



Commemorating July 27  
Victory Day



July 2004 (Juche 93)

Korean Friendship Association

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## KFA International March extends solidarity with Korean People



KFA President Alejandro Cao de Benos and International Counselor Bjornar Simonsen pictured in Panmunjon with DPRK officials.

PYONGYANG -- The International March for Korea's Peace and Reunification was held July 20-31 in the DPR of Korea. Organized by the Korean Friendship Association (KFA), the delegation consisted of 22 KFA and non-KFA members from around the world, including journalists.

The march was inaugurated July 21 with a ceremony at Pyongyang's

Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification, attended by officials from the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World Peoples, as well as thousands of Pyongyangites.

Alejandro Cao de Benos, chairman of the KFA and leader of the march, read a statement conveying his respects to the late President Kim Il Sung and noting the leader's tireless work aimed at north-south reconciliation. He condemned the US government for its efforts aimed at stifling reunification. A letter to Chairman Kim Jong Il from the marchers was presented at the rally, which concluded with a march through the streets of Pyongyang while participants chanted slogans such as "Korea is one" and "US troops, leave Korea!"

A protest meeting was later held in Pamnamu Valley in Wonam-ri, Sinchon County, where marchers visited a museum detailing US war crimes committed during Korea's Fatherland Liberation War of 1950-1953. The following day, participants marched to Panmunjon, where they read statements to troops on the southern side condemning American war atrocities and demanding immediate US withdrawal from the peninsula.

Throughout ensuing days, marchers traveled across the country to explore DPRK life while conveying solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle against US Imperialism. Trips to Kaesong, Wonsan and Nampho offered marchers a rare opportunity to meet

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## US physician donates pharmaceuticals, medical supplies to DPRK

PYONGYANG -- In a gesture of goodwill and humanitarianism, Dr. David Borenstein, a physician from the United States participating in the 2004 KFA International March for Korea's Peace and Reunification, made a donation of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies in the Korean capital on July 30. The materials were handed over to officials from the Korean Medical Association, and included anti-biotic medications,

supplements, catheters, and medical reference textbooks.

The donation comes as Washington steps-up its aggressive campaign to suffocate Korea's socialist system by economic means. US-imposed sanctions have impacted all aspects of life in the DPR of Korea, but the nation's health-care system has been particularly hard hit. The result: medical experts across the country continue to face a critical

shortage of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, complicating the efforts of Korea's universal healthcare system to meet the needs of the nation's 23 million inhabitants.

According to Borenstein, supplies most urgently needed include drugs for treating ulcers, high blood pressure and diabetes, as well as general anti-biotic and chemotherapy medicines. While Borenstein aims to send supplies on a monthly or bi-

monthly basis, transportation is hampered by the complex series of US regulations on shipments to the DPR or Korea resulting from the sanctions.

Donations such as this may act only as a small bandage to aid a much larger wound, but they also serve to highlight growing international awareness of Korea's plight—and the cause of that plight. Resolving the problem at its source means targeting the hostile US policies that caused and aggravate it. Only then can the injuries inflicted on Korea's healthcare system and national well being be thoroughly healed.

## Memorial meetings across Korea honour life of President Kim Il Sung



PYONGYANG, July 10 (KCNA) -- Memorial meetings and memorial services were held in every province, city and county and at every complex and enterprise and every unit of the three services of the Korean People's Army Thursday on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the demise of President Kim Il Sung. All the participants paid a silent tribute to the President.

Memorial addresses were made to be followed by speeches at the meetings and services.

Speakers recalled that the President had devoted his all to the freedom and liberation of the people, prosperity of the country, the people's cause of independence and the victory of the socialist cause till his advanced age of over 80 since he embarked upon the road of the sacred struggle for the liberation of the country.

The President victoriously led the whole historical course of revolution from the struggle for national liberation to socialist construction, overcoming all sorts of rigorous trials and difficulties in the periods of the sanguinary revolutionary war, fierce class struggle, gigantic construction work under the complicated international situation, etc. and struggling through troubles, they noted, and continued: The President established the glorious revolutionary traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea including the idea and line of attaching great importance to the army and the military affairs in the practice of the Korean revolution. Thanks to these great traditions, the entire Party and the whole army and all the people could make a steady and dynamic advance winning sure victory despite the tempest of history.

Under the leadership of Kim Jong Il the revolutionary history of the President steadily advances thanks to the sacred struggle to implement the idea and cause of the President.

The speakers called for devotedly defending the headquarters of the revolution headed by Kim Jong Il, consolidating the single-hearted unity of the Party, the army and the people as firm as an iron wall, more thoroughly establishing the traits of attaching great importance to the military affairs throughout the society and performing new feats in production and construction to accelerate the building of a great prosperous powerful socialist nation, true to the last instructions of the President.

## A decade of struggle marked by economic achievements

PYONGYANG (KCNA) -- On July 6, Juche 83 (1994) President Kim Il Sung convened a consultative meeting of senior economic officials and clearly indicated ways of further developing the major economic sectors including the power, metal and chemical industries and railway transport. On this occasion, economic officials and working people are recollecting what they have done in the efforts for carrying out the tasks given by the President at the consultative meeting, under the leadership of Kim Jong Il.

In the period the Anbyon Youth Power Plant, which the President was deeply concerned for in his lifetime, was constructed and the Songwon Dam and Namgang Dam reinforcement projects were completed.

Thousands of minor power plants including the Songchongang power plants in tiers have been built throughout the country.

The workers of the metal industrial domain, inspired by the signal-fire of Songgang (Songjin Steel Complex) kindled by Kim Jong Il, have made considerable achievements in the efforts for updating production processes of the iron and steel works and increasing the iron and steel production.

The Kumgangsán Youth Railway Line project was finished in a year or little more and the Haeju-Ongjin, Singangryong-Pupho broad-gauge lines were opened to traffic.

The Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Plant, the July 6 Railway Factory and the Rahung Concrete Sleeper Factory are going ahead with the updating of production processes.

The Kwangmyongsong Saltern, the first of its kind on the East Coast of the country, and other salterns have been built and modern refined salt

factories have appeared in different parts of the country including Onchon County.

Meanwhile, the December 5 Youth Mine has started operation, while the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex built a modern concentrated sulfuric acid production process.

A remote-controlled long-distance belt conveyer was laid in the Suncheon Cement Complex and a fire-brick production process was put into operation in the Sangwon Cement Complex.

## DPRK-made drinks to be sold in US



PYONGYANG (KCNA) --

Pyongyang Liquor is soon to be sold in the US.

Pak Il U, 55, a Korean resident in the US who is manager of the Dong Woo USA INC., had an interview with KCNA at the Koryo Hotel when he was visiting Pyongyang.

The publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration gave him a great delight, he said. A way has been paved for the Korean nation to reunify the country by itself.

I have thought that when all the Koreans in the north, south and overseas are united with a strong sense of patriotism and try to let the world know well about Korea, the door of national reunification will be opened, he said.

After much deliberation over the way for disabusing American society of its mistaken thought about the DPRK and giving the Korean-Americans a correct understanding of the fatherland, I made up my mind to sell Pyongyang Liquor in the United States, he said, and went on:

"I have spent much time and efforts for its realization. Pyongyang

is the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. When people drink Pyongyang Liquor, a traditional liquor of Korea, they will think of Korea and chat about the history and traditions of the nation. That's why I made such a decision."

Saying that his initiative was fully supported by the motherland, he added:

"I have already taken the business license and have it registered as the Korea Pyongyang Trading USA INC. I feel pride and have already received congratulatory telephone messages from Koreans in different regions of the world".

Noting that its sale is optimistic as the selling network has already been arranged, he explained his plan to sell various kinds of DPRK-made drinks including blueberry wine in the United States, not limiting himself to the sale of Pyongyang Liquor.

He called upon all the Koreans abroad to make a tangible contribution to the reunification of the nation, those with money donating money, those with strength giving strength and those with knowledge dedicating knowledge, as said by President Kim Il Sung.

## 8th National Exhibition of Invention and New Technology opens



Pictured: scene from inside the Three-Revolution Exhibition Hall in Pyongyang

Pyongyang, July 23 (KCNA) -- The 8th National Exhibition of Invention and New Technology opened at the Three-Revolution

Exhibition Thursday. On display in the form of real thing, model, video recording, diagram and so forth are over 1,000 pieces of invention and new technology achieved by scientists, technicians, officials and working people across the country in their efforts to develop the nation's science and technology.

While the exhibition is open there will be a work for the dissemination and generalization of worthy items of invention and new technology in the form of scientific and technological presentation, short course, etc. and diverse information services including the introduction of exhibits through information service networks.

Present at the opening ceremony were Choe Thae Bok, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Sung Hyon, minister of Metal and Machine-Building Industries, Kim Yong Jin, minister of Education, officials concerned, scientists, technicians, inventors and working people.

Pyon Yong Rip, president of the Academy of Sciences, addressing the opening ceremony, said all the officials, scientists, technicians and inventors should make substantial contributions to making a breakthrough on the economic and scientific front by devoting all their energy and wisdom to the development of the nation's science and technology.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the participants went round the exhibition hall.

## KFA planning 2005 delegation to the DPRK

Preparations are underway for the 2005 KFA Delegation to the DPR of Korea, August 7-20. The trip will encompass 14 days total, including two in Beijing and 12 in the DPRK.

The delegation will travel to Mt. Paektu together with other

international friends. At the mountain's historic Secret Camp, a statue of the Three Generals will be unveiled. Mass gymnastics are expected and a parade of the Korean People's Army is a strong possibility.

Please note that this is not a regular tourist delegation, but includes solidarity activities and conferences in which all attendants must participate.

Prior to the DPRK trip, a KFA conference will be held in Beijing together with KFA China and the General Association of Koreans living in China. A webpage will be opened soon with more details. A photo gallery from this year's KFA Reunification March can be accessed at: [www.korea-dpr.com/gallery](http://www.korea-dpr.com/gallery)

## KFA Notes

### **KFA-USA collecting medical supplies for DPRK**

The US branch of the KFA is organizing a campaign to collect pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and medical books to be sent to the DPRK. Those interested in donating or collaborating on this project may write to: [usa@korea-dpr.com](mailto:usa@korea-dpr.com)

### **Solidarity conference to be held in Peru**

The Korean Committee for Solidarity with World's People, the World Peace Council and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers will organize a conference in the city of Lima, Peru, October 15-16. KFA Official

Delegates and members are encouraged to attend, but please note that each participant must cover his/her own travel and accommodation expenses. Interested parties should write to: [korea@korea-dpr.com](mailto:korea@korea-dpr.com)

### **KFA Eastern European branches to hold region-wide conference**

The Serbia and Montenegro branch of the KFA is preparing a conference of KFA members in Eastern Europe, including branches in Romania, Poland, Turkey. Those interested in further information or participating should write to: [serbiamontenegro@korea-dpr.com](mailto:serbiamontenegro@korea-dpr.com)

### **Koryo Film Festival underway**

Korea Is One (KFA-Belgium) will organize a KFA meeting and Koryo Film Festival in Brussels next year featuring documentaries and movies from North and South Korea.

For more information, to attend or to help organize, please write to: [info@korea-is-one.org](mailto:info@korea-is-one.org)

### **New KFA official delegate in Holland**

Jan Beentjes has been appointed Official Delegate of the KFA in the Netherlands. Members in the area interested in building the organization there or collaborating in the branch's webpage construction should write to: [netherlands@korea-dpr.com](mailto:netherlands@korea-dpr.com)

## Western lies exposed

### 10 common myths concerning North Korea

By Jason LaBouyer

Those of us who joined the 2004 March for Korea's Peace and Reunification were offered a rare glimpse into the life of the DPR of Korea, a nation subject like no other to the forced isolation and smear-campaigns of the US government. From Pyongyang to Panmunjom, Nampho to Wonsan, our delegation had the opportunity to meet Koreans of all walks of life. It didn't take long for members of our group to notice a few (or more) glaring discrepancies between the image of North Korea sold to us by Western governments and the mass media, and

the conditions of life that we actually witnessed. The following list of lies is based upon the observations of various members of our international delegation.

10. *“North Koreans are fearful of contact with foreigners (they might just wind up in a prison camp).”*

This lie was quickly exposed by the warmth and openness bestowed upon our delegation by our Korean hosts and the locals we encountered everywhere throughout our stay. Indeed, wherever we traveled, on foot or by bus, citizens and soldiers alike waived and smiled at us. No effort was made by our guides to separate us from the general public; on the contrary, members of our delegation were always free to approach Koreans and chat with them—for those who didn't speak Korean, our translators were more than willing to be of service.

9. *“Pyongyang is a showcase city prohibited to bicyclists, pregnant women, the elderly, mentally-ill and disabled.”*

Those individuals who spawned these rumors must be (a) blind, (b) mentally retarded, (c) totally ignorant or (d) all of the above. Pyongyang is a very attractive city boasting impressive architecture, fantastic city planning and stunning monuments. But the other DPRK cities our delegation visited, such as Wonsan and Kaesong, are very much the same—attractive and thriving cities recovering from hard times, each with their share of cultural facilities and monuments. Likewise, Pyongyang clearly has its share of the elderly and disabled—in the DPRK, people of all physical and intellectual endowments are valued and taken care of. As for women expecting, the Pyongyang Maternity Palace, built in

1980, provides modern facilities and 60,000 square meters of floor space for childbirth and treatment of women's diseases. One final note: we saw plenty of Pyongyangites enjoying pleasant bike rides.

8. *"North Koreans endure very austere lives."*

Our delegation had the chance to visit the Mangyondae Fun Fair—an impressive theme park in Pyongyang with rides and facilities rivaling those in the West. And there was no shortage of locals to enjoy the rides with us. Pyongyang, a city of roughly 2 million, offers more park space (58 square meters of green belt per citizen), cultural facilities and health and recreational centers than most other cities of that size in the world. This is no small feat for a country that continues to endure severe economic difficulties under the pressure of US sanctions. Other DPRK cities boast similar facilities—our delegation visited a children's camp near Wonsan that looked more like a luxury resort. The camp is provided free of charge to all Korean children. Also, members of our delegation frequently remarked that North Koreans everywhere dress very nicely, always appearing relaxed and content. This may be attributable to the social benefits of Korea's planned economic system—job security, social security and yearly paid vacations are luxuries in most countries, but entitlements to every DPRK worker.

7. *"Ordinary North Koreans are not allowed to travel abroad."*

Waiting for my return flight to the US at the Beijing International Airport, I came across a group of 15 North Korean teachers of English on their way to the UK for a month to brush up on their language skills. We chatted for nearly two hours. Some of them knew more about US history

and current affairs than I do. The fact remains that countless DPRK educators, students, scientists, athletes and religionists travel abroad every year to attend conferences and competitive events.

6. *"North Korea is a chauvinistic, male-dominated society"*

The United States is a chauvinistic, male-dominated society. North Korean men, by comparison to their American counterparts, seem rather modest and self-effacing. The Korean women we met were often just as assertive, educated and well rounded as the men. The vice-chairperson of the Korean Committee on Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, which sponsored our delegation, is a woman. Moreover, men in Socialist Korea, as we learned, are expected to take an active role in household affairs and child rearing while women pursue their own career paths. Indeed, many DPRK women are celebrated for their contributions to the physical and social sciences, while many more take an active role in local, regional and national governance. North Korean women are also free from the commercial sex and beauty industries that stalk women in the Capitalist world. In this sense, women in the DPRK have achieved a level of equality and respect that their counterparts in the West continue to struggle for.

5. *"North Korea's economy is moribund."*

We saw construction taking place everywhere in the DPRK—new high-rises being erected in Pyongyang, housing developments in the countryside and a number of new factories under construction in Nampho, for example. This undoubtedly signals the recovery of the DPRK economy after years of hardship. Indeed, Pyongyang and

other DPRK cities are presently experiencing large-scale renovations thanks to the economic turn-up, as we learned. It's also worth mentioning that every store I visited or observed in Korea, walking or driving by, looked rather well stocked. While North Koreans obviously don't have access to the abundance of consumer goods forced upon Westerners, I was surprised to see a decent assortment of clothing, food and other products in stores within and without Pyongyang.

4. *"North Koreans hate Americans."*

North Koreans are very intelligent. They know better than to confuse a corrupt, greedy and hateful US ruling-class with the general populace it exploits. Several members of our delegation, including myself, were Americans, and we were treated very warmly by everyone we met. Koreans understand that the US government is their enemy—not ordinary citizens.

3. *"North Korea is famine-stricken."*

I think not. While North Koreans may not benefit from the abundance of food enjoyed by more affluent Westerners, they are certainly not starving. Not in Pyongyang, and not in the countryside. In fact, some members of our delegation appeared more malnourished than any Korean I encountered. Due to a critical lack of fuel and arable land, however, Korea's agricultural system is always quite vulnerable to crises. Ending the sanctions is vital to preventing another food shortage.

2. *"The North Korean countryside is stripped bare of vegetation (it has all been consumed by starving peasants)."*

This is truly one of the most stupid and easily dismissible of all the lies. The hills and countryside in the DPRK are quite lush and green. However, we did spot quite a few people kneeling down and pulling grass—we learned that many Koreans raise small rabbits, and rabbits must eat too!

### 1. “North Koreans are demoralized.”

Half a century of US hostility and a decade of forced isolation have not broken the will of the Korean people to pursue their own path to national development and independence. Why should four more years of Bush’s threats and tough-talk? Everywhere we visited, in the cities or in the rural countryside, we were struck by the prevalence of smiling faces and laughter. If the Korean people are demoralized, they do very well to conceal it. The fact is that Koreans are quite knowledgeable about their political system and way of life, as well as the alternative that exists around the world. They know which is superior. After spending only a week in the DPRK, I believe I do as well.

## An American in Pyongyang

By Michel Watts



I could not believe it was finally happening. I was embarking upon what I considered the journey of a

lifetime. It all started in Beijing on July 18, 2004 at the KFA International conference where supporters of the DPRK from China hosted a meeting for all members of the KFA. It was wonderful to be with people fighting for the same cause: Peace and Reunification on the Korean peninsula and a broadened understanding of the DPRK, its people and culture.

A few days later, the KFA delegation departed Beijing for Pyongyang. My dream became a reality; I hardly knew what to expect. I had studied about the DPRK and was well-informed about its society and ideology, but coming from the West, where we are inundated on a daily basis with negative propaganda and outright lies, my mind was spinning in anticipation.

What we experienced over the next twelve days was beyond my greatest expectations. The wonderful thing about traveling with the KFA was that we were able to experience the DPRK in a different light. We traveled extensively throughout the country and met with people from all walks of life. Not only did we see the magnificent city of Pyongyang, but also how people in villages live and work. Marchers had the opportunity to work with farmers on a cooperative farm and help with construction, for example. After laboring together, we shared meals, sang and danced. All cultural barriers had vanished.

What impressed me the most about the DPRK was the feeling that everyone is part of a big family: neighbors watching out for neighbors. This is rare in capitalist countries, where the competitive mindset is to outperform your neighbor. We were welcomed everywhere we went, not with skepticism, but with warmth and generosity. We made friendships with people whom we will never forget.

I encourage members of the KFA to share the reality of the DPRK with their friends, families and coworkers so that we can help change the hostile policies perpetuated in the West. Through better understanding, we can build a stronger movement of solidarity with the DPRK worldwide.

### KFA MARCH (from page 1)

people from different parts of the DPRK and to explore areas less frequently visited by tourists. In Wonsan, marchers enjoyed a tour of the Songdowon International Children’s Camp, as well as excursions to the ocean and Sijung Lake. En route to Nampho, marchers visited the Kochang Cooperative Farm and were acquainted first-hand with peasant life in the DPRK by assisting workers with routine crop work for a brief time. Participants were then treated to a cultural performance by the hosting farm workers, accompanied by a picnic consisting of fruits and vegetables grown on the farm.



Thousands of Pyongyangites joined KFA marchers on 21 July to denounce US aggression.

Around Pyongyang, marchers toured the capital’s many cultural and historical sites, including Mangyongdae, birthplace of Kim Il Sung, the Tower of Juche, Arch of Triumph, Grand Monument of Kim Il Sung on Mansu Hill, Museum of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War, Grand People’s Study House, and the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery. Marchers paid their respects to the late Kim Il Sung at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where the President lies in state.

Marchers also had many opportunities to join leisure activities with Koreans, such as a visit to Pyongyang's Mangyongdae Fun Fair, where participants spent several hours enjoying different rides and amusements at the large theme park, including a ride on a two-looped roller coaster and a chance to play games with children at the park's video-game arcade. Marchers spent another evening at Pyongyang's Gold Lane, a modern bowling alley seldom visited by tourists.



Pictured at Kumsusan Memorial Palace (left to right), Jason LaBouyer, KFA International Organization Secretary, Alejandro Cao de Benos, KFA President, Michel Watts, KFA-USA Official Delegate, and Bjornar Simonsen, KFA International Counselor.

Indeed, the march was unique in that it offered participants the chance not only to see the nation's great monuments and scenic wonders, but to visit locations and experience aspects of Korean life seldom witnessed by foreigners. That included a visit to Pyongyang's Moranbong Middle School No 1, where marchers were able to meet young Korean pupils and learn about their lives, curricula and interests. At Nampho, marchers spent an afternoon at a public beach, swimming, conversing and relaxing with Korean vacationers. And at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang, marchers were able to observe and join in a few of the lessons offered daily to the general public.

The march received extensive coverage by DPRK press and broadcast media, and participants

were warmly welcomed by Koreans everywhere. A friendship gathering was held on Rungra Islet in Pyongyang on the final evening featuring a cultural performance by the Mansudae Art Troupe, followed by games and dancing with performers and a banquet with officials.

**Want to see more?**

Visit [www.korea-dpr.com/gallery](http://www.korea-dpr.com/gallery) to view the photo albums of various participants in the 2004 KFA March for Korea's Peace and Reunification

### "Project Glorious Sun"

Inspired by the classic "Little Red Book," KFA-USA member Peter Fox plans to edit the DPRK work "Glorious Sun of Juche: Guidance of the Great Leaders."

The project will consist of a small "pocket" text of quotes of the Great Leaders and will be arranged under various categories. Fox is looking for ideas and would like KFA members to submit quotes to fit the various categories. Once edited, the work will be published first in English and then in other languages.

For more information, or to submit quotes, contact Fox at [kunga96@yahoo.com](mailto:kunga96@yahoo.com)

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**Profile:** Michel Watts



**Position:** Official Delegate, KFA-USA

**Location:** Washington D.C

**Interests:** Politics, music, dialectics, DPRK history and current affairs

**Latest project:** organizing a shipment of medical supplies to the DPRK (contact [usa@korea-dpr.com](mailto:usa@korea-dpr.com) for more information).

**In his own words:**

"I joined the KFA in 2002 because I wanted to help promote friendship and solidarity with the DPRK. After returning from the DPRK, I am working to promote understanding of the DPRK in the US and ask all KFA-USA members to take an active role in process."

**lodest★**

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