



# KOREA TODAY

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Juche 103  

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(2014)



## Order of the Sun, and its certificate

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Order of the Sun from the President of Namibia in March 2008.



# KOREA TODAY

Monthly Journal (701)

Printed in English, Russian  
and Chinese



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**Front Cover: The Taean Heavy Machine Complex is pushing ahead with the production of generating equipment**

*Photo by Ra Phyang Ryol*



**Back Cover: Jipson Peak in Mt. Kungang in autumn**

*Photo by Kim Jin Ho*

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# For Peace, Stability and Sovereignty

**N**OW, IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA, THERE is a constant vicious cycle of tension, and the danger of war is increasing with each passing day. The US and the south Korean authorities are misleading the public opinion arguing that the DPRK's possession of nuclear weapons and rocket-launching exercise are the cause of a strained situation in the peninsula.

The region had been in a tense situation even before February 2005 when the DPRK declared it retains a nuclear deterrent. That was due to the US's hostile policy towards the DPRK. The DPRK's nuclear possession came after the nation decided there was no other choice but to have nukes to safeguard the sovereignty of the state against the US's unchanged hostile policy, military pressure and nuclear threat. Likewise, the rocket-launching exercise is also an implementation of a defensive measure against the US and the south Korean authorities' anti-DPRK moves of aggression. To achieve durable peace and stability in the Korean peninsula is the DPRK government's consistent stand, and today a peaceful atmosphere is as precious to the country as ever now that it is vigorously pushing ahead with the economic building and the improvement of the people's livelihood, the main target in its present-day effort.

To remove the escalating tensions in the Korean peninsula the DPRK this year made reasonable proposals to the US and the south Korean authorities

and has made strenuous efforts for its realization. In January last the DPRK National Defence Commission made important proposals and sent an open letter to south Korea calling for bringing about a turning point in inter-Korean relations by the concerted efforts of the Korean nationals and released a statement in March demanding that the US should cancel the anti-DPRK policy and all the measures pursuant to it as a whole. These proposals were run consistent with the intention to remove the military confrontation and establish peaceful relationship between the DPRK and the US. And they reflected the desire to remove the confrontation between the two sides of Korea and achieve national prosperity by joint endeavour of the nation on the condition of recognizing the thoughts and systems of each other.

However, the US and the south Korean regime answered the DPRK's sincere overtures and efforts with arms buildup and large-scale joint military exercises. The US deployed more than 60 per cent of its nuclear submarines around the Korean peninsula and in January this year assigned a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier-led flotilla additionally to the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet which is basically active in the North-east Asian region including the Korean peninsula. In February last it shipped into south Korea an army battalion equipped with dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles. In the following month US nuclear-powered submarine *Columbus*, the *Blue Ridge* which is the flagship of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and an Aegis ▶

**Pyongyangites have a mass rally on the June 25 Anti-US Imperialist Day.**







Paektu-Halla car riding took place in August 2014 in support of peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.



▶ guided missile destroyer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and many other warships intruded into the East, West and South seas of Korea. Moreover, in February and August the US and south Korea staged the DPRK-targeted Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises and conducted a joint landing rehearsal, the largest in scale since 1993, and the biggest ever combined air exercise. The US and the south Korean authorities' scheme to destroy the DPRK with the military power became more undisguised. To cope with this prevailing situation the DPRK could not but take self-defensive measures.

In March last Kim Jong Un, first chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, presided over an enlarged meeting of the Central Military

**South Koreans demand the US-south Korea Combined Forces Command be dismantled.**



Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea. The meeting discussed the issues of boosting the combat preparedness and capabilities of the KPA in every way and decisively solving the problem of the living of the service personnel and other important matters related to increasing the defence potentials of the country. Measures were taken to strengthen the combat preparedness of the KPA; typical of them were the shooting contest of commanding officers of military academies and universities, services and corps-level units, rocket-launching exercises of Strategic Force units and the flight drill of commanders of the KPA Air and Anti-aircraft Force. In particular, the rocket-launching exercises of KPA Strategic Force units in June-August demonstrated the power of the KPA that can fulfil any striking mission successfully.

As long as there is no change in the US hostile policy towards the DPRK and the subservient south Korean authorities continue with the anti-DPRK aggressive moves, the situation in the Korean peninsula will not change at all, but the DPRK's effort to safeguard the peace in the peninsula and defend its national sovereignty will go on uninterruptedly. This is the firm stand of the DPRK.

*Sim Yong Jin*

# Stories Associated with Panmunjom

**P**ANMUNJOM IS THE historic place where the US imperialists signed a military armistice agreement, kneeling down before the Korean people in the Korea war (June 1950–July 1953).

## The last autograph

When Chairman Kim Jong Il visited Panmunjom on November 24, 1996, he first visited the monument inscribed with President Kim Il Sung's signature reading "**Kim Il Sung July 7, 1994.**"

Before the monument the Chairman said that the signature was short, but its meaning is great and sublime. He said that the historic document signed by the President at the close of his life was related to the country's reunification, and that he had read through the thick document all night before writing his name on it in a lively style and the date below it. The Chairman continued to say with bitter grief that the President, who had worked heart and soul for the reunification of the country, spent busy hours working to bring a reunified country to the whole nation in the last days of his life, before passing away unexpectedly just after making his last autograph to the document.

After going round the Panmun House he went to the monument again, when he said that the President had spared no pains and achieved immortal exploits for the country's reunification indeed and that the monument was reminding him of many things. The President had worked hard for national reunification, the Chairman said, and recollected the lifelong pains and immortal exploits of the President for the country's reunification. Then he resolutely declared that they should reunify



**A monument inscribed with an autograph of President Kim Il Sung in honour of his exploits for the cause of national reunification.**

the country at any cost true to the aspiration and will of the President.

## Souvenir photo

When the Korean people were shedding tears of blood over the greatest loss of the nation, the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the enemy was making desperate attempts to start a war against the DPRK while asserting there would be an "emergency" and "change of system" in the DPRK. So a touch-and-go situation prevailed in the Korean peninsula.

At this juncture, in March 2012, supreme leader of the DPRK Kim Jong Un visited Panmunjom in the daytime. He went to see the above-mentioned monument first. In front of it he said that he appreciated President Kim Il Sung's painstaking, lifelong efforts for national reunification. Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that the monument was erected at Panmunjom in honour of the noble idea of loving the country and

the people kept by the President who had put his heart and soul in the cause of reunification until the last moment of his life, Kim Jong Un said, and asked his accompanying officials to take a souvenir photo against the background of the monument, to the effect that they reaffirmed their will to accomplish the lifelong wish of the President and the Chairman with credit. Then he went to the balcony of a building under the enemy's nose and watched the southern land with binoculars only scores of metres away.

That day he stressed that the room where the armistice talks were held and the place where the armistice agreement was signed—which are both associated with the historic victory in the Fatherland Liberation War against the allied imperialist forces, and the Panmun House and Thongil House representing the Korean people's will of reunification should be well preserved in order to hand them down to the coming generations who will live in a reunified country. □

# Basic Principles of National Reunification

**N**ATIONAL REUNIFICATION is the most cherished desire and primary task of the Koreans. In the whole course of the struggle for one Korea the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity are the mainstay to be adhered to and implemented consistently.

It was in the early 1970s that the three principles were put forward. At the time the south Korean people were getting more enthusiastic about peaceful reunification and anti-fascist struggle for democracy while the US imperialists were driven into a corner at home and abroad. In an attempt to escape from the plight, the imperialists fancied themselves as if they were changing their policy from cold war to peace and from confrontation to dialogue by putting up the so-called “peace strategy.”

On the basis of a scientific analysis of the internal and external situations President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea suggested a policy of having wide-ranging negotiation and dialogue between the north and the south. Having opened the way to the inter-Korean dialogue by the suggestion, he knew that a milestone could be set in the national struggle against division if they took advantage of the changing situation. Thus he expounded just and fair principles of national reunification that would

be easily acceptable to any of the Koreans and make it possible to expand the channel of dialogue. The principles demand that the problem of making one Korea should be solved independently without any foreign intervention and in a peaceful way true to the idea of promoting national unity. The principles became the keynote of the joint statement of the north and the south released on July 4, 1972.

What comes first of the principles is to achieve reunification in an independent way without relying on foreign forces or being affected by foreign intervention. Reunion of the north and south is the matter of establishing the sovereignty of the Korean nation throughout the country. Therefore, it is the responsibility and task of all the Korean people, which no one else could do for them. From this respect, Kim Il Sung set the principle of independence as item of crucial importance and core of the three principles. Korea was forcibly divided by the foreign forces, instead of the Koreans’ internal contradictions. In the middle of last century the US imperialists, resisting the ardent desire of the Korean people, occupied the southern half of Korea militarily and separated the nation into two, seeking their own predatory interest. For scores of years since then they have maintained a hostile policy against the DPRK that has kept following the road of

anti-imperialism and independence. Engaged in a vicious campaign to invade the north and check the effort for national reunification, they have persistently pursued the “two Koreas” policy while pushing ahead with preparations for another war and making ceaseless provocations.

The Workers’ Party of Korea and the DPRK government have worked hard consistently to achieve reunification by the nation’s own efforts. The June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, which are the banner in the effort for one Korea in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, carry the firm resolution of the WPK and the DPRK government to win the historic cause of national reunification by the nation’s own efforts.

The task of Korean reunification rests with the Korean people and the country’s reunification should be achieved by the concerted efforts of the Koreans—this is the gist of the two joint declarations. The implementation of the declarations opened a new time when the distrust- and confrontation-oriented inter-Korean relations spanning more than half a century were changing into those of concerted efforts to promote north-south reconciliation and unity and the reunification movement jumped up onto a higher stage.

The movement is currently faced with a great obstacle thanks to the imperialists’ scheme for



▶ another war. But all the Korean people are forcing their way forward under the banner of “By our nation itself” invariably, with the conviction that a decisive breakthrough will come in their effort for one Korea when they maintain the stand of national independence and patriotism.

The second principle goes that great national unity should be achieved transcending the difference in thought, ideal and social system. This principle provides the decisive guarantee for independent and peaceful reunification. To make the north and the south into one again is far from a matter of triumph by one side over the other; it is a problem of reconnecting the severed veins of the nation and achieving its unity as a traditionally homogeneous nation. To value and keep the national soul irrespective of their thoughts, systems, political views and religious beliefs—this was the assertion of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in their lifetime regarding the theory on national unity. By publishing immortal classic works like *Ten-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country* and *Let Us Reunify the Country Independently and Peacefully Through the Great Unity of the Entire Nation*, the leaders provided all the Koreans in the north, south and abroad to be united as one rising above the differences in thought, ideal, political view and religious belief. The patriotic idea and all-embracing politics of the WPK that subordinates all things to

the cause of reunification and steadily improves the national unity won over even those who had had a past contradictory to the patriotic cause of reunification and rallied Koreans of all strata under the banner of unity.

Last but not least, there is the principle of winning reunification in a peaceful way without recourse to arms. This refers to the basic method of reunifying the country. Understanding the essence of the reunification problem and valuing the desire of the entire nation, President Kim Il Sung suggested the principle of reunifying the country in a peaceful way, thus indicating a proper method to solve the reunification problem in the interest of all the Koreans.

The most practical course of peaceful reunification without any conflict between the north and the south is to introduce the federal mode. Earlier in the 1980s Kim Il Sung put forward the proposal of founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo. It was to establish a federal republic in which the north and the south exercise regional autonomy with equal rights and duties on the condition that they recognize and tolerate each other's idea and social system. The proposal of reunifying the country in the mode of one nation and one state, two systems and two governments is the just and fair way of peaceful reunification which would do no harm to both sides and prevent any one side from seeking superiority or interest.

The WPK and the DPRK

government have made a lot of practical proposals for dialogue and negotiation, seeing them as the way for the north and the south to avoid bloody conflicts and solve the problem of reunification smoothly in a peaceful way. This year, in particular, they, through a special proposal of the DPRK National Defence Commission and a government statement, reiterated their principled stand to the matter of easing the currently acute and complicated tension, and have taken sincere steps to the end.

But the south Korean authorities hurled abuses at the just and fair proposals and invited the US imperialist aggression forces' nuclear-powered carrier fleets and Aegis-level destroyers into the East Sea of Korea and the South Sea of Korea to have north-targeted war exercises. This nipped the atmosphere of improvement of the north-south relations in the bud.

The powerful nuclear deterrent of the DPRK serves as an iron shield for the peace of the Korean peninsula and national security while thwarting the reckless provocations of the Americans and the south Korean authorities in their attempt to start a nuclear war.

Invariable is the determination of the WPK and the DPRK government to shatter the moves of the US and the anti-reunification forces for confrontation and open a new road to peaceful reunification with a concerted effort of the north and the south.

*An Nam Hui*

# Juche-based Socialism

**I**N HIS DISCOURSE *Socialism Is a Science* published in *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee on November 1, 1994 Kim Jong Il, eternal general secretary of the Party, said:

**“Socialism is a science. Socialism has been frustrated in a number of countries, but scientific socialism is as alive as ever in the minds of the people... The crumbling of socialism in various countries does not mean the failure of socialism as science but the bankruptcy of opportunism which has corrupted socialism. Although socialism is temporarily experiencing a heart-rending setback because of opportunism, it will without fail be revived and win ultimate victory for its scientific accuracy and truth.”**

The scientific accuracy and truth of the Juche-based socialist theory have been confirmed through the practical experience of the Korean revolution. The chronicle of construction of a people-centric socialism is that of victorious march along a new, untrodden path under the guidance of the Juche idea fathered by President Kim Il Sung.

The socialist revolution was a serious social change effected in the effort to put an end to the exploitation of man by man once and for all and open a new road of social progress. When they are ridden of the imperialists' colonial subjugation, the people should choose the socialist way. Only then, will they be able to win complete freedom from the class exploitation and national oppression, enjoy free and happy life and achieve national sovereignty and independence and prosperity. In view of this law of

socio-historical development, the WPK, when Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, decided to carry out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and implemented it thoroughly on the principle of meeting the democratic demand of the popular masses and paving a way to socialist revolution although the country was in an indescribably difficult and arduous condition.

By putting forth the line of a new nation building in the liberated land whose gist was to hasten the revolution uninterruptedly, accomplish the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and establish a rich, sovereign and independent state by the Koreans' own efforts, Kim Il Sung clarified a mode of state administration in the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution and an immediate target in the cause of national building. When the revolution emerged victorious with the establishment of a genuine people's government, democratic reforms including the agrarian reform and nationalization of industries, transport, post and telecommunications and banks, and campaigns to develop education and culture along democratic lines, the national leader suggested the policy of changing over to the socialist revolution without delay. The first course of the revolution was a democratic election which consolidated the people's power into a socialist power. Then, the leader gave wise guidance to the effort to transform the relations of production along socialist lines in order to establish the popular masses who kept a hold on the reins of the power as

the complete master of the society in the economic aspect as well.

After the Korean war (1950–1953) Kim Il Sung, considering the specific condition of the country, made sure that the rural economy was changed into a socialist one in the economic form prior to its technical transformation and that the capitalist merchants and industrialists who had become as good as handicraftsmen and petty tradesmen in the indiscriminate bombings of the US imperialists were transformed into socialist ones instead of expropriating their property. With the completion of the agricultural cooperativization and socialist transformation of the private trade and industry, the DPRK established a socialist system without exploitation and oppression.

Despite the constant moves of the imperialists for aggression, Korea set up a socialist power in the war debris which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, by leaping forward like Chollima (a legendary steed that runs a thousand miles at a gallop) and compressing time. The practical experience of the Korean revolution is eloquent proof of the fact that the Juche-based socialist idea is a scientific revolutionary theory in the struggle for the popular masses' independence.

The vitality of the Korean socialism is evident when viewed from the point of the pulsating realities of the country where the centuries-old wishes of the people are coming true. Based on a Juche-oriented viewpoint and stand toward man, the Korean socialism makes it possible to

► radically consolidate the position and role of man as master and transformer of the world and push the revolution and construction dynamically on their strength by championing the independence of the people thoroughly, improving their ideological consciousness and creative ability and giving full play to them.

At present the WPK is mobilizing the people to launch a general offensive for the building of a thriving socialist nation, and thus accomplishing the ideals of Juche-oriented socialism one after another. The production of the Juche iron, Juche fibre and Juche fertilizer, which was celebrated all across the country, and the great expanse of a new orchard are all things of yesterday.

Kim Jong Un, first secretary of the WPK, declared in his first public address of historic importance in 2012 that he would make sure that the Korean people who are the best in the world enjoy all the benefits of socialism. Thanks to his policy of giving the top and absolute priority to the effort to satisfy the people's conveniences, a strong campaign is going on to help the people enjoy the true merits of the socialist culture.

A heyday is taking shape in the field of construction. Wonderful edifices go up in succession across the country. In all construction projects the priority is given to the people's interests and aesthetic needs rather than to the speed and volume of the work, on the principle of attaching importance to convenience of the people and aesthetic quality of the structures ahead of all considerations. The Masikryong Ski Resort, the Mirim Riding Club and other recreational and service centres have risen in succession and sample apartments that meet the requirements of the

current century and the Unha Scientists Street have gone up in a matter of months. A hostel of the workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Songdowon International Children's Camp and other structures have gone up in a wonderful style. Over the days new words have got on the vocabulary of the era showing the happy life of the people, for example, the socialist marine aroma, the Red Maple in the east sea, the sea of apples at the foot of the Chol Pass, the frenzy for horse riding, roller skating, and skiing. The Korean people sing that the ideal nurtured by President Kim Il Sung and developed by Chairman Kim Jong Il is coming into reality in their land and that all their dreams are becoming true in their country.

They realize in actuality what the socialist benefits mean. The Juche idea makes it clear that socialism is a society that develops on the strength of the ideology, that is, the spiritual exertion, of the popular masses. The Korean revolution shows through its practice that the stronger their exertions become sustained by their ambition and ideal, the greater upsurge will come in the socialist construction.

The WPK, holding fast to the Juche-based theory on ideology whereby it believes that it can create anything from scratch and change the impossible into the possible when it mobilizes the spiritual exertions of the popular masses, has given wise guidance to the revolution and construction. The revolutionary idea and spirit implanted in the mind of the people sparked the revolutionary upswing in the socialist construction.

Addressing the 8<sup>th</sup> conference of ideological workers of the Workers' Party of Korea on February 25 this year Kim Jong Un, supreme national

leader, said that by bringing about high tides in the mental strength of the service personnel and people, the Party had turned the trials decisive of the victory and defeat of the revolution and its advance and setback into great upswings of the revolution, and that the revolution had achieved a great success whenever an upswing was effected in ideological work. On the occasion he suggested the slogan of **"Let Us Hasten the Final Victory Through a Revolutionary Ideological Offensive."**

A general charge is being made in Korea to hasten the ultimate victory in the building of a thriving socialist nation. The struggle is led by the uplifted banner of the Juche-based theory on ideology, which is the powerful weapon of the WPK. The Party makes sure that the ideological might of the people is mobilized to the maximum in all fields and at all units so that mass innovations are made. Following the Masikryong Speed created by the People's Army soldiers in their effort to finish the Masikryong Ski Resort project in a short span of time, the campaign of creating the Korean Speed is sweeping the whole country. The new speed is dubbed with the name of the nation instead of a certain region or sector. The country's forward march is getting faster towards a civilized socialist nation.

The present realities of Korea in which forceful progress is made by leaps and bounds are an assurance of the scientific accuracy and validity of the Juche-oriented socialist ideology and theory on accelerating the social progress by giving full play to the ideological and spiritual exertions of the popular masses who are masters of the state and society.

*Ho Kwang Sop*



# The Sun Shines in Our Hearts and Friendship Lights up the World



*(Continued from the last issue)*

**T**HROUGH THE MEDIUM of the Chinese leaders, President Kim Il Sung enabled us to visit Korea. On a balmy spring day, my younger sister Zhang Jinlu and my eldest son Zhang Qi, and I met Kim Il Sung whom we had been yearning to see even in sleep. The President who had been waiting for us with his graying hair lightly streaming in the gentle spring breeze gazed at us quietly for a while as if to find my late father's image in us, before he flung his arms round us. He shed tears and my sister and I wept. Oh, our elder uncle! The flowing tears proved we were blood relations, the President and us.

Whenever he met us, the President told us many stories, mostly of my father. His stories were never repeated. As a skilled diver picked up pearls in a deep sea, the President vividly described the image of our father as a man in the flesh for us who had never seen him ever once

and made us understand what he had aspired after. His narration brought home to me the true character of my father—reflective yet upright and passionate, dauntless in the fight for justice and ready to face the dangers from the sword when the occasion calls. Indeed, it is President Kim Il Sung who has given me my father. The President's boundless friendship brought back his old comrade-in-arms who had passed away half a century before to his son and daughters to live long in the minds of the Chinese and Korean peoples.

In my first meeting with the President, he said to me, "Jinquan, your grandfather Zhang Wanchang gave assistance to Korea's independence movement and your father Zhang Weihua aided us in the communist movement of Korea. I want you to be an honourable man loyal to your duties and a steadfast and indomitable revolutionary like them. Back home, you should work hard, true to your father's intentions; don't covet a high position, be a faithful Communist Party member, and contribute to China's four modernization goals. Jinquan, write me often. As I am busy, I can't reply to you every time. Let's make a promise. You write me twice and I'll answer you once. Come to Korea time and again in future. Even three days and three nights will be not enough to tell you all about your father. But I'll tell you the stories. As I'm the President at present, I must work for the people and have heavy responsibilities. So I have no time to

spare for it. But in the future when you come here again and again, I'll retire from work for old age and will be able to pass time with you."

Since then I had the honour of seeing him eight times. Every time I was coming to Korea, it did seem I was coming home to my father, not to a foreign country. The President made time to tell us many stories and did us the great favour of looking after our work and even our livelihood. In our first visit to Korea, he gave us gold watches inscribed with his name and cameras after deep consideration. The gold watches had a profound meaning that we should be pure and invariable like gold and that our friendship will be everlasting like the hands of the watches that indicate the infinite time. The cameras bore his memory of my father who had sent a camera to the President's guerrilla unit when he was running the Xiongdi Photo Studio in Fusong, and his wishes for us to model after our father who had worked for the revolution as a photographer.

I can never forget the Dongshaoguo liquor which the President and four generations of our Zhang family took in a meaningful party. According to his suggestion, of all famous liquors, the Dongshaoguo brand I brought from Fusong was chosen for the party. The liquor made from the water of the Songhua River was poured brimful into the cups. The President's voice rang through the party hall, "It is fine today and we met again. Let us take the first cups for the martyr Zhang Weihua." ▶

► In spite of officials' dissuasion, he drank three cups. Three cups! In the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle he and my father met in Dongshaoguo and drank three cups of liquor. Though the dream and desire of the days of Fusong had been materialized and a cordial party was given in an atmosphere of felicity, the President could not resist remembering my father.

Of all recollections, I must mention the monument built in Fusong on the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the martyr Zhang Weihua's death. At the unforgettable party I asked the President to write an epitaph to the new tombstone to be built on the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my father's death. Complying with my requests, he said thoughtfully, "Instead of writing an epitaph for you, I think it better to erect a monument in my own name. It is desirable to hold a ceremony of building the monument on the day of your father's death."

According to his noble intentions, an excellent gravestone was made and carried from P'yongyang to the Linjiang Bridge under the escort of a high-ranking Korean delegation and Korean People's Army troops. On behalf of the Chinese government, the senior officials of Fusong County and Linjiang City and we the bereaved family of the martyr Zhang Weihua who were waiting from early morning met the monument sent by the President. A Chinese motorcade decorously took it over and left for Fusong with a police car at the head. As soon as our procession entered on the road, snowflakes began to fall from the sky which had been pouring down warm autumn sunshine until just before as if moved by the President's lasting friendship. Clean large snowflakes falling

down on the mountain road were like paper money falling from heaven to console the departed spirit of a martyr according to the old custom of China. It was something rare and moving.

When the monument erecting ceremony prepared for amid the great concern of China and Korea was opened, the inscription on the monument bearing the name of the President deeply touched the hearts of the attendants. It runs: "The revolutionary exploits of the martyr Zhang Weihua are a shining symbol of friendship of the peoples of Korea and China. His noble revolutionary spirit and services to the revolution will live on for ever in the people's minds.

October 27, 1992

*Kim Il Sung*"

Though more than a half century passed since his comrade-in-arms died, his friendship for the deceased further deepened. There are many stories about friendship and faith in the world, but the world knows no examples of a head of state erecting a monument to the memory of his ordinary foreign comrade-in-arms a half century after his death. President Kim Il Sung who won a wide fame in the world with his lofty friendship was not only a national leader and an outstanding leader of the international socialist movement but also the greatest man and supreme incarnation of high faith. It is said that a monument to virtuous deeds has a longer life than a pyramid. The monument to the martyr Zhang Weihua in Fusong is a memorial handing down to posterity the martyr's revolutionary services and, at the same time, a marker immortalizing the highest virtues of the great President Kim Il Sung who never forgot his late com-

rade-in-arms but remained faithful to their memories.

### **My Old Feeling of Yearning Will Not Change Even With the Turning of Centuries**

I never dreamed I would write a poem in my lifetime. Amid endless yearning for the President, I had a poetic inspiration and poetic language of strong emotion gushed out like a fountain.

*Somebody said  
He would rather not have  
dreams.*

*I say no to him,  
I always live in a dream.*

*From the early evening of  
moonrise*

*To the morning of sunrise  
I live in a dream*

*Seeing President Kim Il Sung.*

*The dream that I talk with  
the President,*

*The dream that I toast him,*

*The dream that I sing*

*with him,*

*The dream that we walk the*

*Fusong streets hand in hand.*

*I am fond*

*Of dreams like this.*

*It is my hope*

*Not to awake from the sweet*

*dreams.*

I wrote this poem reflecting my dream of meeting the President in the period when our planet was in bitter grief at the loss of the peerless great man. It is not a poem to express the sorrow of the last farewell, but an eruption of yearning for the President, a benevolent saint, who can never be separated from us no matter where we go and how long time passes.

*(To be continued)*

# Mother's Life

*(Continued from the last issue)*

## **My struggle on the shores of the Amnok River**

**I** RETURNED TO MY HOME village eight years after I ran away from home in 1911 leaving my clothes and shoes on the bank of the river near the village. As I entered the village, my thoughts were in a whirl. I had left home with my heart set on learning, and now was returning as a national independence fighter, with my heart full of emotions and at the same time tingling with inappreciable chagrin at the frustration of the March First Popular Uprising.

As I knew from my experiences in life, a fighter for a lofty cause will not take delight in merely effecting his escape from danger saving his life. For my past, I felt nothing more painful and vexatious than being separated from my organization line and my comrades. In such perplexing situation, my only hope was to meet, back in my native village, some independence movement members once related to the Korean National Association and to recover my organizational connections. In Sakju, Changsong, Uiju and Pyoktong along the Amnok River, the Association had its branches and there were many independence movement members who were my acquaintances.

Past late March the air was apparent with signs of coming spring in my native village. But the atmosphere in and out of Sakju was bleak after the March First Popular Uprising. In Sakju Kim Hong Bom, Kim Hyo Gwon and other members of the inde-

pendence movement were arrested by the Japanese police, and many patriots fell to the brutal suppression of the enemy. The Japanese imperialists' suppression of the Korean people reached its height. The news of uprisers mercilessly killed by the Japanese police while staging demonstrations crying out for Korea's independence made my heart burn with revenge against the enemy. I felt an impulse to rush out at once and fight a life-or-death battle with Japanese rogues.

I was spending tedious days in loneliness boiling with revenge at my home village, when one day Kim Kwan Bong, Jo Thae Hwan, Ri Kwan Sil and Paek Mun Hui dispatched by O Tong Jin came to see me. At that time O was organizing the Kwangje Youth League. On the instructions from the organization, I was admitted to the youth league, and then was put in charge of the general affairs of the league. The main task of the chief of the general affairs department was to recruit members of the organization, raise military funds and support the Independence Army in its combat activities. I admitted dozens of youths to the organization including Ri Chan Su and Kim Yong Guk, conducted anti-Japanese publicity among the population and collected 500 *won* of war funds for the army.

All my activities were conducted in the face of constant danger under the enemy's watch. One day when I was returning home along the Amnok River after finishing my work, I found two Japanese cops tailing after me. Pistols in hand, they were stealthily following me. I made as if I did not see them. When they

came closer to me, I suddenly turned round, picking up a stone looking like a hand grenade, and shouted, "One move, and you'll have it!"

Taken aback, they stood nailed to the spot.

"Down with your arms!"

In consternation, they dropped the guns and raised their hands. In a moment, I threw away the stone and picked up the pistols. Now they understood they were tricked, and flung themselves upon me. But I lost no time firing at them in rapid succession. Then, bracing myself up, I dragged the corpses to the riverside and pushed them into the water. I can't understand how I could act so bravely without hesitation. Later, people would praise me that I had courage and grit. But frankly speaking, I had no choice but to fight a death-defying battle with them in such circumstances. I thought I revenged the girl students and other Koreans who were killed in the March First Popular Uprising. In May 1919, I went across the river to Maodianzi, Kuandian County, China to convey the list of new members of the league and 500 *won* of donated money. Seeing me, Mr. O said I fought a good battle, praising me as a "heroine."

In the summer of 1919 there was a meeting of representatives of the Korean National Association at Pamgol, Chongsudong, Korea. Besides the delegates of the KNA organizations in North Phyongan Province, the heads of the youth league organizations from Uiju, Sakju, Changsong, Pyoktong, Chosan and Kusong attended the meeting. Reports were delivered and speeches made. I made a report on the



► situation in North Phyongan Province after the popular uprising. The delegates had a serious debate on the appraisal of the popular uprising and the method of the independence movement. I cannot forget the excited participants expressing their full support for Kim Hyong Jik (father of President Kim Il Sung) when he concluded his speech that we should not forget the lessons of the March First Popular Uprising, and that we should achieve the independence of Korea by fighting the armed enemy in arms, not by appealing to them or begging them for it, but by rousing the broad proletarian masses and mustering up the nation's own strength.

After the Chongsudong Meeting, a meeting of district heads and liaison men of the KNA and chiefs of the organizations of the independence movement was called in Hongtonggou, Kuandian County, China. When I arrived there, O Tong Jin, Jang Chol Ho and other participants were already present at the place. The meeting was convened for clearly defining the new orientation of development of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement in view of the new requirements of the prevailing situation and the development of the revolution after the popular uprising. The meeting continued for three days. Based on the analysis of the changing situation at home and abroad, it made clear the struggle policy of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement in Korea. A passage from the speech of Kim Hyong Jik at the meeting is fresh in my memory even to this day, which runs:

“We should defeat the Japanese imperialists with our own nation's strength in keeping with the unanimous desire of the Korean people for national liberation and the changing times,

and turn out in full force in the struggle for building a new society which ensures the rights of the proletarian masses. To this end, we should disseminate progressive thoughts among the masses to awaken them, and rouse the propertyless masses vigorously to the sacred struggle for the country's liberation. This is our only path ahead, and this path is our only course to follow to save our 20 million fellow countrymen in distress.” He went on to say that the lesson of the March First Popular Uprising taught us to rout the armed enemy with arms, that we should not place an illusory hope on the great powers asking them to win back national independence for us, or beg the Japanese bandits for independence, that we should achieve country's independence with our nation's own strength, and that the only way to restore the lost country is to fight in arms against the Japanese robbers.

When he finished his speech, all the participants were deeply moved and gratified. At the time, I could not understand all the significance of his speech, but I knew it showed the only right course of the independence movement. Since then we carried on our struggle full of confidence. In Changsong, Pyoktong, Uiju and other areas we actively carried on the work of recruitment for our armed corps, and spent many sleepless nights printing mimeographical copies of booklets like *The Paris Commune*, *The Victory of the Proletarian Revolution in Russian* and *Biography of Lenin* and distributing them to various districts.

Later, the Japanese police found out through inquiries to Pyongyang that I had participated in the popular uprising and kept me under close watch on suspicion of my involvement in

the organization and activity of the Kwangje Youth League and the raid on their sub-station. So I found it very hard to stay and work at Suphungdong.

The headquarters of the Kwangbok Independence Army was set up in Kuandian County, Liaoning Province, China, in 1920. The commander of the army was O Tong Jin. Some time after I had been appointed the commissary of the headquarters, I crossed the Amnok River with Kim Hyong Jik, O Tong Jin and Jang Chol Ho and visited the armed corps. Then, I travelled to Kuandian, Sakju, Chosan, Kanggye and other areas along the river with Kim Hyong Jik, O Tong Jin and Jang Chol Ho on missions of the independence movement.

My childhood name was Ri So Jo, but in the Independence Army I got many nicknames and aliases. When I was collecting contributions at home, I passed under the names of Pak In Do and Pak Ho Son; and while at operating at Samwonpho—Ri Kun. In the period of the independence movement I went by the pseudonyms of Ri Jang Chong, Ri Tong Gun, Chong Tae Rang and Jang Chun. At that time people loved and called me “Flower of the Independence Army,” “Heroine of the Independence Army” and “Red Flower Amidst Verdure,” because I was the only woman soldier in the Independence Army fighting in arms, and participated in the women's enlightenment movement and in organizing a revolutionary party. Among many nicknames and aliases, I liked my pet name “Iron Leg” most, and now as a grey-haired woman, I look back on the unforgettable days of the Independence Army soldier citing that dear name.

(To be continued)

# Innovations in Producing Generating Equipment

**A** DYNAMIC CAMPAIGN OF HYDROPOWER station construction has been going on in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this year, too. Typical is the construction of power stations in tiers along the Chongchon River. And the workers of the Taean Heavy Machine Complex have the lion's share of the work for the project.

The complex is in charge of producing large-, medium- and small-sized electric equipment and ordered equipment needed in different sectors of the national economy. This year, too, it has supplied scores of generating facilities to the construction of the aforesaid power stations. Kim In Son, head of the casting workshop, says, "I've long worked in the

casting sector, but this is the first time I feel I have to bear a heavy burden." According to him his workshop cast several times more molten iron between mid-March and late April this year than they did in the same period of time in the past. With a determination to produce the generating equipment ahead of schedule the workers of the workshop manufactured the rotor blade and the body material of the rotor blade of a turbine, and other castings of equipment for the major construction project.

In early April last Generating Equipment Processing Workshop No. 1 was assigned an urgent task of processing a floating plate whose diameter was 6.4 m. It was a part of an equipment of Huichon Power Station No. 3. The workshop had a 6-m turning lathe alone, so it looked impossible to do the job. Immediately, they organized a consultation on the spot. Different ideas were suggested but not so good. At the time Kim Hui, an old hand of the complex, suggested that it could be processed if they used several jigs that they had got, and explained about the method of processing. It was a novel idea. He volunteered to process it himself, and some of the young skilled workers agreed to undertake the task. By pooling their wisdom they succeeded in the processing of the floating plate by fixing it on a certain jig placed on the face plate of the turning lathe. Meanwhile the operators of a 10-m lathe of the ▶





▶ Large-sized Machine Workshop finished the processing of a large turbine shaft for Huichon Power Station No. 3 ahead of the set time. (The processing had been accepted possible only with an 8-m turning lathe.)

Besides, the scaffold workers installed in time materials weighing tens of tons each, making it easy to hasten the processing. The Press Workshop drew up a chart of technical processes to suit the size of products considering the different sizes of iron plates used in the production of iron core of electric machines. And it strictly retrieved remnant materials and waste and used them to make several kinds of mass consumption goods like electric core for household transformer and nails.

Today the workers of the Taean complex are devoting their wisdom and zeal to the production of all equipment needed for development of the national economy and the people's livelihood, in the spirit of "Nothing is impossible for us" and "We will carry out whatever we decide to do."

*Sim Yong Jin*





# Kwangmyong LED and Solar Battery Factory

**T**HE KWANGMYONG LED AND SOLAR Battery Factory, located in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, is a business with a technologically intensive structure. It deals with its development, production and marketing on an integrated basis.

Covering a total floor space of over 14 700 square metres, the factory is furnished with a cooling and heating system fed by geothermal water. Tempera-

bly line, the factory gets much profit with small investment. In addition to illuminators, the workshop turns out functional LED lamps needed for agriculture, fishery, art and literature, and various other sectors in keeping with the world trend towards an increasing use of LED lamps. It has established well-regulated automatic control, equipment and technical monitoring, and production and quality control systems through computers.



ture and humidity are automatically regulated and the environment is always kept dust-free. The factory has LED lamp and solar battery workshops, a LED and solar battery research institute, an exhibition hall, a room for scientific information and cultural and welfare facilities.

The LED lamp workshop is provided with the LED lamp manufacturing process installed with the latest facilities including the automatic chip fixing machine, and SMT lines comprising LED lamp board manufacturing, lead-free soldering and automatic optical testing devices. It is also furnished with the measuring and selecting processes for automatically selecting and band-packaging LEDs according to their radiance, colour and electrical constants and the process provided with a vibration and impact testing apparatus, a high and low temperature measuring apparatus and a water resistance measuring apparatus. The workshop turns out LED lamps of different shapes and colours from 1W to 200W in series on the assembly line. With its multi-purpose production system based on a single assem-

The solar battery workshop is installed with a pilot production process for the development of 3-G solar battery. It has made progress in the development and trial production of a new type of solar battery whose generating cost will be much lower than the crystalline silicon cell.

The LED and solar battery research institute develops chips, circuit boards, LED and LED lamps, materials and solar batteries. So far it has developed scores of kinds of LED lamps and achieved remarkable successes in the efforts to realize the domestic production of LED lamps, including the production of lens and their fixing frames, and high-purity gold filaments.

The exhibition hall is furnished in such a way as to allow a new product exhibition, dissemination of science and technology, orders and sales of products, and e-commerce. On display here are over 1 000 LED lamps and functional LED lamps of scores of kinds for interior and exterior illuminations and decorations, and solar batteries including LED lamps supplied to various establishments, products ▶



▶ from different mills and factories, and domestic trial products.

The factory sells its products through trading networks at home and abroad. It provides gratis illumination designing and technical services for institutions and establishments on order. Its products enjoy popularity among customers. The factory sets the goal at making its products all Korean in the near future.

Ri Song Gyu, one of the management, says,

“Time advances and new things of yesterday become old today. To fall behind the world standard without developing new products constantly is the reality of today. To meet the requirements of our age of knowledge-based economy and the age of green economy, our factory will work for further advancement of the country’s green lighting industry by dynamically pushing ahead with the development of new products.”

*Kim Yong Sun*





# Big from Small

**T**HE 29<sup>TH</sup> CENTRAL SCI-TECH FESTIVAL was held in Pyongyang, capital of the DPRK, from April 23 to May 2 last. Many things were presented that would be helpful to the solution of sci-tech problems arising in the leading sectors and basic industries of the national economy. A particular attention at the festival was a mineral polymer, a substitute for cement. It is helpful to the development of the construction industry, for example, repair of roads and bridges, breakwater construction for tideland reclamation, urgent repair of buildings. The material, developed by Kim Hyon Chol and Kim Kwang Min, researchers of the lithology department of Kim Il Sung University geology faculty, was evaluated as excellent.

Several years ago Kim Hyon Chol happened to read an article in a science magazine which introduced a new substitute for cement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It would guarantee a high degree of instant hardening. Though it was short, the article was interesting. One day a month later he was staying away at a local place for a business. It was a rainy season and they had a heavy rain there almost every day. The mountain streams flooded in a moment to destroy small bridges and roads. The bad weather caused huge inconvenience to the local inhabitants in their life.

Witnessing it, Hyon Chol was determined to develop a substitute for cement himself. On returning from the business trip he told his department about his idea and suggested that he be assigned the research project. The department agreed to his idea and attached a researcher to his task. Now Hyon Chol and Kwang Min started basic studies to solve relevant sci-tech problems.

First of all, they set it as their goal to develop and introduce a mineral polymer based on domestic materials to suit the current trend of localization of materials, high speed and functionality in the construction field. They pushed ahead with the research work. As a natural course of laborious research they succeeded in selecting a kind of mineral—which is in enormous deposit in their



**Researchers of Kim Il Sung University geology faculty attend the 29<sup>th</sup> Central Sci-tech Festival.**

country—for a material to be used to make a polymer. Now they pushed the work to get a local material for an activator. Through repeated experiments they succeeded in not only finding a good mixing rate between the raw material and the activator but also learning the hardening process of the mineral polymer and its specific features.

The result of the introduction to different projects ascertained that the material is admirable in all technical index such as the hardening period, strength of pressure, acid-resistance, durability, etc.. When the road is repaired using this material, pedestrians can pass it in an hour, a car can in three hours and a heavy-duty truck in 4-6 hours. The production of concrete pipes has soared 3~5 times at the Rason Cement Factory since the polymer was introduced. The chemical stability of the material is 10 times higher and its expected life is 8 times longer than ordinary kinds of cement. Its production is highly profitable because it is made in a simple process of pulverization and mixing without any calcination at a high temperature. Now the demand for the material is increasing day by day. The researchers are making a strenuous effort for further studies of the polymer.

*Sim Chol Yong*

# A New DNA Chip

**R**ECENTLY THE RESEARCHERS of the bioengineering branch of the State Academy of Sciences have developed a new kind of DNA chip. It is known that it has high accuracy and efficiency in diagnosing various infectious diseases and genetic diseases and testing genetic-mutation crops.

The researchers were interested in the chip for a long time. But they thought its development would be a matter of distant future. Because the production cost of bio-chips was very high, and it was generally known from the technical point of view that only a few developed countries in the world could make it. But section chief Ri Yon U who had been to a foreign country for practice had a different view. Witnessing the chip production centres and practical value of the chips of that country, she thought it was the task of our bioengineers to develop the chips as early as possible.

Back home she brought up the matter for discussion at the section's meeting. The young researchers of the section voiced their approval for the proposal and urged that they should develop DNA bio-chips without delay. The meeting ended with Ri concluding that their goal was to develop DNA chips coming up to the world standard in regard to

accuracy and detection power. They buckled down to the research but it was not easy to create something from scratch. Failure followed one after another, but they braced themselves up every time to resume the work of "developing world-level chips in their own way."

Now they were making a board of the chip in a new way. Originally, it had to be imported from abroad. At first, it was not regarded highly, but as the experiments went on in a large way, its consumption gradually increased, the expenses running up to an enormous sum. In order to solve this problem, they conceived a new method of adhesion using local reagent abundant in the country. The conception, however, was disapproved by some researchers. They said it would take a long time to succeed in the pro-

ject even if they put so much effort in it. Nevertheless, it was an invariable will of the research team that the cutting-edge product they were going to make should on all accounts be a home-made one. They repeated experiments day and night, using this or that reagent or compound ones.

At last, in 2011, they optimized the main factor and condition of the board with a local reagent and succeeded in making the Korean-style board of a chip. It cost ten times lower than the previous one. Two years later they consecutively developed three cutting-edge DNA chips for use in various diagnoses and examinations. Ri says, "We are only at the threshold of the chip research. But we are proud of having a chip of our own make."

*Chae Kwang Myong*





# Haeju Jo Ok Hui Teacher Training College

**J**O OK HUI WAS THE first heroine during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953). Her name was honorably attached to a college in Haeju. Haeju Jo Ok Hui Teacher Training College produces primary school and kindergarten teachers needed in South Hwanghae Province.

Vice-rector of the college Jang Myong Chol says, “Jo Ok Hui is an admirable daughter of my province and a model patriot. Her spirit of laying down one’s life for the motherland is a motive force to the teaching staff of my college. It encourages us to devote our all to the bringing up of the rising generation of the country.”

Determined to be worthy of teachers at the proud college the staff members have registered many educational and scientific successes. Understanding that it is essential to become persons of profound knowledge above all things in order to improve the students’ attainments the teachers have directed all their efforts to holding academic degrees and titles. In 2012 the college ranked first among the teacher training colleges of the country for having the biggest rate of academic degree and title holders. On the other hand, it has taken the top place for several years at national presentations and exhibitions in the field of education including

the presentation of heuristic methods of teaching.

In particular, the recent adoption of ordinance on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education added fuel to their enthusiasm. The ordinance required the college to improve teaching methods and content radically. The officials in charge of college affairs and administration formulated a new teachers’ training programme. And they organized a team of competent teachers to write new textbooks and push ahead with the compiling of textbooks and reference books such as the socialist child psychology, moral philosophy and standard Korean language. ▶

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## Effective Microelement Fertilizer Developed

“**W**E STILL HAVE A LOT of things to do.” This is what the researchers of the microelement research team of the Central Experiment and Analysis Institute of the State Academy of Sciences say when they receive congratulations for their achievement, an amino-acid microelement fertilizer which is effective in improving the viability of plants. The fertilizer has high fertilizing effects with a less amount of loss. It raises the quality of grains, enhances crops’ resistance to diseases and improves physiochemical and biological characters of soil. The main ingredient of the fertilizer is the Kungang Medicinal Stone which is abundantly found in Korea.

The researchers of the institute began their research of the stone in the 1980s. Their dozens of years of research turned out several products including a health drink. Through deep-going studies the researchers found out that the stone has got over 50 kinds of elements, including macroelements like Si, Ca, Mg, P and K, and microelements such as Fe,

Cu, Zn, Mn, B and Mo and rare-earth elements like La and Ce while having good solubility with a high biological effect. They buckled down to the work to make microelement fertilizer from the stone. A research team was organized headed by Kim Chol Ho. At last they made a fertilizer through painstaking studies and applied it to the field. But the result was not so good as they had expected. They knew it was largely because they tried to make it the way other countries did. (They made the fertilizer using salt as the source of microelements.)

Now the researchers made an inorganic microelement fertilizer from the Kungang Medicinal Stone first. Applying it into practice for a few years they found out the limitation of it, and solved many scientific problems to improve the effectiveness of the fertilizer. The other researchers of the institute also helped their work. Cha Jong Chol handed them the reference data he had collected while doing his own task, and Ri Song Su and

Yang Ki Ryong donated their research successes. Finally, an amino-acid fertilizer was developed thanks to the collective efforts. On the basis of the trial application of it into the 100 hectares of crop fields for verification of its effect, they introduced the fertilizer into several areas of different provinces.

Years of its application testified to the fact that it was the best of the microelement fertilizers and the growth activators in the country. It won special prizes and took first place at the national sci-tech festival in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung, the 26<sup>th</sup> Central Sci-tech Festival, the sci-tech presentation in commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the State Academy of Sciences, the 7<sup>th</sup> national exhibition and symposium on agricultural sci-tech achievements.

The research team is intensifying the work to develop a series of amino-acid fertilizer with a higher fertilizing effect which will be unrivalled worldwide.

*Kim Ki Sun*



► The teacher's course was selected as a model unit, and demonstration lessons based on the new teaching curriculum were held. The lecturers of the teacher's course prepared over 30 teaching programmes suited to the new teaching curriculum, revised most of previous teaching plans and aids and made new programs and multimedia and visual aids. Meanwhile, the lecturers of different courses worked day and night to perfect the educational system and modernize the education, thus laying out a firm foundation for bringing up able teachers in a short span of time.

Their endeavour to be patriots remembered by the motherland and the people and train such patriots is not permeated in the countless textbooks, reference books and teaching aids alone. Many of the graduates of the college volunteer to work on islets and at mountain villages. This reflects the efforts of the lecturers who aspire to genuine life.

I met Pak Chun Sim, one of the old students, who was staying at her alma mater for her refresher course. She said, "Last year I volunteered to teach on Sunwi Islet in the West Sea of Korea. During my college days I had been the envy of my fellows

for my excellent performance. And when I expressed my determination to be a teacher of the islet, all of them were struck with wonder. My choice was attributable to the images of my teachers who had taught us sincerely, saying that we should be patriots before educators. I want to be a teacher remembered by my students in the future. And whenever I am spiritless in my work on the islet, the consciousness that I learned at Haeju Jo Ok Hui Teacher Training College comes to renew my determination."

*Kim Chol Ung*

**Serious discussion is held on teaching.**



**Among the pupils.**



# Proud Work

**D**AYS AGO WHEN I WAS AT THE SONGYO Junior Middle School in Songyo District, Pyongyang, for coverage, I saw something unusual. I was talking to the head teacher in her office, when there was a knock at the door. Then a girl stepped in. The head teacher was glad to see her, saying, "Isn't it Un Ju? What a surprise!"

"I've just finished Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and was assigned to work at this school,



my alma mater," the girl said with pleasure.

Hearing the words the head teacher was quite happy. She looked proud of the new teacher. "I'm glad to see you again. It seems as if you left this school only yesterday," she said excitedly.

The newcomer recalled emotionally, "Mrs. Ha, I intended to make a writer when I entered college. But doing teaching practice before graduation I changed my mind. Standing at the table I had a better idea of the painstaking efforts of the teachers for the children. So I made my mind to make a teacher's career and volunteered to come to my alma mater."

Now Kim Un Ju left the room, saying she would like to meet other teachers.

"Another has returned to her old school," said the head teacher, Ha Myong Hwa, who is a Merited Teacher. "I've got several teachers who learned at my school. Teachers and their old students work together for education of the rising generation."

Now she told me a story.

She began to work at the school a dozen years ago. One day she happened to hear some children talk in a classroom. "Learning the law of gravitation in the physics lesson today I wished I'd be a scientist

who sends satellites," a voice said. "I like the national language teacher's fairy tale very much. I hope I'll be a writer in the future," another voice declared.

The words of the students about their high hopes made the new head teacher well aware of the sense of obligation as teacher who is responsible for the future of the country.

The teachers' meeting that day had a serious debate on how to improve the qualification of the teachers and make a better arrangement in the school.

As teachers of the already high-profile school, they redoubled their efforts. They are highly spoken of at the annual national seminar of teaching methodology, and most of them are October 8 Model Teachers. More than 600 certificates have been awarded to their experimental apparatuses, teaching aids, and programs.

Ri So Yon, a teacher, says, "When I was a student at middle school, I liked maths. I was disinterested in my Korean language lessons, so I wasn't attentive to the teacher's words. Whenever she examined my composition she used to mark the good and bad points, and write her opinion. At first I was criticized a lot. I began to do composition with reference to her opinion, and I got better beside myself. And I liked the red marks of the teacher. I always wondered what kind of opinion she would give whenever I presented a writing. And I got enthusiastic hoping to get good comments from her. Gradually I became interested in my Korean language lessons. Now I work hard to learn from my Korean language teacher while teaching maths to students."

Teacher Rim Jong Ho says, "I learned football from the serious yet kind-hearted sports teacher who discovered my talent in kicking and tried hard to make me a good footballer. He is dead now, and I work in his place. I appreciate his memory."

Every teacher who works at their old school keeps such a memory dearly. All the teachers of the school are enthusiastic about their work to train creative personnel—who will be able to shoulder the building of a thriving socialist nation—by implementing the universal 12-year compulsory education.

*Kim Son Ae*



# The Joy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

**W**HEN I ENTERED THE compound of the Pyongyang Medical College Hospital of Kim Il Sung University, I saw an old man coming out of the front door of the hospital with doctors and nurses around him. He was Kim Un Sin living in Sochang-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, who had undergone an operation for artificial transposition of above-knee hip joint and recovered the kinesthetic function. "I had trouble in sitting or walking as my hip joint was injured. But the doctors of the medical college hospital have completely cured me of it, so I can now walk freely again," Kim said, thanking the doctors and nurses over and over again.

Seeing the old man leaving the hospital with his wife and grandchildren, some people were chatting together, "A worker of my factory had to walk with the help of a cane after his leg got



**Researchers who developed the artificial femoral joint.**

hurt in an accident. But now, after having an operation at this hospital, he walks without a cane. He has restored his working ability."

"My younger brother limped for years due to the rheumatoid arthritis of hip joint. He had successful operation at this hospital, and now he walks freely without feeling any pain."

I met the doctors who had cured them. They are the researchers of the clinical labora-

tory. Professor and Doctor Jang Chang Ho, the main developer of the artificial femoral joint, says, "The main target of my study was to find out a proper biological metallic material, which doesn't degenerate in the body for a long time, to make an artificial hip joint with it suited to the constitution of Koreans."

When Jang set out on the research he was over fifty. However, he had rich clinical experience he acquired while working in the field of orthopaedic surgery for dozens of years. And the young and competent members of the research team supported his work. So the first artificial head of femur was made by their sincere efforts, but it wore off soon. Now the team resumed their work and made another head of femur with much better material while overcoming shortcomings, and applied it to the treatment. The new invention had a long life with flexible movement that the patients could walk and move freely without trouble after operation. Later, they developed an artificial joint which could substitute both head of femur and femoral bone. It relieved hundreds of people from the joint pain and deformation

caused by external injury, diseases and functional disorder. Section chief Kim Hui Man says, "We've made an artificial femoral joint with domestic material. It is up to the world standard in quality and form. And the operation method established in the course of long clinical practice is on a high level."

The artificial femoral joint was rated high at a national invention and new technology exhibition and other nationwide exhibitions. Some time ago the researchers and doctors involved in the research work were awarded the February 16 sci-tech prize, the top prize of its kind in the country. Jang Chang Ho says, "I've experienced many things in my life of 80 years, and I would feel myself happiest whenever I was seeing my patients completely restored to health. I'll perform my duty as a medical scientist who is responsible for the life and health of people to the last moment of my life."

Jang and his colleagues of the laboratory are now immersed in the research work for treating the people who suffer from knee joint disorders.

*Rim Ok*

**Kim Un Sin (second left) has recovered his physical ability by replacing his right femoral joint with an artificial one.**





# Our Doctors

“THE TONICS YOU HAVE sent us again recently are a great help to our health and treatment. We appreciate your help.” This is a part of a letter war veterans sent to their doctors at the Chongnyu Polyclinic in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, on the anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War (July 27) this year. The doctors of the polyclinic are making sincere efforts for preventive service and treatment of the war veterans and the inhabitants in the Chongnyu-dong area.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea there is a long-standing system in which doctors are in charge of a certain number of inhabitants in certain areas and look after their health. The Chongnyu Polyclinic makes sure that all its doctors improve their role in looking after their charges with a high sense of responsibility for the health of the inhabitants.

The primary attention in this respect is directed to hygienic publicity, inoculation and regular checkups. Hygienic publicity is conducted among the people on a regular basis, to say nothing of

when infectious diseases go around the world. Materials for the publicity are made in easy words so that the people may understand without difficulty. Doctors visit neighbourhoods and households to tell them how to look after themselves from season to season, what to do to cure certain diseases, and other necessary information.

Ri Chun Gyong who is in charge of Neighbourhood Unit No. 25, Chongnyu-dong No. 1, went out for hygienic publicity in the run-up to the World Day of Hand-washing. She explained about the importance of hand-washing in easy words using visual aids and videos.

Pleased to become aware of what they were ignorant of and learn everyday knowledge, the inhabitants look forward to their calls.

The treatment of the patients is also done in a responsible manner. The doctors pay attention to the preparation of a health care register for each household in their charge. The register has records of the health condition of children, chronic cases and pregnant women and women deliv-

ered of a child. It contains cards of inoculation, each person's type of blood, history of reaction to antibiotics and other items of health care since childhood. To say nothing of the new-born babies, the elderly people on pension are under responsible and systematic care of the doctors in charge.

The polyclinic is also making effort to improve the technical qualifications of the doctors. Through the technical lesson once a week, they exchange experience in treatment, learn modern and Koryo medicines, and debate problems arising in combining the two kinds of medicine. In the course of this they have established and improved the first-aid service system, thus enhancing the health service qualitatively.

Kim Mun Yong in charge of Neighbourhood Unit No. 15, Chongnyu-dong No. 3, made a success of treatment of a case on the strength of her experience she gained while studying Koryo remedies. She discovered traditional Korean treatments for nervous system-related diseases that had been based on the application of the modern medicine. According to the categories of the physical constitutions of the patients, she used methods of acupuncture and moxibustion mainly in the treatment of diseases in the circulatory system, the thyroid gland and hypertension. This brought forth progress in the cases and left no aftereffects. When there was a patient, she didn't wait for him to come but went out to see him and give medical service. Sometimes she watched on her cases day and night for many days. “I've got a lot of successes while treating them like my own kinsfolk,” says Kim.

*Rim Hye Gyong*



# The Promising Girl Athlete

**I**N JUNE LAST THE 16<sup>TH</sup> Asian youth athletic championships was held in China's Taipei. O Song Mi of Korea won the women's 1 500-metre race in the championships comprising more than 40 events. As a newcomer she took part in the international competition for the first time.

## Hope

From childhood Song Mi was often said to bear a striking resemblance to her mother, a singer, in appearance and character. Probably for that reason, she was good at reciting songs from TV. As a child she was full of dreams. She would often spend the daytime in mulberry fields in the hope of becoming a silkworm researcher like her father to produce beautiful silk cloth, or play injection with her friends for the purpose of becoming a doctor to cure people of diseases. In her primary school days she would play football with boys in the playground to become a famous woman footballer.

When she was 11, Kim Kwang Nam, an athletic sports teacher of the Uiju County Juvenile Sports School, North Phyongan Province, marked her out for her cheerful character and fine physical features. He called on her parents and told them that as Song Mi had a fine physical build suitable for athletics, she would succeed for sure in track and field events and that he would take charge of her training. Her parents agreed, but she would not say yes readily. Kim asked what she desired. She said she wanted to be a famous woman to delight her parents and villagers. Kim told her, "I think you know Jong Song Ok the marathon queen of the world. She, too, had a simple

hope like you when she was young. When she took the field in the international competition, few people thought she would win the race. But contrary to many people's thought, she won the contest because she kept in mind the nation's honour, not only her own fame."

At this, Song Mi made up her mind to bring glory to the motherland as Jong Song Ok had done.

## Gold Medal

The coach was strict with Song Mi in daily training. Whenever she collapsed on the track from exhaustion, he was merciless and sternly told her to stand up, scolding, "Feebleness is the worst taboo in sports. Stand up!" Sometimes she thought he was too strict and even regretted not having chosen music for her career. As if he read her mind, the coach would say, "Don't think of deserting from the course of life you have once chosen. If you have a firm determination to fight your way to the last, you will surely succeed. I'm strict with you because I regard you as my own daughter." Under this coach's guidance, her speed and perseverance improved fast. When she was 15, she moved to a central sports club.

Two years ago she got hurt in a leg while training in a mountain area and was sent to hospital for some time. Every evening after training, her coach and friends came a long way to see her for consolation. She recovered soon and returned to the fold of her colleagues.

...

The finish line was 200 metres away. Song Mi had to catch up and pass only one more runner, but she felt her strength was ebbing. It was the crucial mo-



ment. Suddenly, she saw in her mind's eyes the coach who offered her a glass of fruit juice in a break of training, her friends who gave her a kind send-off when she was leaving the homeland, and her dear native home and her parents. Now, 80 metres away from the goal, she summoned up all her strength and made a last spurt. She outstripped the rival and breasted the tape.

Many coaches and athletes from other countries and the members of the Asian Federation of Athletic Associations said, "The female athletes from Korea have a unique way of racing. Their perseverance and fortitude inspire our admiration. We think Korean athletes will win the races of adults in the future too."

Looking up at the national flag of Korea hoisted high overhead, Song Mi said to herself, "My homeland has given me this gold medal today."

*Kim Yong Ok*

# An Exhibition Hall for Intellectual Products

**S**OME TIME AGO AN intellectual product exhibition hall was newly built at the Invention Office of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, attracting public attention.

I met Ryu Chol Ho, department chief of the Invention Office, at the exhibition hall. Ryu said, "The exhibition hall works to quickly and widely promote intellectual products including inventions, patents and sci-tech hits that are highly appraised and deemed negotiable in the country, and connect them with the customers regularly. It activates the dissemination, exchange and circulation of new technical skills and makes a positive contribution to the development of knowledge-based economy."

On display in the hall are now products like direct-current high-voltage butterfly catcher and portable soil analyzer submitted by many units of agriculture, construction, and power, coal,

metal, mining, machine and chemical industries. Besides, there are on show sports apparatuses, daily necessities, medicines and health foods, such as mobile multi-purpose net posts, single-motor hand lawn mower, nano-gold injection, natural amino-sugar compound injection and chlorella health food. Inventions, new devices of technology and products of new idea are displayed here in the form of spot goods, diagram, brochures and videos. The exhibition hall also provides technological service such as search for inventions and patents, translation of patent documents, software and hardware offerings, application for registration of invention and technological consultation.

Paek Chol Ho, developer of nano-gold injection, said that he was very glad to be among the first exhibitors at the newly-built hall. Rim Chun Mok, developer of natural amino-sugar compound

injection, said, "It gives me great pleasure that products of the developers are on display at the hall run by the country's major sci-tech authentication institution. It will give the consumers scientific and technological guarantee for products without the developers' subjective explanations." Ryu said that showpieces at the hall would be replaced or updated continuously by other items in greater demand and, on the other hand, it will display worldwide inventions and patents and provide technological service for sci-tech data in keeping with the global trend.

The exhibition hall plays a special role in encouraging the scientists, technicians and the working people in scientific research and invention work. The hall will give a greater impetus to dissemination of sci-tech achievements registered in a unit to the whole society.

*Rim Sang Jun*





# Visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



(Continued from the last issue)

## Repulsing the Aggressors

GETTING TO THE OPERATIONS Section, we went into the hall dedicated to the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War. It shows historical facts in the period of June 25-September 15, 1950 when the Korean People's Army checked the US imperialists' armed invasion and drove out the invaders to the line of Rakdong River by launching a counteroffensive. There we first saw a photo of President Kim Il Sung delivering a radio address to all the Korean people.

The guide said: To cope with the armed invasion of the US imperialists and the south Korean stooges, Kim Il Sung held

an emergency meeting of the DPRK Cabinet on June 25 and ordered the People's Army and the then People's Security Forces to check the enemy's attack and turn over to a decisive counterattack immediately. On June 26 he made a historic radio address titled *Everything for victory in the war!* In his speech he called upon all the Korean people and the People's Army men and officers to rise up in the sacred struggle to wipe the US imperialists and their stooges out of the fatherland.

A mike and a recorder used by the leader at that time are on display.

In hearty response to his appeal, the Korean people turned out as one. In less than a month after the war broke out, hundreds of thousands of patriotic young

people across the northern half of Korea volunteered to go to war against the enemy.

The guide went on to explain: On the first day of the war Kim Il Sung put forward the strategic policy for the first stage of the Fatherland Liberation War. It aimed at foiling the enemy's armed invasion and promptly switching over to counterattacks to wipe out the main forces of the enemy in a short span of time and liberate the southern half of Korea by speedy manoeuvres and continuous blows before the enemy could mobilize huge reinforcements and deploying the armed forces in all areas of the country in a swift way so as to prevent the reinforcements of the US imperialists from landing.

Kim Il Sung took the politi- ▶



A large-sized picture of the operations for liberation of Seoul.

► cal, economic and military measures to carry out the policy and organized and led military operations in the frontline to the victory. Thanks to his command the KPA units administered lethal blows to the US aggression forces and the south Korean puppet army through many operations and battles including the battle in which they captured the enemy's capital city of Seoul in three days after the war broke out, the Taejon liberation battle that is a model of modern encirclement battle, the Jumunjin torpedo boat battle recorded in the world naval battle history, and the battle in which KPA units crossed Raktong River over night defying showers of bombs and shells.

Meanwhile, the people in the rear, too, rose as one to support the front. The students and young people who volunteered to go to war numbered as many as 849 000 as of August 15, 1950. The workers, peasants and all other people buckled down to various kinds of wartime cam-

paigns for increased production, especially the grain production. They turned out for railway and road repairs to ensure transport, procurement of military hardware including aircraft, tanks and warships, public security in the home front, the work to give assistance to the dependents of the KPA servicemen, and so on.

In the first stage of the war the heroic KPA men and officers gave the enemy decisive political and military defeats by dint of unparalleled bravery and mass heroism, and liberated over 90% of the south Korean area and more than 92% of its population. In this period, the KPA units completely destroyed the US 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division that had been bragging itself as “ever-victorious division” and the south Korean puppet army’s 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> infantry divisions, and dealt smashing blows to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division of the US aggression forces and the south Korean 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> infantry divisions and

Capital Division. Meanwhile, the KPA airmen and seamen struck hard blows to the US’s Far Eastern air force and fleet.

Guided by the curator, we looked round several relief maps showing battles, a blood-stained DPRK flag, military colours and various kinds of exhibits. Now we came to see a large panorama showing the battle to liberate Seoul. We were stuck to the panorama of the then Seoul streets and battle scenes. When the KPA troops’ advance was checked by the enemy’s desperate resistance, Kim Il Sung ordered a combined tank unit to launch a decisive battle five kilometres ahead of the preordained line. This was a critical measure that made a decisive success in the direction of the main attack. Under the wise leadership of KPA Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung many of the KPA units advanced as far as to Miari Hill north of Seoul by the evening of June 27. Before the attack to capture the city, he made small units of tanks and ►



▶ mechanized infantry units penetrate into the heart of the city to throw the enemy into confusion.

In front of the large panorama of the Seoul liberation operation, the visitors realized that the victorious operation to capture the enemy's capital city was just the fruition of Kim Il Sung's wise leadership who put forward unique military tactics including the correct decision of the main striking direction, concentration of the forces and equipment on the direction and the combination of large and small units in battles.

The story about the postponed time to attack Seoul was quite impressive. For fear that the Seoul citizens might be injured and the precious cultural heritage destroyed if the fight took place at night, Kim Il Sung saw to it that the battle was postponed to the next day. This fact



A picture of the offensive operations in Osan.

made us realize anew that the victory had already been in store for the KPA that was fighting for the destiny of the country.

Remembering the truth that the people who fight for the jus-

tice under the wise leadership of an outstanding leader will emerge victorious without fail, we went to the next hall.

*Kim Chol Ung  
(To be continued)*

A picture of the fierce battles on the Raktong River.





# Child Performers in Spotlight

**I**N MAY LAST A SMALL ART group of Korean schoolchildren captivated their audience with rich volume of voice, marvelous technical skills and peculiar tones of national musical instruments at the Bergen International Art Festival held in Norway. TVs, radios and newspapers of Bergen and Norway at large gave wide publicity to their performance almost everyday during the festival.

## Child entertainers

Jong Chol Ho, department head of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace, says, "My students were loudly applauded and got encores at each program of their performance. Moreover, although they were different in

nationality and language, the audience and my performers hit it off together, and were engrossed in the world of music. Seeing them I was proud of my students. After seeing the performance, a person concerned with the festival expressed his excitement, saying that it was more wonderful than the opening performance of the festival prepared by renowned producers and entertainers for six months."

The participants in the festival are all students of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace. They are Kim Ryong Jong, 11, Kim Jin Hyok, 16, and Kim Jang Hyok, 16, Kim So Yong, 12, Jo Tok Song, 12, Hwang Song Yon, 13, Ro Hyon Ok, 13, who are all sons and daughters of ordinary army officers, and blue and white collar workers. At the festival Ryong

Jong enjoyed the biggest hand for his national folk songs *Ballad of Mt. Singo* and *Our Best Country*, and his *jangu* solo.

His musical talent drew the attention of the people in his kindergarten days, and when he was eight, he earned the fame of being a little *jangu* master in the country. On one occasion when the palace was making preparations for an artistic performance, the program of his *jangu* playing was combined with singing. When teachers were trying to select a suitable singer for the program, he said he could sing the song while playing the *jangu*. As he did it, they found his voice appropriate for the program. Later, they taught him systematic vocal music training as well as the drum kit. Last year he was highly appreciated for his *jangu* solo and folk song solo at the national schoolchildren's vocal and instrument solo



# Parental Care

**P**AK YON HWA, A WORKER at the Sindang Stockbreeding Cooperative Farm in Ichon County, Kangwon Province, has looked after 43 orphans.

One day eighteen years ago she, in her early 30s, happened to read a newspaper article about some people who had adopted orphans and brought them up with more than parental care. A fellow worker beside her murmured in an emotional voice, "Could I look after others' children as kindly as their parents?" Her words pierced through Pak's thoughts.

That evening Pak found herself restless in her bed far into the night. Unable to stand it any longer, she sat up and told her husband Ri Kwang Ryol what she had read in the newspaper. He

thought a lot about his wife's decision to adopt orphans. At the time, that is, in the mid-1990s, the hard time of the country was also affecting his family of four severely. After a good while, he said, "I agree on your decision if you're determined to see it out."

Days later Pak saw Ri enter the house taking eight stranger children with him. She stood frozen, when Ri said to her with a smile, "Do you remember what happened when we met first? You saw some maize seedlings left idle and planted them. That'll be enough."

Now a story flashed across her mind. It happened one day before they were married. On her way from a work in a rural village away from home she happened to see some maize seed-

lings left carelessly on the edge of a plot by a rivulet. She couldn't leave them as they were, so she began to plant them. At the moment a young man appeared from the other side of the plot and called out, "What do you think you're doing in the plot where the maize seedlings have just been planted?" Perhaps he was angry, but when he approached the girl, he became thankful. "Thank you. I appreciate your work," he said.

"No farm worker would feel easy if he leaves them behind as they are," she replied.

Attracted by her sincerity, the head of the youth subworkteam of Sindang-ri proposed to the girl of Kaecheon-ri.

Now that the number of family members got larger, everything got scanty, spoons and

► competition.

Besides, *kayagum* player Kim So Yong, bass guitar player Jo Tok Song, accordionist Kim Jang Hyok, and Hwang Song Yon and Ro Yon Ok who sang songs while playing the tambourine, and violinist Kim Jin Hyok who played a foreign song admirably at the Bergen Festival have all received after-school artistic instruction at the palace since their primary school days. They are popular performers already.

## Pouches of earth

Another spectacular thing about the Korean performers at the festival was the pouches of earth they kept. Whether they went on sightseeing or perform-

ance they always carried them with them. Everyday in the evening they would sing songs about their teachers and homes with the pouches in their hands, sometimes the girls shed tears of yearning. Jin Hyok's mother gave each of the seven children pouches of earth, saying it was the earth from Jangdae Hill (the hill in the centre of Pyongyang where the palace stands).

The children wrote in their diaries:

Ryong Jong: "The bag of earth reminded me of my strict vocal music teacher and grandma. When the performance was over, a journalist asked me whom I was missing most. I answered I would like to see my teachers."

Tok Song: "When I saw the

pouch, I recollected how I planted and tendered trees and flowers around the palace."

The day the performance was over, Jin Hyok wrote, "I stroked the pouch before the performance. While I was on the stage, the images of my parents and teachers flashed across my mind. I feel as if I played and sang the song with all my heart. The pouch was a great help to my successful performance today."

Jong Chol Ho says, "The festival further beefed up my pride in my students. I find it a worthwhile job to train such good students. I think I will continue to work hard to bring up more nice performers at the palace."

*Kim Yong Ok*

► quilts, in particular. What got larger was the size of the cooking range and the pots.

Then, the number of children further grew to dozens. There was always the want of hands and time for the caring of the children. The burden got heavier incomparably. The earliest fire to be made to prepare breakfast was the Paks', the last light to be turned off in the evening was the Paks', and the most heavily-laden clothes line was the Paks'. The mother's hands could not dry up, holding the work for the children's support all the time. She had to get up early in the morning, make breakfast, get the children ready for school, and pick up farming tools to make haste to the plots. Touched by her devoted efforts, the village women brought her children special dishes they made while the officials of the rural community provided them with firewood before it ran out. School teachers and doctors of the local people's hospital visited them frequently.

One January day the next year after the orphans were adopted, something unhappy

happened. Strange enough, the children would not take their spoons, studying one another's face. Looking over the vessels of food spread on the table, Pak asked what was happening. One of the children murmured, "It's Chung Ok's birthday today, but..." Now Pak knew she had forgotten it was her real daughter's birthday. At the moment Chung Ok threw off her spoon on the table and ran out of the room. Some other children also put down their spoons. Pak hurried out of the room and said to Chung Ok, "You're making other children study your face before having a meal." Tears streamed down her cheeks. Phyon Gwang, her real son who knew that his mother put white rice in the lunch boxes of other children while filling those of her real children with granulated maize, took his sister by the hand and told his mother suppressing his sobs, "Mum, please don't try to remember our birthdays any longer."

Something unpleasant happened again one winter day. It was quite windy that evening when Chong Gwang ran away. In

anxiety Pak went about here and there looking for him. Feeling failure, she returned exhausted. When she was at the entrance of the village, she could no longer stand, and fell down over the snow. Things of the past one year flashed across her mind. At the moment she saw some of her children rushing to her from afar through the snow. They all crumbled down in her embrace, bursting into cry to see her frozen to a mass of snow. One of them said, "Chong Gwang is a bad boy. Let him go if he wants it."

Pak admonished, "There's no bad boy in the world. The problem is I'm not a good mum."

Then the children snuggled up into her embrace, sobbing, "No, mum. You're a good mum. We're bad children. We were too cruel when we told him off, so he ran away."

Now the children turned out to find the missing child. They called him in chorus again and again.

This is an episode of Pak's life dedicated to the caring for the adopted children.

One October day last year the Ichon Noodle House saw a wedding ceremony of seven of her children amidst the blessings of the whole county. By now 20 of her children have got married. At the wedding parties, Ri used to ask the newly wed, "Have many sons and daughters." The simple words reflected the sincerity of the couple, who believe the coming generations will have a brighter future and that the socialist family will keep prospering.

*Ri Sun Nyo*





# Thirty-five-year Career

**R**ECENTLY I TALKED WITH PEOPLE'S Artist Yu Yong Gi, chief of the mural production of the Mansudae Art Studio. Yu is a celebrated artist who has created scores of murals worthy of national treasure. At the talks he gave an account of how he had sealed ties with fine art.

Yu was born in Hoeyang County, Kangwon Province. His parents were both teachers, mother at primary school and father at middle school. He is the eldest of the six children. His county was mountainous. There were all kinds of trees, like pines, *Crataegus pinnatifida.*, *Aceraceae meno.*, birches, elms and castor aralias, and wild vegetables and medicinal herbs. Different kinds of animals were also found, including roe deer, badgers, raccoon dogs, cuckoos and black woodpeckers. In the rivers meandering around the mountains were seen schools of special Korean species like *Gonoproktopterus mylodon*. This kind of natural scenery nourished rich emotion in his highly imaginative mind and nurtured a strong desire to make a picture of the mountains, fields and rivers. So, he often made a sketch of his locality. The art teacher of his school discovered his talent in his pictures and offered a good help.

When he was 13, he had an opportunity decisive of his career. Teachers of the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts visited his school to pick up talent. Yu passed the test, and came to learn the mural art at the university. After finishing college he started his career at the Mansudae Art Studio, which is a comprehensive art centre. He has since produced scores of murals which are national treasure.

Unlike other genres of fine art, mural is characteristic of monumental quality. For dozens of years of his career Yu has endeavoured to develop the Korean mural art into a large-sized form with rich and profound content and complete formative depiction and a latest style based on diversified techniques of portrayal and abundant and stable materials.

A typical example of his is *Cheers of the Nation*. It is a magnificent monument dedicated to the show of President Kim Il Sung making a historic speech at the Pyongyang Mass Rally held on October 14, 1945 to welcome his triumphal return home after defeating the Japanese aggressors. The young and virile image of the national leader who indicates the direction and ways for the building of a new nation while acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers of the people shows well the passion and courage of the leader, legendary hero and young general who led the anti-Japanese armed struggle to victory. The



**People's Artist Yu Yong Gi (third left), head of the mural production, discusses about a work.**

placards like the ones reading "Warm welcome to General Kim Il Sung on his triumphal return home!" and "Long live the Korean independence!" and the images of the red flag-holding workers, peasants, intellectuals, young girls, old women and other people demonstrate the contemporary realities of Korea when the whole nation was offering warm welcome to the leader overwhelmed with the joy of being free from the Japanese military occupation. The mural was created dozens of years ago and it still fills the viewers with the day's emotion and joy.

Yu is grey-haired now. He says, "My brothers all went to college although my father died soon after I entered college. My mother often says it is what she never dreamed of. She says the education system of our country has brought us up marvellously. My brothers and I promised to do our jobs creditably."

His eldest son Yu Chol also finished the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. He is counted as a promising jewel painting artist at the Mansudae Art Studio. He says, "My father is normally a quiet and reticent character. But once at work he is more than enthusiastic. I have just begun to work as a career painter, and he tells me, 'When I was assigned to work at the studio, I worshiped my seniors. They were authoritative and had honorary titles. I wondered when I could reach their standard. I have learned from my experience that success is the result of enthusiasm.' I wish I would learn his manner of work."

Yu Yong Gi is almost 60, but he is as passionate as he was in his youth about creation of murals.

*Rim Ok*

# Touring Korea

## Correct Impression

I'VE BEEN IN KOREA several times. I tried to go surfing in this country in 2012, but we failed to catch the waves. But I didn't give up. I see surfing is a great way to build friendship and have good relationship.

We can share the culture and sports with this country. So we have cultural exchange to have better relationship. That's why I organized the surfing complex to build friendship and relationship and exchange culture. And we didn't want just to bring the sports and give it to tourists. So

ily to visit this country with some other friends. And at that time I realized that the value of this country being open to visitors is really high. The best way we can have a better relationship is to meet each other. Actually the future relationship depends on how long you know each other. This country's open to people wishing to see it. And I think it's important for many people to come and know this country to have a correct impression when some people have false impression.

*Gabe Segoine, leader of the*

in Korea and also tourism.

The beaches in this country are beautiful. We went to Lake Sijung, Sijung Beach and Majon Beach. We drove to the beautiful country, beautiful to see—beautiful mountains, beautiful fields and rice. My favourite part was meeting the people. The guides were so kind and gave us warm hospitality. We stayed in beautiful hotels—Sijung Hotel and Majon Beach Hotel. There are no uncomfortable things at those hotels.

I had a favourite thing in Sijung. I took mud bath for the first time. Never done before, I've seen

**Surfing is one of the sports tourism events.**



we bought surfing equipment this time to leave it to friends. Surfing The Nations, myself and one of our members raised money to buy ten surfing boards to leave in this country. I pioneer to organize skiing and snowboard tour. Surfing and snowboarding is quite related in the way you move your body. So I think many surfers would come and go snowboarding. I hope and desire that when we leave the 12 guides who learned surfing will continue surfing and sharing surfing with their friends.

Last year I brought my fam-

*35<sup>th</sup> American tourist team*

*Gabe Segoine Gabe S*

## Hope to Come Back

Surfing The Nations is a humanitarian organization and we see surfing as a tool to make friendship. We hope it will increase tourism for your country and bring many people here to be friends. And now because we trained the guides from the Korean International Travel Company we have surfers in Korea. It's opening up the beach activity

before. I understand mud is very good for skin, for Koreans have beautiful skin. The food is very, very good. We love kimchi and toufu and like the teas—*Poricha* and *Ssukcha*. We all went to the Masikryong Ski Resort. Some others of our team are already talking about coming back to go snowboarding.

*Tom Bauer and Cindy Bauer,  
the 35<sup>th</sup> American tourist team*

*CINDY BAUER Cindy Bauer*

*TOM BAUER Tom Bauer*

# Rare Birds Come and Settle

**A**N INCREASING NUMBER of people visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state. There working people from all walks of life, youths and schoolchildren, overseas Koreans and foreigners look up at the portraits of the President and the Chairman with beaming smiles.

Their yearning for the leaders who devoted their all to the country and the people, the time and mankind has developed the palace into a sacred place of the sun. Thanks to their efforts, the palace area on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River has turned into a large woodland with various species of trees and all kinds of flowers. A favourable ecological environment has come into existence for birds' habitation. Hence, different kinds of

birds from across the world have settled there.

Recently birds of the southern origin have nested. They are *Egretta intermedia* (Wagler, 1829) and *Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus, 1758). They both belong to *Ardeidae* of *Ciconiiformes* and live in tropical wetlands. It is the first time in Korea that *Egretta intermedia* inhabit in Pyongyang. Earlier they are known to nest in some other areas of the country. And it is reportedly unprecedented in the world that such a large flock of them have settled in one place. It is also accepted that *Nycticorax nycticorax* is a rarer kind *Egretta intermedia*. There is a record *Egretta intermedia* seen in an area of the country in 1925 and 1931, but no mentioning of their inhabitation in a large number. Ornithologist Pak Rae Bon says that it is a conspicuous phenome-

non enriching the bird fauna of Korea that the birds which had lived in southern sultry wetland settle and propagate in the arboretum of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun.

A significant comment goes that the birds have come to the arboretum attracted by the mind of the progressive people who always yearn for the President and the Chairman. People from across the world plant all good species of trees and flowers in the arboretum of the palace. So, the ecological environment has improved remarkably.

Now the palace, the one and only sacred temple of the sun in the world, has got fascinating landscape with rare trees and birds, supported by all the people in the world wishing for the immortality of the President and the Chairman.

*Kim Ho Nam*



*Egretta intermedia.*



*Nycticorax nycticorax.*





# Devoted Efforts

**K**ANGDONG COUNTY IN THE SUBURBS of Pyongyang, Korea, is well known across the country for an admirable afforestation project. The mountains in the county are thick with good species of trees, including Changsong larches, *Pinus strobus* L. and Pyongyang maples. For example, in the Taeri Workers' District, larches cover the mountains, reminding the observers of the larch forest in the highlands. The county people say it is inconceivable apart from the unknown efforts of the officials and workers of the Kangdong County Forest Management Station.

This year the station started their annual work by expanding its parent nursery. It was not an easy job for them to do construction while growing saplings. But in the early summer the main building and facilities like a large-sized outdoor ground for planting cuttings, a seed processing and keeping house and a base for production of light-substrate humus cakes began to make their appearances.



One day when Kim Sung Chol, director of the station, was looking around the channel construction site for irrigation of the outdoor ground for planting cuttings, an idea came across his mind. He thought that the newly-arranged outdoor cultivation ground might suffer from flooding as the soil of the ground dipped gradually, and that the underdrain construction for preventing flooding should be pushed ahead with simultaneously on the dozen main spots. When he suggested his opinion, some people voiced disagreement, asking to tackle it after they finished the ongoing projects as no one could tell for sure it would be flooded. Then the director said, "What are we doing all this work for? It is because we have to grow even one more sapling, and that more strongly. It is true that there will be no problem even if some saplings here fail to be planted on the mountain. But I know we'll all be sorry for it."

His words were representative of the unanimous heart of the workers. So they redoubled their efforts to finish the channel and underdrain construction. Thus they completed both of them in 15 days.

Regarding that the mountains and trees reflect the true image of patriots the workers made painstaking efforts to introduce the management of agroforestry. When a mountainous terrain in Ryonghung-ri was chosen for trial introduction, some people disagreed, for it is in a secluded place and, worse still, they knew even shrubs could hardly strike a root there. Other people gave their opinion to choose another place favourable for it.

At a meeting to discuss the matter Kang Yong Hwa from Sunchang-ri, who had worked as a work-team leader of the station over 20 years, said, "The mountain terrains in my charge in Sunchang-ri did not have good soil originally. But now we grow crops and pick wild fruits there. And we use them to make snacks and subsidiary foods for the children at local nurseries and kindergartens. Whether they are good or not, they are all the land we should take care of." In the meeting they agreed that they could grow crops and trees if they fertilized the soil with plenty of high-quality organic fertilizer. Now all the workers of the station turned out in the campaign to fertilize the land and grow crops and trees. This year they produced a large amount of raw materials there and sent them to local-industry factories in the county.

The devoted efforts of the workers to turn the mountains into the luxuriant forests can be seen in the notes of Ri Ung Chan, who has worked as a forest ranger there for scores of years. "Though I'm a grey-haired man, I make the rounds of my assigned area several times everyday. After interviewing me many of the writers and journalists came to the hasty conclusion that the source of my energy is my attachment to and pride in the creation I've made. But it is in that I think there is still something I have to do, and I am not satisfied with one round of inspection a day."

*Ri Song Chol*

# My Subworkteam Members

By Pyon Chang Ryul

*(Continued from the last issue)*

CHUN HWA WAS ENJOYING the sight with an overwhelming sense of glee. She recalled what a strenuous effort her subworkteam had made to make the success. During the winter nights they had prepared straw covers, rods and other farming materials for preparation of seedlings beds; some nights when it was quite windy and cold, they had covered the beds with their own quilts and blankets to prevent the seedlings from being frost-bitten; the shortage of farming materials and, especially the food, had been overcome with the united efforts of the workers; determined to look after the plots near each of their homes, they used to go out to the plots early in the morning and even at midnight to make the seedlings beds and plant seeds; even the shortage of hands during the transplanting season had been solved without difficulty thanks to the voluntary efforts of the workers.

Abruptly something flashed across her mind. Now she remembered Hyo Sun had told her there was going to be a performance of the schoolchildren on the bank of the Songwon Stream. Myong Sik had mentioned it intentionally, too. But she had clean forgotten it because she had

been engrossed in the last task of rice transplantation.

Embarrassed, her eyes darted here and there about the subworkteam members. They looked only happy with the completion of the transplantation. Chun Hwa thought she was lucky they were ignorant of the fact. But how sorry would they be if they knew it? She knew the performance team included some of the children of her subworkteam members. As a matter of fact, she had been lukewarm about the performance from the moment she heard it, for she had been afraid of losing the time and labour. Presumably somebody could have been sent for them to the Kolgae paddies, but as the head of the subworkteam had been told of it personally, it might be only a vague possibility. She felt sorry for the members of the subworkteam, and yet tried to caress herself by the fact they finished the transplantation first of all others in the county.

The Songwon Stream in the evening was crowded with the workers after the day's work. Proud of their successful finish of the transplantation ahead of others in the county, the members of the Third Subworkteam were chatting unusually loudly and giving loud laughter. A woman worker of the First Subworkteam addressed the Third Subwork-

team jealously, "I'm sorry you Third Subworkteam didn't see the nice performance. You should have seen it ahead of all other things; you know, it won the national contest."

The words stung Chun Hwa. And, to make matters worse, she saw Myong Sik's tractor standing some way from the place.

"What are you talking about?" Ku Jong Sim shouted back. "They visited us and gave a performance for us alone. You know the children go around for model workers, and the Kolgae paddies are not so far off."

No one talked back. One of them murmured, "I can't understand. I think I saw them head for the Eighth Workteam after a performance here."

The head of the Fourth Subworkteam, shaking his head dubiously, turned to Chun Hwa, his eyes probably asking if it was true.

At the moment Yong Ae cried in a high-pitched voice, "Trumpet solo and wind music 'Songun Nil-iri,' trumpet solo by Mun Chol Ryong of A-2."

Then all the members of the Third Subworkteam shouted in chorus as if in promise, "Then, accordion chorus 'At a breath.'" Then, they sang the song "At a breath."

The collective counterattack gave rise to a roar of laughter ►

► and merriment mixed with the sounds of the water. And yet Chun Hwa was in embarrassment, for she now knew that her workers had been aware of the schedule of the performance. But they rose in revolt against the attack from other subworkteams, when she herself didn't do anything to defend the honour of her subworkteam.

She suddenly felt as if someone were staring at her from behind. She looked back and came across with the piercing glare of Myong Sik. His eyes were betraying his disappointment, disillusionment and feelings of being deserted. Chun Hwa felt she could not hide anything from such eyes. They could possibly penetrate and find out anything she tried to hide to herself alone.

"I say, the subworkteam heads are called to a meeting of junior leaders at the farm management board—in 15 minutes," cried a worker of the stockbreeding subworkteam towards the shores of the river.

The ducks and geese made their own formations and set out after a worker of the stockbreeding subworkteam. A young man followed behind them, making ridiculous gestures like the ducks. Then he thrust his long arms behind and walked clumsily with his upper body shaking right and left and his head nodding forward and backward—just like the goose.

Women were doubled up with laughter. Everybody was happy. Chun Hwa felt a little relieved. The meeting helped her evade

the sharp eyes of Myong Sik and the approach to her workers which would be quite an embarrassing moment.

There burst explosive sounds of the tractor all at once, taking Chun Hwa unawares. Myong Sik's tractor ran past her, kicking water threateningly. As if giving vent to his anger against her, it vomited the black fume recklessly.

Chun Hwa looked up at the top of the bank to see some subworkteam heads and workteam leaders already there. Calming herself down, she straightened herself up and began to walk up. She anticipated the meeting of junior leaders was going to deal with the matter of finishing the rice transplantation as soon as possible and that her subworkteam's achievement would be introduced with applause. But the voices of her subworkteam members—which she thought were perhaps filled with suspicion and criticism against her and did not reach her ears yet—seemed to be smothering her joy over their finish of the rice transplantation first of all others.

The meeting ended late in the evening. Chun Hwa was recommended as a model subworkteam head. The man who supervised the meeting as a higher official said she had something about her to be "chairperson of the farm management board." It was natural that she should be presented as a model worker at the TV stage to be held in the playground of the county senior middle school.

On her way back home Chun

Hwa dropped in at Hyo Sun's house because she wanted to open her heart to her and solicit her advice. But Hyo Sun was not at home. Her mother said she had left to the Eighth Workteam earlier in the evening. The workteam was a good distance off, but Hyo Sun had gone there despite her physical troubles. Chun Hwa doubted what had brought her there. For a while she didn't know what to do, and then decided to visit Myong Sik at home. She wished she would get his pardon before he could criticize her for the day's affair, which she was certain of. She hesitated to approach his house at the entrance of the alley, when a little girl in the neighbourhood was passing. She asked the girl to tell Myong Sik she was there waiting. In a few minutes the girl came out and said he wasn't in. She said he had gone to the Eighth Workteam. *Why had he gone there like Hyo Chun?* Chun Hwa wondered.

Beside herself, she headed for the Eighth Workteam and made some steps before coming to a stop hopelessly. In the sky numerous stars were twinkling along with the smiling new moon while in the fields the frogs were singing a monotonous tune which had been their hereditary music. *What kind of things could she tell Myong Sik if she met him at any curb of the silent road? Nay, what kind of things would he talk to her about?* As if something of a doom was creeping to her, her body tightened.

*(To be continued)*



# Piro Peak in Mt. Kumgang

**M**T. KUMGANG, A celebrated mountain of Korea, spans over 40 km from the east to the west and more than 60 km from the north to the south, and it covers 530 square km.

The summit is called Piro Peak, rising 1 639 m above sea level. It also makes up one of the major peaks in the Thaebaek Mountains.

The Piro, whose base rock is granite, gives rise to small streams and rivulets including the Tongkumgang-chon, a tributary of the Kumgang Stream. On the top part are found a lot of dwarf trees like *Pinus pumila* and *Thuja*, and shrubberies like subcordata, rhododendrons, royal azaleas and azaleas. There are also not a few sub-arctic plants which are usually to be seen in high plateaus.

From the top of the peak you can have a bird's-eye view of the 12 000 peaks of the mountain. You can see a contrasting sight of the majestic and magnificent rocks in the Outer Kumgang and the gentle and soft beauty of the ravines of the Inner Kumgang. The landscape involves the far-reaching and splendid views of the Sea Kumgang and the East Sea of Korea.

Different shapes of rocks spread on the peak, forming another *Manmulsang*, or a kaleidoscope of 10 000 pictures. Big rocks look like beasts, humans, books or writing brushes from different angles. Their appearances are different according to whether you look them up or down.

On the way up past the fan-

tastic rocks, there is a hill called "20-year Pass." It is shaped like a mother with a baby in her arms. This sculpture-like rock also goes by the name of Love Rock. It is associated with a legend which goes that a good couple in Mt. Kumgang had a dear child after paying services to the "mountain god" on the pass for twenty years. The names of the rock are both related to the shape.

The beautiful scenery of Piro Peak is different according to seasons, weather and hours of the day. In spring, the slopes are decorated with all kinds of flowers, the ravines are buried in verdure in summer, the ranges and ravines are tinged red with golden leaves. Each period of the year has peculiar pictures there.

Even on a sunny day clouds come and go so frequently that you can hardly have a long time

to enjoy a given sight. You may have a clear sight of a valley far down for a moment, and then fog suddenly fills the place as a whole before rising to cover the slopes and surround the peaks around, making them look like an islet among the waves of the sea. Then you can't distinguish the land from the sky and sea. Sometimes you feel as if floating in the sky, and then you may suddenly feel frightened to see sharp cliff faces and the bottom of ravines as the clouds disperse. At a moment you can see as far as to the East Sea of Korea, and then, the fog fills the place in a flash making it impossible to see even a few metres ahead.

What is outstanding of the scenery on the peak is the sunrise over the East Sea of Korea and the mountain at twilight.

*Kim Hyon Ju*



# Myohyangsan Mineral Water

ONCE UPON A TIME there lived a diligent peasant family in a hamlet called Sobokol at the southern foot of Mt. Myohyang. The kind-hearted peasant with Herculean strength commanded respect of the village as he took upon himself the most difficult jobs of the village while giving a lot of helping hand to the neighbours.

One spring day he fell ill suddenly and got bed-ridden. As his couple had four little children his wife couldn't go to work away from home. So, his eldest son Su Dong, 12, had to bear the burden of the household tasks.

One morning Su Dong left home early to dig medicinal herbs. Past the Kungang Whirlpool in front of the Pohyon Temple, he went about four km up the Hyangsan Stream, crossed it and climbed up and down Thaki Peak, gathering medicinal herbs. Feeling exhausted, he fell down and asleep at a place under a cliff.

When he woke up he couldn't tell how long he had been asleep, and the sun hung over Thaki Peak. At the time a flock of birds came flying and settled in a place under a rock nearby. In a minute they flew away. Struck with an idea, the boy ran up to the place only to find a spring with clear water gushing out. He lay on his knees and elbows and drank some water. It was quite sweet and refreshing. He knew it was water of uncommon qualities. He filled a porcelain bottle which he had been carrying on his side, and returned home in haste.

When his father was given a drink of the water, he came to immediately, opening his eyes wide. From the day Su Dong

travelled to the spring three times a day. He felt happy to see his father getting well thanks to the water.

But on the fourth night, the rain poured down from the sky that had been dry for longer than a month. The Hyangsan Stream swelled to a big river. The flood rushed down threateningly, and even after three days Su Dong didn't dare to cross it. His father relapsed into bed.

On the fifth day the boy decided to cross the stream at any cost and left for the spring. The current dwindled a lot, but was still quite swift. In a defiant manner, however, Su Dong launched into the crossing. He made one step forward after another, but finally slipped a step, crumbling into the water. He began to drift down. Soon he would be carried into the Kungang Whirlpool where they said there was a big tunnel in the middle that led to the West Sea of Korea. Su Dong was being engulfed into the whirl, when a woman appeared from nowhere, took him in her arms and soared up from the water.

"You don't know me, boy?" she asked.

Su Dong gaped at her, without making any reply.

"I'm a fish of this pool," she said, and continued. "I remember you saved me in the past. One day when the water was high, I swam upstream for a sightseeing of Mt. Myohyang. But enraptured by the landscape, I didn't notice the water go down. I was caught in the grass and was almost dead, when you came to my rescue."

Now Su Dong remembered what had happened days before. Searching for a way to cross the

Hyangsan Stream, he had been going up and down the water. In a place he had happened to hear some noises from a grassy place. He ran up and found a big fish writhe in the shallow water with its white belly up. He had caught up the fish, when it had shed big drops of tear. Sorry for the fish, he had let it go in the deep stream.

Now the very fish saved him. It was a wonderful thing, indeed.

"I'm sorry that I didn't thank you at the time before I returned. I'd been expecting you again here, and I now saw you in danger. What made you try to cross the stream?" she asked.

Su Dong told his story. Listening to him carefully, the woman said with a smile, "Please be reassured. I'll make sure you needn't cross the water any more. Tomorrow morning I'll move the spring this side of the Hyangsan Stream. You'll see it." Leaving the words behind she changed into a fish and disappeared into the water.

Early the next morning Su Dong left home and went to the place indicated by the fish. Under a big, moss-grown round rock a spring came into existence. Clear water was spouting from the crannies of the rock. The boy tried a drink, and knew it was the very water he had had earlier. He filled a bottle in a hurry and came back home at a dash.

His father drank it, and sat up. Soon he became able to go out again and got well. So, all the family returned to a happy life, and Su Dong became a giant thanks to the spring and lived a long life at the foot of Mt. Myohyang. □

# Old Books of Korea

**T**HE KOREAN ANCESTORS left behind countless cultural legacies comprising various fields. One of them is the old books which vividly show the features of each period of Korean history and the resourcefulness and talent of the Korean people in olden times. The most remarkable of them are the Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), the Minutes of Pibyonsa and the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures printed with 80 000 blocks .

The Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty is the government records of feudal Joseon in the form of diary which comprehensively registers various historical facts ranging from policies of the feudal government and its external activities such as diplomacy, trade and cultural exchange to music, dance, fine arts, industrial arts, and natural phenomena of astronomy and meteorology. The book is a national treasure of Korea which adds to the treasure-house of human culture with its extensive and comprehensive collection of historical materials and graphical facts.

*Minutes of Pibyonsa*, an official diary of Pibyonsa, which was the supreme office in the latter half of the dynasty, records historical facts of politics, the economy, military and foreign affairs in a richer and more detailed manner than any other old books. For its objective descrip-

tion it is also a precious book of special value in the study of the history of the latter half of the dynasty.

The Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures printed with 80 000 wooden blocks is well-known to the world for its enormous volumes and the oldest age among other Old Collections of Buddhist Sutras. With its rich and correct contents it is accepted as the standard collection of Buddhist Scriptures. Its high wooden block printing technique at that time holds its own in the world's history of printing. The books of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures were found and saved by the concern of the state, not by some academic research group.

During the Korean war the original texts of the Chronicles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty were left in utter neglect in a library of Seoul, in danger of destruction due to US imperialists' bombings. So, the state took all possible measures to save them. President Kim Il Sung gave credentials signed by himself to the officials assigned to the task of rescuing

the books and provided all necessary conditions for their work. He saw to it that the books were kept in an office of the Supreme Headquarters of the Korean People's Army all through the war. After the war he suggested translating the Chinese texts of the chronicles into Korean, and took steps to form a translation team, setting forth the basic principles to be followed in translation. And Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that all necessary conditions were ensured for translating the chronicles and guided the work meticulously. Scores of scholars took part in the compilation and publication of the 400 volumes in translation, which took 20 years.

At present, while deepening the study of the translated old books, scholars are earnestly engaged in the discovery, preservation, translation and publication of old books laden with nation's time-honoured history and splendid culture in a professional and unified way. The translated versions of the ancient books of Korea are increasing day after day.

*Ri Song Chol*



***Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures printed with 80 000 blocks (above) and Minutes of Pibyonsa (right).***





# Ancient Things on Moran Hill in Good Preservation

**M**ORAN HILL IS A HISTORICALLY SCENIC place. Its name Moran (peony flower) comes from the shape of the location that looks like a blooming peony blossom. Hillocks rise in succession around the Choesung Pavilion on the top of the Kumsusan ridge which stretches a good distance along the bank of the Taedong River. In the area are

**Ulmil Pavilion.**



**Chongnyu Pavilion.**

found a great deal of ancient structures and historical sites, including the Ulmil and Choesung pavilions, Chilsong, Chongnyu and Hyonmu gates which all date back to the time of Koguryo (277 B.C.–A.D. 668). The two pavilions used to be generals' terraces where they watched the enemy and commanded the forces in battles. The Hyonmu and Chilsong gates were once gates to the walled town of Pyongyang. The structures remain as they were ages ago. This is partly attributable to the efforts of the workers of the Pyongyang Municipal National Culture Preservation Company.

Ko In Suk has been looking after the historical things in the district for a dozen years. She is unusually attached to her job. She has got a good deal of historical knowledge while reading historical literature, and she serves as a good guide to those who come to see the historical sites on Moran Hill. There are many visitors day after day, and foreigners, in particular, are quite interested in the Koreans' wisdom and talent associated with the ancient relics. In Suk likes to tell them about the spring at the Ulmil Pavilion which is counted as one of the eight sceneries in Pyongyang, the story about how General Ulmil of Koguryo fought to defend the place, the legend about the Chilsong Gate which is referred to as



- ▶ the “gate to happiness” and similar stories and legends. Interested in her storytelling, the visitors ask her to have a photo taken together against the background of the relics and guide them round the dis-

colours which are characteristic of the *tanchong* painting. Their antiquity goes well with the surrounding scenery.

Ko Il Chol says, “The national history is not handed over of its own accord. You can hand over the ancestors’ wisdom and talent to the posterity only when you maintain the inherent tradition of the national culture and the excellent heritage and develop them to suit the contemporary aesthetic sense and the demand of the time. We are doing all we can to fulfil our responsibility.”

*Rim Sang Jun*

### Chilsong Gate.



### Hyonmu Gate.

trict. She readily accepts their request.

Ri Song Ok, teacher at Ri Kwang Su Junior Middle School in Songyo District, Pyongyang, says, “I often climb Moran Hill together with my students. At the time I see the keeper. Hearing her explanation we go up to the Choesung Pavilion, the summit of the hill. Enjoying the recent changes along the Taedong River, I seem to know the history of my country at a glance. And it is a good opportunity for the students to nurture national pride.”

There are several artists in the national culture preservation company who are professionally engaged in restoring the painting of the historical relics. Ko Il Chol who has a 30-odd-year career led the projects of overall repainting of the Chongnyu Pavilion in 2005 and the Ulmil Pavilion in 2011. An Jung Su, Kim Chang Su, Jong Kil, and Hong Chol Hwan are excellent artists. They are often requested for repainting projects. They have all learned professional knowledge through the study-while-working courses. They study the *tanchong* technique in connection with the Academy of Social Science in their effort to restore the colours of old buildings true to their original qualities. Thanks to them structures of historical importance regain their ornamental formations, patterns and harmonious mixture of

# Korean Folklore Museum



(Continued from the last issue)

## Old custom of writing and national alphabet

**I**N THE HALL I ENTERED there were on display the data on the Korean people's custom of learning how to write. What caught my eyes were 16 characters and the record about the *sinji* alphabet in the old book *Nyongbyonji*.

"*Sinji* is the Korean nation's ancient alphabet. You can see the same or similar characters with *sinji* alphabet shown in *Nyongbyonji*, written in earthenware pieces unearthed in old tombs in the period of Ancient Joseon (early 30<sup>th</sup> century BC–108 BC)." From the guide's words, we could see that the *sinji* alphabet belonged to the homogeneous nation in the Ancient Joseon period and had been in wide use in all regions where the Koreans had lived.

The guide told that the records of the ancient times have deep studies of astronomy and that the Ancient Joseon government kept an official post called *Paksa* responsible for science, culture and education.

In the period of Three King-

doms, learning how to read and write was more popular among the Korean people and education developed into a certain system. Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) had *kyongdang*, a private educational institution and *thae hak* which was the central educational organ. Silla (early mid-first century–935) had *kukhak* and Paekje (late first century BC–AD 660) kept *sadobu* for educational administration.

I saw an old book on display describing *kyongdang*. It says that in Koguryo each village had a big house called *kyongdang* to make young people read books and train archery during the days or at night. Also on display are data on *ujagam* of the Palhae Dynasty (late 7<sup>th</sup> century–early 10<sup>th</sup> century), which was similar to *thae hak* of Koguryo. In the period of Koryo (918–1392) large and small schools and private schools were built across the coun-

## Various ink sticks and inkstones.







점성대

점성대는 조선시대 원형 사육주탑 형태에서 1270년, 세종대왕 10년 경에 세워진 것으로, 원형은 1392년, 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다.

Chomsongdae Observatory.



천상열차분야지도

이 천상열차분야지도는 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다.

Chonsangryolchabunyajido.



측우기

측우기는 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다. 조선조 건국 이래 고쳐서 지어졌다.

A rain gauge.

▶ try, and private education spread widely through village schools.

I stopped at a panoramic photograph of Koryo Songgyungwan, the supreme educational institution of Koryo. Situated at the eastern foot of Mt. Songak in Kaesong City, Koryo Songgyungwan was built in 992 to train feudal government officials. At first it was called Kukjagam and later renamed Songgyungwan, meaning university.

The Korean people's enthusiasm for learning rose higher in the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). It was related with the fact that the Korean people who had created their own national alphabet in the period of Ancient Joseon created Hunminjeongeum in January 1444 as successor to the sinji alphabet. Hunminjeongeum is an advanced script based on long experience in using characters. As the Korean nation's own alphabet, Hunminjeongeum means the right letters to teach people. It could represent all the vocal sounds of the Korean language and almost all sounds of any other nations'

languages. It also had advantages in that it was easy to learn and convenient to write.

With the creation of their own national alphabet, the Korean people became able to have a free way of transcription, the national alphabet came into use and the books written in Korean were made public. This facilitated development of the national culture and enriched the linguistic heritage. Thanks to the new script the education got more systematic and strengthened during the Feudal Joseon Dynasty.

The guide pointed to an index, which shows that in this period special education and technical training were given according to the feudal status system. There was a photo on display showing Sungyang School located south of Mt. Songak in Kaesong. The school was built in 1573 on the site of the house of Jong Mong Ju, a famous loyalist of Koryo. A writing slate and a relief map which had been used in learning language were also on display. The learning custom helped the

Korean people create sci-tech treasures like Chomsongdae Observatory (an astronomical and meteorological installation built in the 7th century) in Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, (the town used to be the capital of Silla), Chonsangryolchabunyajido made in 1395 and a rain gauge made in 1441 for the first time in the world.

I saw tools Koreans had used in writing. Several pieces of paper and inkstones unearthed in ancient remains, a photo of the mural tomb of King Kogukwon showing a vassal standing with a book and a brush in his hand, pieces of paper of many colours, and brushes of various shapes and writing tools in the period of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty helped me easily understand that the Korean people had created excellent scripts and developed science and culture in a unique way with high enthusiasm for learning.

I entered the next room.

(To be continued)
Rim Ok

# An Ancient Salt-making Site Unearthed

**R**ECENTLY AN ANCIENT salt production site, the first of its kind in Korea dating back to the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), was unearthed by a research group in the Wonup area of Onchon County, Nampho City. In the course of surveying an area about three kilometres to the northeast of the Wonup workers' district, the researchers found the relics and remains apparently of a salt production facility.

The remains consist of two main parts. The findings include a structure built of stones and bricks. It comprises a fuel hole, a combustion chamber and a flue. The fuel hole is flanked by two ash pools. The floor of the com-

bustion chamber whose four walls are built of stones is reinforced with stone and lime. Found under it is reddish earth that seemed to have been exposed to high heat. Half way up the flue in the rear part of the chamber is a niche for putting a round plate on. The other part of the remains is a pool filled with thick black ash, which is connected with a ditch for drawing in sea water, and in the centre of the pool is a stone structure of a certain height.

Other relics include various kinds of earthenware, bricks, fragments of a flat cauldron, a melted iron lump, and animal bones and horns. The new findings have been confirmed to be

the remains of an old salt production site belonging to the period of Koguryo. Earthenware and bricks have been ascertained to date back to the mid-4th century. The salinity of the stratum around the remains is very high, and a thick layer of ash has been found at the place in addition to a ditch for drawing in sea water, which testifies to the spot being an old site of salt production.

The research group has proved through the discovery of the salt production site that salt was produced at the time by means of processing sea water with ash in the pool to raise its salinity before boiling it in the cauldron. □



# Falling into Ruin

**I**F THEY ARE ASKED WHAT THE MOST noteworthy change at present is, most of the analysts of the situation are likely to answer it is that the US is losing its hegemony in the international arena. A renowned US geo-political expert and advocate of the American hegemony once argued that his country's hegemonic power had come to an end.

In reality, many nations stand directly against the American control, refusing to admit it any longer. On May 20 this year Russia and China adopted a joint statement in which they agreed to join efforts in the political, military and other fields to put up confrontation against the US's strategy of giving importance to the Asia-Pacific. Referring to the event, foreign mass media commented that the two nations "have joined hands and set a counterfire to the American policy of return to Asia."

The new strategy of the US is giving rise to different repercussions among the mass media around the world, and the gist of them is that there exist disagreements among the Democrats to say nothing of Congress regarding Obama's strategic idea and the progress of its practical implementation, that the general analysis goes that Obama's strategy is confronted with the three challenges of imbalance in natural resources, imbalance in energy and imbalance in power. This connotes that Obama's strategy of giving importance to the Asia-Pacific is flatly rebuffed by the regional nations and, worse still, is generally regarded as impossible even among the Americans.

The so-called allies and companions of the US are reluctant to comply with the American demands and instructions. Following the publication of the strategy, the US demanded that Europe support the policy and share the burden in the field of defence. But the European nations gave a cold shoulder. They looked reserved, reluctant and discontented. Japan has refused to yield even an inch to the US in the matter of opening its market, although it is fully aware of the fact that concluding the US-sponsored agreement on pan-Pacific economic collaboration is directly related to its master's strategy of giving

importance to the Asia-Pacific. Egypt, a long-time companion of the US, is turning away to make friends with Russia. Israel is behaving itself against the instructions of the US that styles itself as "arbiter" in the process for Middle Eastern peace, while France declared that it would push ahead with its naval vessel sale to Russia even when the Russo-American relations are going from bad to worse.

Another blow to the US that is getting bogged down in major international affairs is that the dollar is losing its monopolistic status as the international standard currency. The financial crisis that started to hit the US in 2008 was a momentum in hastening the end of *Paze Americana*, that is, peace under the US supervision. According to historians, the British-supervised system of global control that existed before *Paze Americana* came to fall down as a result of the serious financial crisis the UK suffered since 1905 following the Anglo-Boer war in which the country had expended an enormous amount of money. Likewise, *Paze Americana* (American peace) is on its deathbed due to the same reason. In 2008 when the financial crisis was getting serious the New York Times attracted the public attention by carrying an article in which the present-day situation of the US was compared with that of dilapidation of the UK that used to be the sole superpower prior to the US. As of October 17 last year, the federal debt of the US rose to the record high of \$ 17 trillion. A French economist argued in his article titled "The US on the Brink of Ruin" that the US's national debt is nearly tantamount to its annual GDP and that as the economy is nearly falling into ruin the amount of debt will snowball at least 1.5 times as much as the present one by 2018. A book titled "After America" was published in France which predicts the end of the "American Empire." It soon became a bestseller reportedly.

It is certain that the empire will go to ruin for the arbitrary and despotic policies. Like Hitler's Nazi Empire, the "American Empire" will end up in a tragic lot after all.

*Kim Myong Chol*



# What Comes to Mind

**O**N MAY 29 LAST presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus signed a treaty on creation of the Eurasian Economic Union. The treaty is reportedly due to come into effect on January 1, 2015. Many nations in the region expressed support and solidarity, commenting it was the most important event of integration since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. But the Westerners denounced the Russia-led organization of the economic union as an “execution of the imperial power” intended to restore the Soviet Union. What comes to your mind when you see the contrary reactions from the two forces?

In retrospect, the Commonwealth of Independent States which came following the fall of the former Soviet Union have had unpleasant experiences among them. The yesterday's fellow states have been in strife and suffered huge economic losses as a result of the broken economic relations. The financial crisis that was a hard hit worldwide made the Commonwealth members aware of the importance of the multilateral economic cooperation and collaboration in their region. The twists and turns helped them realize the way out; they have since endeavoured to make socio-economic progress by coping with challenges with concerted efforts.

Now Russia formed a regional body involving former Soviet republics by way of expanding the customs union and the uniform economic leverage, thus checking the Western infiltration and in-

tervention and bolstering its influence. The customs union that has been in effect since 2010 is made of Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. In 2012 the uniform economic leverage involving these nations went into official operation. Meanwhile, the Eurasian Economic Commission that is committed to the economic integration of these countries began to work as well.

Russian President Putin said on one occasion that the Eurasian Economic Union would lead the member nations to a radically new level of integration and ensure a complete guarantee of the national sovereignty as well as closer and coordinated economic cooperation.

As a matter of fact, the potentials of the new economic body are enormous. Besides its population of 170 million, it has rich underground resources that are of huge economic value. One fifth of the world's gas deposits and 15 per cent of the world's oil deposits are to be found in this region. In particular, the member nations share many things in common and a rich stock of experience in this respect as they used to be included in one economic system in the past. The geographical situation of the three countries guarantees a favourable condition for the laying of an extensive route of transport linking Europe to Asia and other economic transactions. It is more than certain that the engagement in the organization will bring them great economic profits. In reality, many of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States

have voiced their wish to join the Eurasian Economic Union and the customs union.

Observers comment that the creation of the new union is probably heralding the appearance of a new pole in the world arena instead of a simple economic integration, that is, the prelude to a regional union that will stand against the Western pursuance of domination and intervention. The Westerners think that once Russia successfully forms the Eurasian Economic Union along with Kazakhstan and Belarus, it will be a community tantamount to the European Union and that it will bring them a tragic result, that is, weaker influence of theirs in the region and a break in their encirclement of Russia. In fact, the founding members of the Eurasian Economic Union make it public that the organization will be a comprehensive union which will deal with not only economic but political and military affairs as well in the future. Feeling uneasy about the prospect, the Western bloc has made every effort to drive a wedge between the nations of the Commonwealth and check the creation of the union.

The Eurasian Economic Union, however, has cut its figure. This may be referred to as an indication of the truth that the desire to achieve regional stability and development can come true after all when efforts are made in unity against the foreign forces' moves of division and separation.

*Jang Chol*

# Hero Ichon Gingko Tree

**T**HE HERO ICHON Gingko Tree—a natural living monument of Korea—is in Ichon town, Ichon County, Kwangwon Province. The tree is 24 metres high with the root neck 8.5 metres around and the crown 14 metres across. The trunk stretches out a large number of boughs and branches; the boughs 30 cm across are seven and the branches 5 cm across over 150.

The tree has a legend that over 700 years ago a young peasant planted it to the memory of his father who was killed by the county governor on a charge of resisting to his plunder, and that while taking care of it, he made a firm resolution to avenge his father.

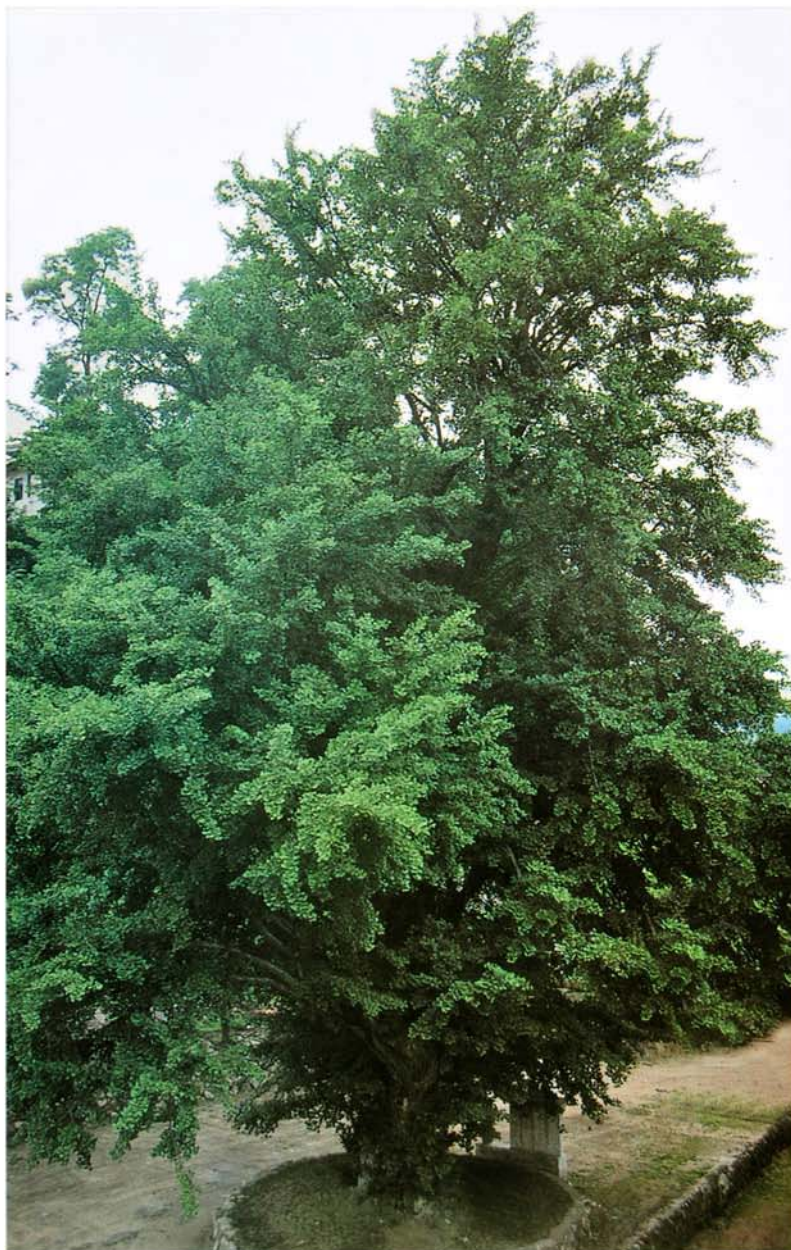
The name Hero Ichon Gingko Tree dates back to the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953). In the days of hard-fought battles, the tree served as a shelter for the soldiers and people. Whenever American air pirates appeared overhead, the trucks of the People's Army would take shelter under the tree. One day in August 1952 an enemy plane found an army truck under the tree and nosed down towards it. But it was caught in the stout branches and crashed to the ground. Since then it has been called Hero Gingko Tree by the people.

Today the tree is carefully preserved as a natural monu-

ment according to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on nature conservation, rendering service to the education of the people in patriotism. The tree was severely damaged during the

war, but it was restored to its original state after the war, and stands as a witness of history and a precious treasure of the country.

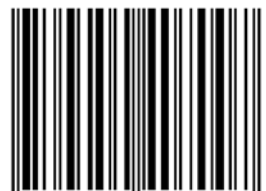
*Kim Un Jong*







ISSN 0454-4072



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