

**COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES
(CRC/C/Q/PRK/2) RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF
THE CHILD RELATING TO THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (CRC/C/65/Add.24)**

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CRC/C/RESP/61

This reply has been prepared in accordance with the list of issues forwarded by the Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Part I

Additional and updated information since the submission of the second periodic report of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

A. Data and Statistics

1. Number of children in the year 2002 (unit: 1,000 capita)

Age	Number of Children	
	Male	Female
0	189	181
1 ~ 4	791	754
5 ~ 6	418	399
7 ~ 10	851	811
11 ~ 16	1,193	1,142

2. Budget allocation and trend in the year 2000

Education accounted for 7.1 percent of the state budget in 2000.

* The proportion of expenditure for child was 62 - 63 percent of the expenditure on education each year.

Public health accounted for 5.8 percent in the state budget in 2001. The annual expenditure for children between 2001 and 2003 was almost the same as in the year 2000.

Gross National Product: US\$ 10,593 million

a) Education

The universal compulsory 11-year education has been in place in normal standard, thus leaving no children separated from education.

b) Health care

The universal free medical care system is in place, thus leaving no children who are unable to get proper health care due to financial problem. Vaccination to different seasonal diseases and infectious disease is done at no cost. Because modern medicines are not properly supplied due to budgetary shortage, the Koryo medicines, which are based on domestic medical herb resources, are widely developed and used.

c) Programmes and services for children with disability

Local government authorities at each province plan to further strengthen the material foundations of the schools for the blind and deaf. The basic principle with regard to children with limb disability is to educate them without discrimination at regular education system. Children with disability are entitled to special services within the free medical care system and the district-doctor system.

d) Support Programmes for families

While acknowledging that the family environment affects very importantly the mental and physical development of children, untired effort is underway to provide parents with readers of family education for children. In particular, activities by youth and women organizations to raise awareness at rural areas are fully encouraged.

e) Support for children living below the poverty line;

Despite the primary focus by the state on nutritional support of children, there are still undernourished children. In recent years, the proportion of child malnutrition stopped worsening and remained at the level of 10 percent. The state plans to mobilize the maximum domestic resources for the normalizing of food supply while allotting to child nutrition.

f) The protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;

Creation of family environment is encouraged. The principle is that one family fosters one child who has lost his or her family environment. Over 800 families are now fostering children who have been deprived of family environment under the state policy and social charity activities.

g) Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from child abuse and child sexual exploitation and child labor;

As there are very few such cases in our society, neither program nor budget has specifically been set up.

h) Juvenile justice and the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders

As juvenile offence is scarcely registered and there is no separate facility for it, budget for juvenile justice is not separately established but is included in the general budget of the judicial authorities concerned.

3. Disaggregated data on the number of children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents

1) Children separated from their parents

Year	Number of children separated from their parents	Gender		Area	
		Male	Female	Urban	Rural
2001	2,491	1,271	1,219	1,661	830
2002	2,412	1,244	1,168	1,809	603
2003	2,342	1,285	1,057	1,561	781

2) Data by age of the children separated from their parents

Age	2001	2002	2003
Under 3 years	659	543	569
4-7 years	601	594	572
8-12 years	698	692	605
13-15 years	623	583	596

3) Data by year of the children separated from their parents and rehabilitated to family environment

Year	Children placed in care institutions	Children placed in foster families	Children adopted domestically
2001	1,375	882	234
2002	1,322	815	275
2003	1,268	801	267

4) Alternative care institutions

Type of institution	Number	Number of children
Baby home	14	2,371
Orphanage	12	1,410
Orphan's school	17	5,266

4. Children with disability

1) Data by gender and age

Year	Children With Disability	Gender		Age			
		Male	Female	Under 3	4-7	8-12	13-15
2001	112,345	56,272	56,073	27,181	27,871	29,207	28,086
2002	113,704	58,099	57,645	27,319	27,541	31,718	28,926
2003	112,721	60,903	57,918	27,311	27,823	29,402	28,185

2) Data by care form

Care form	Year		
	2001	2002	2003
Family care	109,765	111,235	110,213
Institutional care	1,987	2,062	2,098
Ordinary school	55,934	56,826	56,932
Special school	471	475	468
Non school attendance	201	192	187

5. Child abuse

1) Annually reported cases

Form \ Year	Violence	Violation	Abuse	Neglect	Maltreatment	Exploitation
2001	14	0	52	0	18	0
2002	11	0	41	0	15	0
2003	9	0	37	0	16	0

2) The cases of violence, abuse and maltreatment were reported by the local government organ concerned as they aroused public opinion in the communities. None of the cases were submitted to and handled by the judicial proceedings.

6. Data concerning the realities of child education

1) School admission, attendance and graduation rate of general education

School admission rate	100 percent
School attendance rate	99.6 percent
Graduation rate	100 percent

2) Teacher/pupil ratio of general education

1:21

7. Data of child health realities

Index Year	Infant Mortality	Child mortality	Early pregnancy	Drug addict	Alcoholism	Abusive smoking	Suicide	HIV/AIDS & other infectious sexual diseases
2001	23.5/ 1000	48.8/1000	0	0	97	205	0	0
2002			0	0	115	218	0	0
2003			0	0	136	193	0	0

8. Child judicial realities

In the DPRK, public education measures are usually applied to child offenders at the pre-trial or trial stage irrespective of the gravity. Therefore it is quite rare that a child is given a criminal penalty at a trial for his or her crime. The recent three years witnessed no case of a child who was tried and given a criminal punishment.

Data of child offence

Form of offence Year	Property encroachment (11-17 years)	Fight, group fight (14-17 years)	Delinquent sexual behavior (16-17years)	Murder
2001	298	22	6	0
2002	254	15	5	0
2003	211	17	7	0

None of the above mentioned cases was prosecuted but public education measures were applied at the stage of preliminary examination. Since child offenders including

juvenile criminals are dealt with by public education method, there is no need for setting up separate facilities for their detention or reform through labor. There has not been any report of minor pretrial detention, nor of abuse or disgraceful treatment related with arrest or detention.

9. Data of special protection measures

1) No case of prostitution or trafficking was reported from 2001 to 2003. Five cases were reported that children watched pornographic video and were admonished by their youth league in the northern borderline areas.

2) No data was reported concerning the number of children emigrated to China. Some children, however, illegally crossed over the borderline or disappeared in the northern borderline areas.

B. General Measures of Implementation

1. Information concerning data collection

The statistical data under the CRC are collected by the ministries concerned and are comprehensively put together by the Central Statistical bureau under the guidance of the Cabinet.

The DPRK paid deep attention to the Concluding Observation of the CRC (CRC/C/15/Add.88. June 5, 1998) and especially the recommendation to elaborate the statistical indexes in conformity with the requirement of the CRC.

A new system has accordingly been established under which the Central Statistical Bureau regularly grasps the statistical data each year with such newly developed indexes as the concrete ones concerning juvenile health, education, justice, etc. as well as different age groups.

2. Information on the review of the existing domestic legislation to ensure compliance with the Convention.

This has been reported comprehensively in paragraphs 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 17 as well as 86 of the second periodic report.

The details of the Education Law that provides for the progressive educational system based on compulsory free education and serving the improvement of children in knowledge, virtue and body are explained in paragraph 7 of the report.

The following articles of the Citizenship Law that was amended and supplemented in February 1999 embody the requirement of the CRC on granting citizenship to children:

“Article V.

The DPRK citizenship shall be granted to the following by virtue of birth:

1. A child born between the DPRK citizens,
2. A child born between a DPRK citizen residing in the DPRK and a foreign citizen or a stateless person,
3. A child born between stateless persons residing in the DPRK,
4. A child born in the DPRK, but whose parents are unidentified.”

“Article VII.

The citizenship of a child born between a DPRK citizen residing in a foreign country and a foreign citizen shall be determined as follows:

1. The citizenship of a child under the age of 14 shall be determined in accordance with the express intention of his/her parents, and if parents are unknown, in accordance with that of his/her guardian. If in this case his/her parents or guardian do not declare their express intention with respect to the child's citizenship during three months after birth the DPRK citizenship shall be granted.
2. The citizenship of a minor who is over 14 shall be determined by the express intention of his/her parents and the consent of the minor and, if parents are unknown, by the express intention of his/her guardian and the consent of the minor. If in this case the minor's intention is not in line with that of his/her parents or guardian, the minor's express intention shall be followed.... . . .”

“Article IX.

If parents acquire or annul the DPRK citizenship, the citizenship of their child shall change as follows:

1. The citizenship of a child under the age of 14 shall change in conformity with that of his/her parents.
2. The citizenship of a child who is over 14 and under 16 years of age shall change only by the express intention of his/her parents and the consent of the child. If in this case the parents do not have any intention or differ with their child, the child's intention shall be followed.”

Several articles including the following articles of the Law on External Civil Relations that was amended and supplemented in December 1998 has fully considered the requirement of the CRC:

“Article 18.

The legal capacity of a citizen shall be governed by the law of domicile.

Where the law of the DPRK defines as ‘major’ a citizen of a foreign country who is defined as ‘minor’ under the law of domicile, any act conducted by such citizen within the territory of the DPRK shall be regarded as valid. . . .”

“Article 39.

Any identification of parenthood shall be governed by the law of domicile of the offspring at the time of his or her birth, regardless of the marital status of the parents concerned.”

The following articles of the Law on Physical Culture that was adopted in 1997 and was amended and supplemented in December 1998 embody the requirement of the CRC:

“Article 12.

Physical education at school is the basis of popularizing physical culture and sports and makes them part and parcel of life. Educational and other due institutions shall improve the quality of physical education to harmoniously develop the bodies of young and let them possess the basic knowledge and one or more technique of physical culture, and encourage them to regularly do sports activities such as race, ball games, gymnastics and swimming.”

“Article 13.

Educational and other due institutions and organizations shall organize extracurricular sports activities among children and youth. The extracurricular sports activities shall be organized in view of the aptitude and talent of children and youth, seasonal conditions and the characteristics of the area, and circles of sporting events be run in consonance with the actual realities.”

“Article 14.

The institutions of educating and upbringing children shall organize physical activities suitable to the age and good for the growth of the preschool children.”

“Article 15.

The physical culture guidance organ and the institutions concerned shall create mass gymnastics that combine sports technique and artistic quality. The educational and other due institutions shall temper children and youth and enhance their sense of organization and discipline through mass gymnastics.”

“Article 32. ...

The research of popular physical culture shall focus on the improvement of people’s health, growth of children in stature and the harmonious development of body.”

The Law on Registration of Citizens (adopted in November 1997 and supplemented in 1998) reflects the requirement of the CRC in the following articles:

“Article 6.

The registration organ of citizens should register citizens in the citizen registry book without fail.... ..”

“Article 9.

Birth registration shall be undertaken within 15 days from birth.... ..
The application for birth registration shall clarify name, sex, birth date, birth place, address, nationality, etc.”

The Law on Medical Care (adopted in December 1997 and amended and supplemented in 1998) follows the CRC in the following articles:

“Article 3.

In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, medical care shall be based on the universal, complete free medical service. The State shall let people fully enjoy the benefit of free medical service.”

“Article 4.

The district section system is the advanced system caring for the health of inhabitants and of responsibly guaranteeing the health of people. The State shall reasonably determine the section under charge and improve the responsibility and role of medical workers to thoroughly realize the section doctor system.”

“Article 5.

It is the basic guarantee of improving the health of people to prevent diseases more thoroughly. The State shall keep prevention ahead of treatment and constantly advance hygienic prevention and environmental protection to control diseases in advance.”

“Article 28.

Medical institutions may follow the decision of doctors’ consultative meeting to help artificial pregnancy or to prevent serious congenital deformity, hereditary diseases, etc.”

The Law on Public Sanitation (adopted in July 1998) and the Law on Foodstuff Sanitation (adopted in July 1998) also provide for the hygienic requirement of children’s health.

The Copyright Law adopted in March 2001 does not exclude children from copyright holders but lays down their moral and economic right on equal basis with grown-ups.

The Law on Compensation for Damages adopted in August 2001 stipulates that children have the right to claim damages and may exercise the right through their parents or guardians, and the obligation of children to compensate is assumed by their parents or guardians.

The Inheritance Law adopted in March 2002 provides that incompetent children have the right to inherit property and may exercise it through a proxy.

The Insurance Law amended and supplemented in May, 2002 newly included child’s insurance in the personal insurance and stipulated that a child policy holder be paid insurance money in case he or she is injured or sick.

The Law on Protection of the Persons with Disability adopted in June 2003 provides in detail that the persons with disability are respected in their dignity, ensured socio-political rights, freedom and interests equally with normal persons and supplied with conditions for recuperation, education, cultural life and work, and the State investment should be systematically increased for their protection.

The following articles are devoted specifically to the education of the children with disability:

“Article 16.

The medical institutions and agencies concerned should direct the primary concern to bringing up and educating the persons with disability under preschool age who can adapt himself or herself of school life in nursery, kindergarten or special rehabilitation institution.

The costs of looking after and educating the person with disability shall be borne by the State, institutions, enterprises and units concerned.”

“Article 17.

Educational institutions should disclose and register the person with disability who is aged to enter a primary school. Any exclusion of the person with disability from the general secondary compulsory education should not be permitted.”

“Article 19.

According to physical and mental characteristics and the type of disability of the person with disability, special class can be organized in a normal school and the special schools for blind and deaf and the school for mental cultivation be set up.

The guiding body of education shall organize the special classes and the body organizing institutions shall set up the special schools.”

“Article 21.

The guiding body of education and agencies concerned should strengthen the research of Braille and sign language and compose and publish the teaching materials for special education.

The institutions, enterprises and units concerned should produce and provide the educational instruments and facilities in good quality.”

“Article 22.

The guiding body of education and institutions concerned may organize and operate training and vocational schools for blind massager, computer typewriter, artist and designer in consideration of his or her educational career, age and the degree of disability.”

“Article 23.

The educational institutions and agencies concerned should develop the Braille and sign language in unified way. The stuff of the facilities which the person with disability users normally should learn the elementary Braille and sign language.”

“Article 25.

The sports guiding body and institutions concerned should select and popularize the kinds of sports suitable to the health of the person with kinds of sports suitable to the health of the person with disability.

The sports activities should be organized to help the person with disability increase his or her ability of independent activity.”

“Article 27.

The institutions concerned should establish asylums contributing and emotional life of the person with disability in necessary areas. The asylums should be provided with necessary equipment and facilities.”

“Article 34.

The institutions, enterprises and organizations should fully provide labor conditions for the person with disability. Without the provision of necessary conditions of labor, any kind of labor should not be allowed to the person with disability.”

“Article 49.

The State shall award the order, medal and honorary title to the person with disability who performs a meritorious deed.”

3. Information on the institution in charge of the coordination of the implementation of the Convention

This has been reported in detail in paragraphs 16-23 of the 2nd period report.

The rules of the National Coordination Committee for the Implementation of the CRC (hereafter referred to as the NCRC) define the duty, constitution, financial resource, etc. of the Committee.

“Article 3.

The NCRC shall consist of 15-20 able experts recommended by the commission, ministry, and organization concerned. The NCRC shall elect chairman, vice chairmen and secretary.”

“Article 6.

The NCRC shall prepare and submit propositions to carry out the Socialist Constitution and the State policies for the guarantee of the rights of the child.”

“Article 7.

The NCRC shall supervise the implementation of the CRC, coordinate the work of the commission, ministry and organization concerned and ensure close contact between them.”

“Article 8.

The NCRC shall prepare and submit proposals for the enactment of law or regulation related with the CRC implementation, present recommendation or opinion for amendment or abrogation of the decision or directive detrimental to the CRC implementation.”

“Article 9.

The NCRC shall develop cooperation and exchange with the international organizations and the foreign national CRC institutions based on the principles of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit.”

“Article 17.

The NCRC shall have secretariat as the working assistance body.....”

“Article 18.

The secretariat shall undertake to

... ..

- 3) collect statistical data,
- 4) prepare the draft report on the CRC implementation,
- 5) organize publication and dissemination work related with the CRC,
- 6) do practical work of international cooperation and exchange.”

“Addendum 1.

The budget of the NCRC shall be supported by the State budget and the contribution of institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens.”

4. Information on the system of data collection

- 1) The details of the data collection system have been reported in paragraph 21 of the second periodic report.

The NCRC is informed of the implementation realities of the CRC through the regular State statistic system from the center to local areas and through the Cabinet, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health, the ministries concerned and the organizations concerned like the youth league and women’s union.

- 2) The data collected are required to include the children of the whole country as far as possible.

5. Information on the National Program of Action for the well-being of Children

- 1) National Program of Action for the well-being of Children

The Government of the DPR of Korea, whose supreme principle of activities is to improve well-being of the people, has drawn up National Program of Action (NPA) for Children for 2001-2010 with a view to steadily improving the well-being of children and women and to ensure the full and better enjoyment of their rights.

The NPA is composed of sectorial goals for healthy lives, education and sanitation and strategies and action for the implementation of the goals.

- 2) Mechanism responsible for coordination and implementation of the NPA

Under the supervision of the Cabinet of the DPR of Korea, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of City Management, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Commerce and the Central Statistic Bureau will be responsible for the overall

implementation of the NPA for the well-being of Children and organs of people's power at all levels, youth league, women's union and other social organizations will be encouraged to take an active participation in this activities.

The state will establish in a scientific approach the system of monitoring and evaluation of the process of achieving goals for the well-being of children specified in the NPA, and exercise intensified guidance and regulation over the activities of each ministry and local organ at all levels for its implementation.

The Central Bureau of Statistics will establish national standardized indicators for monitoring and evaluation of implementation of NPA, explore supervision, analysis and evaluation methods and give technical guidance over the statistic and supervision activities of central and local organs at various levels.

Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of City Management, local administrative organs at different levels will build database for the collection of indicators for welfare of children and mother, their analysis, evaluation and reporting system, archiving information and other related services in collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Overall law enforcement concerning the protection of rights of children and women will be mainly supervised and appraised by law enforcing organs.

On behalf of the Government, the DPR of Korea's National Coordinating Committee for UNICEF will be responsible for coordination of international assistance related to implementation of NPA.

The NPA contains the following contents of the CRC:

- to increase financial expenditure of the State for the improvement of well-being of children.
- to further develop and consolidate universal free medical treatment and 11 year free compulsory educational system.
- to maintain enrollment and attendance rate in primary and secondary schools on sustainable level above 95 percent.
- to take full preventive measures through physical check-up and vaccination.
- to reduce infant mortality and under 5 child mortality rate, malnutrition rate and under-weight rate of children.
- to educate children to acquire correct knowledge about and attitude towards personal and environmental hygiene.
- to improve management of special schools for blind, dumb and other disabled children in a rational manner and renovate educational and other subsidiary facilities in these schools.
- to build and operate children's palace, cultural halls, schoolchildren's libraries, camp houses, parks, and recreational grounds in populous areas and famous spots in provinces, cities and counties.

6. Information on the Law on Complaints and Petitions and national human rights institution

1) Law on Complaint and Petition

The Law on Complaint and Petition, which was enacted in June 1998, and was amended and supplemented in February 1999, consists of 5 chapters and 43 articles.

Some of the articles are as following:

“Article 2

Complaint is the proposition to prevent encroachment on one’s right and interest in advance or to restore the right and interest that has been encroached upon, and petition is the request to improve the work of institution, enterprise, organization or individual official. The state shall fully ensure citizens the right to complaint and petition.”

“Article 8 ...

A citizen shall be entitled to submit a complaint or a petition to an institution, enterprise, organization or individual official including the supreme power organ as long as he or she has a justifiable reason or ground. ...”

“Article 9

A citizen should submit a complaint directly. In an unavoidable case, a complaint may be submitted through parent, teacher, guardian or proxy.”

“Article 22

1. ...

The Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly may inquire into and deal with a complaint or a petition firsthand if it is related with a trial or legal sanction, people’s life, illegal behavior or human rights violation.

2. The Cabinet, local power organ, institution, enterprise or organization concerned shall investigate and deal with a complaint or a petition related with people’s life, administrative economic work, the work method or style of an administrative or economic worker.”

Under the Law on Complaint and Petition, all state organs and units are equipped with grievance office or official whose activities are described in paragraph 20 of the report.

Children are not discriminated against in submitting a complaint or petition in the capacity of a citizen.

In case the child does not have enough independent ability of judgement, mentality or description, his or her teacher, guardian or proxy may represent the will of the child.

Children practically exercise their right to complaint and petition.

In recent years alone, a 15-year old boy complained that his father was executing a 3-year labor reform sentence under an exaggerated crime of misfeasance and misappropriation, which was investigated and settled by the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly.

And the pupils of a secondary school in Pyongyang city submitted to the Ministry of Education a complaint that the entrance examination questions for a higher school was too high leveled as compared with the current education quality, which was also duly settled.

2) National human rights institutions

The human rights protection work is undertaken by the Judicial Affairs Department of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly at the national level, and by the judicial affairs department of the local people's committees at the local level.

The Judicial Affairs Department of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly has a section for the human rights administration and the supervision of the law abidance by the judicial, prosecutor's and people's security institutions.

7. Information on efforts made to provide training, awareness on the Convention and on human rights in general

The popularization of the CRC has been described in detail in paragraphs 36-46 and diagram 4 of paragraph 85 of the second periodic report.

In the years of 2001, 2002 and 2003, the CRC was disseminated through radio and TV broadcast, newspapers and publications especially on the occasion of the International Day of Children and the adoption date of the CRC.

In 2003 alone, lectures were given on the CRC to educational and public health workers on two rounds and an intensive short course on human rights was organized for law executive officials.

8. Information on the consequences of natural disasters and efforts, including through international cooperation, to address these concerns

The natural disasters (flood, drought, tidal waves, etc.) of several successive years from 1994 flood and hailstorm caused various difficulties in economy, people's life and education.

The total damage in the field of education was 144,884,000 US\$ in 1995 and 213,735,000 US\$ in 1996.

The following several years' natural calamities such as flood, landslide, hailstorm, tidal wave, protracted drought, etc. were unprecedented in the 100 odd years in their scales and severity, immensely damaging the economy and people's life, and severely weakening the material and technical foundation of education.

The production units of educational facilities and other related branches were so damaged that paper shortage and other difficulties were caused.

The Government made every effort to regularize education in the suffering districts by concentrating national and international assistance on them and to restore the education level by expending additional state budget.

The Government took measures to incessantly educate school-aged children, supply school children with food, school things and uniforms and to take care of the orphans produced in the stricken areas at the local orphans' kindergartens or schools at state and public expense.

The Government paid special attention to supplying orphans' kindergartens and schools at each province with better school buildings, dormitory, dinning hall and other material and technical conditions from 2001, and as a result the Haeju secondary School for Orphans, the Pyongsong Orphans' Kindergarten and many others were rebuilt or enlarged.

The UNICEF, WFP and many other international organizations, Governments and the NGOs including CARITAS Hong Kong supplied a lot of rice, medicine, nutritional food, cotton padded clothes, underwear, school things, etc. to the children of the stricken areas, orphans' schools, kindergartens and baby farms.

9. Additional information on the international cooperation in the efforts to implement the Covention

The DPRK Government encouraged international cooperation and exchange in its implementation of the CRC.

The UNICEF, between 2001 and 2003 alone offered a lot of assistance including paper and printing materials for children's education, facilities for cultural life of orphans, the improvement of teaching method and educational environment (water and hygienic facilities) in rural areas.

CARITAS Hong Kong also assisted the children in the stricken areas in their supply of rice, food, medicament, medical facilities, clothing, school things, etc.

The Ministry of Education adopted cooperation program several times with MISERIO of Germany for the development of vocational education, whereby in 2001, nine vocational technical schools were supplied with the facilities for experiment and practical training and in 2003 and 2004, 600,000 € was allocated to 12 vocational education projects including 4 agricultural specializing schools, light industrial schools and secondary schools so that they may modernize laboratories, improve education content and quality.

The Ministry of Education encourages international exchange and cooperation in various fields including the development of curriculum and teaching method, qualification improvement of teachers, evaluation method of children's scholarly performance, digital school administration system in order to enhance the quality of education.

The World Vision of the U.S. offered assistance to provincial children's hospitals and the Diakonie of Germany provided medicines for children.

10. Priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention

The priority issue for the implementation of the CRC is to have a solid financial resource and material foundation.

The legal, institutional, social and conscious conditions are not bad.

After the successive natural disasters for several years, the economy has not yet been fully normalized, which affects children adversely.

Above all, we should do away with undernourishment among children, which was caused by shortage of food after the collapse of the east European socialist market and the natural disasters.

We should decisively lower the contraction rate of diarrhea, respiratory infection and other diseases as well as the mortality of children occurring as a result of undernourishment.

We should also produce more paper to supply school children at all levels with sufficient textbooks and school things.

We appreciate the sincere assistance that has been rendered by the UNICEF and other international organizations and NGOs.

Part II

The CRC was published in Korean language. The DPRK is a homogeneous nation with one and single national language and does not need any other language translation. The Korean edition of the CRC will be sent to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF.

Part III

Additional information

1. New bills and legal measures

The legislation newly adopted or amended and supplemented in conformity with the requirement of the CRC have been reported in Part I. B articles 2 and 6 of this reply.

The NCRC raised a proposal of abrogating the penal system of reasoning by analogy to the bill-drafting group for the amendment and supplement of the Criminal Law in 2003.

If the bill for the amendment and supplement of the Criminal Law is adopted, the children's human rights protection will witness a new advance.

The DPRK plans to enact the Law on School Education and embody more concretely the requirement of the CRC in due laws, regulations and rules in the future.

2. New child related institutions

It has been reported in paragraph 16 of the second periodic report that the NCRC was established on April 28, 1999 as the supreme organ for national coordination of the implementation of the CRC. No other child related institution has been formed.

3. Newly implemented policies

By the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of 18 June 2003, the Law on the Protection of the Person with Disability was adopted in June 2003, thus further consolidating the state protection system of persons with disabilities.

The Federation of Persons with Disabilities was formed as the central standing organ advocating for persons with disabilities and the Committee for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities was formed as a non-standing organ. Associations of persons with disabilities were also formed at provincial, city and county levels.

4. Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope

- In 2004 the state budget increased by 109.5 percent in the field of education and by 105.9 percent in the field of health as compared with 2003.
- In accordance with the state requirement to establish children's library at district level in urban areas and at county level in rural areas, children's libraries were established at over thirty counties and districts where there were no such libraries.
- The section doctor system is in place so that doctors can cover certain number of families and discharge their work for preventive health care. Now in the DPRK one doctor takes care of 130 families.
- The plan to vaccinate all children under 5 years with hepatitis B vaccine until 2005 is underway.
- The system to provide the children in nurseries and kindergartens with lunch as well as nutrition food such as Soya bean milk, which was suspended due to consequences of natural disasters, has been restored and in normal operation.
- To improve the child nutrition, special attention was paid to providing children with food and nutrient as the utmost priority. Some improvement was made in child nutrition thanks to the special measures taken by the state. As compared with the results of nutritional survey done three times in the past 6 years, the under-weight rate of children decreased from 60 percent to 28 percent and 20 percent.
- The state arranged the work to comprehensively review and improve the overall content of curricula of primary and secondary schools in order to educate children fully with basic knowledge and skills as required in information society.
- In basic education, the life skill education and vocational and technical education were improved and strengthened by taking regional characteristics into account.

Measures were taken to train eligible teachers commensurate with the development of education in the new century by fully reviewing the teaching programs of education and training colleges.