

## August 25 after the Lapse of Six Decades

August 25 is one of the public holidays in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### Historic Declaration

**Kim Jong Il** (1942-2011), chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army on August 25, 1960. Noteworthy during his visit is the declaration he made: For a country to be strong, it should have a powerful army. I'm determined to develop our country into a military power no enemy would dare provoke.

Since that day he began providing guidance over the overall military affairs of the country. He remained loyal to his declaration in his decades-long political career. He never overlooked any intervention by big powers, always paying primary attention to building up the country's defence capabilities.

The country's economic situation was extremely difficult after the middle of the 1990s as the US-led imperialist allied forces' attempt to stifle it reached extreme. With an eye to the distant future, **Kim Jong Il** took a series of steps to bolster up the country's military strength.

His outstanding achievement is that he developed his country into a nuclear state with a powerful war deterrent. Once a European politician said today's world is divided into aristocrats equipped with nuclear weapons and serfs playing the role of footmen. As the DPRK possessed nuclear weapons, a breach was made in the world's political landscape centred on nuclear powers, and the US, a self-acclaimed sole superpower in the world, which had ceaselessly threatened the DPRK with nuke, dared not mount a war against it.

### 60-odd Years after the Historic Declaration

More than six decades have passed since **Kim Jong Il** made the historic declaration. Today the DPRK ranks with the military powers on its own terms. This is one of the greatest achievements made by the Korean people under the leadership of **Kim Jong Un**, president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, who is carrying forward the cause of **Kim Jong Il**.

Giving top priority to the buildup of military capabilities in ensuring the country's sustained and peaceful development, he has made sure that powerful and sophisticated weapons are steadily developed so that the balance of power can be maintained on the Korean peninsula.

Under his leadership the DPRK has developed intercontinental ballistic missiles and different kinds of strategic, cruise and hypersonic missiles, all with diverse ranges, plus 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rocket launcher, new-type main battle tank and vessels including a tactical nuclear attack submarine. Thus, it has possessed strong capabilities for self-defence, with which it can cope with any provocations by the hostile forces. Last November it successfully launched a reconnaissance satellite, the first of its kind in its history. As a result, it has now taken in its hands both the "eyes" to look over a very long distance and the strong "fist" to make a long-distance strike. Such formidable military strength of the country contributes to the steady maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, a hottest spot in the world.

The country's defence scientists are making new achievements one after another in their efforts to upgrade their country's defence capabilities. The attempts by the hostile forces to unleash another war have met frustration from their beginning, and this is precisely a great contribution to guaranteeing global peace.

The DPRK has emerged as a powerful defender of regional and global peace and stability under the leadership of **Kim Jong Un**.



Main battle tank, iron fist of the Korean People's Army



Volley fire of 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rocket launchers





*ICBM Hwasongpho-18*



Naval vessel firing a strategic cruise missile