

Dear Comrades and friends,

I hope you and your families will be in good health while surviving against the terrible pandemic.

It is with great happiness that I send you my congratulatory message on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean Friendship Association (KFA).

The DPRK successfully continues its road to a self-sufficient Juche socialism because it counts with the noble spirit of the Korean people commanded by Marshal **Kim Jong Un**.

It is clear that the falling of globalization and capitalism are making that even the biggest controllers of the markets are announcing they will “Reset the economy” or “Reinvent themselves”. As the gap between rich and poor grows, revolts and hate spreads and the pandemic exposes the weakness of individualism and money-centered policies, there are more and more people curious about how the DPRK could avert the invasion of the virus and could survive with the biggest sanctions in the history with its borders fully closed.

Everyday in the news in Spain we hear from business owners “We have to choose to die from hunger or die from COVID”. The Food Bank, the Red Cross and charitable organizations are saying that there's no food left in their warehouses. It can take 4 hours in the “Hunger queue” to get the basic to survive few days, and not even that is guaranteed. But this year alone, more than 450,000 tons of fruits were abandoned in the fields in just one of the 17 Spanish regions.

This is happening in a country that is the fourth food exporter of Europe. While people is starving, hundreds of tons are wasted because small profit margin (Speculators) and lack of manpower (Modern day slavery).

Western European countries will not survive even 3 months if they had to fully close their borders to safeguard the life of their citizens. It is for that reason that more people look at the DPRK with wonder... How such a small country could survive in harmony while facing all difficulties?

The answer is simple, a country where the people is the center of everything, that puts the common profit over the individual one, and a country that is commanded by Great Leaders that set up the example thus avoiding and stopping at once any sign of corruption.

Without a great idea and leadership the DPRK could not face such hardships. In the past there were many countries that implemented their own socialism, but lacking of exemplary direction they succumbed and abandoned their ideologies.

In the new era we have the fortune to count with our beloved Marshal **Kim Jong Un**, who was trained in military affairs and leadership disguised as secretary of our Dear Leader Kim Jong Il, and who learnt the reality of the “Chants of the mermaids” and miseries of capitalism while studying in Switzerland.

He inherited the humility, great heart, will and determination of Paektusan. For that reason, the brilliant future of the Republic is guaranteed in all sectors. And KFA will be part of that future making its small contribution in the path of international solidarity.

I want to thank to all my comrades that always believed in our cultural project and, most importantly, gave me their full trust and support. The KFA won't exist today without them.

My deepest appreciation goes to Minister Ri Jong Gun dongji and Chang Chung Sik dongji, that believed in my work when I met them in Madrid and I was only 16 years old.

In Pyongyang, the creation of KFA and the website korea-dpr.com was possible thanks to the sincere support, teachings and patience of Mun Jae Chol dongji (He was secretary of our Great Leader **Kim Il Sung** and Chairman of the CCRFC), Hong Son Ok dongji (Chairwoman of the CCRFC and member of the WPK Central Committee), Pak Kwang Ung dongji and Kang Hyon Gyu dongji (In charge of KFA in the CCRFC).

In the foreign side we have long-time comrades that supported us from minute one and continue working with us everyday, like Dermot Hudson dongji and Martin Lotscher dongji.

It is extremely complicated to build a bridge of understanding between the DPRK and other countries in the world. The different culture, ideology and the fake propaganda and continuous attacks by the imperialism and sensationalist media, makes it a big task that looks impossible for a group of individuals without resources. But we did it. Thanks to the effort and union of all active KFA members we managed to build a big friendship network where anyone can feel in the DPRK outside the DPRK.

Contrary to other organizations, I believed that our doors should be always opened to anyone with a sincere attitude, and remain opened to anyone that wishes to leave. Another of the principles when creating the KFA was to not enforce any kind of membership payment, knowing that we had some members that could not afford even a pair of shoes.

I will never forget 15 years ago, when one of our loyal members in China (KFA China was later dismantled to avoid a diplomatic conflict) won't eat twice a week to use that small money to pay for an hour in an internet cafe and have correspondence with other KFA branches.

Another memory I want to share is that of my conference and visit to chieftains of the Mapuche people in their communities in Chile. They were willing to learn about the teachings of the Great Leaders, the DPRK socialist administration and look for ways to implement them according to their reality. This shows how many important events the KFA has shared in this period of time.

The principles of open-doors and free membership brought us a big wave of young, new generations eager to know, learn and share the reality of socialist Korea. Sometimes it is surprising to see how the teenagers build virtual worlds based in Pyongyang's architecture or compete in international e-games with the flag of the DPRK as if it was their own.

There are countless memories since year 2000, but most important is not the past, but the present and future together.

The more attacks we receive, the more famous and strong we become. Our KFA membership has multiplied 10 times in the last month, and although the borders of the DPRK are closed since January, we receive hundreds of requests to visit and engage in all kind of cultural exchanges.

We are all in standby and just using online interviews and tools until the situation changes, but as soon as the environment improves we'll resume the KFA delegations and public activities.

I look very much forward to meet you all in our next KFA International Meeting in 2021. Until then, please take good care and receive my best regards.

The Great Leaders President **Kim Il Sung** and Generalissimo **Kim Jong Il** will always be with us!

Long Live our Respected Marshal **Kim Jong Un**!

Long Live the KFA!

Alejandro Cao de Benos  
President of the KFA