

The Reality of the DPRK and Its Characteristics

It is nearly impossible to find among the articles in the media world of Europe those that write positively on north Korea. Western mass media make up likely stories in their own way, but such assertions and articles are not based on facts.

This is an extract from English newspaper, *Guardian*.

Actually, not a few people, influenced by the propaganda of the US and the Western press, do not have a correct understanding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Let us look into the reality of this country.

Even people who are proud that theirs are developed and civilized countries would be surprised if they knew that the universal free compulsory education was enforced in 1959 in that country. The characteristic of the education at all levels, ranging from preschool education to tertiary education is that it is free. This kind of education cannot be found elsewhere in the world. What is more, teaching aids, fixtures, apparatuses, equipment, raw and other materials and various chemical reagents for experiment at schools are provided by the state free of charge, and expenses for the students' extracurricular activities, socio-political activities, study tour, expedition and camping are all borne by the state. An ordinance on the introduction of universal 12-year compulsory education was adopted in 2012. 2017 was designated as the year of science and education, and many successes were achieved in raising the educational conditions and environment to the world level. As those who visited the DPRK say unanimously, the people who do not worry about the education of their children are only Koreans in the world.

Free medical service was introduced on January 1, 1953 in the arduous days of the Korean war (1950-1953) unleashed by the US. Not only all forms of medical service but also medical treatment and recuperation at health resorts and holiday camps and even the round trip to them are provided by the state. According to the policy of preventive medicine, the people get vaccination and comprehensive medical checkup on a regular basis. Thanks to the enforcement of district doctor system, all people are under constant care of doctors. The Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and other hospitals, equipped with high-end facilities have sprung up and they are serving the ordinary working people.

Houses are built by the state and provided to the working people free of charge. This is a policy stipulated in the Constitution of the country. In recent years, modern streets such as

Mansudae, Changjon, Mirae Scientists and Ryomyong were built one after another, and the houses there were distributed to people of various walks of life. In 2016 when the northern areas in North Hamgyong Province were hit by floods, the state enlisted all its forces and built nearly 12 thousand houses in just over two months, thus providing the flood victims with better living conditions. The state also builds modern houses that meet the demands of the new century in the countryside for the farmers.

The human rights situation gives a better understanding of this country.

The people enjoy equal political rights. Among the deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, the highest organ of State power, are workers and farmers. Officials in the power and law-enforcement organs work on the principle that they are servants of the people; they give top priority to the interests of the people in their work, and never tolerate any practices that violate them. Women fully exercise their rights, enjoying all kinds of social benefits.

Unemployment, begging, drug abuse, gun violence, AIDS, human trafficking, strike and anti-government demonstrations, which can be witnessed easily in the West, cannot be found in this country. All people at working age are provided with stable jobs by the state. And the country abolished the tax system in April 1974. Baby homes, orphanages, primary and secondary schools for orphans and rest homes are ubiquitous, where children and the elderly with nobody to support them are taken care of by the state. The national policy for the people with disabilities is on a high level. Artistic performances by the persons with disabilities won enthusiastic applause in Britain and other countries.

The Korean people enjoy a dignified life as social beings though they do not live in luxury owing to the US and its followers' inhuman moves for sanctions.

In a word, the reality in the DPRK shows that its social system is a people-oriented one, in which the people are the masters of everything and everything serves them.

A famous German authoress, Luise Rinser once said: The DPRK is heaven that Christians have longed for, a just society that Plato described, a Utopia that Thomas More imagined and a God's City that St Augustine aspired.

Slinging mud at this country cannot but be construed as pursuing an ulterior purpose.