a shortcut to happiness in a world that is full of severe challenges and instability.

This Congress will review the revolutionary work of the last five years and decide the line of struggle and the strategic and tactical policies for opening up a new road. At this moment, the interest in it of all Party members and other people across the country, and their expectations and hopes for it, are very great and high.

We should display the highest sense of responsibility and passion in conducting the work of the Congress in order to live up to the great trust and expectations of the people who have always shared their destiny with the Party, have absolutely trusted and supported the Party, and have defended the Eighth Congress with unsparing, devoted efforts.

Attending this Congress are 250 members of the leadership body of the Seventh Party Central Committee and 4 750 delegates elected by organizations at all levels throughout the Party.

Among them are 1 959 representatives of Party and political workers, 801 representatives of state administrative and economic officials, 408 representatives of service personnel, 44

representatives of officials of working people's organizations, 333 representatives of officials in the sectors of science, education, public health, the arts, literature and the mass media, and 1 455 representatives of hard-core Party members involved in field labour.

Of them, women delegates number 501, accounting for ten per cent.

Also present at this Congress are 2 000 observers.

Solemnly pledging, on behalf of all the participants in this Congress, the eighth in the sacred history of the Workers' Party of Korea, that it will remain absolutely faithful to the revolutionary ideas and cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il,

In the full conviction that this Congress will serve as a stepping-stone and historic milestone in achieving a radical leap forward in the struggle for strengthening and developing our Party, accomplishing the socialist cause, building up our nation's strength and improving the people's living standards, and

In the hope that all the delegates will participate in this Congress with a sincere, responsible and proactive attitude,

I declare the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, open.

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