

Xi and Kim hold key talks in Beijing

DPRK leader says his first overseas visit shows the value he places on the two nations' friendship

By XINHUA

The visit of Kim Jong-un to China, which came at a special time and was of great significance, fully embodied the great importance the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) leadership has attached to the relations between the two countries and the two parties.

"We speak highly of this visit," President Xi Jinping told Kim during their talks.

At the invitation of Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Kim, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the DPRK's State Affairs Commission, paid an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28.

During the visit, Xi held talks with Kim at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan held a welcoming banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol-ju, and they watched an art performance together.

Xi said the China-DPRK traditional friendship, established and cultivated meticulously by the elder generations of leaders of both parties and both countries, was the precious wealth of both sides.

"Both Comrade Chairman and I have personally experienced and witnessed the development of the China-DPRK relationship," said Xi, adding that both sides have stated repeatedly that traditional China-DPRK friendship should be passed on continuously and developed better.

"This is a strategic choice and the only right choice both sides have made based on history and reality, the international and regional structure and the general situation of China-DPRK ties. This should not and will not change because of any single event at a particular time," Xi said.

The CPC and the Chinese government highly value China-DPRK friendly cooperative ties, Xi stressed.

It is an unswerving principle of the CPC and the Chinese government to maintain, consolidate and develop good relations with the DPRK, he said.

"We are willing to work together with DPRK comrades, remain true to our original aspiration and jointly move forward, to promote long-term healthy and stable development of China-DPRK relations, benefit the two countries and two peoples, and make new contribution to regional peace, stability and development," Xi said.

Xi made four proposals concerning the development of China-DPRK relations.

Firstly, continue giving play to the guiding role of high-level exchanges. High-level exchanges have always played the most important guiding and promoting role in the history of China-DPRK relations.

Secondly, make full play of the time-tested valuable practices of strategic communication. It is the splendid tradition of the two parties to have frequent in-depth exchange of views on major issues, Xi said. Both sides should maximize the important role of party-to-party exchanges, promote exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various areas, and strengthen communication and mutual trust.

Thirdly, actively advance peaceful development. Xi said the Chinese side stands ready to make joint efforts with the DPRK side, conform to the trend of the times, hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit, continuously improve the well-being of the two peoples, and make positive contribution to regional peace, stability and development.

Fourthly, consolidate the foundation of popular will for bilateral friendly relations. The two sides should, through various forms, enhance people-to-people exchanges, especially enhance youth exchanges, and inherit and carry forward the fine tradition of China-DPRK friendship.

Kim said he was greatly encour-



President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, take a photo with DPRK Chairman Kim Jong-un and his wife, Ri Sol-ju, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Kim made an unofficial visit to China from March 25 to 28. JU PENG / XINHUA

aged and inspired by General Secretary Xi's important views on DPRK-China friendship and the development of relations between the two parties and countries.

The DPRK-China friendship, which was founded and nurtured by the elder generations of leaders of both countries, is unshakable, he said.

Strategic ties

Kim said the aim of this visit was to meet Chinese comrades, enhance strategic communication, and deepen traditional friendship. He said he hopes to have opportunities to meet often with Xi, and to keep in close communication through such means as sending special envoys and personal letters to each other, so as to promote to a new level the guidance of high-level meetings to the relations between the two parties and countries.

Xi said: "We have noticed that Comrade Chairman has led the WPK and the people of the DPRK in taking a series of active measures and scoring achievements in developing the economy and improving people's well-being in recent years."

The Chinese side expects political stability, economic development and people's happiness in the DPRK, and supports the WPK, led by Comrade Chairman, in leading the people of the DPRK to advance along the path of socialism, as well as the endeavors by comrades of the DPRK in developing economy and improving people's livelihood, Xi said.

The two leaders thoroughly exchanged views on the situation of the world and the Korean Peninsula.

Xi said that positive changes had taken place on the Korean Peninsula

since this year, and China appreciates the important efforts made by the DPRK.

Xi said that China sticks to the goal of denuclearization of the peninsula, safeguarding peace and stability on the peninsula and solving problems through dialogue and consultation.

China calls on all parties to support the improvement of inter-Korean ties, and take concrete efforts to facilitate peace talks, said Xi, noting that China will continue to play a constructive role on the issue and work with all parties, including the DPRK, toward the thaw of the situation on the peninsula.

Kim said the situation on the Korean Peninsula is starting to get better, as the DPRK has taken the initiative to ease tensions and put forward proposals for peace talks.

"It is our consistent stand to be committed to denuclearization on the peninsula, in accordance with the will of late President Kim Il-sung and late General Secretary Kim Jong-il," he said.

Kim said the DPRK is determined to transform the inter-Korean ties into a relationship of reconciliation and cooperation and hold summit between the heads of the two sides.

The DPRK is willing to have dialogue with the United States and hold a summit of the two countries, he said.

"The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved, if (the Republic of Korea) and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace," said Kim.

The DPRK hopes to enhance strategic communication with China during the process, jointly safeguard the trend of consultation and dialogue as well as peace and stability on the peninsula, said Kim.

After the talks, Xi and Peng held a welcoming banquet for Kim and Ri. While delivering an address, Xi said he had candid and friendly talks with Kim.

Successful talks

While addressing the banquet, Kim said that as the situation of the Korean Peninsula is undergoing unprecedented changes, he paid a swift visit to China, out of good wishes for promoting peace and stability on the peninsula, and carrying on and developing the DPRK-China friendship.

He said the fact that he chose China as the destination of his first overseas visit showed how he valued the friendship between the two countries.

"I have had successful talks with General Secretary Xi Jinping on developing relations between the two parties and the two countries, our respective domestic situation, maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and other issues," he said.

Li Keqiang, Chinese premier and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and Chinese Vice-President Wang Qishan attended related activities.