

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG UN

LET US LAUNCH A NEW REVOLUTION IN CONSTRUCTION TO LEAD THE WAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OWN STYLE OF SOCIALIST CIVILIZATION

Letter to Those Attending the Second Grand Short
Course of Officials in the Construction Sector
February 8, Juche 111 (2022)

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At a time when, in this significant year, every sector of socialist construction is seething with revolutionary enthusiasm for writing another glorious page in the history of the country by carrying out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Second Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector has convened.

Currently, in line with the Party's far-reaching plan, we are ushering in a new era of grand construction aimed at once again transforming the whole country beyond recognition. Officials in the construction sector are active on a major front of creation and transformation, and on this occasion they have gathered to review and analyze the successes achieved, the experiences gained, the mistakes made and the lessons learned in the construction sector in recent years and to rearm themselves with our Party's idea on architecture and its policy on construction. This is quite opportune and meaningful.

I warmly congratulate the officials in the construction sector who are participating in this short course. They have a soaring will to demonstrate the

level of development and dignity of our Juche-oriented architecture, which has reached a higher stage in the struggle for opening up an era of a fresh upsurge, an era of comprehensive development, in socialist construction.

I also extend warm and militant greetings to all the other builders and soldiers who are creating legends of construction in the era of the Workers' Party by giving full play to the strength and mettle of our state at the grand construction sites where a civilized and prosperous powerful country is being built, true to the call of the Party.

At the current stage of the struggle for achieving a fresh victory in socialist construction, when we must show the greatest determination in the worst-ever conditions, the position and role of the construction sector are vital. When this sector is advancing dynamically in the vanguard, developing our contemporary civilization ahead of all other sectors, the revolutionary mettle of the people and their zeal for struggle can be steadily heightened, our style of socialism can make vigorous progress, and the dawn of a great, powerful country will come earlier.

This is why our Party attaches such great importance to this short course and hopes that it will

constitute a turning point in developing and achieving a fresh leap forward in Juche-oriented architecture.

The previous Grand Short Course of Officials in the Construction Sector, which was a first in our country's history of construction, established an important milestone in ushering in a golden age of construction by fully applying our Party's people-first ideal of architecture.

The short course brought about innovative changes in the way officials in the construction sector think and act, and as a result our architectural design and our execution of building work have developed beyond recognition. We have gained the experience and laid the foundations for designing creative and unique structures as we like, free from the conventional and stereotyped patterns of the past. Moreover, our construction workers have grown in strength and raised the level of their technical skills to a much higher level.

Measures have been adopted that have developed the material and technical foundations of the building-materials industry, the arsenal for grand construction, and progress has been made in producing finishing materials domestically.

In short, at a time when construction is entering a

golden age, our Juche-oriented architecture and construction sector are recording remarkable development. They have created numerous monumental structures of which we can be proud before the world.

Architectural projects have been carried out for holding the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in high esteem for ever and adding eternal brilliance to the Party's glorious revolutionary history, traditions and achievements. This is the priceless success born of the ardent loyalty and devoted efforts of the officials and workers in the construction sector who have remained faithful to the inherent principles and mission of the Juche-oriented architecture.

Since the first grand short course, we have completed a large-scale project equivalent to building a modern street every year. We have erected wonderful structures that can serve as new standards and models for Juche-oriented architecture in urban, rural and industrial construction and in the construction of cultural facilities. Projects such as the seat and rural villages in the city of Samjiyon, Ryomyong Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, the Sci-Tech Complex

and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort are permeated with the resourcefulness and talents of our designers and builders. They stand as masterpieces of Juche-oriented architecture revealing the new face of civilization in the era of the Workers' Party.

In the last year alone, we achieved a breakthrough in hitting the target of housing construction envisaged in the five-year plan by building 10 000 flats in the Songsin and Songhwa districts and by successfully promoting the construction of 5 000 flats in the Komdok area. Through the construction of the Pothong riverside terraced houses district in a characteristic way, we created a new form of architecture and accumulated rich experience that can be spread across the country. Other brilliant successes were recorded at construction sites across the country, such as those of the Pyongyang General Hospital, which will fulfil a promise from the Party to the people, and the Wonsan-Kalma Coastal Tourist Resort, as well as the project for establishing a C1 chemical industry and the Tanchon Power Station, and renovating the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County.

A success we recall with a special sense of pride is the sprucing up of Samjiyon, a project of great

political and strategic significance for our Party, state and people. Through this project we demonstrated the faith of all our people and their will to defend the revolutionary traditions of the Party and glorify for ever the revolutionary achievements of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. We also created a model of regional construction and dedicated a gift of loyalty for the 80th anniversary of the birth of General Kim Jong Il. Availing myself of this opportunity, I extend heartfelt thanks to all the people, builders and service personnel across the country who, in a demonstration of their unalloyed loyalty to the Party and their leaders, devoted their strength and wisdom to the project and were unsparing in their material and moral assistance.

Our grand socialist construction has proceeded without a moment's interruption, in a manner that is unprecedented in its huge scale and boldness, in a characteristic and modern way, and on a three-dimensional basis, even though our state and people are faced with the harshest-ever challenges and obstacles and despite the intense struggle for achieving the great cause of building up our national strength and of transforming several other sectors through innovation. This is a powerful demonstration

of the firm faith, extraordinary creative spirit and boundless patriotic enthusiasm of our people, who are advancing steadily towards the bright future of socialism without flinching in the face of trials, and of the level of development and potential of our state, which is striving to hit a hugely ambitious goal.

In looking back with due pride on the successes we have achieved recently in catapulting construction and architectural art to a higher level, we are filled with optimism for the future bright development of Juche-oriented architecture. Still, we should conduct a proper review and analysis of our mistakes and deviations. We should learn lessons from them and overcome them, for the sake of the further development of Juche-oriented architecture that conforms to our far-reaching ideals and ambitions.

The construction sector currently reveals shortcomings that require prompt rectification, and there are many aspects of it that must be reinforced. Among the shortcomings evident in the design sector are those of failing to emphasize the uniqueness of every architectural structure and avoid repetition, to guarantee that they reflect the aesthetic tastes and emotions of our people, and to ensure their practicality in accordance with their purpose and function. We still

lag far behind in interior decoration, furniture and landscape design. In the case of construction methods, we remain inclined towards wet processing; there is also a conspicuous difference in ensuring the quality of construction work by construction units and by projects; we are too reliant on imports for finishing materials; and the rate of mechanization in construction work is very low. These are major factors impeding us in making a qualitative leap forward in architecture.

More serious still is the failure of officials in the construction sector to be fully cognizant of our Party's architectural ideals, its construction policy, and the Party Central Committee's intention to prioritize the construction sector in developing our style of socialism. Moreover, they have too limited a vision and insight for us to lead the world in construction.

The construction sector's material and technical foundations are not adequate enough to launch and push ahead with construction work without a hitch, as the Party has planned and intends. This, too, is a pressing issue that must be resolved without fail.

With this grand short course as the momentum, the Party intends to bring about fresh innovations in construction work overall, and thus effect another

qualitative leap forward by Juche-oriented architecture so that it achieves the world standard. We have a large group of resourceful and talented designers and experienced construction officials and skilled workers who are capable of taking charge and leading the way in the era of a new leap forward and the development of construction, as well as the ability to support any construction project, however grand. We should tap all these potentialities and raise the revolution in construction to a new stage. In this way, we can continue to write glorious chapters of Juche-oriented architecture in the history of socialist construction.

Our Party has unfolded a grand blueprint for radically transforming the living environment of all the people across the country within 20 to 30 years and making ours an ideal socialist country, a socialist paradise, which is admired by the world and where the people live in comfort and harmony, enjoying the highest quality and standard of civilization. The construction sector is at the forefront in translating this objective into reality.

Construction is an important part of political work. By making it possible for people to feel the benevolence of our Party's people-first politics and of our system first hand, and by encouraging among

them an intuitive understanding of the criteria of creation we are aspiring to and the beautiful future, construction leads them to the civilization of a new era and inspires every one of them to devote themselves to the socialist patriotic cause, filled with pride in being the citizens of a great state and confidence in a better tomorrow. In this sense, the current revolution in construction can be defined as a worthwhile undertaking to create priceless assets for the country and, at the same time, a process of ideological education and cultural revolution for enlightening people and driving them forward towards a bright future.

Construction is also a prerequisite for comprehensively developing socialism and improving the people's living standards. Moreover, it is a patriotic undertaking of lasting significance for creating a civilized future.

If we are so preoccupied with the prevailing challenges that we fail to focus our efforts on construction, we can neither cement the foundations for the development of the state nor furnish our people with a happy life. Construction is a hallmark of progress and renovation and an investment in the future. Only when we give precedence to construction

and push ahead with it audaciously can we create fresh potential for sustained economic growth and expand the foundations for cultural progress, and thereby bring about the substantial changes that will be welcomed by people in every realm of state and social life.

Our great people have bravely gone through the period of severe trials and training. By bringing about a revolutionary turn in construction, we should vividly show the world the ideals and ambitions our people cherish in their endeavours to make progress at the stage of a fresh upsurge in, and the renewed development of, the revolution, and demonstrate the dignity of a powerful country more dynamically.

We are creating all our structures on the strength of self-reliance, with an eye to the future and in the face of the current difficulties. They will remain as bases for the well-being of our people and posterity, as solid assets for national prosperity and as historical monuments which will tell future generations of the level of the ennobling ideological feelings and creative wisdom of the people in the era of the Workers' Party.

All the participants should, by making the most of this grand short course, learn to bear deeply in mind the intention of the Party Central Committee to

prioritize construction and lead the overall development of socialist construction by dint of innovative changes in the construction sector. They should master the Party's policy on construction and have a full grasp of the matters to be adhered to in future construction.

They should also clearly recognize the good points in construction to date, should understand what were the bad points, what were their causes and what can be done to rectify them, and should share their successes and experiences with one another. This will help them in advancing confidently towards bold innovation and development.

The basic orientation we must follow in construction at present is to prioritize construction projects for the people's well-being, at the same time as pushing forward with the industrial construction and land development that will consolidate the country's economic foundations.

A society's progress and prosperity are inconceivable apart from the level of its people's cultural life. In providing our people with better housing and an excellent environment for enjoying cultural activities, we can apply the people-oriented policies of the Party and state and the original features

of socialism in a more concrete way and bring about a positive change in the rhythm, habits and mode of the people's life and an improvement in their political consciousness and level of civilization.

The housing problem is a matter of greatest concern for our people and a principal issue in providing them with the tangible benefits of the socialist system. The core of the construction policy advanced by the Eighth Congress of the WPK is to make ours the first country in the world to have solved the housing problem. As the congress decided, 50 000 modern flats should be built in Pyongyang without fail; a mountain gorge city, a cultured mining city, of 25 000 flats with a unique character should be built in the Komdok area; and provinces, cities and counties should vigorously push ahead with their regional housing construction according to annual plans. If all this is done, we will basically solve the shortage of houses across the country during the five-year plan period.

In order to enable our people and the rising generations to study to their heart's content, attain a high level of knowledge and civilization and maintain good health, we should build many modern educational and public health establishments with

excellent facilities and conditions so that the Party's plan to build ours into a civilized socialist country will be implemented at an early date. Based on the experiences gained and standards set so far, we should push ahead strongly with modernizing the educational institutions, medical service facilities and pharmaceutical bases at all levels.

To enable our people to enjoy the reality of socialist civilization to the full, we should build, at the celebrated mountains and scenic spots across the country, cultural and tourist resorts that are in perfect harmony with the beautiful natural scenery. We should also continue to lay out distinctive parks and recreation grounds in all towns and villages, and set up modern, high-standard service facilities.

Our Party has put it forward as an important strategic line of socialist construction to fundamentally eliminate the differences between the capital city and provinces and between towns and rural communities.

With a view to stepping up regional construction, especially rural construction, in real earnest, our Party and the government of the Republic formulated a policy and adopted a law for the state to supply cement to every city and county every year on a

regular basis. The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK put forward the strategic task of building up all the rural villages in the country in such a way that they maintain the flavour of our style of socialism and clearly sustain their regional characteristics.

Sprucing up cities, county towns and rural villages is a worthwhile undertaking which is welcomed by our people and gives impetus to the construction of a civilized society. The state should increase its investment, true to the Party's policy of regional and rural construction, and every province, city and county should raise the torch of a revolution in construction so that every provincial seat, city, county town and rural village is transformed into an ideal socialist one.

We should focus our efforts on industrial construction and land development so that fresh foundations for economic development are steadily laid.

The objective we must attain in industrial construction is to create fresh foundations for the development of the national economy, and to provide the working people with better and advanced working conditions by establishing and upgrading not only production lines but also all the industrial, cultural and welfare facilities. Buildings should substantially

conform to the requirements of the new era in terms of not only their appearance, but also their operation and profitability.

For the present, efforts should be concentrated, with a view to bringing forward their completion, on the projects for establishing a C1 chemical industry, renovating the Kumsong Tractor Factory, building an energy-saving iron furnace and other major industrial construction projects of national significance. With the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm as a model, similar modern large-scale farms should be built, and the renovation of the cereal administration agencies in cities and counties, and of regional-industry factories, should be stepped up.

While directing efforts to building key infrastructure such as railways, ports and power plants, which constitute the foundation of the country's development, we should be working persistently on such land administration projects as sea walls and hydraulic structures, river improvement and road construction. In this way, we can transform the country's appearance, and defend from natural disasters the people's lives and property and the material and cultural wealth they have created through such great exertion.

So, the construction tasks we are facing are enormous and challenging. But if we press ahead with them responsibly without interruption, with the mindset that doing so is an essential process in opening up a broad and smooth road for the state's development and securing a guarantee for improving the people's living standards, not only we, but also the coming generations, will enjoy the tangible benefits and, in the near future, our country will be transformed into a beautiful and ideal socialist country that is good to live in.

The first basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to establish thoroughly within it the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee.

As I have just said, construction work, before being a task for creating material wealth, is an important undertaking to apply our Party's people-first politics, improve the level of the people's spiritual and cultural attainments and transform the country's look. Only when the unified leadership system of the Party Central Committee is thoroughly established in it can construction work be carried out in line with the policy-oriented intentions and plans of the Party, which is guiding the comprehensive development of

our style of socialism, and can all the structures created in our era properly embody the Juche-oriented idea and ideals on architecture.

At every stage of construction, from planning to completion, we should concentrate all our thoughts and actions on implementing the Party Central Committee's plans and intentions. At the same time, we should make sure that the Party's policy on construction is the one and only guideline and absolute standard in organizing and carrying out construction projects. A strict rule should be enforced whereby all construction-related matters are reported promptly to the Party and handled in accordance with the Party's conclusion. Only the design ratified by the Party should be adopted in any building, even when something more is wanted or could be done. Undertaking a project without receiving the Party's approval is an abnormal practice which should never be connived at.

The second basic requirement that we should always meet in construction work is to regard architecture as a political matter, an aspect of policy.

Our architecture, if it is separated from its political character, has no value. We reject the tendency to regard construction as merely a practical undertaking,

as the pursuit of beauty alone and as art for art's sake. Making architecture political and policy-oriented is the core and the seed from which Juche-oriented architecture develops. It should be our consistent policy to ensure that structures bear visual representation of the principle of regarding our Party, our ideology, our system and our nation as the best. This can be done by, for instance, displaying political slogans or catchphrases on them. All the structures we build should be lively ones that fully embody the Juche- and people-oriented character unique to our Party and state, our national traits, the people's aspirations and emotions, and the dignity and mettle of our great powerful nation.

The third basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to create and develop new, original styles of architecture that are representative and symbolic of the era of the Workers' Party.

Architectural style is a visual representation of the aspirations, aesthetic views, level of civilization and national strength in a particular period of time. We should create and introduce into overall construction architectural styles that are symbolic of the civilization in the era of the Workers' Party, typical styles of our

own that encapsulate the features of the architectural art to which we aspire. In this regard it is important to ensure that every element of architecture embodies our national style, the spirit of the times and the mettle of innovation and creation. In other words, we should sustain our inherent style and features while meeting the requirements of modern architectural art in our own way.

The fourth basic requirement that we should meet consistently in construction work is to ensure a high level of economic efficiency and practicality.

Construction requires a huge amount of human and material resources and, once it has been completed, it cannot be reversed—this is its unique feature. Depending on its purpose and standard, a construction project may powerfully lead social progress, or hinder it. Therefore, it should be carried out, based on a scientific calculation in close combination with the long-term national development plan. Moreover, throughout the whole course of the project, from drawing up the master plan to the design and building work, we should strive to achieve economic efficiency and practicality by adopting the optimum options. We should maintain the principle of profitability, actively encourage resource-, area- and energy-saving models

in accordance with the global trend and the actual conditions in our country, and perfect every aspect of every structure so that it serves as a base for the growth of our economic potential and the development of our country's civilization and prosperity even after fifty years, nay one hundred years, to say nothing of today.

Keeping to this basic orientation and requirements in construction, we should turn out with a fresh resolve in an all-out effort to bring about a revolutionary upsurge in the era of grand construction.

If construction is to make the dramatic advance desired by the Party, progress and change should be achieved first in design work.

An excellent structure which embodies the Party's Juche-based idea of architectural aesthetic beauty and encapsulates the people's ideals comes from the design desk, and it is at this desk, too, that we take the first big strides towards a civilized socialist country.

Our Party demands that every single line and dot drawn on a blueprint should reflect the ideology, essence and vibrant spirit of the era of the Workers' Party and embody the standards of a civilization that can proudly take the lead globally. As for the architects who are charged with this task, what they

need is the enduring perseverance with which to rack their brains and get an ingenious idea or inspiration that is consistent with the Party's idea and ideals and the people's aspirations, and with which they admit or yield to nothing that is not new.

Designers should think, study and strive every minute of their life, well aware that every design they produce will translate our Party's line and policy into reality and open up a bright future for their country.

The central task in architectural design is to maintain the Juche character and our national identity, sustain originality and convenience, and promote practicality and functionality.

As the Party has often stressed, the Juche character and our national identity are the lifeblood of architecture, while originality and convenience, practicality and functionality are the guidelines in drawing up architectural designs. The design sector, while maintaining the principle of giving priority to convenience, aesthetic beauty and infrastructure construction, should, as required by our Party's construction policy, design all structures in such a way that they accord with the sentiments and aesthetic tastes of our people and with our actual conditions, are

diverse and distinctive, and are fit for purpose. This will help to open up a new phase in architectural creation.

Its elevation is the face of a structure, where its attractiveness is primarily expressed.

It is important to avoid similarity and repetition and to sustain the individuality of all structures in designing the elevation. In other words, it is necessary to sustain the characteristics of the structural skeleton of a building while ensuring its formative and artistic beauty so that it is possible to tell at a glance from its outward appearance what it is for. In the elevation formation we should pay attention to finding an original seed that can intently reflect the mission, purpose and characteristic features of the structure and to thoroughly subordinating every part and detail to the seed. In particular, even structures with the same mission and purpose must be designed in harmony with their surroundings, without being repetitive and monotonous while preserving the characteristics of the area—whether mountains, coast or plain.

A structure's appearance should be attractive, and its interior, as well as being practical and convenient, should also be flawless in terms of its aesthetics.

A fundamental principle in interior design is to

achieve the perfect combination of practicality, convenience, and artistic and formative beauty. Even though practicality and convenience are being emphasized, formative and artistic beauty should not be neglected, nor should practicality and convenience be overlooked because formative and artistic beauty are being stressed.

Attention should be paid to creating a rational floor plan based on the principles of fully meeting the functional requirements of the building according to its mission and purpose, maximizing the utility rate of the building area, and ensuring its convenience. At the same time, we should actively create and make use of new and diverse architectural formation methods of our own style.

The interior decoration is particularly important in architecture. It can be likened to an art. In interior decoration, the principle should be observed of sustaining modernity and our taste. We should improve the effect of interior decoration by employing such various decorative elements as folding screens and paintings and such methods of decoration as openwork, as well as by arranging the various items of furniture and fixtures in good harmony according to their purposes.

The design sector should pay special attention to encouraging national forms of architecture on a wide scale and designing the exterior and interior of structures so that they suit our national characteristics.

The formation plan for a structure acquires its detailed features through technical design, and it is the technical design that guarantees that the quality, safety and technical engineering standards are met.

Scientific character, accuracy, rationality and delicacy should all be assured in the technical design. The design sector, in strict accordance with the formation plans ratified by the Party and the technical requirements, should present optimum technical design options which can guarantee the quality and safety of structures with less materials and manpower and fully satisfy the functional occupancy demands and the technical engineering demands while sustaining modern aesthetic tastes and decorative effects.

A considerable effort should be directed to drawing up a draft construction design budget. Those engaged in drafting the budget should eliminate such practices as creating a reserve or incurring waste as a result of an improper calculation of manpower, materials and funds. They should ensure that every single

person-day, every gram of cement and every piece of steel is used efficiently.

A fundamental change should be brought about in furniture and landscape design.

At present, since the level of furniture design is not so high, items of furniture that are poorly-shaped, unattractive and inconvenient to use are being manufactured. Even though they may be made from good materials, they undermine the quality of the building's interior.

Furniture designers should hold fast to the principle of designing furniture that is fit for purpose, blends well with the structure's character and its interior space, and caters to the tastes of the users. While attaching importance to making furniture that is varied, formative, multi-functional and light, they should switch from pre-assembled to flat-pack models and design all items of furniture to suit their purpose. They should encourage the production of light and good-looking furniture made not only of wood but also of various other materials, and choose colours that are congenial to that of the structure's interior space.

In modern architecture, landscaping plays an important role as a means of formation, and its

standard is a yardstick for evaluating the level of a country's civilization.

As landscaping is another form of formative art, the design should be given priority, and the work should be carried out according to the design.

Landscaping designs should be drawn up in a characteristically formative and artistic manner and in such a way as to enhance the dignity of the building and sustain the natural scenery, taking into account the surrounding environment, the features of the terrain and the ecological characteristics of the garden plants. Landscape designers should guard against stereotypes in their work, and draw up varied designs, for example by planting trees of high ornamental value in groups, laying out lawns and flower beds in harmony and enhancing the natural beauty through a combination of such elements as artificial hills and rocks.

We should work effectively to widen the vision of landscape designers, should step up the research on landscaping and should adopt methods that are widely used internationally, as suited to the situation in our country.

The design sector should draw up proper master plans.

Master plans should be drawn up on a long-term

basis with an eye to more than 50, nay 100, years ahead, and with their ideals properly defined in line with the Party's intention. They should be based on a scientific calculation of the specific conditions and environment of the region and project and the direction of their development, while making sure their seeds and themes are sustained.

It is important in drawing up a master plan to define the central axis properly according to the area and project, to divide the districts clearly according to their functions, and to form architectural groups in such a way that they retain their unique features. In undulating areas it should be a principle to distribute buildings by making the most of the natural curves and slopes, while in flat areas it would be a good idea to divide them into square districts and settle the location of imposing buildings. Artistic interaction, compatibility and connection between buildings should be ensured in a smooth and refined way, while retaining the unique style of the individual buildings that constitute the architectural formation. In drawing up a master plan, the infrastructure networks, including the water supply, sewage treatment, electricity supply and telecommunications, should be carefully laid out so as to provide the people with the

conditions and an environment in which they do not experience the slightest inconvenience.

In keeping with the global development trend, we should study and introduce alternative architectural design options, including green and smart architecture, so that we are competing with the world in terms of the level of our advanced architectural technology. Along with this, we should make a big effort to raise to the world standard the comprehensive level of our design in the construction of ports, railways, roads, bridges and everything else.

The design sector should eliminate subjectivism and formalism and ensure scientific accuracy and promptness in the guidance and deliberation of designs. It should fully realize cooperation and unity among design institutes by branches and systems so as to secure, from the stage of making an operations plan, a guarantee of victory in construction.

The quality of a structure is immediately the quality of the building work.

In ensuring the quality of building work, the primary task is to raise the level of what the builders do. Construction units should promote the efforts to ensure that builders possess the expertise and qualifications for completing any building task flawlessly. In particular,

efforts should be made to strengthen the ranks of skilled workers who are good at finishing work. The overall level of technical skills should be raised by effectively organizing technical studies, skills transfer and competition among skilled workers and by forming construction workforce in a rational way so that novices learn and master the building methods while working alongside highly skilled workers.

The construction sector should establish a proper quality control system, introduce advanced methods to this end, and never allow any concession or compromise concerning the quality of building work.

Construction units should strengthen the leadership bodies of building work that guide building work and provide proper guidance so that it can be done in accordance with the requirements of architectural engineering and aesthetics. They should also keep their workers fully informed of the standards of design and building work and the engineering requirements and make exacting demands on them so that these standards and requirements are fully met. They should conduct an incisive review of work with the focus on the quality. Builders guilty of bad habits and empiricism, who have violated the engineering requirements, should be called to serious account and

made to put matters to rights.

The construction sector should overcome the deviation of attaching overriding importance to speed through crash campaigns on the pretext of completing a project by a fixed date, and give precedence to ensuring the quality of a building on the principle of prioritizing quality over quantity.

The quality and speed of building work can be improved by advanced engineering methods. The construction sector should launch a fresh innovation movement to introduce advanced building methods. It should step up the research into and the invention of material- and labour-saving building methods, including the introduction of dry processing, and should perfect the method of coloured mortar plastering. Construction units should constantly investigate and apply advantageous and new building methods.

If we are to push ahead with construction without interruption at the level intended by the Party and according to our resolve, we need larger quantities of building materials.

In this new era, when the flames of the construction revolution are flaring up, something that is needed everywhere is cement. We should attain the goal for

cement production set by the Eighth Party Congress by operating the existing cement factories at full capacity, pushing ahead with the expansion of their production capacity, and building modern cement factories in places that are suitable for cement production.

From this year on, the full amount of cement to be supplied to cities and counties should be produced, and supplied to them without fail.

In particular, the building-materials industry should achieve substantial results in carrying out the Party's policy of attaining self-sufficiency in finishing materials and producing a greater diversity of building materials in terms of type, shape and colour. We can proudly say that only the structures erected by our builders from our own designs and completed with the finishing materials of our own style stand as symbols of Juche-oriented architecture.

The building-materials industry should push ahead forcefully with developing from our own resources the finishing materials that are needed for construction, and installing production lines for them. It should set proper standards and targets for the domestic production of finishing materials including not only tiles, stone materials, glass and metal and plastic

materials, but also heat insulators, coating materials, waterproofing materials, wallpaper, vinyl flooring and wall panelling, and attain the standards and targets in a planned way.

It should strive to lower the production costs of finishing materials while improving their quality and increasing production. It should modernize production lines, proactively introduce advanced technologies for producing building materials, and standardize the building materials in terms of type, material, size, form and colour.

It should step up the research into green building materials, and study how to use various waste materials effectively in their production.

We should work effectively to protect and develop our building-materials industry. While increasing investment in the sector, the state should encourage, from the stage of the architectural design, the use of our own building materials, and adopt measures for restricting import of those finishing materials the demand for which can be satisfied by domestic production.

The Party's policy of making construction professional and focused should be carried out consistently.

The key to making construction professional is to train specialized workforce capable of fulfilling any building tasks. It is a matter of course that construction should be undertaken on a mass basis, but the principle to be adhered to here is for specialized workers to undertake it.

The state should ensure that the specialized construction enterprises play their role to the full. It should take steps to readjust and reinforce those enterprises that are not playing their proper role, strengthen their workforce, and furnish them with modern construction equipment.

Construction enterprises should not simply depend on supplies from the state, but train their own technical forces, expand the ranks of their skilled workers, and obtain construction equipment and tools for themselves.

Construction should be conducted in a focused manner in strict accordance with the blueprint.

To this end, the initial planning should be done properly.

Not only the state but also provinces, cities and counties should make it an iron rule to regard the Party's policy on construction as their guideline, conduct a detailed assessment of their actual

conditions, potential and possibilities, and, on this basis, set their annual targets to the minutest detail and meet them without fail. Construction should be carried out in a planned way with a proper orientation and a proper order of priority, in close combination with the long-term objectives for the development of the national and regional economy and the improvement of the people's standard of living.

Once a plan has been completed, designers and construction workers, materials and funds should be supplied in a concentrated manner and in reasonable order, and the organization and command of the construction work should be arranged vigorously so as to finish the project on time. Such practices as pretending that they are doing something by conducting construction projects here and there out of a subjective desire and without any detailed calculation, or such as wasting labour, materials and funds by delaying construction, should be eliminated.

Substantial improvement needs to be brought about in making construction scientific and modern.

There should be a change first in the attitude of officials and builders towards, and their stand on, making construction scientific. As construction has a direct impact on the life and safety of the people and

social and economic development, officials and builders should always be aware that the whole process of construction, from the foundation work to erecting the framework and the finishing, must be run through with scientific accuracy. They should rid themselves of the deviation of working haphazardly by relying on their experience while neglecting the scientific and technical requirements, and support every stage of a project, from the design to the building work, with science and technology. In particular, every one of them should adopt the stand of a master in introducing the achievements of the latest science and technology.

Scientists and technicians in the construction sector should, by setting high objectives, launch a drive to conceive and develop new, advanced design and building methods, as well as building materials, equipment and tools, from a Juche-oriented standpoint.

They should organize seminars and symposiums at which, through broad discussions and debates on practical issues, new concepts and the experiences gained, they can find workable solutions, and learn and spread the positive achievements.

The educational institutions in the construction

sector, including Pyongyang University of Architecture, should improve the level of their teaching in conformity with our Party's idea of Juche-oriented architecture and with the demands of the developing modern architecture, and should produce a larger body of talented individuals who can shoulder the future of our architecture. Graduates of universities and colleges in the construction sector should be appointed to fields that are related to their major, such as design institutes and construction enterprises, so that they can play the key role in putting construction on a scientific basis. Construction units, for their part, should discover talented individuals and make strenuous efforts to train them into standard-bearers in the development of their respective units. Officials and builders should steadily raise the level of their knowledge by making active use of the system and means of disseminating science and technology.

The greatest weakness in our construction sector at present is that it is not modern. It is usual practice to mobilize a large workforce ahead of a state construction project. This means there are regular manpower problems, the work of other sectors is affected, the speed and quality of construction cannot

be ensured, and large quantities of materials are wasted. Conducting manual work at crowded construction sites still today, in the era of the knowledge-based economy, is inappropriate to our architecture's level of development.

We should regard modernizing construction as a crucial task that is of the utmost urgency, and promote it with serious intent.

By modernizing the means of design and establishing a system of disseminating various advanced design methods and CAD software programmes on a regular basis, we can create the conditions for drawing up designs at any level at the earliest possible date and with a high quality standard.

We should radically increase the rate of mechanization in construction work. We should lay state-level foundations for producing modern construction equipment and tools and develop and produce machinery that can be used in various kinds of construction work including not only housing construction but also industrial construction and land development. Construction units should be encouraged to manufacture simple equipment and tools for themselves and to organize regular events, such as exhibitions of tools and invented devices, so

as to make the best ones widely known.

The supervision and control of construction need to be strengthened.

If supervision and control are weak, the Party's idea on Juche-oriented architecture and its construction policy cannot be implemented accurately, the interests of the country and people will be infringed, and the safety of structures cannot be guaranteed.

Construction supervision organs should be rigorous in their supervision and control throughout the whole course of construction, in line with the Party's principles and in full compliance with the requirements of Party policy and the country's construction law. They should adopt the attitude of assuming full responsibility for the quality of structures before the Party, state and people, and work according solely to the country's supervision rules and without bending to the will of others.

They should permit only those units that have obtained state approval as required by the regulations to carry out construction work, whatever is being built, and should exercise strict supervision and control over every process—whether the requirements of engineering have been correctly observed in the

design and whether the design's architectural and aesthetic requirements have been satisfied in the building work. They should raise the standard for inspecting all completed structures and establish strict rules and regulations whereby structures are used only after they have passed inspection. They should promptly take issue with and combat any practice of violating the construction law, irrespective of the affiliation of the violator or their reason for doing so, thus allowing no room on any account for illegal actions to take root.

On this occasion I intend once again to emphasize regional construction, and rural construction in particular.

The revolution in regional construction and rural construction, which our Party is determined to carry out without fail, is a massive undertaking without precedent in the history of socialist construction in our country.

This undertaking is a sweeping drive, the purpose of which is to wash away the long-lingering historical dirt from the rural areas and develop them into modern locales where socialist civilization can flourish. It is not a campaign that can be completed in just a year or two, but a highly responsible undertaking that should

be resolutely executed with a medium- and long-range vision aimed at creating a new era of transformation of the regional areas and realizing the centuries-old desire of our agricultural workers.

Building up regional forces for architectural design and building work is the most pressing issue in realizing our Party's plan for regional construction. As all the provinces, cities and counties across the country are expected to conduct regional construction simultaneously, true to the measures adopted by the Party, none of them will ever carry out the Party's policy of regional construction if they merely anticipate receiving help from the central design and construction units.

They should strengthen the body of designers who can play the vanguard role in their regional construction, and steadily improve their qualifications.

One of the main purposes of the current short course is to develop architectural design for the capital city and regional areas alike by strengthening the regional design bodies.

Our Party requires regional construction to sustain the characteristics of the specific area. The country's regions differ from one another not only in their natural and geographical conditions and their climate

for economic development, but also in the lifestyle habits that have been handed down throughout history. Therefore, if the characteristics inherent to regions are to be sustained, the designers should be fully aware of their respective regions' characteristics, ranging from the natural and geographical features to the unique economic conditions and people's manners and customs, and should be capable of embracing them in the architectural design.

It is necessary to reinforce the regional design institutes with talented people who have architectural insight, and to enhance their qualifications and role. Regional designers should accumulate experience through practical construction work and learn from the designers from the capital city whom they work with. Regions, while making exacting demands on designers to steadily improve their qualifications, should provide them with the conditions for accessing the latest architectural materials from abroad. They should enrol promising individuals, including those with an aptitude for fine art, in universities and colleges in the construction sector so as to train them as the reserve for their design bodies.

Regions should strengthen their local building workforce so that they can build any structure for

themselves at a high level of quality. As I have emphasized before, cities and counties should wind up the work of forming construction brigades and should improve their technical skills and qualifications. Provinces, cities and counties should form competent construction units by enlisting people who have been trained and become highly qualified in specialized army or shock brigade construction units, making them the core, and should expand the ranks of skilled workers in such a way that they transfer their skills to others.

Provincial, city and county Party committees should play a major role in building up their local construction workforce. Despite the prevailing hardships, the Party has set aside a considerable quantity of cement for rural construction. Therefore, provinces, cities and counties should, first of all, have their own powerful construction workforce if they are to push ahead with regional construction on a long-term and qualitative basis with an eye to 100 years in the future. They should be well aware that the work of consolidating their regional construction workforce, the body of designers in particular, is not only a major guarantee for developing their regions in a characteristic way but also an undertaking for creating resources and wealth locally.

Regions should take the path of building up reliable bases for producing finishing materials and developing quality ones by using the resources that are available locally, thus enabling their buildings to preserve their unique characteristics.

They should organize annual provincial building-materials exhibitions and conduct proper reviews and appraisals so that these exhibitions can boost the domestic production of finishing materials and contribute to the development of the country's building-materials industry.

True to the Party's intention, they should draw up realistic plans for regional and rural construction, with the top priority given to building houses in rural communities, and should establish rigid discipline whereby they are carried out without fail.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should radically improve their sense of responsibility and role.

They should adopt a serious approach to the important missions and responsibilities entrusted to them by the Party and the revolution, the country and the people, and fully discharge their duties and role as befits the main force in the current revolution in construction.

They should be well-versed in the Party's policy on construction and strive steadily to master the latest science and technology of construction and all-around construction skills. By doing so, they can prepare themselves fully for the Party to entrust them with any task at any time, with no worries.

They should all remember that their patriotism will find expression in the quality of the structures they build, and devote their pure conscience, sincere heart and skills even when laying a single brick. They should make it a habit to take loving care of their equipment and tools, achieve maximum economies in their use of building materials, and carry out all their work assiduously and scrupulously.

In the new revolution in construction, the might of the army and people operating together should be dynamically demonstrated once again.

Our People's Army service personnel have done a lot for the gigantic struggle to usher in a golden age of construction as the facilitator of the people's happiness, even in the super-intense situation in which they have shouldered the heavy responsibility of defending the country. The monumental creations in which we can take such great pride before the world as models of Juche-oriented architecture, and the

grand construction sites, are all permeated with the patriotic devotion, creative wisdom and talents of our soldiers who always follow the orders and instructions of the Party faithfully. Our Party will never forget their heroic feats for and ennobling devotion to the country's prosperity and the people's happiness, and our people will, for many generations to come, pride themselves on the genuine character of our soldiers who glorified the great era of the Workers' Party.

Our soldier-builders, just as they have done until now, should fully demonstrate the might of our army by becoming standard-bearers in the new revolution in construction and carrying out to perfection every task entrusted to them by the Party, by the date set and at the desired level.

The officials and workers in the construction sector should learn from the soldiers' spirit of regarding Party policy as absolute and implementing it unconditionally, as well as from their immaculate and scrupulous work style befitting the teachers of construction skills, and their vigorous and optimistic fighting spirit. By doing so, they can work new miracles and feats at every construction site and build every structure at the highest level possible as symbols of the civilization of our style of socialism.

Party organizations should fully discharge their duties and responsibilities in the struggle for waging a new revolution in construction.

They should direct a major effort to educating the officials and workers in the construction sector so that their minds are deeply implanted with the greatness and leadership exploits of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who built a socialist paradise on the debris after the war and ushered in a new history of Juche-oriented architecture, and of our Party which heralded a golden age of construction in the era of the Workers' Party; in this way, the officials and workers can be encouraged to cultivate ardent loyalty to the Party and the leaders and make strenuous efforts to wage a new revolution in construction with pride in their missions and jobs.

They should step up ideological education among the officials and workers so that they are fully armed with our Party's Juche-oriented idea on architecture and its construction policy, and apply them thoroughly, and ultimately, so that they support the Party's plans with practical achievements in construction.

They should, by deploying powerful information and motivation forces at construction sites and conducting vigorous information work through visual

aids and motivational work for increased labour efficiency, further enhance the spiritual strength of the masses and raise the hot wind of the socialist emulation drive in which every construction site seethes with enthusiasm for creating new miracles.

They should pay primary attention to the lives and safety of the builders, whom our Party values most, and exercise strict Party control, and take practical responsibility, so that no construction work is permitted unless labour safety is guaranteed 100 per cent.

They should provide the builders, whose job involves heavy physical labour, with excellent supplies and services and ample conditions for rest, and should take warm care of their families so that those who are seconded to construction sites have no need to worry about them.

The mission of the officials in the construction sector is very important and heavy, in that it involves providing the people with the happiest life and bringing about a fresh transformation of the appearance of Juche-oriented architecture by fully applying our Party's people-first architectural idea.

I firmly believe that all the officials and workers in the construction sector will continue to perform proud feats in every theatre of a new revolution in

construction, for the sake of the prosperity and development of our great state and the wellbeing of our people, true to the Party's far-reaching plan for grand construction, and thus dynamically lead the way in the development of our own style of socialist civilization.

KIM JONG UN

**LET US LAUNCH A NEW REVOLUTION IN
CONSTRUCTION TO LEAD THE WAY
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OWN
STYLE OF SOCIALIST CIVILIZATION**

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