

KIM JONG IL VISITS PIG, GOAT FARMS

The (North) Korean Central News Agency reported on August 8 that leader Kim Jong Il had recently conducted site visits in North Hamkyung Province at the Hamju Pig Farm and the large, 24-branch Hamju Phyongphungdok Goat Farm. At the newly built Hamju Pig Farm, Kim stated that the operation of one more modern pig farm in the Hamheung region would allow the state to provide more meat to the people, and he made suggestions regarding what would be necessary to optimize the farm's output.

At the goat farm, Kim reportedly called employees 'explorers' and 'pace setters' who, by raising many of these highly economically efficient goats, "proved the validity and vitality of the Party's policy." He also stressed that it was most important that Party decisions be carried out unconditionally, with a 'do-or-die' revolutionary spirit.

These two site visits brought the number of economic-related on-location 'guidance sessions' for the year to 18, or 26 percent of the 68 visits he has made to date this year. North Korea has proscribed this year as the 'turn-around year' on its quest to establish a strong and prosperous nation by 2012, and based on this, the government is stressing a 'decisive turn-around' of the lives of the people. The increasing number of Kim's site visits to places related to the economy appears to also be part of this effort.

The North's Party-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun stressed again on August 15, the 63rd anniversary of the liberation of the Korean Peninsula, that Kim Jong Il was determined to create a 'strong and prosperous nation' by 2012 in an editorial titled, "Definitely Opening the Doors of a Great and Prosperous Nation in the Year of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of the Great

Leader, 2012, is the Firm Resolution and Position of the Revered Dear General.”