

Validity and Vitality of Juche Idea in Contemporary World

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On 24th of November 2020, the Indonesia-DPRK Friendship Association formed the Indonesian Juche Idea Study Group (IJSG).

The Indonesian-DPRK Friendship Association is one of the first friendship associations with the DPRK established in the world. One may say, the Indonesia-DPRK Friendship Association was founded in 2001.

Nevertheless, if we look back on the course of history, the Indonesia-DPRK Friendship Association has existed since the 1960s. We are all aware that the **Kimilsung Flower** is a native Indonesian flower specially bred by Indonesian experts and presented by president Sukarno to President **Kim Il Sung** in their meeting at the Bogor Botanical Garden in April 1965.

The visit of President **Kim Il Sung** and Chairman **Kim Jong Il** to Indonesia along with the **Kimilsung Flower** awarded by president Sukarno to President **Kim Il Sung** symbolizes the eternal friendship between Indonesia and the DPRK, the friendship that cannot be weathered by rain and sun.

We adhere to one of the important principles of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955, namely the principle of peaceful coexistence.

The basic idea is that every country has the right to exist and exercise sovereignty in the realm of its existence.

When a country's existence is threatened by other country, the threatened country has the full right to defend its existence and sovereignty. At the same time, the principle of peaceful coexistence also teaches every country to respect the independence and sovereignty of other nations and countries.

In his book **On the Juche Idea** (1982) Chairman **Kim Jong Il** explained that the Juche idea not only offers an “independent and creative” direction to the Korean revolution, but also establishes a new era for human history.

He divided the Juche idea into three components, namely the philosophical principle, the socio-historical principles, and the guiding principles of the Juche idea. The Juche idea clarifies the principle that man is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness. Therefore, this ideology places man at the center of the world. Man is the master of everything and decides everything. Thus, it is man who decides the transformation of the world.

Chairman **Kim Jong Il** also underlined that the working masses are the subject of history and human history is the history of struggle of the masses to realize their independence and defend it. Chairman **Kim Jong Il** also taught us that in order to maintain the independent stand, we must apply Juche in ideology, independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in defence.

In the inaugural meeting of IJSG, we underlined the importance of establishing the idea of nationality and sovereignty that are relevant to the nations of the world in dealing with neocolonialism and neo-imperialism with all their manifestations.

The Juche idea was authored by the founder of the DPRK, President **Kim Il Sung**, during the Korean nation's resistance to the Japanese occupation.

Initially, the Juche idea was seen as a struggle ideology influenced by Marxism. Later, the people came to know that the Juche idea is an original ideology. This ideology develops the postulation which says that man is the master of his own destiny as well as the master of the journey of revolution.

The Juche idea was born from the experience of the Korean people gained in the struggle against the oppression by other nations. The Juche idea is an ideology to achieve and maintain independence.

Geographically speaking, the DPRK is surrounded by other big nations, namely China, Russia and Japan. This geopolitical reality prompted the DPRK to maintain and realize independence.

By having this idea, we proclaim to the world that we do not want to become a nation on which we depend our fate on other nations, but on our own nation.