

DPRK: Major Events in 2019

1. Kim Jong Un's Visit to China, His First Political Activity in the New Year (January 7-10)

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited China as his first political activity in the new year 2019. The visit displayed to the world that the friendly relationship between the DPRK and China is not a temporary one, but is developing into a strategic partnership, into relationship of comprehensive cooperation, which are unshakeable even under outside pressure and no matter how the situation changes.

2. Two Rounds of DPRK-US Summit Talks (February 27-28 and June 30)

The DPRK-US summit meeting was held in Hanoi between February 27 and 28, followed by another round at Panmunjom, symbolic of hostility and confrontation between the two countries, on June 30. Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump discussed issues on easing tension on the Korean peninsula, putting an end to the inglorious relations between the two countries and making a dramatic turn and the issues of mutual concern about the stumbling blocks in solving those issues, and voiced full understanding and sympathy.

3. Kim Jong Un's Official Goodwill Visit to Vietnam (February 27-March 2)

Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the first one made 55 years after President Kim Il Sung visited the country in 1964, is a manifestation of the stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and government of the DPRK that value the traditional friendly ties with Vietnam. Chairman Kim Jong Un and President Nguyen Phu Trong agreed on the vitality and rosy future of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two Parties and the peoples of the two countries, which had been forged and consolidated by President Kim Il Sung and President Ho Chi Minh, and expressed their determination to firmly defend the bilateral friendship, a precious legacy left by the preceding leaders of the two countries, and add eternal brilliance to it generation after generation.

4. Kim Jong Un's First Meeting and Talks with Putin (April 25)

Chairman Kim Jong Un held talks with Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, in the building of Far Eastern Federal University on Russky Island in Vladivostok, Russia. They analysed and assessed the trend of the Korean peninsula situation that faced a crucial moment, before having an in-depth discussion about the ways for the two countries to promote strategic communication and tactical collaboration in the course of ensuring peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

5. Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (April 10)

At the plenary meeting held in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un stressed that the Korean people should bring about a great upsurge in socialist construction by courageously mounting an all-out offensive, an all-out death-defying campaign, involving the whole Party, the entire country and all the people, with self-reliance as the treasured sword for prosperity, now that the building of an economic giant had become a key political task.

6. First Session of 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK (April 11-12)

Chairman Kim Jong Un noted in his policy speech delivered at the session that given the special circumstances of the country and the complexity of the present international situation, the DPRK should build up its strength and seek independent development from the firm standpoint of independence in order to defend its sovereignty and dignity and achieve true prosperity.

He advised the south Korean authorities to put an end to their tendency of worshipping big countries and their policy of relying on outside forces that infringe upon the interests common to the nation, and subordinate everything to improving inter-Korean relations. He said that the relations between the DPRK and the US depend entirely on the stand the United States adopts and the way of calculation it comes up with.

7. Xi Jinping's First Visit to the DPRK (June 20-21)

Xi Jinping, president of the People's Republic of China, visited Pyongyang. It was the first visit to the DPRK in 14 years by a president of China.

Mass media described the visit as an "expression of special intimacy that is being inherited generation after generation" and "special traditional relations between the socialist countries." His visit displayed to the world the friendship and unity between the two countries which entered a new era.

8. Inaugural Ceremonies of Monumental Structures (December 2, 3 and 7)

The DPRK opened up a new phase of creation of socialist civilization by completing the second-stage project of building up the city of Samjiyon in a northern mountainous area, a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm and the tree nursery built in a northeast area and a world-class hot spring resort in an inland area.

Chairman Kim Jong Un attended the ribbon-cutting ceremonies of the completed projects, expressing great satisfaction over the fact that monumental structures embodying the affection for the people had been built.

9. Important Successes in Strengthening Military Capability for Self-defence (April 17, July 25 and 31, August 24 and October 2)

The test fire of a new-type tactical guided weapon was succeeded on April 17, the

power demonstration fire of a new tactical guided weapon on July 25, the test fire of a newly developed large-calibre guided multiple launch rocket system on July 31, the test fire of a new super-large multiple rocket launcher on August 24, and the test fire of a new type of SLBM, Pukkuksong 3, on October 2.

These constitute important successes in opening up a new phase for checking the threat by outside forces and further strengthening the country's military capabilities for self-defence.

10. Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (December 28-31)

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, advanced at the meeting the line on launching a frontal attack for a breakthrough, not waiting for the situation to turn better, and noted that we should never dream that the US and other hostile forces would leave us to live in peace, but make a frontal attack on the strength of self-reliance to tide over the difficulties lying in the way of advance of our socialist construction.