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## **XI AND KIM HAIL 'IMMORTAL' CHINA-NORTH KOREA RELATIONSHIP**

- 07.10.2019

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CNA (6 October 2019)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has promised to promote a "long-term, sound and stable" relationship with North Korea, state news agency Xinhua said on Sunday (Oct 6), as the two countries mark 70 years of diplomatic relations.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un also sent a message to Xi saying their countries' "invincible friendship will be immortal on the road of accomplishing the cause of socialism," said Pyongyang's state news agency KCNA on Sunday.

North Korea was among the first countries to recognise the People's Republic of China after it was founded in 1949.

Xi said the relationship between the Asian neighbours had played an "important and positive role in maintaining regional peace and stability," said Xinhua.

Since March 2018, Xi and Kim have met five times.

Xi was the first Chinese leader to visit the reclusive North in 14 years when he made a highly symbolic trip to the nuclear-armed state in June.

Kim said the two countries would "steadily defend the cause of socialism and preserve peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and the world," according to KCNA.

The warm words from Beijing follow its huge military parade Tuesday to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding a Communist China, and come a day after the latest round of nuclear talks between the US and North Korea ended in Sweden.

Pyongyang - under three sets of UN sanctions in a bid to force it to give up its nuclear and ballistic weapons programmes - said the talks broke down because the US "disappointed us greatly".

Washington, however, said there had been "good discussions".

Read more at <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/xi-jinping-kim-jong-un-immortal-china-north-korea-relationship-11973904>