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KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY
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Analysis:

In keeping with the decreased North Korean news coverage of China over the past several weeks, this week saw only eight stories published relating to China specifically. As KCNA continues to focus on Iran and the glorification of the Kims, China seems to have fallen by the wayside. This being said, of the few stories that KCNA did publish about China, most of them have significance.

Stories about Sino-Southeast Asian meetings to establish cooperation in business, economy, and trade and investments indicate a North Korean desire to depict its own ties with China within a normal sphere of cooperation. Meetings between China and the DPRK Science and Technology Cooperation Committee were discussed, as were China's other agreements with Iran, Ukraine, and Vietnam to increase cooperation from everything from the military (Ukraine), to cultural exchange (Iran), and just overall "friendly cooperation" (Vietnam). It is obvious from these stories that, so far as KCNA is concerned, China's Peaceful Rise is in full swing, and China remains a node of modernization, cultural exchange, and friendship, all of which are important improvements for North Korea to gain.

One small KCNA item about the construction of a highway connecting China, Russia, and Kazakhstan is just another example of China's increased connection—quite literally—with other nations around the world, and indicates, at least in terms of public rhetoric, that the North Koreans at least intellectually grasp the benefits of being connected. The DPRK may not have even paved all of its roads leading to the new bridges being built from the Chinese side of the Yalu, but small gestures like this one are intended very much to nod to Chinese impatience while paying homage to the PRC's expanded infrastructural reach.

Besides the theme of increased global cooperation, KCNA published a variety of other stories, which include the ever-increasing cultural cooperation between China and the DPRK through operas and art exhibits, and the commemorations of birthdays of national leaders and national holidays (Kim Jong Il's birthday and Day of Shining Star).

However, the story detailing China's reaction to the Mayor of Nagoya's denial of the Nanjing Massacre is probably of most interest. This story provides voice to the Chinese Foreign Ministry Hong Lei, who tends to appear in the North Korean press only

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sporadically. In addition to condemning the Japanese for not following through with past agreements, the Chinese government has also supported the decision of Nanjing municipal authorities to cut off all contact with the city of Nagoya. While the story indicates a setback towards Sino-Japanese reconciliation, its inclusion in KCNA news is likely intended to show North Korean readers another facet of Japan's apparently eternal perfidy toward the rest of Asia, and remind PRC officials that North Korea is a far more sensible and historically untroubled ally. Given recent discussions in the Chinese news media (see *Huanqiu Shibao* op-ed page, March 27, 2012) speculating about a closer Sino-Japanese relationship resulting from North Korean recalcitrance and provocations, such a strategy by DPRK media seems to be relatively well-founded. It may also be that the story is meant to support the Nanjing city government specifically in cutting off its ties with Japan, as Jiangsu and Nanjing have been a focal point of the North Korean "southern strategy," led by Premier Choe Yong Rim, for forging ties with Chinese municipalities not exclusively in China's Northeast.

- Evan Koepfler and Adam Cathcart, Pacific Lutheran University

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No China related stories were published today.

20 February 2012

No China related stories were published today.

21 February 2012

Korean Book, Photo and Fine Art Exhibition Opens in China

Pyongyang, February 21 (KCNA) -- A Korean book, photo and fine art exhibition was opened at the Shijiazhuang city gallery in Hebei Province, China on Feb. 16, the birth anniversary of general secretary Kim Jong Il.

Displayed in its venue were works of the peerlessly great persons, photos of his Songun leadership feats and his historic visits to China, books and photos, multimedia and fine art works introducing Songun Korea.

Present at the opening ceremony were officials of the Shijiazhuang City People's Government of Hebei Province, China, the City Cultural Radio and TV, Newspaper and Press Bureau and the Hebei Provincial Fine Art Association and citizens.

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Present there on invitation were officials of the Korean Overseas Exhibition General Bureau and staff members of the DPRK embassy in Beijing.

The floor was taken by the deputy mayor of the Shijiazhuang City People's Government of Hebei Province, the vice-chairman of the Hebei Provincial Fine Art Association, and others.

The speakers expressed belief that the exhibition would positively contribute to boosting the Sino-DPRK relations of good-neighborliness, friendship and cooperation and promoting friendship and mutual understanding between the two peoples.

The exhibition will go on till Feb. 24.

22 February 2012

Koreans in China Commemorate Day of Shining Star

Pyongyang, February 22 (KCNA) -- The General Association of Koreans in China held events in Yanji City, Jilin Province of China, on Feb. 16 to commemorate the Day of the Shining Star, the birth anniversary of general secretary Kim Jong Il.

There was a meeting of the Association, which was participated in by Chairwoman Choe Un Bok and other officials of the Association, representatives of its affiliated organizations and Korean artistes and other compatriots.

Present on invitation were the consul-general and staff members of the DPRK consulate-general in Shenyang, the vice mayor of the Yanji City People's Government, the deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Yanbian Korean Nationality Autonomous Prefectural People's Government and Chinese personages.

The participants paid a silent tribute to Kim Jong Il in humble reverence.

Choe Un Bok said in a report at the meeting that Kim Jong Il grew up to be a great revolutionary while fully inheriting the idea, leadership, traits and virtues of President Kim Il Sung.

He was a peerless patriot and benevolent father of people who devoted his all till the last moments of his revolutionary life, going through all difficulties nobody in the world has ever experienced, the reporter said, stressing:

All Koreans in China should go along the road of independence, Songun and socialism, paved by the President, to the last under the

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wise leadership of the dear respected Kim Jong Un and thus give steady continuity to the revolutionary history of the President, the history of Kim Jong Il's Songun revolutionary leadership.

A letter to Kim Jong Un was adopted at the meeting.

The meeting was followed by a concert for remembering Kim Jong Il to mark the Day of the Shining Star.

Prior to the meeting there was a photo and book exhibition on the theme of "Leader Kim Jong Il and Korea Today."

A reception was given on the same day.

Similar events were also held in Shenyang of China on Feb. 13 by the Liaoning Branch of the Association.

23 February 2012

China, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar Set Up Business Council to Promote Cooperation

Pyongyang, February 23 (KCNA) -- Business groups from China, Bangladesh, India and Myanmar on Feb. 19 signed an agreement to promote cooperation in economy, trade and investment among the countries.

Sri Lanka and Singapore on Feb. 16 signed a Memorandum of Understanding on development of business and investment relations between the two countries.

24 February 2012

DPRK-China Science and Technology Cooperation Committee Meets

Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA) -- The 45th meeting of the DPRK-China Science and Technology Cooperation Committee was held in Beijing on Thursday.

Signed there was a protocol of the 45th meeting of the DPRK-China Inter-governmental Science and Technology Cooperation Committee.

Present there were the visiting DPRK delegation of the State Science and Technology Commission and officials of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Cooperation between China and Other Countries

Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA) -- China and Iran on Feb. 20 signed a MoU on export promotion including cooperation in marketing handicrafts and setting up cultural exhibits.

On Feb. 15 China and Ukraine agreed to strengthen cooperation in the military field and China and Vietnam agreed to expand friendly cooperation in various fields.

Kimjongilia Shows Held in China

Pyongyang, February 24 (KCNA) -- Kimjongilia shows took place in Dalian, Shenyang and Kunming of China to mark the birth anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il (Day of the Shining Star).

The venues of the shows were crowded with visitors every day, their number totaling tens of thousands from Feb. 14 to 21.

Seeing Kimjongilias in full bloom, reflection of boundless reverence of all people for Kim Jong Il, the visitors praised him.

The president of a flowering tree company in Dalian said that every Kimjongilia reflects reverence of the Chinese for Kim Jong Il.

The general manger of the company stressed that Kimjongilia is a famous flower. This beautiful flower represents the personality of Kim Jong Il as a great man, he added.

The director of the Forestry Bureau of Dalian City said the more he sees Kimjongilia, a famous flower recognized in world floriculture, the more it looks beautiful and attractive.

The secretary general of the Dalian Floriculture Association said that it is a pride of Dalian to have Kimjongilia in bloom which was awarded top prizes in world horticulture exhibitions and flower shows and it will always remain in bloom in Dalian City.

The general manger of a Shenyang port transportation company said that the wonderful and beautiful Kimjongilia is blooming red in the hearts of progressives.

The director of the International Department of the Shenyang City Center for External Scientific and Technological Exchange noted that he was deeply moved to see the show and keenly realized how much the world progressives are praising Kim Jong Il.

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The general manager of the Dandong Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Greenhouse said that the show provided an opportunity for praising the great feats Kim Jong Il performed for the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship.

The deputy general manager of the World Yunnan Expo. Horticulture Co. Ltd said that thousands of people visited the venue of the show in Kunming on a daily basis, an expression of profound trust of the Chinese in Kim Jong Il, adding that Kimjongilia, flower of the sun, will always be in full bloom in the hearts of mankind.

25 February 2012

China Lodges Representations over Nagoya Mayor's Denial of Nanjing Massacre

Beijing, February 24 (KCNA) -- China has lodged representations with Japan over a denial of the Nanjing Massacre by a Japanese mayor, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Wednesday.

Hong said the Chinese government supports a decision by Nanjing municipal authorities to halt contact with the Japanese city of Nagoya.

"We express understanding and support for this decision and are keeping a close watch over the issue," Hong said at a regular press briefing.

Hong said the Japanese side should abide by the principles of the historic agreements made between the two countries and work to advance bilateral relations in a healthy and stable way.

Highway Linking China, Russia and Kazakhstan to Be Built

Pyongyang, February 25 (KCNA) -- There is a plan to build highway linking China, Russia and Kazakhstan.

The highway will start in St. Petersburg and pass through Kazakhstan before entering China on to Urumqi City and Lanzhou City in northwest China and Lianyungang City in east China.

The total length of the highway will be 8 445 km.

Its completion will contribute to improving the transport and economic progress in those counties.