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**ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES NORTH
KOREA'S JUCHE IDEOLOGY IS FUNDED
WITH 200 MILLION WON...MINISTRY OF
UNIFICATION IS ABSURD**

ORIGINAL ARTICLE FROM NEW DAILY

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[Exclusive] Organization that Promotes North Korea's Juche Ideology is Funded with 200 Million Won...Ministry of Unification is Absurd

Randomly selected the '4·27 Era Research Institute' that praises the North's ICBM, promotes mass line and hierarchal line...controversy over services contract

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“The R.O.K-U.S. Working Group that failed inter-Korean relations”...to the organization that has the same opinions with North Korea



▲ Minister of Unification Lee, In-young at the National Assembly on the morning of the 8th giving a progress report on the audits in front of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee. ©Reporter Lee, Jong-hyun

It has been confirmed on the 15th that the Ministry of Unification has entered into a private contract that will fund tens of millions of won to research with a private organization which promotes North Korea's Kim Il-sung Juche ideology.

Particularly, it's been revealed that this organization's leader is part of the Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements who has been arrested and charged with violating the National Security Law and has acknowledged such crimes of sympathizing with anti-state group activities which lead the Supreme Court to sentence him to prison.

Ministry of Unification Entrusted Research to Organization Promoting Kim Il-sung Juche Ideology

According to this paper's coverage on the 15th, the Ministry of Unification had ordered a policy on the subject of 'The Developmental Plan for Non-Governmental Exchanges in Inter-Korean Relations During a Post-Coronavirus Period' this past July 31st and entered into a 200 million won private contract with the 4·27 Era Research Institute. The contract period of this policy service is from July 31st to October 31st.

In principle businesses that are being ordered by the federal or local governmental entities must be contracted through an open bidding process, but under relevant laws a private contract can be made if it's under 200 million won. A private contract is a contract you enter into with a suitable partner that was randomly selected.

The issue is that the 4·27 Era Research Institute has participated in pro-North Korean activities, speaks for the views of the Kim Jong-un regime, and promotes the Juche ideology. In actuality, it seems they play a role of a non-governmental think-tank with pro-North Korean and anti-American tendency. '4·27' signifies the April 27th, 2018 inter-Korean summit held at the Joint Security Area.

4·27 Era Research Institute that received the Ministry of Unification's business, "The R.O.K.-U.S. Working Group failed the inter-Korean relations"

In their mission statement published on their website, they emphasized that, "the Korean peninsula and East Asia's dream for peace and autonomic unification era has begun," and "if the Korean progress is to lead the 4·27 era, it's urgent to actually implement the prolonged assignment of mass line and hierarchal line."

On their website's planned series, one feature called "100 Q&A to Jung, Dae-il's Juche Ideology" actively promoted the Juche ideology. They also argued that the cause for the failed inter-Korean relations was due to the R.O.K.-U.S. Working Group and argued that, "the R.O.K.-U.S. Working Group, like that of the Japanese Government-General of Korea, was established for the U.S. to control and regulate the entirety of Korea's Unification Diplomatic Policy."

The 4·27 Era Research Institute also highly praised the ICBMs revealed at the military parade marking the 75th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's Workers' Party held on the 10th.

They argued, "what the North previews on what they're developing that strengthens their nuclear capabilities such as the new submarine Polaris-4's test-fire, cutting edge nuclear missile activities, and the launch of their new satellite will have crucial impact on the newly elected

American administration's North Korean policy this coming November," and, "as a strong political and security offensive against the U.S., they will enforce to extinguish specifically the next American administration's hostility towards North Korea."

4·27 Era Research Institute's leader is an ex-convict who violated National Security Law

The executive director of the 4·27 Era Research Institute is Han, Choong-mook, who is the co-chair of the Korean Alliance of Progressive Movements. Director Han has been meeting with members of the North Korean Unification Propaganda Department for several years since August 2010 at Beijing, China and Kaesong, North Korea and have been given instructions in regards to the anti-American struggle, and have been imprisoned for allegedly leading an anti-American rally.

Since then, Director Han was found guilty of sympathizing (praise and encouragement) with activities perpetrated by anti-state organization North Korea violating the National Security Laws by the Supreme Court in 2014 and was sentenced to be imprisoned for 1 year 6 months and 3 years' probation. However, he was not charged on the conspiracy of making contact (receiving communication and instructions) with North Korean operatives.

At that time, the Supreme Court ruled that, "the accused is arguing that they are driving out pro-American forces and establishing a pro-North Korean tributary government under the guise of establishing an independent democratic government," which will "have definite and clear dangers to the existence and security to the Republic of Korea and to the basic order of liberal democracy."

Coincidentally, the service contract between the Ministry of Unification and the 4·27 Era Research Institute was negotiated once Lee, In-young was appointed as Minister of Unification. Minister Lee was nominated as the Minister of Unification on July 3rd, a confirmation hearing was held on the 23rd of the same month, and then received President Moon Jae-in's approval and was appointed on July 27th. Soon after, the service contract was entered into agreement as a private contract on July 31st. This all happened 4 days after Minister Lee's appointment.

At the confirmation hearing, People Power Party's Assemblyman Tae, Young-ho asked, "Do you still believe in the Juche ideology?" and Minister Lee answered, "The North may be explicitly imposing to convert to its ideology, but the South has freedom of ideas and conscience." The Democratic Party defended Minister Lee by stating that, "the opposition party is using ideological verification at the confirmation hearing."

"The problem is that they entered into contract with this kind of organization...a parliamentary inspection must be discussed"

Minister Lee met with Director Han on August 3rd at a meeting with policy clients in social and cultural fields. At this meeting, there were a large number of pro-North Korean organizations was in attendance, including Director Han, Lee, Chang-bok (Chairman of the Delegate of the 6·15 South Korean Committee), Cho, Sung-woo (Chairman of the Board of Movement for One Korea), Kim, Jung-soo (Delegate of the 6·15 Womens' Headquarters), Park, Heung-sik

(Chairman of the Korea Peasants League), and Kim, Kyung-min (Secretary General of the National League of YMCA of Korea).

The Ministry of Unification is claiming that this was decided during the previous term of former Minister of Unification Kim, Yeon-chul. An official from the Ministry of Unification stated that, “Former Minister Kim, Yeon-chul was informed on June 22nd, the Review Board for Policy and Research Service reviewed this from June 25th to the 29th, and this case was decided on the 30th,” and explained, “Minister Lee, In-young had nothing to do with it only that he went through administrative processes like signing the contract afterwards.”

The opposition party is planning to investigate this matter through an audit. People Power Party’s Assemblyman Cho, Tae-yong, who is part of the National Assembly’s Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, stated through a phone conversation that, “it’s a serious misstep to select an organization that speaks for the Juche ideology and has a tendency for the development of North Korean missiles,” and censured that, “in order to conduct studies on inter-Korean relations, they must thoroughly review and select an organization that has expertise and sense of balance to perform these services. This is a point that will have to be investigated through a parliamentary inspection.”

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