Celebrating August 15, 1945 – Korea’s independence from Japan

Dear comrades and friends,

August 15, 1945 is a historic day when the Korean people achieved the national independence by putting an end to the colonial rule by the Japanese imperialism under the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il Sung.

Meeting to this day, the Korea Asia Pacific Exchange (KAPE) would like to highly appreciate those organizations and individuals in the Asia Pacific region for their proactive support and solidarity to the Korean people’s struggle to achieve its independent and peaceful reunification.

We would also like to use this opportunity to share the good experience gained in its course including types and contents of solidarity actions so far performed in this year upto end of July.

The year-2020 has celebrated its inception with the solidarity action on the occasion of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea(WPK), where Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission(SAC) of the DPRK has laid down the line of breaking through head-on all the barriers to our advances.

- All India Korea Friendship Association issued a statement in January and stated that the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the WPK was convened in the timing of the historic turn when the DPRK was ushering in another victory in building a socialist a powerful country under the leadership of the WPK.

- Pakistan-Korea Friendship Society and the Pakistani Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea also issued a joint statement stressing that it will overcome all the difficulties to bring about a brilliant victory, thanks to the outstanding analysis of Comrade Kim Jong Un, Chairman of SAC of the DPRK by dint of the great spiritual strength.

Meanwhile, several organizations in the Asia-Pacific region held annual general meetings and planning meetings to deliberate the plans to further their solidarity activities and have undertaken their implementation.

- An Annual General Meeting was held in late February by Brisbane branch of Australia-DPRK Friendship and Cultural Society. It came up with decisions to strengthen its efforts for friendship, cultural and solidarity relations with the Korean people and enhance the prospects of peace, prosperity and reconciliation on the Korean peninsular.

- Sydney branch of Australia-DPRK Friendship and Cultural Society held a general annual meeting in March. It stressed that the sanctions on the DPRK had become more urgent with the COVID-19 threat and also took up action plans including writing a statement on lifting sanctions and organizing its press release to major medias.

- Mr. Tim Beal, chairman of the New Zealand DPRK Society published an article to "International Critical Thought", and Chinese Social Science Journal. In his work, he critically analyzed the foreign policy of the current American administration and stated that its policy towards the DPRK is basically the same with that of its predecessors but more maladroit.

- In April the Sydney branch Australia DPRK Friendship and Cultural Association called for fund-raising for medical and testing equipment for DPRK in view of the urgent COVID-19 related sanctions.

- Mr. Neil Fitzgerald, National President of the Australia-DPRK Friendship Association sent an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia denouncing that during these times of global pandemic, it is inhuman and inconceivable that the current blockade of goods entering the DPRK is maintained and that they play a part in refusing vital aid to the people of the DPRK in their time of need.
The solidarity activities to support Korea's independent and peaceful reunification were carried out in a more diversified and larger scale during the month of international solidarity with the Korean people: June 25 - July 27.

- Sydney branch of Australia-DPRK Friendship and Cultural Society has issued a call for renewed commitment to the peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula to urge south Korea and the US and indeed Australia and other countries to again reach out the DPRK and resume the good work that was started in June 2000 and June 2018.

- In a meeting convened in July by Brisbane branch of Australia-DPRK Friendship and Cultural Society stressed that while the north had continually called upon the south to advance the principles of the Panmunjom declaration the south had continually used the illegal and unjust US/UN sanctions as reasons to backtrack.

- All India-Korea Friendship Association has issued a solidarity statement to reaffirm its support to the socialist solidarity and to express its wish that it can soon lead to Korea's reunification.

- The Indonesian Vanguard Party and Indonesia-Korea Friendship and Cultural Exchange in their joint statement denounced the anti-Republic leaflet-shattering by "defectors from the north". And Mr. Teguh Santosa, secretary-general of Indonesia-Korea Friendship and Cultural Exchange issued a statement calling for the rejection of the anti-Republic leaflet-shattering by "defectors from the north" and associated connivance by the south Korean authorities.

- A statement by Nepal-Korea Friendship Association expressed its full support and solidarity to the Korean people's struggle to reunify the country independently and peacefully without external forces' intervention and building the prosperous Juche-oriented socialist country.

- The New Zealand-DPRK society sent an open letter to the Chief Executive and secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand stressing that it is imperative for New Zealand to play a positive role that this can only happen when they are in full diplomatic dialogue with Pyongyang. This letter has been posted on Scoop.

- In another statement on the 48th anniversary of July 4 Joint Declaration it stipulate that detente between the two parts of the Korean peninsula leading to peaceful, mutually acceptable reunification can only be achieved by the Koreans themselves free of foreign interference in particular, disengagement of the United States.

- The Nepal Committee to Promote Reunification of Korea in its statement hoped that the world progressive peoples join the just struggle of the DPRK with the solidarity actions for the sake of everlasting world peace.

- A joint statement by Branches of Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association in Karachi city and Lahore city and Pakistani Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea demanded that US Army be pulled out from south Korea for peace in the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification be achieved by the Korean people.

- A joint statement by Branches of Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association in Karachi city and Lahore city and Pakistani Committee for Supporting the Reunification of Korea expressed its full support for the determination of the DPRK to build up a powerful military strength to deal with the constant nuclear threat of the US.

- In another joint statement on the occasion of June 15 Joint Declaration they demanded that US Army be pulled out from south Korea for peace in the Korean peninsula and the independent and peaceful reunification be achieved by the Korean people.

- The Sri Lanka People's Korea Friendship Association released a statement to support the June 15th joint declaration and call for that all Koreans in the north, south and abroad respect and implement the principle of the reunification jointly developed the Korean nation.
These are typical solidarity actions so far performed in this year. Besides, many organizations and individuals in the Asia Pacific have performed sending us message of solidarity and encouragement in their emails or a variety of informal solidarity actions in the course of their routine activities, specifically Ms. Norma G. Binas, vice-president of Philippines-Korea Solidarity and Friendship Society.

We are confident that such efforts will be scaled up with upcoming 75th anniversary of Korea's liberation(August 15), the 60th anniversary of the day (August 25) when the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il set the first footprint in the leadership over the revolutionary armed forces, the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the DPRK (Sept 9th), the 13th anniversary of the Oct 4th declaration and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the WPK(Oct 10th).

Availing ourselves of this opportunity we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the organizations and personnel for continuing the activities in support for us, despite many challenges by the current world pandemic situation.

We strongly believe that the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee for Korea's Peaceful Reunification and other organizations and personnel in the region extend full support for and solidarity with the Korean people to ensure lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and the world and to achieve its reunification.

Long live the international unity and solidarity with all the people aspiring for peace and justice!

Best regards.

Korea-Asia Pacific Exchange

*By email from Pyongyang, 10 August 2020*

*(heading added)*