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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Initial reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant,
concerning rights covered by articles 13-15, in accordance
with the third stage of the programme established by Economic
and Social Council resolution 1988 (IX)

Addendum

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

[14 January 1989]

1. All policies of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are based on the Juche idea, a man-centred philosophical outlook on the world created by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
2. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the working masses directly participate in the realization of a State power and management of the State and freely exercise the genuine freedom and right to political activity as the master of State and society.
3. They enjoy equal rights in all spheres of the State and social life irrespective of sex, nationality, occupation, length of residence, property status, education, party affiliation, political views and religion.
4. Below are the achievements and steps taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the implementation of articles 13-15 of the Covenant.

Article 13

Right to Education

5. Since the first day of its foundation, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has given priority to education, considering it as a serious question decisive of the destiny of the country's future.
6. The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, made public the immortal classic works titled "Theses on Socialist Education" at the fourth Session of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on 5 September 1977.
7. The theses gives perfect answers to all theoretical and practical problems arising in education: content and method of education; fundamental principle of socialist pedagogy; establishment of the socialist education system; task and role of the educational institutions and guidance and assistance on education.
8. During the last period the effort has been made to carry out the thesis on education, and thus the socialist educational system has been further consolidated and developed and great success scored in people's education and training of national cadres.
9. The right to education is legally guaranteed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
10. The Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea prescribes as follows:

"Article 40. The State is giving precedence to public education and the training of cadres for the nation and is combining general education with technological education, and education with productive labour."

"Article 41. The State provides universal compulsory ten-year education which includes senior middle school training for all young people under working age. 'The State provides education to all pupils and students free of charge.'"

"Article 42. The State trains competent technicians and experts by developing the regular educational system as well as different forms of studying while working."

"Article 43. The State provides all children with a compulsory one-year pre-school education."

"The State maintains all children of pre-school age in crèches and kindergartens at State and public expense."

I. Right to Primary and Secondary Education

11. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea established the principle of giving education to the entire people and young generation and pursues the policy to enrol all working people in the certain educational system for compulsory education while compulsorily educating the young generation in regular schools.

12. During the last period the State established stage by stage the universal free and compulsory educational system on the basis of the development of revolution and construction and the sound foundation of the country's economy.

13. In 1956, the hard post-war period of rehabilitation, the State abolished the tuition-fee system enforcing universal primary education and in 1958 effected with flying colours the universal secondary compulsory education.

14. Since 1959 all educational institutions across the country have been under the universal free educational system and run at State expense.

15. Since April 1967, the universal 9-year compulsory technical education has been successfully enforced and an advanced educational system which requires a close combination of general education with elementary technical education and education with productive labour; since September 1972, 11-year compulsory higher-level education has been enforced to give complete secondary education to all new generations.

16. The universal 11-year compulsory education includes one year pre-school education and compulsory 10-year school education. Under this educational system children from age 5 to 16 receive pre-school education and primary or secondary education free of charge.

17. Under this compulsory educational system all new generations study the same subjects in line with a monolithic educational system and according to a unified educational programme at primary and senior middle schools.

18. In the course of the 11-year compulsory education system every pupil receives the same complete secondary general education and after finishing the course, he or she is eligible for higher schools up to university according to his or her wishes and talents.

II. Right to Higher Education

19. The State has carried out with flying colours the grand task set forth by the 5th Congress of the Party held on August 1975 to increase the rank of competent technicians and experts by more than a million by increasing the

higher educational institutions and ceaselessly improving the quality of education. As a result, our country has 1.31 million technicians and experts as of 1987.

20. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea all working people including young people who finished the 11-year compulsory education are eligible for higher education according to their hopes, talent and temperament.

21. The State established the system of studying on the job along with the regular educational system, thus all the working people are included in the educational system of higher learning.

22. As a result they have acquired living knowledge closely associated with production and theory through factory college, farm college, fishing college and broadcasting college by correspondence courses.

23. The pupils of regular educational institutions of higher learning study free of charge and even on scholarships. The working people who study on the job receive financial and material assistance so as to be freed from any worries about their livelihood because they receive the treatment according to the ranks in the whole course of their study.

III. Free Education

24. Our educational system is substantial and popular and is firmly guaranteed by universal free education.

25. The State is entirely responsible for all expenses needed for educating the children of the working people.

26. The State provides all pupils and students with school uniforms in every season and sells dirt cheap textbooks, notebooks and various school things to say nothing of exemption from tuition fees.

27. The State bears the expenses for the pupils and students' extracurricular activities, inspection of factories and enterprises and camping.

28. Model pupils of specialized schools and students receive monthly a honourable "Kim Il Sung scholarship" and various other kinds of scholarships.

29. Those pupils of senior middle schools who live on islands but study on the mainland also enjoy the benefit of scholarships.

30. The State pays 15,800 won for one child who graduates from a university having passed through a crèche, a kindergarten and a primary school.

IV. Content and Method of Education

31. The State has advanced the policy of giving adequate general rudimentary knowledge through general middle-school education and of combining it properly with fundamental technical knowledge and it has been thoroughly implemented.

32. At the stage of primary and high-school education pupils are taught systematically the general concept and essence of things and phenomena and the rudimentary knowledge on the law governing their change and development.

33. Efforts are being made especially to teach in depth the general knowledge of fundamental scientific fields such as mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology.

34. At senior middle schools stress is put on fundamental technical education so that all pupils possess the fundamental technical knowledge needed in production, having been taught more than one technical subject and the know how to handle skilfully a lorry, a tractor and the mechanical equipment widely used in production and construction.

35. The basic principles, the basis of production techniques are commonly taught as well at all schools.

36. Depending on geographical conditions the content varies in towns and workers' districts, pupils are taught how to handle a lorry and a machine tool, whereas in rural areas they are taught how to drive a tractor and Juche farming methods.

37. Besides, girl pupils are taught systematically the elementary knowledge and techniques needed with regard to their family responsibilities and women's occupations.

38. Theoretical and practical education programmes are closely combined with productive labour to teach all pupils useful knowledge and foster their abilities.

39. Lectures, experiments and practice are properly combined, and productive labour well organized for school education so that the pupils may master what they are taught and skilfully apply it to practical activities.

40. Pupils are systematically educated in physics and art at schools pursuant to the Party's policy to push ahead with intellectual, moral and physical education in a co-ordinated way.

41. Physical training is defined as a major subject in the educational programme at primary school and senior middle school and is conducted systematically.

42. In order to raise the quality of physical education and successfully provide extracurricular courses in physical education, teachers specialized in physical training are dispatched to senior middle schools and universities and even to primary schools where one teacher is in charge of all subjects.

43. It is an important policy of the Government of our Republic to make physical training a popular habit.

44. Pursuant to this policy, collective physical activities are included in the daily routine of a school or everyday life.

45. Pupils begin their daily routine by group running at school, and all of them take exercise on a playground during breaks after two or three lessons.

46. After lessons they enjoy daily extracurricular physical activity for more than one hour under the teacher's direction.

47. Such activity continues without let up even during the period of vacation.

48. Group physical activities such as climbing, trips and hiking are also conducted frequently at schools.

49. To popularize physical culture at schools, the testing of the people's physical strength is organized and all pupils throughout the country participate.

50. All generations are growing into talented men with high cultural attainments, a sense of the aesthetic and artistic ability with the result that the policy of the Government of the Republic to intensify art education was successfully implemented at schools.

V. Development of School System

51. The State directs the lion's share of the yearly increasing State budget earmarked for education to school construction and provides its powerful backing.

52. The State gives priority to the building of schools whenever it designs a new dwelling district or residential area.

53. The State mobilizes the internal reserves of local areas to the maximum and concentrates building materials, funds and manpower on the construction of schools and kindergartens.

54. The State pays deep attention to equipping a school with educational facilities and teaching aids.

55. It has built numerous factories in the capital and provinces to produce a variety of substantial teaching aids and experimental equipment for practice as well as notebooks, desks and chairs necessary for educational work.

56. In order to ensure that all pupils acquire more than one technique during the period of compulsory education, the State has established a system under which equipment and materials for educational purposes such as lorries, tractors and communication components are produced and supplied as priority items.

57. As of 1987 there are 244 universities, 499 special schools, 4,820 senior middle schools and 4,779 primary schools, all of which were built by the State.

VI. Improvement of the Material Conditions for Teaching Staff

58. After setting up the teacher-training centres under the regular teacher education system the State is looking to the future and is training the teachers needed to provide native technical cadres.

59. Today the country's teacher-training system consists of teachers' training colleges, universities of education, post-graduate courses and institutes offering doctorates, etc.

60. Every Province has universities of education and teachers' training colleges; and post-graduate courses and institutes offering doctorates are in the main universities including the Kim Il Sung University.

61. The high-grade State decorations and the honorary titles such as People's Teacher and Merited Teacher are awarded to teachers for special achievements in their services.

62. The "Pension of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung" is also awarded to those teachers who have devoted their all to education for a generation serving for more than 20 years in the primary schools.

63. The teachers are also awarded the title of professor and associate professor according to their achievements in their instructional and educational work; and the scientific and academic degrees of academician, doctor and associate doctor are awarded on the basis of their talents and ability.

64. Teachers are provided with stable and good living conditions by the State.

65. Higher salaries are paid to teachers and houses are provided to them before anyone else.

66. They go on regular paid leave every year and take recuperation and recreation at State expense.

67. In particular special care is given to the female teachers to provide them with adequate working and living conditions.

68. In order to reduce the working hours of female teachers more teachers are allocated to the schools which have many female teachers and sub-crêches are attached to the schools which have more than five female teachers with babies.

69. Besides, weekly nurseries and monthly nurseries are arranged for the female teachers to reduce their burdens in bringing up their children and help them concentrate their energies on the instructional and educational work and social activities.

VII. Right to Elementary Education

70. The State completely eradicated over 2.3 million illiterates in only three years or so after liberation.

71. After the eradication of illiteracy, emphasis was given to adult education thus continuously raising the cultural and technical level of the working people in conformity with actual development.

72. As a result, all members of society have acquired a level of education higher than that of secondary school graduates.

73. The aim of adult education is to ensure that all the working people have general knowledge higher than that of senior school graduate level and in more than one technical subject.

74. According to the "Rules on Working People's Senior Middle School" announced as decision No. 128 of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in May 1958, working people's senior middle schools were set up to give the working people middle-school education.

Article 14

Principle of Free and Compulsory Education

75. As mentioned in Article 13 of the Rule free and compulsory education has already been provided successfully in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 15

Guarantee of Cultural Life, Benefit from Scientific Development and Authors' Rights

76. The working people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are provided with better cultural and material conditions through the vigorous struggle to implement the three revolutions - ideological, technical and cultural.

77. On the development of literature and art and science and technology the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea stipulates under:

"Article 44. The State accelerates the nation's scientific and technological progress by establishing Juche in scientific research and by strengthening creative co-operation between scientists and producers."

"Article 45. The State is developing a Juche-oriented, revolutionary literature and art, national in form and socialist in content."

"The State encourages the creative activities of writers and artists and draws the broad masses of workers, farmers and other working people into literary and artistic activities."

I. Right to Cultural Life

78. The Party and State are enforcing the policy of making the arts and literature popular among the masses of people and enabling them to appreciate and enjoy them to their hearts' content at any place.

79. A solid material base has been laid for the creation and spread of art and literature and a regular propaganda system has been established with the newly-built and expanded facilities and supplies of art and literature that serve the masses in every part of the country.

80. The number of theatres and cinemas reaches 5,156 as of 1987.

81. The State advertises properly all cultural facilities - theatres, cinemas and libraries - in cities and provinces and sets up cultural centres and houses for democratic propaganda everywhere in cities and in the countryside, and, by centralizing them, fosters cultural activities.

82. The working people can participate in the creative work of art and literature at any place - cities, countryside, forest and fishing villages - as they wish and get assistance at any time from the experts specialized in popular literature, because standing bodies have been set up to guide the creative work of popular art and literature in the capital and provinces.

83. It is of special importance as regards the Government's popular cultural policy to note that art and literature groups have been organized everywhere the working people work and live and embrace the broad masses in their activities.

84. Art and literature groups can be organized in any region, neither occupation nor standing is a criterion for participation, and the broad masses can be drawn into art and literature activities. The increase in group membership makes it possible to involve more working masses in art and literature activities.

85. Therefore, the Party and State organize art and literature groups everywhere people work and live and make them standardize their activities so that the members of society at large - workers, peasants, officials and youth and students - can take an active part in art and literature activities.

86. New generations are taught the elementary knowledge necessary for appreciating art and literature and writing works from childhood and are imbued with the skills and rich emotion necessary for playing more than one musical instrument.

87. Besides, the youth and students participate in various extracurricular activities in all schools from a primary school to a college after class and thus bring their artistic temperament, skill and joy of youth into full display.

88. This extracurricular art activities include all aspects of art and literature - literature, music, dance and the fine arts, and all the youth and students, whether in the city or countryside, lowland or mountainous areas, take part in such activities.

89. They also contribute greatly to improving their artistic temperament and writing ability and to popularizing art and literature through a literary prize contest among teachers and students and an art festival and art contests among the youth and students and at kindergarten level.

90. The popular art activity being fostered actively among the youth and students, has become a reservoir for ceaseless efflorescence and development of the Juche-oriented art and literature of our country and many famous singers, players and actors have passed through the stage of youth and students' art festivals.

91. The State not only popularizes art and literature activities but also systematically selects and educates children with special art talent and temperament.

92. In the capital there are a music and dance university, a film university and a fine arts university and each province has a specialized art school.

93. The State concentrates to the maximum the collective efforts and wisdom of all members concerned in creating one production which gives full rein to the creative ability and wisdom of individual actors.

94. In this way, the State solves all the problems arising in the process of creating art and literature and fosters a ceaseless renewal in creative art.

95. The policy of popularizing art and literature is being put into effect more brilliantly through the mass media including TV and radio networks.

96. The central broadcasting station airs music (symphony and opera included) and literary works 47 per cent and 6 per cent of its time respectively; and the central TV Station telecasts 10 per cent music, 45 per cent films and 8 per cent literary works.

97. There are libraries, bookshops and reading rooms in the capital and provinces and in institutions and enterprises and the working people read to their hearts' content various publications including newspapers and magazines.

98. Today, workers, youth and students are contributing greatly to pushing ahead with the revolution and construction by constantly increasing their knowledge of science and technology and the level of culture through libraries.

99. Historic relics and remains are well preserved and dealt with in accordance with the "provision on preservation of the historic relics and remains adopted as decision No. 6 of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in February 1976.

100. Districts have been set up for the preservation and protection of relics and remains of historical value and have been converted into recreation centres for educating the working people in national pride and honour.

II. Protection of Copyright

101. In accordance with the "provision on copyright of publication" adopted as decision No. 55 of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in August 1980, writers' copyright is legally protected.

III. Freedom of Scientific Research and Creative Activity

102. Scientists are provided by the State with all the material conditions for their activities and devote their wisdom and energy to scientific research on up-to-date research bases without any worry.

103. Before the liberation our country had no single university or scientific research institute in the northern half of the Republic and had only a small supply of native technicians.

104. But, today, we have many scientific research organs such as the Academy of Agricultural Science and Academy of Medical Science which facilitate research work for the improvement of the standard of living and the national economy.

105. Scientists are carrying out scientific research work utilizing well-equipped libraries, laboratories and modern experimental facilities.

106. The State provides scientists with all living conditions - food, clothing, housing.

107. In order to keep scientists up to date in science and technology without delay and popularize the successes in scientific research, the State intensifies publishing projects.

108. Several publishing organs to publish scientific and technical treaties have been set up to issue academic magazines and books covering various scientific spheres, translate and publish various kinds of scientific books and thus provides our scientists with the conditions necessary not only for the broad popularization of their successes but also for assimilating modern scientific achievements realized in other countries.
