

KIM JONG UN

**LET US USHER IN A NEW
GOLDEN AGE OF BUILDING
A SPORTS POWER IN THE
REVOLUTIONARY
SPIRIT OF PAEKTU**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Letter to Those Attending the Seventh National
Conference of Sportspeople
March 25, Juche 104 (2015)

At this eventful time, when all the service personnel and people have turned out in a general offensive in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and are registering successes in all fields of defending socialism and building a thriving nation, the Seventh National Conference of Sportspeople has opened.

The conference, which is being held amid the great interest of the whole country, will constitute an epoch-making occasion in further exalting the brilliance of the imperishable exploits performed by the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il for the development of the country's sports and in carrying out the Party's plan of building the country into a sports power.

Sports play a very important role in consolidating a nation's strength, adding lustre to a country's prestige and honour, inspiring people with national pride and dignity and imbuing the whole society with revolutionary mettle.

The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, in putting forward the development of sports as a matter with an important bearing on the prosperity of the country and nation, indicated the road ahead of Juche-based sports and wrote a new chapter in the history of building a sports power by dint of outstanding ideas and leadership.

In order to develop the country's sports in line with the great leaders' ideas and plan for developing Juche-based sports, our Party directs great efforts to the work of the sports sector.

Under the Party's leadership a climate of attaching importance to sports has been created across the country, enthusiasm for sports is mounting as never before and our sportspeople have achieved excellent results in competitions. Cherishing the high expectations of the Party and their fellow people, our reliable sportspeople have made redoubled efforts

and won many gold medals at the 30th Olympic Games and in subsequent international contests including the world championships and Asian Games, thus demonstrating the mettle and strength of Juche Korea, filling the service personnel and people with great national pride and dignity and encouraging them to perform renewed miraculous innovations and feats.

Under the Party's close concern and thanks to the devoted efforts of our service personnel and working people, the Masikryong Ski Resort, Mirim Riding Club and other modern international-standard sports facilities have been established and such multi-functional sports facilities as the May Day Stadium, the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the Sports Village in Chongchun Street have been renovated in a short span of time; thus conditions have been provided for the sportspeople and working people to develop their sporting techniques and enjoy a sporting and cultural life to their heart's content.

However, the work of the sports sector has yet to attain the level demanded by the Party and expected by the people. Our overall sporting techniques lag behind the demands of the times and the world trends, and the level of sports science and the material and technical foundations of this sector are inadequate. Some officials still reveal the tendency of making little of sports, and rigid discipline and order have not been established in the sector.

Our Party expects this conference to review and analyze the successes and experiences, shortcomings and lessons in the implementation of the Party's policy on sports and adopt revolutionary measures for the development of sports so as to improve the work of the sports sector and open a broad avenue for building our country into a sports power.

It is our Party's determination and firm will to raise the status of our country to that of a prestigious sports power within the

coming few years by bringing about a revolutionary turn in the work of the sports sector.

Building a sports power is a patriotic undertaking aimed at translating into reality the plan and wish of the great leaders, who devoted their efforts to building our country into one that prospers and grows stronger on the basis of sports. By defending and brilliantly carrying forward their Juche-oriented ideas and exploits for building a sports power, we can demonstrate to the whole world the resourcefulness and courage of Kim Il Sung's nation, Kim Jong Il's Korea, in the sports arena.

Building a sports power is a key focus of our Party in building a thriving socialist country. Only when we step up the building of a sports power can we display to a higher degree the might of the military power, successfully build a socialist economic power and civilized nation and demonstrate the dignity of Juche Korea by fully preparing all the service personnel and people for national defence and labour.

We should raise the country's sporting techniques to the world standard, make sports mass-based and a daily activity and improve the level of sports science in a short span of time, thus bringing the Party's plan for building a sports power to brilliant fruition.

The major objective set by our Party for building a sports power is to help our athletes win in the Olympic Games, world championships and other international contests and demonstrate the prestige and mettle of the country by radically developing the specialized sporting techniques of the country.

Sportspeople are standard-bearers and a shock force standing at the forefront in the building of a sports power. Only sportspeople can cause the flag of our Republic to be hoisted in the sky of other countries in peace time; it is their sacred duty to exalt the prestige and honour of their country by winning gold

medals. Cherishing the honourable duty of being revolutionary sportspeople in the Songun era and the high expectations of their country and fellow people, they should become vanguard fighters in the struggle to implement the Party's plan for building a sports power.

They should prepare themselves as people possessed of the spirit and mettle of Paektu who are strong in ideology and spirit and in physique and technique, and win successive international competitions on the strength of the excellent tactics of our own style.

“Let us rush forward towards the finish line of building a sports power in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu!”—this is the fighting slogan our sportspeople should hold up.

To run, leading the world, to win thrillingly and to compete undauntedly so as to win is the sporting spirit of Juche Korea which embodies the revolutionary spirit of Paektu.

All sportspeople should feel their hearts burning with the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu, and become reliable fighters of the Party, proud sons and daughters of their country and people who create new, amazing stories of heroic Korea in international competitions.

The main link in the whole chain of the effort for fully preparing sportspeople in terms of ideology, spirit, physique, technique and tactics is to encourage them to train intensively.

Training is a furnace where excellent sportspeople are honed; the gold medals that exalt the honour of the country are assured by the sweat they shed in training. Our sportspeople should regard their training programmes as combat orders given by the Party and their training arena as a battlefield for implementing the Party's ideas and defending their country, and temper their ideology, will, physique, techniques and tactics in the furnace of training that is done in the atmosphere of actual competitions. In

particular, they should be aware that only the athletes who have developed world-class special techniques can contribute to building a sports power by means of gold medals, and should strive persistently to possess such techniques.

The role of coaches, who organize and oversee training and competitions, should be improved decisively.

The true abilities of athletes and teams and success in competitions are dependent on coaches. With a high ambition to become famous coaches who develop world-class athletes, they should constantly raise their levels. They should do away with organizing training in a stereotyped manner and for form's sake, work out realistic and scientific training plans, improve training methods and make strong demands on athletes so as to prepare them to cope skilfully with any circumstances in competitions.

We should create excellent playing tactics of our own style and actively introduce them.

Success in sports competitions is guaranteed by the superiority and effectiveness of the tactics, together with the athletes' ideological and spiritual, physical and technical preparedness. General Kim Jong Il presented the principles and methods for competing with a high degree of ideological awareness, fighting spirit, speed and skill. Sportspeople should consistently hold fast to these principles and methods and continually create and perfect brilliant and flexible tactics so that they can beat the best in the world fair and square.

What is important in perfecting and applying the tactics of our own style is to apply attacking guerrilla-style tactics. This idea is a comprehensive embodiment and development of the principles and methods of competing with a high degree of ideological awareness, fighting spirit, speed and skill.

Officials and coaches in the sports sector should ensure that sportspeople, by applying attacking guerrilla-style tactics in

every sports event, seize the initiative and always win. The associations of all sports should perfect and actively apply effective and singular tactics and modes in line with the requirements of the attacking guerrilla-style tactics in the events in their fields.

Many competitions should be organized to allow sportspeople to prepare themselves ideologically and spiritually, physically and technically and actively apply the tactics of our own style. Competition is a process of displaying sporting techniques and tactics and at the same time an important occasion for developing them at a higher level. In experiencing the pleasure of victory or the agony of defeat, competitors and coaches accumulate experience or draw lessons and can subsequently redouble their efforts to perfect their techniques and tactics.

We should arrange national games including the Republic Championships all year round, and sports teams should organize regular practice matches, pre-tournament matches, challenge matches and home-and-away matches among themselves so as to further develop their sporting techniques. At the same time sportspeople should be made to take part in many international competitions so as to raise their technical levels and accumulate experience in actual competition.

Efforts should be directed to developing events in which our athletes can excel.

The sports sector should select events which suit the characteristics of the constitution of Koreans and in which we have a tradition of achieving success, and focus on them. It should first secure world supremacy in women's football, the marathon, weightlifting, boxing, table tennis, wrestling, judo, artistic gymnastics and archery, and then retain it. The development of these events as the major thrust should be followed by the development of physical training for national

defence, maritime physical culture, winter sports and other events. In this way it can secure Asian supremacy and, moreover, world supremacy in many events. It should widely encourage Taekwon-Do and *ssirum* (Korean-style wrestling-Tr.), traditional sports events of Korea, thereby encouraging the whole country to practise Taekwon-Do so as to demonstrate its spirit to the world, and further developing its skills and the traditional techniques of *ssirum*.

We should improve the training of reserve players and officials in the sports sector.

We should train reserve sportspeople in a far-sighted way. Training reserves in the sports sector, in which the cycle of change of the generations is shorter than in any other sector, is a very important undertaking that is decisive of the future of the development of the country's sporting techniques. The bright prospects for the development of sports depend on how many able reserves are trained that can carry forward our supremacy in prominent events and shoulder the future of sports.

It should be regarded as a principle to select as reserves people with intelligence, a sturdy physique and a suitable constitution for each event. The sports sector should select reserves on a regular basis and in a steady way, in contact with Party and youth league organizations and the education sector.

While selecting appropriate people as reserves, it should make a major effort to train them. City and county juvenile sports schools should intensify education in basic techniques in line with the demands of the Party and world trends in the development of sports, and thus bring up promising reserves in a systematic way.

Efforts should be made to raise the level of officials in the sports sector, including leading officials, team coaches and gym teachers.

Educational institutions in the sports sector should select and educate promising people and drastically improve the quality of sports education and training, and thus develop large numbers of able sports officials. The Korea University of Physical Education should improve, and generalize among institutions responsible for training sports officials, the content, method, conditions and environment of its education as required by the developing reality, and create an example for training sports officials.

Refresher courses for sports officials in active service should be run properly. It is important to send these officials to educational institutions in a planned way for refresher courses and organize workshops for them so as constantly to improve their technical levels and qualifications. Meetings for swapping experience, demonstration lectures, workshops and the like should be organized on a regular basis to improve their practical levels.

We should make sports mass-based and part of everyday life and thus get the entire population to enjoy participating in sports and the whole country to seethe with enthusiasm for sports.

To make sports mass-based and part of everyday life is an important policy of our Party in building a sports power. Sports in our country are an undertaking for the people and by the people. Only when all sports events are made mass-based and part of everyday life can all the people be in good health and proactively contribute to national defence and building a thriving nation. Carrying out this policy is also needed if the country's professional sports sector is to develop rapidly.

Schools should improve and intensify physical training.

Only then can they bring up their students as sturdy pillars for the future and produce many fine reserve sportspeople. In their physical training schools should focus on increasing students' height, building up their bodies in a balanced way and teaching

them basic sports knowledge and the techniques of more than one sports event. Due attention should be paid to physical training for national defence which is conducive to cultivating their courage, perseverance and fortitude. Schools should raise the level of gym teachers and radically improve the quality of physical education. They should all furnish themselves with sufficient sports equipment, organize various after-school sporting activities suited to the students' characteristics and regularly run specialized groups for sports events.

Organs, enterprises and cooperative farms should conduct brisk sporting activities.

They should arrange various sporting activities, including health-promoting exercise, mass rhythmic exercise and health-promoting Taekwon-Do, on a regular basis and in keeping with their actual conditions, and organize different kinds of sports and other recreational pastimes on holidays, major anniversaries and days off so that people can take an active part in sporting activities with a competitive spirit. Families, too, should often take part in health-promoting exercises like morning exercise and recreational pastimes.

National Inter-Provincial Games and similar games should be organized among cities, counties, organs, enterprises and cooperative farms to help the working people build up their bodies and minds and to generate greater enthusiasm for sports. When a match is to be played, scrupulous arrangements for cheering should be made to enliven the atmosphere, boost the players' morale and demonstrate the sense of organization and unity of the collective.

It is important vigorously to wage the movement for winning the titles of Model Sports County and Model Sports Unit and make effective arrangements for the sports promotion period.

Sports science should be improved.

The key to victory in building a sports power is to put sports on a scientific basis. This is a powerful impetus to the development of sports. The present reality, in which sporting techniques are developing at a fast speed worldwide, shows that the one that leads the competition in sports science and techniques becomes the victor, and the one that lags behind, the loser. When the soaring spiritual strength of our reliable sportspeople, who are eager to demonstrate the dignity and honour of their country to the whole world, is supported by advanced sports science and techniques, great progress will be made in the development of the country's sports.

All the officials, athletes and coaches in the sports sector need to study sports scientific knowledge and techniques, overcome the tendency to cling to outdated experience, and improve and develop all the realms of the work of the sports sector, including training, competing, education and rearing reserves, on the basis of modern sports science.

The sports science sector should develop the techniques of each event in our own way from the Juche-oriented standpoint. In particular, it should direct primary efforts to the research into solving the scientific and technical problems arising in the development of those events to which the Party gives priority. Along with this, it should intensify research into physiology, biochemistry and other basic sciences, put the work of conditioning, psychological regulation and nutrition supply for players on a scientific basis, and develop different nutritious foods for improving their physical abilities. It should channel efforts into inventing state-of-the-art sports equipment and studying how to produce modern equipment, including clothing for each event, using domestic materials.

Brisk information work related to sports science and techniques should be conducted so that athletes and coaches can

be well-informed of the world trends in the technical development of each event and of the teams they may play against in international competitions and then cope with the trends and foreign competition.

Nationwide attention should be paid to the effort for providing full conditions for developing sports science, including data, up-to-date equipment, measuring instruments and reagents.

The Academy of Sports Science has a significant role to play in putting sports on a scientific basis. It should build up its ranks of scientists and researchers, work out sports science development plans in a far-sighted and realistic way and in line with the actual conditions in our country and the trends in the development of modern sports science, and launch a vigorous campaign to go beyond the cutting edge in its work.

Members of the February 17 Scientists and Technicians Shock Brigade, who have been assigned to the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports, should develop and introduce computer-aided guided training programs, sports equipment and fatigue-relieving and nutritious foods so as to provide scientific and technical guarantees for achieving success in sports competitions.

In order successfully to carry out all the tasks arising in the building of a sports power, it is important to enhance the functions and role of sports guidance organs in every possible way.

The National Sports Guidance Committee should improve the work system in the sports sector in line with the Party's plan and the requirements for building a sports power, discuss and resolve in time important issues that require nationwide concern to develop sports in the country, and take appropriate measures. The Secretariat of the National Sports Guidance Committee should play a greater role in raising a strong wind of sports across the

country, give effective guidance to all relevant units, including the sports guidance committees at different levels, in their efforts to implement the Party's policy on sports, and ensure that the members of the National Sports Guidance Committee and the sponsoring organizations render active help, both material and psychological, to the units in their charge.

The Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports should draw up a scientific national strategy for developing sports, true to the Party's intention of building a sports power, and carry it out stage by stage and in an effective way. Officials of the ministry should rid themselves of the short-sighted style of working—busying themselves only with making arrangements for competitions at hand; they should foresee and plan everything with an eye to the future and press on with it in a persevering manner. They should take hold of the main link in the whole chain of implementing the Party's policy on sports, go among sports teams and their members to give full rein to their spiritual strength, and make positive efforts to raise the level of sports science. It is necessary to ensure the balanced development of sports teams at the central and provincial levels and those attached to organs and enterprises, and encourage them to compete fiercely among themselves so as to develop the country's sports in an all-round way. Effective work order and stringent discipline should be established in the sports sector, just as in the army.

The Pyongyang Municipal Sports Guidance Committee and similar committees at the provincial, city and county levels should give proper guidance to all sectors and all units in their respective regions so that they can implement to the letter the Party's policy of making sports mass-based and part of everyday life, and help and lead forward the sports teams and juvenile sports schools.

Positive external activities should be conducted to create an

environment and conditions favourable for developing the country's sports. The sports sector should work diplomatically with international sports organizations on the principle of prioritizing the dignity and interests of our Republic, and organize invitation and away matches and joint training frequently.

We should bring about a radical improvement in solidifying the material foundations of the sports sector.

The building of a sports power cannot be successful unless it is underpinned by adequate material conditions. The Party and the state should pay close attention to laying solid material foundations for developing the sports sector.

We should build modern sports facilities, including gymnasiums, stadiums, swimming pools, firing ranges and physical training centres, in Pyongyang and the provinces, and sports parks in different places so as to cover the whole country with a network of sports facilities. We should also make regular arrangements for keeping those facilities in a good state of repair.

We need to modernize our sports equipment factories and ensure the high quality of their products so as to make them widely available to our sportspeople and other citizens. We should make proactive efforts to produce the sports equipment needed by ourselves. We should renovate training centres and provide sportspeople with ample conditions for training all year round.

We need to pay close attention to improving supply services for sportspeople. We should build up supply service bases for the sports sector and put their production on a normal track so as to provide sportspeople with sufficient amounts and various kinds of soft drinks and nutritious foods.

The state should take steps to provide the funds necessary for developing the country's sports, and actively help the sports sector secure other funds on its own.

Social interest in sports should be increased to develop the country's sporting techniques rapidly and make the enthusiasm for sports run higher.

The key to heightening social interest in sports is to ensure that officials have a correct attitude towards sports. Officials in all sectors and at all units should attach importance to sports, true to the Party's intention, work hard to implement its policy on sports and become models in mass-based sporting activities.

We need to give social prominence to sportspeople and accord them preferential treatment. We should ensure that those who have demonstrated the honour of the country in international competitions are respected as patriots and heroes and receive appropriate political commendation and material rewards. By doing so, we can make other people respect and look up to them with envy. The Party and the state should direct close attention to the living conditions of sportspeople. The mass media should promptly and widely disseminate news and information about sports competitions and the sector of art and literature should create many works that can inspire sportspeople with vigour and courage and kindle an enthusiasm for sports among the masses.

Party guidance over sports should be strengthened.

Party organizations at all levels should regard as a key concern the undertakings geared to realizing the Party's plan for building a sports power, and give effective policy-oriented guidance over them. They should thoroughly establish the Party's leadership system in the sports sector and conduct effective organizational and political work to implement the instructions of the great leaders and the Party's policy on sports to the letter. They should build up the ranks of officials in the sports sector with people who are loyal to the Party and able enough to play a significant role in developing the country's sports.

Party organizations in the sports sector should conduct

positive political work, as is done on the front line, to give full play to the spiritual strength of sportspeople. They should be efficient in conducting among sportspeople the five-point educational work, with a focus on education in the greatness of the leaders, so as to bring them up to be the Party's faithful fighters who can score remarkable successes in competitions, always remembering the benevolence of their Party and leaders and the preciousness of their homeland. They should give prominence to models of the Songun era produced in the sports arena and encourage other sportspeople to learn from their spiritual world, training style and moral traits.

The gold medalists who have exalted the dignity and honour of their country before the whole world, leaving shining traces of their lofty lives, will go down in the history of building a Juche-oriented sports power as heroes and true patriots for our Party, our country and our people.

I firmly believe that, with this conference as the momentum, all our officials and sportspeople will strive to bring about a fresh turn in building a sports power and thus live up to the Party's trust and expectations.