

## A rapid turn to socialist industrial nation

There is an unforgettable period in the DPRK's 70-year history, known as the Chollima era when the Korean people advanced at the speed of Chollima, a legendary horse running 400 kilometres a day, to demonstrate the spirit of heroic Korea to the world.

For the post-war reconstruction was completed by and large, the DPRK launched the 1957-1961 five-year plan for national economic development in 1957.

But it faced lots of difficulties. It needed enormous investment and high technology to carry out the plan, but it lacked everything including equipment, materials, manpower and money. Its technology was backward and the people's life was not yet brought to normal after the war.

Finding ways to pull through them was a serious issue decisive of the destiny of the revolution.

President **Kim Il Sung** put forward the revolutionary policy on bringing about an upsurge in socialist economic construction at the December 1956 plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, fully convinced that when the revolutionary enthusiasm of the people was rightly enlisted, the high national economic plan could readily be fulfilled.

The meeting set forth the tasks to overcome passivism and conservatism, increase the total industrial output value by 21 percent in 1957 over the previous year and additionally produce goods worth 4-5 billion won, 5 000-10 000 tons of steel and 50 000 tons of grain more than planned.

After the meeting the President visited the then Kangson Steel Works and earnestly called on the workers of the factory to hold high the banner of collective innovation drive.

They heartily responded to his call and made great innovations in the production of steel.

They worked a miracle of producing 120 000 tons of steel from a blooming mill with a rated capacity of 60 000 tons, kindling the flames of a great revolutionary upsurge. Kangson became the historical place where the torch of the Chollima movement for a great upsurge was lit first.

The people throughout the country worked hard to bring about a revolutionary upswing on all fronts of socialist construction under the slogan "Let us advance at the speed of Chollima!"

In the burning flames of the collective innovation drive the industrial production plan for 1957, the first year of the five-year plan, was overfulfilled by 17 percent and industrial production grew 44 percent over the previous year. The grain production target was hit at 112 percent in the agricultural sector.

The great upsurge in socialist construction was thus brought about in the DPRK and in the course of this the Chollima movement started.

All sectors and units made innovations and leaps forward continuously while overcoming conservatism and passivism and thinking and acting boldly and intensified the revolutionary upsurge of socialist construction a level higher.

The workers and technicians in the metallurgical industry built a 300 000-400 000 ton- capacity blast-furnace in less than a year and supplied iron and steel products badly needed for different sectors of the national economy.

Those of the machine-building industry made a Chollima-brand tractor in 35 days and Sungni 58 lorry in 40 days.

They were followed by the production of 8m turning lathe, 3 000-ton press, Chollima-brand excavator, Ragwon 1 large water pump, Pulgunbyol 58 bulldozer and others. In only half a year 377 000 hectares of farmland were brought under irrigation as the Kiyang and other

large irrigation projects were completed one after another.

The flames of the great revolutionary upsurge spread like wildfire to other sectors of the national economy.

In the course of this the Chollima movement developed into the Chollima workteam movement. And it then spread to workshops and factories and to all other fields of the economy and culture.

With socialist construction making rapid progress and the Chollima workteam movement in full swing, the historic tasks of laying the foundations of socialist industrialization were fulfilled successfully.

After the groundwork of socialist industrialization was laid, a nationwide campaign was launched to complete socialist industrialization in the period of the first seven-year plan between 1961 and 1967.

The plan was to mark a new stage of development of socialist construction.

But the Korean people's efforts for socialist industrialization was accompanied by the struggle against the moves of the imperialists towards aggression and war.

In the latter half of the 1960s the situation at home and abroad grew more complicated and strained due to the enemies' attempt to invade the country and the counter-revolutionary schemes of anti-Party revisionists.

In order to carry out the difficult and uphill task to complete socialist industrialization while directing steady efforts to building up defence capability it was needed to make a fresh leap forward and innovation in all sectors.

The Second WPK Conference in October 1966 decided to overhaul socialist construction as a whole and step up defence upbuilding in line with the requirements of the prevailing situation and, to this end, prolong the first seven-year plan for three years.

The DPRK government inspired all people to make a fresh revolutionary leap forward in

implementing the line of building the economy and defence capability in parallel.

The Second National Conference of the Vanguards in the Chollima Workteam Movement held in May 1968 set forth the tasks for further developing the movement to increase the ranks of Chollima factories, farms, schools and riders.

All the people worked hard in all economic sectors to perform fresh miracles and innovations in order to carry out the tasks.

In the period of the first seven-year plan industry saw a rapid growth, resulting in the establishment of a self-reliant and modern industry which developed in a diversified manner, had solid raw materials production bases of its own and was equipped with new technologies and a radical change in its features as well.

In the whole period of industrialization efforts between 1957 and 1970 industrial production grew 19.1 percent on annual average, with the result that the total industrial output value in 1970 increased 11.6 times more than that in 1956, among which the output of the means of production grew 13.3 times and that of consumer goods 9.3 times.

The share of industry in the total industrial and agricultural output value was 34 percent in 1956, but it rose to 74 percent in 1969. In the same period the share of industry in the national income from industry and agriculture grew from 5 to 65 percent.

The period of the country's industrialization from the beginning to completion plus the stage of building its groundwork covered only 14 years.

The completion of the difficult and complicated task of industrialization, for which capitalist countries took a century or even several centuries, in such a short period of time was the brilliant victory of the original Juche-oriented line of industrialization advanced by the President.