

IIJI Secretary General Dr. Ogami Ken-ichi's Answers to the Questions at an interview from KFA Hungary

① How would you explain the core principles of Juche ideology to someone unfamiliar with it?

Quite a long time ago, when I participated in a meeting of the Egyptian Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea, I spoke about the Juche idea as follows:

“The Juche idea is a revolutionary idea founded by President Kim Il Sung and developed and enriched by General Secretary Kim Jong Il, reflecting the demands of the era of independence.

“In a nutshell, the Juche idea is the idea that the people are the masters of revolution and construction and that they have the power to push them forward.

“The Juche idea was born in Korea. However, it is the most important and universal guiding idea that can be applied to any country in the contemporary era.

“The Juche idea has a vast system and profound contents that cannot be explained in a limited time. Therefore, today, I will only briefly discuss the most important points.

“First of all, the Juche idea is a human-centered idea.

“The Juche idea was developed on the basis of a single philosophical principle, which is, that man is the master of everything and decides everything.

“Although there have been excellent philosophical schools of thought in the past, none of them has elucidated human beings as scientifically as the Juche idea does. Moreover, there is no other idea that holds human dignity in such high esteem and emphasizes the role of human beings in the development of society as the Juche idea does.

“The Juche idea is an idea that gives a clue to realize the development of one's own country by trusting in and relying on the people of one's own country. Many books on the Juche idea have been published, and I encourage you to read some of them if you have a chance.”

For your reference, please find attached a resume of my presentation on the Juche idea in front of the Mexican researchers of this idea a long time ago.

The Juche Idea Is the Guiding Ideology of a New Era Aimed at Realizing Independence of the Masses

The Juche idea, in a word, is an idea that the masses of the people are the masters and motive force of the revolution and construction.

In other words, it is an idea that man is the master of his own destiny and also has ability to shape his own destiny.

The Juche idea consists of 3 components—the philosophical principle of Juche, the socio-historical principle of Juche and the guiding principles of Juche.

1. The Philosophical Principle of Juche

1) The Juche idea is based on the Juche-oriented philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything.

(1) That man is the master of everything shows man's position in the world.

-Man is the master of the world and his own destiny.

(2) That man decides everything shows man's role in the world.

-Man plays the decisive role in transforming the world and in shaping his own destiny.

2) The Juche-oriented philosophical principle is clarified on the basis of the scientific elucidation of man's essential qualities.

Man's essential qualities are independence, creativity and consciousness.

(1) Independence is an attribute of man who is desirous of living and developing in an independent way as master of the world and his own destiny.

-Independence is a man's attribute to live freely against all kinds of fetters and subjugations of nature and society.

(2) Creativity is an attribute of man who transforms the world and shapes his own destiny purposefully and consciously.

-Creativity is a man's attribute to change the old and create the new.

(3) Consciousness is an attribute of man, which determines all his endeavors to understand the world and himself.

-Consciousness is a man's attribute to understand the world and the laws of its

motion and development, to reshape and develop nature and society as he desires.

-Man's essential qualities are not inborn attributes, but social attributes that are formed and developed in social relations.

- As social attributes are endowed by society, man's essential qualities do not exist before the birth of society.

-Man strengthens and develops his essential qualities through social education and practical activities to transform the world and himself.

3) The Juche idea elucidated the outlook on the world, the viewpoint and attitude towards the world.

(1) The outlook on the world

-Man occupies the position as master of the world.

-The world is transformed by man.

(2) The viewpoint and attitude towards the world

① The world should be approached, proceeding from the interests of man.

-One should understand the world objectively as well as consider and approach the world from the viewpoint of protecting the interests of man who is the master of the world.

② The change and development of the world should be dealt with mainly on the basis of the activity of man.

-Man should be developed into a more powerful being and his creative role should be enhanced in all his activities to understand and transform the world.

2. The Juche-oriented Socio-historical Principle

- The Juche-oriented socio-historical principle elucidates the subject of social history.
- This principle is that the masses of the people are the subject of history and socio-historical movement is their independent, creative and conscious movement.

1) The elucidation of the subject of social history

- The subject of social history is the masses of the people.
- Although they are the subject of history, the masses of the people cannot be the independent subject of history who carves out their destiny in an independent and creative way of their own accords.
- If the masses are to be the independent subject of history, they must be awakened to consciousness and organized under the correct leadership.

2) The elucidation of the essential characteristics of socio-historical movement

- (1) Socio-historical movement is the movement of the masses themselves to realize their independence.
- (2) Socio-historical movement is a creative movement of the masses.
 - Socio-historical movement is a creative movement of the masses to change nature and society anew.
- (3) Socio-historical movement is a conscious movement of the masses.
 - Socio-historical movement is the movement which is impelled forward by conscious activity of the masses.

3) The elucidation of the laws of social development

- (1) Society develops by leading action and the role of the subject.
- (2) Society develops in keeping with the degree of development of independent ideological consciousness and creative ability of the masses.
- (3) Society develops through 3 transformation — transformation of nature, transformation of society and remolding of man.

3. The Guiding Principles of Juche

1) The principle of adhering to the independent stand

- (1) Juche in ideology
- (2) Independence in politics
- (3) Self-sufficiency in the economy
- (4) Self-reliance in defence

2) The principle of applying the creative method

- (1) Method of depending on the masses
 - The masses give full play to their creativity.
 - Social movement is a creative movement to create the new continuously and develop into the one on the higher stage.
 - Broad masses should be united.
- (2) Method suitable for the actual situation
 - Method should be always improved according to changing and developing situations.
 - Good experiences of other countries should be studied and applied to suit the actual conditions of one's own country.

3) The principle of placing the main stress on ideology

- (1) Priority should be given to ideological remoulding.
 - Priority should be given to efforts to develop ideological consciousness of the people and cultivate them into independent beings.
- (2) Precedence should be given to political work.
 - It is important to inspire the people to emerge as masters of society through political work.

② How does Juche ideology inspire young people in countries outside the DPRK?

Before anything else, I would like to tell you what kind of organization of the International Institute of the Juche Idea is.

We of the International Institute of the Juche Idea are composed of four regional institutes for the study of the Juche idea, including that of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. We work with all of them in close cooperation with each other.

I believe that the young people are active in the work of the Juche idea, particularly in Europe and Latin America. However, everyone is aging, and they will get old eventually, so that the work of continuously raising the youth activists is very indispensable.

President Kim Il Sung had also been very active since he was in his youth, who built the Party organization relying on the masses, and later General Secretary Kim Jong Il succeeded him, and now General Secretary Kim Jong Un is very active as the supreme leader of the Party and the State since he was in his youth.

The role of the youth in their struggle in the world is immeasurably significant.

The study and dissemination of the Juche idea in Japan also started from the youth.

I first came across with the Juche idea when I was a university student.

It was also a young man when I visited the DPRK and had an opportunity to have an audience of President Kim Il Sung for the first time in my life. It can be said that those young people grew up in the warm embrace of President Kim Il Sung, with great hope and joy in the new struggle guided by the Juche idea.

In the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, it is important for us to put the Juche idea into practice to make our own countries and the rest of the world independent.

The names like “Communist Party” and “Red Flag” are used in many countries here and there. However, no matter than those names are used, many of those parties are not aimed at building socialism.

It has become difficult to believe in socialism or to find a vision for the movement as long as the people rely on Marxism-Leninism. In fact, the Soviet Union itself, the leading power of the previous socialist camp, stopped adhering to socialism and collapsed

eventually.

I believe it is important to move onto socialism after making one's own country independent. I have a confidence in socialism that is to be led by the Juche idea.

It is not easy to conduct the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, but it can be said that those activities of believing in and relying on the people will surely spread and win eventually.

It is not an easy task to make one's own country independent and to maintain independence in foreign relations, but it can be said that it is the very prospective, right course to take.

⑤ What are the main activities of the IIJI in spreading Juche thought worldwide?

(Do these activities include cultural events or publications?)

(How does IIJI collaborate with local organizations like KFA?)

The International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI) has stressed the importance of publishing.

At the Board of Directors meeting of the IIJI in April 2000, the importance of publications was emphasized as follows:

“Publications are a powerful means of dissemination. The organizations (concerned of individual countries) should make use of every possibility to strengthen the material base for the issue and circulation of publications, diversify forms of their circulation and constantly improve the contents of publications so that they can substantially serve in encouraging the people to equip themselves with the idea of independence.”

The following was also emphasized in the work plan of the Executive Committee meeting of the Board of Directors of the IIJI held in April 2001:

“The Secretariat of the IIJI will concentrate its efforts on expanding the scope of dissemination of the Juche idea by making good use of the ‘Study of the Juche Idea’ and its Internet site.”

Similarly, the IIJI encourages cultural activities as follows:

“All study organizations will organize the dissemination of the Juche idea in conformity with their actual conditions according to their yearly work plans. Study organizations of each country will study and disseminate the Juche idea in diversified forms and methods such as reading session, intensive reading, and cultural & sports activities and manage their organizations by themselves. Then, they will send regularly to the IIJI and their Regional Institutes information papers, publications and photo data on their activities.”

⑥ Does the IIJI collaborate with cultural or academic institutions in Europe?

We have the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea (ERSSJI) in Europe.

The ERSSJI falls on the 40th anniversary of its founding this year.

Now, a European regional seminar on the Juche idea is going to be held in Helsinki at the beginning of November this year under the subject of “Independence, Peace and Social Development.”

Previously, in October 2024, another European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea for “Sovereignty, Independence, and New International Relations” was held in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the auspices of the ERSSJI.

The IIJI Secretary General joined the seminar online.

Representatives of respective Juche idea study groups in the European countries joined the seminar as well.

The IIJI and the ERSSJI have worked closely together to promote the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, European regional seminars were held in person, whereas in the midst of it, they were organized online.

They are as follows:

- A Seminar on “Cause of Nordic Independence” in Helsinki, Finland in June 2018
- A European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea for “Independence, Sovereignty and International Cooperation” in Sofia, Bulgaria in September 2019;
- A European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea online in December 2021, on the 10th anniversary of the passing of Kim Jong Il;
- A Seminar on “Kim Jong Il's Contribution to the Development and Application of the Juche Idea” online in February 2022, on the occasion of the 80th birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il

- ⑧ Does the IIJI organize educational programs or seminars for foreign supporters?
(Are these open to the general public or only to affiliated groups?)

The International Institute of the Juche Idea (IIJI) is an international academic organization dedicated to the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

Since the founding of the IIJI on April 9, 1978, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea has become more active than ever before.

Meanwhile, for the past four years, even though the world has been suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic and when it was difficult to hold international gatherings in the world, the study and dissemination of the Juche idea have been conducted in individual countries and the respective regions in the world, and the IIJI and Juche idea researchers in the world conducted their work in good contact with each other.

International seminars on the Juche idea were held online with Mexico as the host country in 2021 and 2022. Some seventy papers were contributed to both the seminars online, in which most active members of the respective regional institutes of the Juche idea made speeches.

The IIJI held a grand seminar in Tokyo on April 2023 to commemorate the 45th founding anniversary of the IIJI as well as the 111th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, with the participation of representatives from Asia, Europe, and Latin America. The Director General of the IIJI Board delivered an online address from Mexico.

Juche idea researchers are requested to conduct the study and dissemination of the Juche idea sincerely and openly. One thing here I would like to say is that the friendship work with the DPRK cannot replace the study and dissemination of the Juche idea.

Previously, I have been asked if an individual person can belong to the IIJI with slight qualification or so.

I would like to address this question.

The IIJI is not a body that allows individuals to have its membership.

There are Juche idea study groups in some 100 countries, and those from individual countries compose their respective regional institutes of the Juche idea in the world. And those regional Juche idea institutes are called the of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

The IIJI supervises those respective regional institutes of the Juche idea in a coordinated manner.

So, Juche idea study groups in individual countries and the respective regional institutes of the Juche idea have been conducting the study and dissemination of the Juche idea with close contact with the IIJI.

In this regard, when a Juche idea study group is to be formed in Hungary among the broad masses of the Hungarian people, they will be able to make contact with the IIJI and the European Regional Society for the Study of the Juche Idea directly or indirectly through that newly formed study group.

⑩How does the IJI view the importance of global solidarity with the DPRK? (What forms of international solidarity are most valued by IJI?)

Nowadays, the independent, anti-US and anti-imperialist struggle is making great progress in the direction indicated by President Kim Il Sung, and the unjust world order created by imperialism and its double standards can no longer be applied.

In particular, forces of independence that follow the path of independence, such as the Global South, are cooperating with each other and exerting their greater influence on the world as a whole.

The Global South, with the majority of the world's population, has become superior to the imperialist countries in terms of vast land and the real political and economic capability in view of their influence on the world. Now, US and European imperialism cannot ignore the Global South in world politics.

Furthermore, the BRICS, which comprise the large areas of the world's land like its 40%, abundant natural resources such as crude oil and iron ore, and a huge population as a source of labour power, have largely rewritten the Western-led global economy. The BRICS are increasingly moving away from the dollar and euro to their own currencies in terms of settlement.

In the Global South, more and more countries are not subject to support sanctions based on the double standards of Western imperialism. US and European sanctions against Russia, China and the DPRK have had the ironic result of encouraging the expansion of a new economic bloc.

In addition, in various regions of the world, there is a growing momentum towards co-operative development in a peaceful environment, and various co-operation structures are being formed in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

There is a phenomenon that some countries which advance along the path of independence are following the US and are complicit in the Israeli genocide, but this cannot be a mainstream.

In his work published on October 8, 1968 "The Great Anti-imperialist Revolutionary Cause of the Asian, African and Latin-American Peoples Is Invincible", President Kim Il Sung stressed the need to thoroughly defend the unity of the anti-US, anti-imperialist independent forces and stated:

“It is true that there may be different categories of people amongst those who oppose imperialism. Some may actively oppose imperialism, others may hesitate in the anti-imperialist struggle, and still others may join the struggle reluctantly under pressure from their own people and the peoples of the world. But whatever their motives, it is necessary to enlist all these forces except the henchmen of imperialism in the combined anti-US struggle.

“We, small nations must unite and counter US imperialism’s strategy of swallowing us up one by one, by each one of us chopping off its head and limbs. This is the strategy small countries must employ to defeat US imperialism.”

US high-handedness is prompting previously pro-US countries to secede. Countries that had followed the US have come to have relations with the countries advancing along the path of independence, and thus imperialist relations with their alliances have come to be shaken.

The US’ finances have deteriorated to an extreme level due to its military spending on the Ukrainian and Palestinian situations initiated by itself. European countries have also been exhausted by military aid to Ukraine, and the far-right forces have emerged in many countries.

The US and European countries, in a difficult situation, announced bandit-like policies such as freezing Russian assets and diverting its funds to their military spending. However, freezing Russian assets, for example, will simultaneously and inevitably encourage the downfall of the dollar and the euro.

US imperialism is facing a difficult situation of pro-US defections and unrest among its allies, while further domestic turmoil continues to plunge the country into more difficult situations.

Under the circumstances that the trend towards anti-US and anti-imperialist struggles for a fairer world order has intensified, it can be said that the decisive factor in their victory will be attributable to uphold aloft the banner of the Juche idea.

⑪ What suggestions can IJI offer for effectively promoting understanding of Juche thought in the European media landscape?

A European Regional Seminar on the Juche Idea for "Independence, Sovereignty and International Cooperation" in Bulgaria in September 2019.

As the theme of this seminar, "independence, sovereignty and international cooperation" suggests, the Europeans are keenly seeking the right political philosophy and policy lines.

It is increasingly important to study and practice Kimilsung-Kimjongilism in order to analyze the current situation in Europe and explore the future.

Kimilsung-Kimjongilism has clearly articulated the ideas and theories for the full realization of the independence of the people, the peace of the world, and cooperation among countries, and has actually been embodied in the DPRK.

What is required of European countries today is to study Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, which is the guiding idea of our time, and to clarify Europe's new course.

The Juche idea teaches independence is the life for people, countries and nations. The DPRK regards independence as the life of the country and its people, and respects the independence of other countries and nations as well. It has been and continues to fight against imperialism, which seeks to dominate other countries.

Kim Jong Un states that independence is the political philosophy of the DPRK, and it constitutes the core of the Kimilsung-Kimjongilist ideas of State building.

The reason why the DPRK is able to firmly maintain its independence is, in turn, the great power of its people who united around their outstanding leader single-heartedly.

Kim Jong Un says that making the whole world independent is our general task and we should make an active contribution to the cause of global independence and play a pivotal role in promoting the world revolution.

There are many countries in Europe, each with its own culture and history. The political paths chosen by European countries can be broadly divided into three categories.

The first political course, as a capitalist nation, is the path to economic development through exploitation and invasion.

The second political course chosen by European countries is the path of socialism, which aims to free the working class represented by the Russian Revolution and a world

free from war of aggression.

The third political course is the road to a social welfare state chosen by the Scandinavian countries.

In order to overcome the current difficulties and revitalize Europe, a new guiding idea is needed.

The key to solving today's European challenges is Kimilsung-Kimjongilism. With the independence of European countries in line with Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, we will be able to realize a new community of equal, cooperative, and mutual assistance.

Deep learning and practice of Kimilsung-Kimjongilism, the present guiding philosophy, is the only security to guarantee the victory of social change.

In addition, Juche idea researchers must make their own beliefs in the Juche idea, while at the same time creating a group of comrades who live in the same way as they do. In order to develop the study and dissemination of the Juche idea, it is important to foster and organize people who work with beliefs in the Juche idea.

It is not a flat path to study a new ideological theory in a class society and to use them as one's own beliefs.

The Juche idea shows its vitality not only in a socialist society, but also in a capitalist society. There is a need to build a model of a new society that helps each other with the disabled, the elderly, women and children who are abused, deprived of dignity and suffering socio-economic hardship in a class society.

Practical activities by Juche idea researchers will advance through devoting themselves to realizing independence of the people while respecting them from the heart.