

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

KIM JONG IL

**ON BRINGING ABOUT
A FRESH CHANGE IN LAND
MANAGEMENT**

Talk to Senior Officials of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea
August 11, 1996

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Land management should be improved.

Land management is an undertaking to administer and protect the entire territory of the country—soil, forests, roads, rivers, streams, coasts and territorial waters. Land management occupies a very important place in the building of socialism. Only when we undertake land management properly can we enrich our country, our motherland, and ensure that our people lead an independent and creative life. Proper land management and environmental protection are a world trend.

Since land management is so important, the Party convened a national conference of workers in the field of land management to set out the general direction for land management and the ways it should be carried out, and has emphasized on every available occasion the need for proper land management. However, the Party's policy is not being carried out to the letter.

In some regions, mountains have been stripped of timber and turned into bases for producing raw materials, with the result that whenever there is heavy rainfall, there are landslides, and water overflows the river banks and inundates or washes away the precious

soil. The recent flood damage was caused by unusually heavy rainfall, but mainly by massive deforestation and failure to plant trees promptly. If we had planted a lot of trees on the mountains and carried out projects to prevent soil erosion, we might have avoided such serious damage in spite of the heavy rainfall. Although the Party has stressed time and again that trees should be planted through a mass drive, officials have failed to ensure that the Party's policy is implemented in an efficient manner, and that the trees that were planted are well tended. Although trees are said to have been planted every year, there has been no significant increase in the area of forests.

The case is the same with river improvement, field realignment, and road improvement and administration. Party organizations and administrative and economic bodies should have drawn up long- and short-term plans for river improvement and regulated the project by dredging the rivers and building embankments along them, but they have failed to do so. So, if there is heavy rainfall, rivers overflow, damaging roads and crop lands. Recently, I visited the Kujang area, and found that the riverbeds there were considerably raised. Roads and fields in many other areas are in a bad condition.

With the state of land management being so serious nowadays, I ensured that documentary and video films were produced and all officials of the central and local Party organizations and administrative and economic organs watched them. They are reported to have felt very remorseful after watching them. The fact that officials have paid no attention to land management cannot be ignored. It is an indication that they lack patriotism and the spirit of serving the people.

All officials should be fully aware of the significance of land management and the serious results caused by indifference to it, and set about improving it.

In order to improve land management, all cadres, Party members and other working people should fully understand the Party's intention to make land management more effective. Land management is a long-term project for the development of our country, our motherland, and for the prosperity of posterity; it is the Party's intention and determination to build a land of bliss for the people of our country of 3 000 *ri* through good land management. Party organizations at all levels should explain the Party's intention to cadres, Party members and other working people so that they all play a willing and earnest part in land management

and build their country bequeathed to them by President Kim Il Sung into a more beautiful one.

In order to improve land management, the entire Party and the whole of society should be involved.

Since land management is an undertaking for protecting and managing the entire territory of the country, the workers in this sector cannot do it satisfactorily on their own. Only when all organs, enterprises and cooperative farms and all officials, Party members and other working people are mobilized, can land management be carried out successfully. In particular, leading officials of all sectors and units should actively turn out in the work with an awareness befitting masters and a high degree of responsibility, so as to bring about an upswing in the work. Chief secretaries of provincial, city and county Party committees and other senior Party officials should take tree planting, river improvement, road administration and all other kinds of land management work in hand, and push forward with them as Party work. If the chief secretaries of city and county Party committees, each of whom is responsible for one-200th part of the country, ensure effective land management in their respective cities and counties, land management in the whole country will go well.

They should act decisively in administering and protecting the land so as to ensure a significant change in land management.

The other day I instructed that a demonstration lecture should be organized to popularize the example of Unit 770 of the Korean People's Army, which is exemplary in environmental realignment, side-line farming and organizing its economic life. All commanders of the KPA corps and chief secretaries of provincial Party committees should visit the unit. It would be a good idea to organize on-site demonstration lectures highlighting the experiences of units that are exemplary in land management. All chief secretaries of provincial, city and county Party committees and chairmen of provincial, city and county administrative and economic committees should attend the lectures to learn how to revise their ideological attitude towards land management and the proper methods of doing the work.

We should define a methodology for ensuring that all organs, enterprises and cooperative farms engage unconditionally in land management, and push ahead with it forcefully. We should issue detailed annual quotas concerning tree planting, river improvement and road administration, and strictly review their

fulfilment. In particular, it would be a good idea to set the tree planting seasons of spring and autumn as periods for a general mobilization for tree planting, road administration and river improvement. Just as we mobilize the whole country to assist the countryside in the farming seasons every year, so should we do the same with land management.

President Kim Il Sung said that even farmers should be enlisted for the improvement of roads in the slack farming seasons. We should ensure that cooperative farms as well as organs and enterprises plant trees and improve and manage rivers and roads in the periods of the general mobilization for land management.

The People's Army cannot be exempted from land management. People's Army units should improve the rivers and roads and plant trees in the areas where they are stationed during the periods of the general mobilization for land management.

If we conduct land management, including tree planting, river improvement and road administration, every year in a concentrated manner in the spring and autumn general mobilization periods of the entire Party, all the people and the whole army while doing it on a regular basis, we will be able to solve many

problems. We should ensure that all organs, enterprises, cooperative farms and army units are given clear-cut quotas and carry them out without fail.

We should see to it that, if damage occurs owing to irresponsible land management, including tree planting, river improvement and road administration, the organs, enterprises or cooperative farms concerned repair and compensate for the damage. We should make an ideological issue of the negligence of land management and the absence of an attitude befitting masters, regarding it as an expression of a lack of patriotism.

It would be a good idea to mobilize the entire Party, all the people and the whole army for an effort to transform the overall appearance of the land from the autumn of this year on.

In order to intensify land management, the ranks of officials in this sector should be strengthened. At the moment, the sector is short of personnel, and the ranks have not been strengthened with able individuals. I have heard that because the Ministry of Public Security retained some able individuals from the General Bureau of Land Administration when the latter was elevated to the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection and transferred to the

Administration Council, the ranks of officials in the sector of land management have many vacancies. The Ministry of Public Security should hand over all the personnel who were engaged in land administration to the sector of land and environment protection without condition.

A study should be conducted as to whether the building and management of roads can be done under a single system nationwide. This year, our country suffered serious damage from flooding, but the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Tourist Road did not. This means that the road was built well in terms of quality. We should do all work, including road building, to a high standard. The land administration sector is currently engaged in many types of work, such as land administration and supervision, and road building. The General Bureau of Road Construction undertakes to build roads of national importance while the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection builds provincial roads. You should study whether the road construction forces can be brought under a unified system, and submit to me a plan for the measures to be taken.

It seemed that this year's crops were in a good condition, but they experienced unexpected damage in the recent torrential rains. Our ancestors had a farming

calendar, in which they divided the hot season into early, middle and late periods, and did farming accordingly. By the late hot period, they meant that not only was the hot season coming to a close but also they should prepare to complete their farm work. Now that the rainy season and the late hot period are drawing to a close, we should see to it that the farmers make substantial preparations to complete farming by cultivating crops well.

The agricultural sector should conduct research work on distributing crops as suited to natural and climatic conditions and regional features and developing the rural economy in a diversified manner. It will not do to try to expand the area of grain cultivation indiscriminately without taking into consideration the changing natural and climatic conditions and regional features. In regions where grain harvests are poor, it is more profitable to develop light industry and earn foreign currency by cultivating various kinds of industrial crops, and buy grains with the foreign currency thus earned.

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