



**KOREA
TODAY**

2
Juche 104
(2015)

KOREA TODAY

Monthly Journal (704)

Printed in English, Russian
and Chinese



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**Front Cover: Kimjongilia,
the immortal flower**

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



**Back Cover: The Mupho
Angling Site in winter**

*Photo by courtesy
of the KCNA*

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New Year Address

Kim Jong Un

January 1, Juche 104 (2015)

DEAR COMRADES!

Having seen out 2014, a year in which we clearly demonstrated the spirit and might of the great DPRK that advances by leaps and bounds with confidence in victory, we are seeing in the hope-filled new year 2015.

Reflecting the boundless loyalty of all the service personnel and people, I would like to pay the highest tribute and offer New Year greetings to President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il, the eternal leaders of our people and the sun of Juche.

I extend New Year greetings to the service personnel and people who are striving with devotion for the dignity and prosperity of the country with revolutionary faith and patriotic enthusiasm, and I wish the families throughout the country would overflow with warm affection and our lovely children would have a brighter future.

My New Year greetings go also to the compatriots in the south and abroad who are fighting for national concord and reunification and to the progressive peoples of the world and other foreign friends who aspire after independence and peace.

Last year was a year of brilliant triumph in which the foundations for hastening final victory on all fronts of building a thriving nation were consolidated firmly and the invincible might of the DPRK was demonstrated under the leadership of the Party.

Last year the harmonious whole of the Party and the masses of the people was solidified and the purity and might of the revolutionary ranks strengthened.

The ardent yearning of our service personnel and people for the President and the General became intenser as the days went by and they fully manifested their passionate loyalty and pure sense of moral obligation to translate into reality the great leaders' plans and wishes. Our Party's politics of love for the people and younger generation and its policy of attaching importance to science and education were embodied in reality and thereby the people's trust in the Party deepened and our single-hearted unity hardened. Amid the

drive for carrying on education in revolutionary traditions through the study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt. Paektu area, the entire army and the whole society came to pulsate with the spirit and mettle of Paektu and bubble with the conviction and will to carry through the sacred revolutionary cause of Juche.

Last year the fighting efficiency of the People's Army was increased remarkably and national defence capability was built up.

As the army conducted political and ideological work in a positive manner and stoked the flames of training under combat conditions, all its officers and men and units of services and arms became strong in ideas and faith and prepared as an invincible army capable of discharging operational and combat missions proficiently in any circumstances and conditions. Iron military discipline was established in the entire army and unprecedented successes were made in the improvement of soldiers' living. The defence industry sector developed and completed various means of military strike of our style to make a tangible contribution to the qualitative growth of the revolutionary armed forces.

Last year we made great progress in the building of a socialist economic giant and civilized nation by the joint operation of the army and people.

Even in the difficult situation and adverse conditions last year, an upswing was brought about in production in different sectors including agriculture, fishery and chemical and coal-mining industries, opening up bright prospects for the building of an economic giant and improvement of the people's living standards. The construction sector kindled the fierce flames for creating the Korean speed to build many monumental structures that serve as standards and models of Juche-oriented architecture including the Wisong Scientists Dwelling District, apartment houses for lecturers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp and October 8 Factory, thereby actually demonstrating the looks of the DPRK that is realizing its beautiful ideals. The service personnel who engaged in the building of a

► thriving country achieved breakthroughs in production, construction and modernization and created excellent model units in the spirit of devotedly implementing the Party's policies and the spirit of match-for-a-hundred combatants.

Our sportspeople undauntedly fought by our own style of tactics in the 17th Asian Games and world championships to exalt the honour of the country and greatly encourage the service personnel and people who were out in the struggle to defend socialism.

All the victories and priceless successes we achieved last year are a brilliant result of the Party's wise leadership and of the burning patriotic loyalty and self-sacrificing struggle of all the service personnel and people rallied firmly behind the Party.

I extend heartfelt thanks to all the service personnel and people who made a contribution to glorifying last year as a year of proud feats and changes by waging an unyielding struggle with a steadfast faith in the revolutionary cause of Juche and the revolutionary cause of Songun.

Comrades!

The new year 2015 will be a year of great significance, in which we will mark the 70th anniversaries of national liberation and founding of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Greeting this significant year, our people are looking back with great pride and dignity upon the glorious 70-year history of our Party and homeland which have achieved shining victories under the wise leadership of the President and the General; they are full of confidence and optimism with a determination to follow the Party and achieve final victory in the Juche revolution pioneered on Mt. Paektu.

This year we should display the revolutionary spirit and mettle of Paektu to determinedly thwart the challenges and manoeuvres by hostile forces and score a signal success in the struggle to defend socialism and on all fronts of building a thriving nation. By doing so, we should celebrate the 70th anniversaries of national liberation and founding of the Party as revolutionary, auspicious events.

Upholding the slogan "Let us all turn out in the general offensive to hasten final victory in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu!" all the service personnel and people should charge dynamically towards the venue of grand October celebrations. Bearing in mind the soul and mettle of Paektu, we should become honourable victors in the general offensive to exalt the dignity of our socialist coun-

try and promote its prosperity on the strength of ideology, arms and science and technology.

This year we will further consolidate our country's invincible might as a socialist political and ideological power.

We should invariably hold up the President and the General forever as the sun of Juche, staunchly championing and adding eternal brilliance to their immortal revolutionary exploits.

In this year of the 70th anniversary of the Party, which organizes and guides all victories of our people, we should set up a new milestone in improving its leadership ability and fighting efficiency.

We should steadily intensify the work of establishing the Party's monolithic leadership system to make the whole Party share ideology with the Party Central Committee, breathe the same breath as it and keep pace with it. All Party organizations should maintain implementing the Party's lines and policies as the major line of Party work, and carry every one of them to completion unconditionally.

We should ensure that the people-first principle runs through the whole of Party work as appropriate for its nature as a motherly party to make the climate of respecting, loving and depending on them pervade it and Party work focus on improving their living standards. All the organizations and officials of the Party should eliminate abuses of power and bureaucratism, and take warm care of the people and lead them properly to make sure that the latter trust and rely on it as they would do their mothers and throw in their lot with it.

We should hold fast to ideology as the Party's powerful weapon and make an ideological offensive to consolidate the ideological position of our revolution rock-solid. We should promote education in the greatness of the leaders, Kim Jong Il's patriotism, faith, anti-imperialist and class consciousness and morality to train all Party members, service personnel and other working people into staunch fighters of the Songun revolution and make them raise the fierce flames of patriotic loyalty, creation and innovation at all posts in national defence and for building a thriving nation.

This year we should further demonstrate our country's might as a military power by bringing about a fresh turn in building revolutionary armed forces and enhancing its defence capability.

The People's Army should thoroughly establish ►

▶ the Party's monolithic command system across the entire army and vigorously conduct the movement of winning the titles of O Jung Hup-led 7th Regiment and Guards Unit. Thus it should implement to the letter the Party's four-point strategic line and three major tasks for increasing military strength. It should effect a turnaround in improving the quality of training by eliminating formalism and stereotyped patterns in combat and political training and updating its contents and methods. It should maintain full combat readiness so that it can repulse any provocation by the enemy in one stroke. By bringing about a radical turn in its supply service, it should provide soldiers with better living conditions and make all its battalions and companies elite combat ranks and their dear villages and homes that adjoin the yard of the office of the Party Central Committee. In the future, too, it should be a pioneer and example in the struggle to implement the Party's ideas and safeguard its policies in pursuance of its plan for building a thriving nation.

In line with the requirements of the prevailing situation, the officers and men of the Korean People's Internal Security Forces should sharpen the sword for defending the leader, system and people, and members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards should conduct combat and political training in a real-war atmosphere, thereby beefing up their combat efficiency and getting fully prepared for an all-people resistance so that they can defend their own provinces, counties and villages by themselves.

By carrying out the Party's line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously, the defence industry sector should step up the efforts to make the munitions production Juche-oriented, modern and scientific and proactively develop and perfect powerful cutting-edge military hardware of our own style.

This year we should give definite precedence to science and technology and effect an upswing in building a socialist economic giant and civilized nation.

It is a determination and will of our Party to rapidly develop all sectors and build a people's paradise by dint of science and technology. The front of science should forcefully rush ahead in the vanguard of a thriving socialist country building, thereby foiling the enemy's pernicious moves for sanctions and encouraging all the economic sectors to make rapid headway on the strength of the lofty spirit of independence and of science and technol-

ogy. The scientific research sector should wage a brisk drive for going beyond the cutting edge to produce many valuable findings conducive to developing the economy, increasing defence capability and improving the people's living standards. Regarding science and technology as their lifeline, all sectors and all units should step up modernization and introduction of information technology in our style, raise the scientific and technological level of officials and working people and vigorously carry on all undertakings by relying on science and technology.

We should make maximum use of the existing foundations and all potentials of the self-supporting economy, so as to bring about a turn in improving the people's living standards and building an economic giant.

In this significant year we should bring about an upturn in improving the people's living standards.

We should resolve the food problem of the people and improve their dietary life on a higher level with agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing as the main thrusts.

The agricultural sector should overcome unfavourable natural conditions and overfulfil the cereals production plan by actively introducing scientific farming methods including water-saving farming, supplying sufficient amounts of farming materials and organizing and guiding production in conformity with actual conditions. We should put the production at stockbreeding and fish-farming bases, greenhouses and mushroom production bases built across the country on a regular footing and ensure that the people benefit from them. True to the Party's plan, we should dynamically speed up the building of the stockbreeding bases in the Sepho area and make steady preparations for livestock production and their operation. By emulating the working spirit of the People's Army which made a new history of "sea of gold," the fishing sector should drastically bolster up the fishing industry and land a huge haul, thus supplying a large amount of fish to enrich the people's diet.

Fully aware of the responsibility and mission it assumes for the people, the light industry sector should work out a strategy for fending for itself and put production at central and local light-industry factories on normal track, so as to supply our people, including students and children, with larger amounts and various kinds of quality consumer goods, school things and children's food. ▶

We should direct great efforts to relieving the shortage of electricity, a major source of power of the national economy, and strive to shore up its vanguard sectors and key industries.

We should increase coal and electricity production in the same mettle as was displayed in bringing about innovations in the coal-mining industry and thermal power stations last year and meet the immediate demand for electricity by waging a campaign to economize on electricity to the maximum, while taking realistic measures to resolve the electricity problem in a prospective way. We should develop metal, chemical and other basic industries and brace rail transport by relying on our own technology and resources and thus ensure that all other economic sectors smoothly progress full of vigour. We should foster external economic relations in a multilateral way and accelerate the projects for economic development zones including the Wonsan-Mt. Kumgang international tourist zone.

We should raise a stronger wind of creating the Korean speed in the construction sector so as to build power stations, factories, educational and cultural establishments and dwelling houses as befit the monumental edifices in the era of the Workers' Party. By completing with credit the major construction projects, including the multi-tier power stations on the Chongchon River, Kosan Fruit Farm and Mirae Scientists Street, we should splendidly adorn the venue of grand October celebrations.

The whole Party, the entire army and all the people should, as they carried out rehabilitation after the war, turn out in the campaign to restore the mountains of the country so as to turn them into "mountains of gold" thickly wooded with trees. All the sectors should invariably push ahead with the work of afforesting and landscaping the whole country and turning it into orchard, and build Pyongyang, provinces, cities, county seats, workplaces and villages in a more cultured way and maintain and manage them on a regular basis.

All the economic sectors and units should make positive efforts to increase production, improve the quality of goods and enhance their competitive edge by working out proper strategies for business operation and enterprise management and tapping all possible reserves and potentialities. All the factories and enterprises should wage a dynamic struggle to get rid of the proclivity to import and ensure the domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment, while sprucing

themselves up by taking their cue from the model units put forward by the Party.

The Cabinet and other state organs for economic guidance should make proactive efforts to establish the economic management method of our style as demanded by the reality so that all the economic organs and enterprises can conduct their business activities creatively on their own initiative. Party organizations at all levels should throw their full weight behind the work of improving economic management in order to make sure that it is done as intended by the Party.

A vigorous spur should be given to the building of a civilized socialist nation.

We should bring about a radical improvement in education in the new century by enhancing the role of officials in this sector and arousing state and social interest in educational work, thereby making fresh progress in making all the people well versed in science and technology and developing ours into a talented nation.

The whole country should bubble with enthusiasm for sports and our sportspeople should fly higher the flag of the Republic at international games to open up bright prospects for building a sporting power.

The sector of art and literature should do away with stagnation and produce larger numbers of contemporary masterpieces which inspire the masses to further efforts, and the public health sector should improve the hygienic and anti-epidemic work and preventive and curative medical care and boost pharmaceutical production.

We should make sure that national sentiments and noble and beautiful lifestyle prevail across society, and press on with national heritage conservation as a patriotic undertaking involving the whole country and all the people.

In order to successfully carry out the enormous tasks for this year all the officials, Party members, service personnel and other working people should live and work in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu, the spirit of the blizzards of Paektu.

The spirit is, in essence, an unyielding offensive spirit of braving obstacles and difficulties and a staunch fighting spirit of rising up no matter how often one may fall and fighting it out. The hearts of all our service personnel and people should beat with the confidence in victory and indomitable spirit cherished by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who fought death-defyingly for their country and people and won victory against all odds. All the officials, Party members and other

▶ working people should enter the venue of grand October celebrations proudly with gifts they have prepared by dint of the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and through creative struggle.

The whole country should overflow with the spirit of patriotic devotion with which to hold dear and add brilliance to our own things.

Holding dear and adding brilliance to our own things is just the Korean-nation-first spirit and the genuine patriotism that exalts the dignity of our country, our motherland, and hastens its prosperity. We should value and add lustre to all the assets the preceding generations of the revolution created on this land at the cost of their blood and sweat under the guidance of the Party and the leaders, and create and develop everything in our own way with a high sense of national pride and by relying on our strength, technology and resources.

Officials, leading participants in the revolution, should be the standard-bearers and vanguard fighters in the ongoing general offensive.

They should faithfully serve the country and people for their prosperity and well-being with a noble outlook on patriotism and firm preparedness for devoted service and, shouldering heavy burdens by themselves, make redoubled efforts in the van of the masses. With a full understanding of the Party's ideas and intentions, officials should go deep among the masses and rouse them to carry through its lines and policies unconditionally at the cost of their lives. They should be fully accountable to the Party and the state for the work in their sectors and units, eliminate defeatism, self-preservation and expediency and do everything in an innovative and scientific way.

Seventy years have passed since our nation was divided by outside forces.

In those decades the world has made a tremendous advance and the times have undergone dramatic changes, but our nation has not yet achieved reunification, suffering the pain of division. It is a deplorable fact known to everyone and it is lamentable to everyone. No longer can we bear and tolerate the tragedy of national division that has continued century after century.

Last year we put forward crucial proposals for improved inter-Korean relations and national reunification and made sincere efforts for their implementation. Our efforts, however, could not bear due fruit owing to the obstructive moves by the anti-reunification forces within and without; instead the north-south relations have been on a headlong rush to aggravation.

However complicated the situation may be and whatever obstacles and difficulties may stand in our way, we should unfailingly achieve national reunification, a lifetime wish of the President and the General and the greatest desire of the nation, and build a dignified and prosperous reunified country on this land.

"Let the whole nation join efforts to open up a broad avenue to independent reunification in this year of the 70th anniversary of national liberation!"—this is the slogan of struggle the entire Korean nation should hold up.

We should remove the danger of war, ease the tension and create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula.

The large-scale war games ceaselessly held every year in south Korea are the root cause of the escalating tension on the peninsula and the danger of nuclear war facing our nation. It is needless to say that there can be neither trustworthy dialogue nor improved inter-Korean relations in such a gruesome atmosphere in which war drills are staged against the dialogue partner.

To cling to nuclear war drills against the fellow countrymen in collusion with aggressive outside forces is an extremely dangerous act of inviting calamity.

We will resolutely react against and mete out punishment to any acts of provocation and war moves that infringe upon the sovereignty and dignity of our country.

The south Korean authorities should discontinue all war moves including the reckless military exercises they conduct with foreign forces and choose to ease the tension and create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula.

The United States, the very one that divided our nation into two and has imposed the suffering of national division upon it for 70 years, should desist from pursuing the anachronistic policy hostile towards the DPRK and reckless acts of aggression and boldly make a policy switch.

The north and the south should refrain from seeking confrontation of systems while absolutizing their own ideologies and systems but achieve great national unity true to the principle of *By Our Nation Itself* to satisfactorily resolve the reunification issue in conformity with the common interests of the nation.

If they try to force their ideologies and systems upon each other, they will never settle the national reunification issue in a peaceful way, only bringing confrontation and war. ▶

▶ Though the people-centred socialist system of our own style is the most advantageous, we do not force it on south Korea and have never done so.

The south Korean authorities should neither seek “unification of systems” that incites distrust and conflict between the north and the south nor insult the other side’s system and make impure solicitation to do harm to their fellow countrymen, travelling here and there.

The north and the south, as they have already agreed, should resolve the national reunification issue in the common interests of the nation transcending the differences in ideology and system.

They should briskly hold dialogue, negotiations and exchanges and make contact to relink the severed ties and blood vessels of the nation and bring about a great turn in inter-Korean relations.

It is the unanimous desire of the fellow countrymen for both sides to stop fighting and pave a new way for reunification by concerted efforts. They should no longer waste time and energy over pointless arguments and trifling matters but write a new chapter in the history of inter-Korean relations.

Nothing is impossible if our nation shares one purpose and joins efforts. On the road for reunification the north and the south have already agreed upon such charter and great programme for reunification as the July 4 Joint Statement, the historic June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, thus demonstrating to the whole world the nation’s determination and mettle to reunify the country.

We think that it is possible to resume the suspended high-level contacts and hold sectoral talks if the south Korean authorities are sincere in their stand towards improving inter-Korean relations through dialogue.

And there is no reason why we should not hold a summit meeting if the atmosphere and environment for it are created.

In the future, too, we will make every effort to substantially promote dialogue and negotiations.

The entire Korean nation should turn out together in the nationwide movement for the country’s reunification so as to glorify this year as a landmark in opening up a broad avenue to independent reunification.

Last year, in the international arena, hostilities and bloodshed persisted in several countries and regions due to the imperialists’ outrageous arbitrariness and undisguised infringement upon their sovereignty, which posed a serious threat to

global peace and security.

Especially, owing to the United States’ extremely hostile policy aimed at isolating and suffocating our Republic, the bulwark of socialism and fortress of independence and justice, the vicious cycle of tension never ceased and the danger of war grew further on the Korean peninsula.

The United States and its vassal forces are resorting to the despicable “human rights” racket as they were foiled in their attempt to destroy our self-defensive nuclear deterrent and stifle our Republic by force.

The present situation, in which high-handedness based on strength is rampant and justice and truth are trampled ruthlessly in the international arena, eloquently demonstrates that we were just in our efforts to firmly consolidate our self-reliant defence capability with the nuclear deterrent as its backbone and safeguard our national sovereignty, the lifeblood of the country, under the unfurled banner of Songun.

As long as the enemy persists in its moves to stifle our socialist system, we will consistently adhere to the Songun politics and the line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously and firmly defend the sovereignty of the country and the dignity of the nation, no matter how the international situation and the structure of relations of our surrounding countries may change. On the basis of the revolutionary principles and independent stand, we will expand and develop foreign relations in a multilateral and positive way, giving top priority to the dignity and interests of the country.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will solidify in every respect the bond and solidarity with the world’s progressive peoples who love peace and aspire after independence and justice, and strive to develop good neighbourly relations with all the countries that respect our national sovereignty and are friendly to us.

No force in the world can check the advance of our army and people who are rushing forward like the blizzards of Paektu filled with rock-firm revolutionary faith and mettle of invincibility under the leadership of the great Party, and final victory undoubtedly belongs to us.

Let us all staunchly strive to glorify this significant year as a year of great victories and revolutionary, auspicious events, rallied more closely behind the Party and singing aloud the march of final victory.

Greeting the hope-filled new year 2015, I wish all the families across the country happiness. □

Kim Jong Il's View of Music



Chairman Kim Jong Il sees a performance of the artistic club of the Tudan Duck Farm in October 2011.

ONE DAY CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL SAID, "I have always taken advantage of music to solve problems in the revolution and construction including acute affairs of military operations, feel great pleasures and banish great sorrow. Music is my first love, eternal companion and a powerful weapon of the revolution and construction. This is my view of music."

Regarding music as his life's companion and comrade, Kim Jong Il created an original mode of government called "music-based politics," in the course of his leadership of the Korean Party, State and army. He saw music, which the exploiting class thought was only a means of entertainment and enjoyment and a simple kind of the art, as a powerful weapon to fulfil the desire and demand of the popular masses for independence. From this point of view he stimulated the people by the politics of music and advanced the era.

He had long made the most of music using it as a means of government. A typical example came in the ▶



► 1970s when the so-called “Panmunjom Incident” broke out at the manipulation of the US imperialists. When the gray cloud of war was scudding through the sky of the country, Kim Jong Il resolutely appealed to cope with the situation by means of songs. Thus, the Korean Central Radio aired the strong melodies of *We'll Take a Firmer Grip of the Gun, Leader, Just Give Us Your Order* and *Song of the Korean People's Army*, which are the reflection of the mentality of all the people.

Likewise, during the years of the Arduous March and the forced march when socialism was faced with unprecedented challenges, Kim Jong Il's politics of music was very influential. In the years after President Kim Il Sung passed away in 1994, Kim Jong Il did not appear on any public rostrum to make a speech, but the people knew his intention through famous songs, like *The Leader Will Always Be with Us, Hold High the Red Flag, Socialism Is Ours, The Victorious Road, Arirang of Prosperity* and *Arirang of Army-People Unity*.

In particular, the leader put forward the then Merited Chorus of the Korean People's Army as the standard bearer and bugler of the Songun era. He saw as many as 100 of their performances and made sure that their songs resounded throughout the country—at front-line posts, at factories pulsating with the enthusiastic campaign of self-reliance, and at every place where there were people. The magnificent sound of the chorus like a volley of the multiple launch rocket system gave the Korean people greater courage than millions of food could do and gave the imperialist forces that were working hard to stifle the Korean socialism greater panic than any nuclear or missile weapons could do. Military songs that had played a big role in boosting the morale of the soldiers gained as great force as ever in the Songun era under Kim Jong Il's wise leadership and were a powerful means of leading the revolution and the time. They were also an almighty weapon that gave full play to the ideological and spiritual exer-

tions of the people.

The revolutionary military songs helped the Korean people realize the pressing need of the time and see the road ahead of them.

Urging that wherever there were soldiers there should be a sweeping revolutionary optimism and military spirit all the time nourished by the revolutionary marches, Kim Jong Il made sure that the revolutionary soldier culture of the Songun era was established. One February day in 1995, he inspected a coast artillery company defying the gale of the day. Seeing a performance of the company in which the officers and soldiers mixed together to sing and dance and recite poems while playing musical instruments, he gave an important instruction that the company should be adopted as the basic unit in further developing the soldier culture.

Even when the country was having a hard time over folds of sufferings he ensured that TV sets were sent to all military posts in the country. He also sent cameras, saying that it was necessary to help soldiers have so many photos taken as to produce a lyric that would sing of a cameraman at the company. A lot of entertainment facilities were also given to the service personnel for recreation after his instruction that the soldiers should be provided with a condition to enjoy diversified cultural and entertainment activities. Meanwhile, a new film distribution system was established based on TVs with a built-in video. His close concern brought up all the soldiers as men of noble cultural attainments, and the soldier culture spread across the country. The industrial workers, farm workers, scientists and all other people were influenced by the revolutionary cultural activities of the soldiers; they, upholding the slogan of “Let's go the thorny path cheerfully!” turned out to build a thriving socialist country full of revolutionary optimism.

A good deal of masterpieces were produced, including Kim Il Sung Prize winner *Arirang*, which is a mass gymnastics and artistic performance, and *Compendium of Korean Music* which is an encyclopaedia of Juche-oriented music with as many as 10 500 pages. The famous lyrics and melodies, as priceless as anything in the world, aroused fervent enthusiasm for creation and construction among the people. The Kanggye Spirit was born, the Torch of Songgang and the Torch of Ranam were raised, and the land underwent admirable facelift. Modern farms went up here and there to grow chicken, catfish and other animals.

Singing revolutionary songs, the Korean people went through the hard time and opened up the victorious road to paradise. They defended their people-centred socialism successfully and advanced forcefully towards happiness and prosperity. They still enshrine the following instruction of their eternal leader Kim Jong Il: **“Our revolution was, is and will be with songs. We'll always sing songs to overcome pessimism with optimism and blow off hopelessness with hopefulness.”**

Jong Kyong Bok



The Reason of His Happy Feeling

ONE DAY IN AUGUST 2007 CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il gave a field guidance to the Songjin Steel Complex. Looking round different places of the enterprise for a long time, he gave important instructions relating to steel production.

After that, he went to see the factory's duck farm despite the dog days. There he was satisfied with this gratifying scene—an expansive compound, wide and straight roads, roadside trees, a fodder processing shops that looked like a foodstuff factory, neat and tidy duck houses, and flocks of ducks covering the whole pool. The leader appreciated that the farm was really wonderful. And he understood the capacity of the meat production, supply of meat and other affairs of the management. Appreciating the work of the farm again, he asked the monthly amount of supply. One official answered the amount given to each employee and went on to say that the families with many members working at the complex were supplied with a good deal of meat. Hearing the answer, the Chairman said that it was a good thing

for the workers to have more than enough meat and that he was very happy when he heard the people had good table.

The officials were moved to see him pleased with the people's happiness. Then, the Chairman asked about the production of a sideline farm and appreciated the good management. He went on to say that good crop farming and stockbreeding were helpful to improvement of the supply of food to the workers. Kim Jong Il inspected all parts of the farm including the fodder processing shop, the general processing shop and the protein fodder fermentation shop. He said that the good experience of the factory should be learned by all other factories and enterprises. He said he was satisfied with the good duck farming and that the managers of the farm were making strenuous efforts to improve the workers' eating habit upholding President Kim Il Sung's instruction that supply service is just the political work.

That day managers of the factory etched the Chairman's words in their mind. □

Unhasu Versus Pomhyanggi

ONE AUGUST DAY IN 2003 CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il paid a visit to the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory. The workers at the factory had just completed a gigantic scale of reconstruction and expansion project and put production processes on a modern basis in a short space of time so as to increase the production of mass consumer goods, thus stepping up the production of toilet articles, such as toothpaste, toilet soap and facial cream on a high level. The Chairman said to the accompanying officials, "We are not here to have a look from outside. We should go into the places where the workers are at work." He got into the production site and looked round it up to the final process. He told the officials to provide the workers sparing no efforts to produce cosmetics with a resting place and then turned his steps toward the sample room.

On display there were various kinds of cosmetics produced at the factory. Having examined the cosmetics, the leader said it seemed that the products of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory were good enough. Then, he asked, looking round the officials, if the cosmetics of the factory were better than those of the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory. Hearing the reply of an official that the workers of the Pyongyang factory claimed their products were better, he said that the products of the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory have the

trademark of *Pomhyanggi* (spring aroma) while those of the Pyongyang factory have the trademark of *Unhasu* (galaxy). So when they had a glance of the trademark, they could know where the product came from, he said.

Then, a manager of the factory told the Chairman that his factory, too, was now making efforts to raise the quality of cosmetics, bearing in mind what the leader instructed to conduct emulation for raising quality when he had visited the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory.

Hearing this, he said that he wondered what the people thought of the cosmetics of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, that the conducting of emulation with regard to the matter of quality was advisable and that only when carrying on emulation could the quality of products be raised and progress made in their production. Then he added that from now on the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory should vie with the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory for better quality, thus raising the quality of cosmetics without let-up.

Afterwards, flames of emulation flared up more fiercely with every passing day. As a result, demands of the people for *Unhasu* and *Pomhyanggi* grew and grew.

Choe Chol Jin

Respect and Care for the People

THE SUPREME LEADER Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea keeps it his motto to put everything at the people's service and do everything by relying on them. His work is all for the sake of the people.

In September 2012 he visited the Thongilgori Fitness Centre. Looking around the physical exercise hall he said that apparatuses should be well arranged for the convenience of the people. He went on to say that mirrors should be set in front of each of the apparatuses so that the users could see themselves while doing exercises, and that the dining rooms on the first floor should be changed into a physical exercise hall to be consistent with its mission and duty as a public fitness centre. So the dining rooms were rearranged into a physical exercise hall furnished with scores of apparatuses of dozen kinds like a weight trainer.

And Kim Jong Un often sent various kinds of honey, foods, fishes, medicines and fruits to baby homes, orphanages, orphans' primary and secondary schools, old folks' homes and sanatoriums. Not content with this, he saw to it that the January



A professor of Kim Chaek University of Technology and his family move in to a new apartment.

8 Fishing Station of the Korean People's Army was built which supplies fishes to those establishments exclusively.

The national leader gives priority to the interests of the people and regards the devotion to them as essence of his life. When he visited some working people who had just moved to new apartments in Changjon Street, he said that although it is the Koreans' custom to bring a box of match when visiting a new home, he also brought household articles with him as he felt he was not satisfied with matches alone. Sitting on the floor together with the family members he acquainted himself with their living conditions, wished their children good future, and kindly poured a toast to them.

The Songdownon International Children's Camp at a scenic spot in the coast of the East Sea of Korea was reconstructed as a palace of the schoolchildren. An epitome of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's loving care for the rising generation, the camp underwent splendid improvement worth a typical example in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea, thanks to Kim Jong Un's energetic leadership and benevolent care. Guided by the leader who works hard to make the children as happy as anybody else in the world fully enjoying the benefit of a civilized socialist nation, the camp has got a completely new appearance, as beautiful as a picture with its camping blocks ►

► being in harmony with the seascape. It is a wonderful, hotel-like resort of the children which is conducive to developing them into the heirs to the revolution who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong. It is furnished with a room for education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism, the Schoolchildren's International Friendship Hall, an outdoor playground, an indoor stadium, an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor wading pool, an outdoor archery ground, an aquarium, an aviary and a stuffed animals room. On May 10 last year the first-round camping began following the reconstruction project, and the camp was filled with sounds of music and merriment of schoolchildren.

The Pyongyang Children's Department Store has a large number of customers day after day. The children, hand in hand with their parents, are delighted to see different kinds of toys, school things, sporting apparatuses and beautiful clothes on sale. Some parents try shoes on their children, and others buy them candies. They all look happy. There are also counters for grown-ups, and they can buy household goods, sanitary articles and miscellaneous things. In particular, the indoor playgrounds are crowded with chil-

dren all the time. Seeing the children playing with different sorts of playthings without noticing the passage of time with the help of service workers, people remember their national leader's lofty view to younger generations typically represented by the department store.

On October 20 last year there was a meeting of granting owners' certificates to teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, and the next day those who had received the certificates moved in to

in a holiday atmosphere. Stepping into the homes they were all excited to see them furnished with all facilities for living. It seemed they were in a dream. They could hardly believe they have such palatial flats. All of them expressed their unbounded gratitude to the national leader Kim Jong Un.

Prof. Ha Jae Gyeong living in Flat No. 2, First Floor, Second Entrance, talked of his emotion in tears, "I can hardly believe this reality. It seems like a dream to me that my family has got this wonderful flat. There are many



Children enjoy their pleasant camping days for the 29th round at the renovated Songdowon International Children's Camp.

apartments built exclusively for the staff of the university. Those who were blessed with the great care of the national leader, and officials, teachers and students who were there sharing the joy of moving in to new flats were all

countries and innumerable educators in the world, but none of them must be as happy as us who enjoy a worthwhile life under the care of our motherly Party."

Ri Sun Nyo

Down-with-Imperialism Union and Workers' Party of Korea

TODAY THE WORKERS' Party of Korea (WPK) is vigorously leading the entire nation in the struggle to build a prosperous socialist nation in conformity to its historic mission to meet the demands and aspirations of the people.

President Kim Il Sung started the revolutionary struggle by mustering comrades. For him comrades represented the organization and the organization meant comrades. It was his intention to form a revolutionary organization with his comrades-in-arms who were prepared to pioneer the new path of the Korean revolution at the cost of their lives and wage a do-or-die struggle against the Japanese imperialists. He took the first step of struggle for mustering comrades in the Hwasong Uisuk School (a two-year military-political school founded by the Korean nationalists in Huadian, Huandian County, Jilin Province, China, in early 1925 with a view to training cadres for the Independence Army). President Kim Il Sung conducted revolutionary activities at this school where he was enrolled from June to early December 1926. In the days when he was in the school, he studied the new ideological trend and awoke to the necessity of organizations and began to rally comrades who would go the same revolutionary road with him. Firmly determined to cut a new path to national liberation, he frequently called meetings of

progressive youths and students to discuss their impressions of revolutionary books such as *The Communist Manifesto* after reading them. In this way, he saw to it that their views and stands regarding the Korean revolution coincided with each other. This was when he started on the work to muster comrades who would share life and death with him.

On October 17, 1926, the Down-with-Imperialism Union, the first new-style revolutionary communist organization in Korea, was formed. Kim Il Sung proposed to the comrades who would join fortunes with him that the new organization be named Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU). The Down-with-Imperialism Union was a pure new-type political organization founded amid the vortex of history by young people aspiring to socialism for realizing national liberation and class emancipation according to the ideals of anti-imperialism, independence and sovereignty. He set it the immediate task of the DIU to defeat Japanese imperialism and achieve the liberation and independence of Korea. The formation of the DIU was a historic declaration of the birth of a genuine revolutionary organization for the realization of Kim Il Sung's great idea with regard to the Korean revolution and an epoch-making event announcing the start of the Korean revolution which would

be carried out on the principle of independence. By organizing the DIU the revolutionaries of the rising generation headed by Kim Il Sung took their place in the forefront of the times as the motive force of the revolution and the roots of the WPK started to spread deep in the soil. Kim Il Sung ardently told the first members of the DIU that the path of the struggle would never be smooth, and that they might come across many hardships and trials, but that the passionate young people of the DIU should surmount all of them with a strong will and an indomitable revolutionary spirit, defeat the Japanese imperialist robbers and achieve the independence of Korea.

After its formation the DIU reared broad sections of workers, peasants, youths and students as revolutionaries of the new generation through vigorous activities and laid the mass foundation for the revolution, thereby making a great contribution to the overall Korean revolution. Thanks to the costly struggle and sacrifices of the hot-blooded fighters who laid down their lives without hesitation for their leader and victory of the revolution, the first party organization—Society for Rallying Comrades—was born and 15 years later the great event of founding a revolutionary party took place in the homeland. The programme of the DIU became the basis of the programme of the WPK.

Jong Sun Ok

The Birth of a New Armed Force

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialist military occupation, Korea Today introduces an abridgement of "The Birth of a New Armed Force" of Chapter 5 of President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences *With the Century Vol.2*.

The spring of 1932 was turbulent with events that shook the world.

...

In the middle of March we organized in Antu a short training course for the leaders of the small guerrilla units in several of the counties of east Manchuria.

...

I gave a lecture on the lines and policies of the Korean revolution in the political class and on the regulations and code of conduct for the guerrillas.

...

Antu became the headquarters of the Korean communists who were forming the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army. Political workers and messengers from several counties along the River Tuman often came to Xiaoshahe to make contact with us. The news of our activities to form the guerrilla army in Antu spread from mouth to mouth as far as the homeland. On hearing the news, young patriots in their early twenties from Korea and various parts of Manchuria flocked to Antu, at the risk of their lives, to volunteer for the guerrilla army.

...

But the Chinese national salvation army units often captured them on their way to us and killed them in groups.

...

[The upper stratum of the national salvation army] concocted their own equation that the Korean people were communists, communists were factionalists,

and factionalists were the running dogs of the Japanese imperialists and, based on this equation, persecuted and ruthlessly killed young Korean people.

...

Without improving our relations with the Chinese nationalist anti-Japanese units, it was impossible for our guerrilla army to survive and operate as a legitimate force. And without making itself legitimate it was impossible for it to increase its ranks and operate in daylight.

...

We maintained that we should not only improve our relations with them but also form a united front with them because we firmly believed that these units, in spite of their various limitations, could become our strategic ally in the anti-Japanese war as we shared common fighting objectives and a similar situation. The question on an allied front of two armed forces with conflicting ideologies and ideals was extremely controversial when it was raised for the first time in those days.

...

In the light of this I wondered if it would not be a good idea for our guerrillas to join Commander Yu's unit and operate as a special detachment of it for a period.

...

Finally my idea gained the support of my comrades. The meeting decided to dispatch a delegate to Commander Yu's unit to negotiate with the Chinese national salvation army unit, and I was singled out as the most suitable person for the job. To be more precise, I volunteered, rather than being chosen by my comrades.

...

Thanks to the good offices of Mr. Liu [Ben-cao], that day we met Commander Yu without difficulty. He received us with courtesy and accorded us hospitality

probably for the sake of the dignity of the chief of staff.

...

As I had guessed, Commander Yu asked us to join his unit. He asked me to work as chief of the propaganda squad under the headquarters.

...

Hu Jin-min was appointed an assistant staff officer and Chen Han-zhang, a secretary. This was a ridiculous development, and not something we had desired, but it was a step up the ladder we had to climb. To tell the truth, these absurd appointments proved valuable in making the guerrilla army legitimate.

...

Thanks to the successful negotiations with Commander Yu we were able to make our guerrilla army legitimate and have an ally in the war of resistance against the Japanese imperialists. The success also gave us the belief that in the great, patriotic cause we would be able to form a united front with the nationalists ▶



► of another country who had a different ideology and different ideals.

...

After forming the special detachment we pushed ahead with preparations for expanding and reorganizing it into the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army as soon as possible.

The organizational structure was established after a wide-ranging discussion. Some comrades were very apprehensive of the small number of people of working-class origin in the guerrilla army. An investigation into those 100 men applying to join showed that most of them were students or peasants. Alarmed at this fact, some of my comrades said that if the army was composed mainly of such people, it would mean violating Marxist-Leninist principles for forming a revolutionary army, and that it might be a factor leading to the degeneration of the revolutionary army.

I explained to them that, although the general principle of Marxist-Leninist military science regarded the industrial working class as the main component of a

revolutionary army, there was no need to apply this principle mechanically. Although the industrial working class was relatively small in our country, with peasants accounting for the overwhelming majority of the population, I said, we could not postpone the formation of the guerrilla army until the number of workers had increased. I told them that the peasants and students in our country had as high a revolutionary spirit and as strong a national spirit as the working class, that it would be good if people from different backgrounds fought with the ideology of the working class, and that the preponderance of peasants and students in the revolutionary army would not cause the army to degenerate.

In establishing a command system we did not regard the existing formula as absolute. We defined the organizational structure in such a way as to increase the combat strength to the maximum and to keep the number of commanding officers to the minimum to suit the characteristics of guerrilla warfare. In short, we made the command system as simple as possible.

...

The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was formed with the company as the basic combat unit. I was elected commander and concurrently political commissar.

Uniforms for the army were made from cloth dyed green in water and boiled oak-tree bark. A five-pointed piece of red cloth inscribed with the company number was worn on the left breast of the tunic. We were to wear caps with a red star insignia and white leggings. Our hearts swelled as we prepared the design of the uniform, the finishing touch to the formation of the guerrilla army.

...

In the second half of April 1932, we held a meeting to finalize the preparations for the formation of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army in Antu. The meeting discussed the date and place of the inauguration of the guerrilla army along with the final screening of the applicants, defined the area of its immediate activities and adopted general measures related with the activities of the ►

A panoramic view of Mutiaotun in Xiaoshahe where the founding of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was proclaimed.



► guerrilla army.

...

On the morning of April 25, 1932, we held the founding ceremony of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army on the tableland at Tuqidian. The guerrillas, dressed in their new uniforms and with their guns on their shoulders, lined up in unit order in the clearing on the tableland surrounded by larch trees, and the people from Xiaoshahe and Xinglongcun were buzzing, as they stood in a group at one edge of the clearing.

When looking at the fresh, sturdy soldiers, my mind was flooded with surging memories. How many miles our comrades had walked, how many meetings they had held, how many speeches they had delivered, how many rugged mountains they had trekked, and how many comrades had laid down their lives in the course of forming this armed force! The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was a priceless creation of our revolution, born of superhuman efforts, a bloody struggle and sacrifice.

...

On May Day, the militant holiday of the working class of the whole world, the AJPGA entered the county town of Antu with the red flag flying in the van and marched in parade, while blowing trumpets and beating drums. ... Not only the citizens but also the officers and men of the Chinese anti-Japanese nationalist army units crowded out to the streets and extended a welcome to us with their thumbs up, applauding us to congratulate us.

When we returned to Tuqidian after the parade, Cha Kwang Su and Kim Il Ryong hurried to my house and fetched my bedridden mother. Her face did not look well, with wrinkles between her eyebrows and with grey hairs on her head; but her eyes were smiling a quiet smile. She walked to Ri Yong Bae and stroked his rifle, cartridge belt and five-pointed star. ... Before long, her eyes were moist.

She said: "I am proud of you. Now we have our own army! That's what we needed. You must destroy the Japanese and win back the country without fail."

Her voice was thick. Forgetting her devotion to us, she was apparently thinking of the painstaking efforts of my father and other patriotic fighters who had passed away, praying for the liberation of the motherland.

Later guerrilla units were formed in Yanji, Wangqing, Hunchun, Helong and other parts of east Manchuria. Guerrilla units were also formed in north and south Manchuria by such staunch Korean communists as Kim Chaek, Choe Yong Gon, Ri Hong Gwang and Ri Tong Gwang, and began to fight the enemy.

The spring of 1932 advanced with the rumbling of the gunfire of the great war against the Japanese imperialists. □

THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S ARMY (KPA) IS a revolutionary army which inherited the glorious revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. It is a genuine people's army that was organized by enlisting excellent sons and daughters of the workers, peasants and other sections of the working people with the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters as the backbone.

The KPA is revolutionary armed forces that were developed from the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRA) founded by President Kim Il Sung into a modern regular army after national liberation (August 15, 1945).

Well aware of the importance of the problem of building armed forces in the revolutionary struggle from the early years of his revolutionary activities, the President solved it successfully from the stand of Juche, thus starting the effort to build revolutionary armed forces in Korea.

Based on the thoroughgoing preparations for the building of revolutionary armed forces in the initial stage of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, he proclaimed the foundation of the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (AJPGA) on April 25, 1932. Later, the AJPGA was reorganized into the KPRA in March 1934.

Under his leadership, the KPRA grew up as a reliable revolutionary army, and won a historical victory in the revolutionary war against the Japanese imperialists despite difficulties and trails of all descriptions. As a result, the Korean people were liberated from the Japanese imperialist colonial rule and embarked on the road to a new society and new life.

Having a good understanding of the prevailing situation of the country after national liberation, President Kim Il Sung put forward a sagacious policy of strengthening and developing the KPRA into a regular army, and led the struggle wisely for its implementation. On the basis of such preparations, he reorganized the KPRA into the KPA, regular revolutionary armed forces, on February 8, 1948. This gave the Korean people a secure military guarantee for the building of a sovereign and independent state and the socialist cause and for the defending of the country and the gains of the revolution by their own armed forces against the imperialist and class-enemy's invasion.

The KPA performed great feats for the country and the people under Kim Il Sung's wise leadership. In the fierce Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953), it heroically survived severe trials and difficulties and safeguarded the freedom and independence of the country honourably by defeating the US imperialists and fifteen of their satellite countries, the army of south Korea as well as the Japanese militarist forces.

In the postwar years too, it staunchly defended the security of the country and the gains of the revolution smashing uninterrupted aggressive moves and war provocations of the US imperialists and their ►

Heroic KPA, Yesterday and Today

▶ stooges at every step.

In the 1990s the armies of the East European countries were heading for non-resistance against the imperialist allied forces led by the US, but the KPA, under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, stood in the van of safeguarding socialism as guards of independence assuming the mission of both national defence and the socialist construction. In the acute confrontation with the imperialists, the Chairman gave priority to military affairs, strengthened and developed the KPA into the powerful, revolutionary Paektusan army and set up Korea as a self-reliant military giant and a nuclear nation that no aggression forces dare touch. This is the greatest of the feats of the Chairman.

Today, the KPA is further strengthening as an elite revolutionary army that is infinitely loyal to the order of its Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un. He convened historic meetings including the meeting of the KPA information officers, the 4th conference of the KPA company commanders and political instructors and the 3rd conference of the battalion commanders and political instructors, and has brought about a new upsurge in the building of revolutionary armed forces. Inspecting KPA units' firing areas, airports, warships and even dangerous hot spots, he gives important instructions relating to the

bolstering of the fighting capacities. Many combat drills held recently—firing exercises of artilleries, combat drills, landing of paratroops, manoeuvres of warships, simulation combat manoeuvres between two opposite combined units and fighting exercises of fighter pilots of the air and anti-aircraft force—have been important occasions in effecting a turning point in making preparations for fighting and strengthening of the war potentialities of the army.

In recent years the Supreme Commander visited the Kkachilbong Post on Mt. Osong, Jangjae and Mu islets defending units and the hottest spot of the Panmunjom Post, which are all no more than hundreds of metres from the enemy gun. There, he looked into soldiers' life with the paternal care. This has ushered in a new sweeping approach to the soldiers in the army.

As it is defended by the KPA that is faithful to the will and intention of their Supreme Commander, the socialist Korea remains impregnable. Though the imperialists are intensifying the anti-DPRK campaign while arguing about “emergency” and “change,” the KPA is firmly determined to defend the socialist gains.

The KPA remains a reliable guard of the socialist Korea, true to the brilliant traditions of the anti-Japanese warfare.

Kim Yong Un

A scene from the military parade held in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.



Mother's Life

(Continued from the last issue)

The Next Chapter of My Life

THE ANTI-JAPANESE movement for national independence in Korea led by the nationalists was devoid of a correct programme and line conforming to the times and actual reality. Though they cried for patriotism under the “anti-Western and anti-Japanese” banner to save the declining fate of the country, they ended in a failure after all their bloody sacrifices in the alien land because they failed to secure unity and had no eminent leader.

I (Ri Kwan Rin) did not want to sail as the wind blew or surrender to the outside forces. While I was engaged in revolutionary activities at home and in Manchuria crossing the Amnok River and Mt. Paektu backward and forward, I was compelled to seek refuge in the house of Zheng Jinshan due to the treachery of the right-wing faction of the Kukmin-bu and the pursuit of the Japanese police. Zheng was originally affiliated to Sun Yat-sen's national revolutionary group. While concerned for the Chinese revolution, he sincerely supported and helped the independence movement of Korea. In the 1920s when we were collecting contributions and procuring weapons, Zheng undertook the liaison work and the delivery of funds and weapons. He was a saviour of my life rescuing me whenever I was in a scrape. Now he was worried a lot about me.

In Zheng's large household there were many women, married and unmarried. All members of

his family, irrespective of age and sex, treated me kindly and had compassion on me. So, I was on friendly terms with them. They did not know that I had learned needlework as a student of the Pyongyang Public Girls' High School before, and so when I made their clothes, they said in delight that I was a good needlewoman. Zheng's wife, Wang, was in ill health, and now her condition took a bad turn. She was born in Kuandian County, China, and was kind-hearted. We were very close like sisters. Whenever I had dropped in at her home while I was engaged in the independence movement, she received me with pleasure and helped me both materially and morally. Wang had been ill in bed for a long time and now her disease turned for worse because of a complication. In such circumstances, her husband had a hard time eking out livelihood for the large family.

One day she called me to her bedside. With tears in her eyes she grasped my hands and asked me to take care of the Zheng family after her death. So I told her to brace herself up to recover health, reproaching her for her weak-minded attitude. Then Wang said in earnest, “In the past, Zheng's family sincerely supported the independence of Korea and saved your life. Sister, as I know, you are only obsessed with the independence movement. I know my disease quite well and it seems past remedy now. When I die, who'll take care of my children and my husband and this large family? These days I'm often thinking of you looking after the Zheng family. But now you say you can't do so, I think therefore I can't close my eyes in peace.”

I understood her anxiety well enough, and I was deeply moved by her trust in me. I found myself in a dilemma. I was quite embarrassed. My anguish grew intense after Wang's death. At this juncture my father came to see me. He and Yun Chang Thae repeatedly counselled me to marry Zheng. At last, in obedience to my father's intention and the wishes of Zheng's family, I got married to him at the age of 38 after four years of sheltering in his house. Perhaps by divine grace, I gave birth to a boy, and my husband named him Zheng Yubin. In 1939 I had a daughter whose name was Zheng Yujin. As I had a son and a daughter, Zheng's family and villagers looked after me very kindly. They always protected me against the persistent Japanese police and spies who chased after me.

After the birth of two children I was relieved from worries and distress to some extent in my life, and my mind was at rest, preoccupied with the care of children. I placed my hope on them. Though I was living in the alien land, married and bringing up children, I never forgot my homeland, the village where I was born and spent my childhood, and the places where I was engaged in the struggle against the Japanese rogues. I often went up to the Dongdadingzi pavilion with my children, which was within sight of Korea, my homeland. Then, I would tell them to fulfil my wishes of national liberation in my place without forgetting our national tragedy. I also told them to love Korea and China. Time passed, and my children reached school age, but there was no school in the mountain village. ▶

▶ Moreover, I had no enough money to send my children to the school in a far-off place. So I resolved to teach them myself. I taught them everyday after the day's work.

An old saying goes in Korea: "Even while skipping meals, people will send their children to school." Many times I felt I was too exhausted to teach the children every night after spending busy hours doing the duties of a housewife and cropping the fields. But I recalled my early days when I had learned reading and writing from my mother and did my best for the education of my children.

One day I came to know from a villager who returned from Korea across the Amnok River after visiting his relative that my country was liberated. I ran out to the riverside, leaping over the furrows of the fields like mad. The news of Korea's liberation came to me like a dream. I wished to go home. I wished to meet my beloved younger brothers and sisters and folks of the home village. The villager told me that now I could go and live in my dear homeland. Listening to him, I turned and found my husband standing at some distance, holding the children by the hand with his eyes fixed on me.

In my married life, a sweet relation with my husband was something I did not know. This was partly because there were so many members in the household that my husband and I could scarcely have a chance to sit together and pass a sweet hour. But it was mainly because there was a great disparity of age between us and we were both unsociable and lacked a gentle character. My husband, however, silently endeavoured to make me happy and comfortable. He did everything in his power to help me when I was most distressed. Parting from him now meant going against human obligation. Moreover, we had two children. It was impossible for me

to go back to my country leaving my husband who had sheltered me and sympathized with me and my children behind. I ran up to them and took the children in my arms, falling down on the spot in tears.

After the defeat of the Japanese imperialists Northeast China was turned into a scene of scramble for its seizure by the Eighth Route Army of the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang army. Between July 1947 and January 1948, the agrarian reform was effected under the guidance of the CCP in the Liaodong region. As a result, the feudal land holding system was abolished, and the peasants became the masters of new China. Their livelihood improved day after day. In January 1948 the deviations in the agrarian reform began to be rectified. The history of this period was described in Vol. 1 of *Mao Zedong's Selected Works* and *Chen Yun's Mysterious Facts* issued by the Central Book Publishing House of the CCP. As the government began to correct the Leftist deviations in the agrarian reform, our family received some land on the mountain slope which was lying idle for several years.

My son Zheng Yubin who entered the Badaogou Primary School of Yuanbaogu, Tandong City in 1948 finished it and entered the Tandong Junior Middle School. He did very well at school probably because he had been initiated into the beginners' course early in his childhood. Moreover, he was a diligent student. But one day he abruptly said he would give up the middle school. I guessed he must have made the decision out of concern for me as I was earning money penny by penny for his schooling. It is said that Korean women's affection and care for their children are as long and deep as their long skirts. In China there is the

old story of Mencius's mother moving her house three times for the sake of her son.

Hearing the determination of my son, I felt bitter at first for his failure to understand my mind. But thinking of the family's needy circumstances, I appreciated his resolution. At this thought that my son now reached the age of discretion, I decided to follow him. I said to him that I wanted him to become an admirable son of the people who would work honestly for justice with a clear conscience no matter where he might work and what he might do in the future. So Yubin left school in the first year of the middle school and got the position of worker in the Shenyang Ordnance Department. Some time later he wrote me he was recommended to school. He studied nearly two years at today's Metallurgy and Geological Survey Designing School in Changchun. After graduation, he was appointed a technician at the Non-ferrous Metal Bureau of the Heavy Industry Department of Northeast China. As he was in the public employment, he was now the support of the family and our livelihood improved noticeably. As his place of work changed, we, Yujin and I, moved from Tandong to Shenyang, Zhengju, Maanshan, and finally to Xian.

In August 1963 my husband died of gastric tumor and cerebral haemorrhage at the home of his son in Shenyang. On the day of funeral, I prayed for the repose of his soul, looking back on the days of the anti-Japanese struggle when he helped us in all possible ways in the independence movement of Korea and saved my life more than once and then the unforgettable days we had passed together sharing joy and sorrow, understanding and encouraging each other amid all hardships.

(To be continued)



Important Power Station

THE EAST PYONGYANG Thermal Power Station is getting new reputation as an important enterprise in the country's electric generation.

Three years ago the rotator axle of Generator No. 2 needed repairing. Until that time they thought there was no other way but importing the necessary material from abroad to be processed. At that time the workers of the power station suggested a daring idea to make a rotator axle with their material and produce electricity with the generator equipped with the axle. There were some people who had got a contrary stand, because it was a serious matter that was accompanied by the danger of explosion. Many practical problems had to be solved such as the quality of the material weighing over two tons, precision of the processing and the need of special welding rods for the processing and installation.

However, to the workers and the technicians of the plant, those obstacles were nothing but

a stimulation of their creative ability and patriotic zeal. Actually, the more trials, the more enthusiastic they became. When the problem of welding rods arose, they decided to solve it with their own effort, technique and materials, saying that once they decided to do it by themselves, they should reject even a small thing if it was a foreign make.

They had a heated discussion in the field for many times and conducted experiments day and night. There was no distinction between the technicians and the workers in the efforts. There is a story that an old skilled worker became an avid reader of technical documents on the making of welding rods and gave young technicians a good many advices for the rod making. Through such efforts, the power plant succeeded not only in making welding rods by their own method but also in finishing the restoration of the rotator axle to the original state and conducting the maximum operation test

within four months after the repair began and less than one month after they made welding rods. This is only part of their achievement.

There are many stories about their patriotic efforts: although they could fulfil their plan with one boiler they brought a broken boiler into operation to contribute to the country's electricity production when the country was in a great shortage of power due to last year's long spell of drought; they operated the turbine so well that they produced thousands of kilowatts of more power without consuming additional material; they changed the steam supply system to make the flow of industrial steam for generation of additional electricity.

General Manager Jong Chol Nam says, "We have many things to do yet. Let us be an undying torch in the struggle to build a thriving nation—this is the unanimous determination and will of my plant."

Ri Song Chol

By Tapping Potentialities

THE COAL MINERS OF THE February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine of the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex are effecting innovations in coal production from the outset of the New Year. And the colliers of Pit No. 10 are in the lead.

One day in December a few years ago the workers of the pit had a meeting to discuss the matter of tapping reserves for increasing production. At the meeting it was suggested and discussed to raise production by shortening the time of working processes such as of driving tunnels and cutting coal. Various good proposals were made for saving time: preparing reserve working faces, raising the coal-cutting speed and the loading capacity, and guaranteeing full operation of equipment. Accordingly, efforts were concentrated on preparing reserve working faces in the pit. All pitmen and tunnelling workers made some pertinent suggestions for collective discussion and the most rational ones of them suited to actual circumstances of the pit were adopted. Thanks to the creative opinions and efforts of

the coal miners, many reserve faces were prepared and the tunnelling speed per hour rose 1.5 times. Hoists and other equipment were kept in good repair, so that coal was carried out without delay. Attention was paid to raising the role of skilled pitmen.

On the other hand, the day of technical study was observed every week to promote the work of improving the technical skills of the pitmen and tunnelling workers. And skilled workers made it a rule to help technically inferior miners to improve their ability. A strict system of maintenance and repair of the equipment like compressors and

pumps was established and their operators' sense of responsibility was heightened to prevent even a single minor mechanical accident. Advanced coal-cutting methods suited to the pit faces were widely introduced and the actual rate of coal cutting per metre was constantly raised to produce even one more kilogram of coal.

Ever since then, the workers of the pit found out plenty of coal reserves every year to increase production. Now the coal miners of all other pits of the complex are making a dynamic campaign to turn out more coal after the example of Pit No. 10.

Jo Song I



Practical Contribution

IN RECENT YEARS MANY coal mines including the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex have registered good successes in coal production. This is attributable partly to the efforts of the scientists at the Suncheon Area Anthracite Mining Research Institute under the Coal Science Branch of the State Academy of Sciences.

A few years ago Hong In Chol, head of the institute, and other scientists went to a coal mine. In a stall they saw a scraper conveyor in operation. Watching the conveying equipment, Hong found that it did not fit in well with the conditions of the working face. Immediately, they formed a research team for technical modernization of the conveying equipment. Section Chief Kim Myong Jin and other members of the team set out to devise a new conveying equipment suited to the conditions of the working face and capable of carrying more coal. Months later they made a new conveyor equipment. In trial operation they discovered that the new equipment was inconvenient to move between working faces. The research team searched for ways to get rid of the defects, tapping coal miners' views and studying the operation of the machine. In this process they hit upon a method which would enable them to shorten the time of moving the equipment with ease and increase its carrying capacity if they solved some technical problems such as the structural remodelling of the gear. They intensified their researches and established a mining process based on this conveying equipment. This mining process brought about great economic

profits increasing the coal mining rate twice as much as before while raising the monthly coal production by more than hundreds of tons in the working face and recovering more than half the used props.

Not content with this, the institute pushed ahead with the research work to improve the blasting method. Basing on the comprehensive analysis of the merits and faults of the previous blasting techniques, the researchers deepened the studies on a new blasting method which would cost less and be easy to apply with great efficiency. When applied at many stalls, the new method sharply reduced the coal cutting cost per metre and raised the rate of blasting efficiency by over 90 per cent. So, it raised the speed of driving a tunnel through rocks 1.5 times by using the same amounts of labour force, materials and dynamites as before. The new mining process and blasting method originating with the institute received state certificates of registered sci-tech achievement, and are now playing a great role in increasing coal production at many coal mines. Further, the institute made an automatic inter-pit anti-toxic-gas chemical sprayer and solved many sci-tech problems in improving the working conditions in the pit like the draining methods and waterproofing suited to the hydrogeological characteristics of coal mines.

Now the institute is widely known not only in the sci-tech domain but also in the coal industry sector, and coal mines are awaiting many more efficient mining arrangements from the institute.

Kim Kwang Chon

THE PRODUCTS OF THE Pyongyang Hosiery Factory are very popular among the people for their high quality. The workers and technicians of the factory are making great efforts to meet the people's demands.

By concerted efforts

All the employees of the factory rose as one to modernize the production processes from weaving, pre-treatment, sewing, dyeing and heat treatment to packing. It was not so easy to modernize the production processes such as those of selecting fibre, designing structures and production. Most difficult was the problem of innovating the dyeing and hosiery pattern processes to meet the people's increasing demands. The technicians of the technical preparation room undertook this work. They began by studying the dyeing process.

They wanted to make bright colours and glossy fabrics with home-made auxiliary chemicals and dyestuffs. After repeated debates and consultations, they solved some problems of technical index as to the proportions of ▶



To Meet the People's Demands

► dyestuffs and auxiliary chemicals and the time of keeping necessary temperatures, and sharply cut the decolouration rate. Through consultation they decided on best patterns to the liking of men and women and most suitable pictures to the fancy of children. Now children are very fond of socks with patterns from the Korean animation *A Clever Raccoon Dog*.

Cha Kuk Chol, chief of the technical preparation room, says, "The success we have achieved this time is a fruit of concerted efforts and combined wisdom. We are going to make whatever the people like."

"Doing our bit!"

"With excited feelings, we saw on TV our athletes winning the matches of women's football, weightlifting, table tennis, wrestling, gymnastics and shooting and our national flag rising high



at the 17th Asian Games. We felt as if we were running with them."

"Sometimes we even became nervous worrying about the socks of our own make coming off the players' legs." "Looking at our players mounting the prize-awarding platform, we felt very proud that we did our bit for their winning of gold medals."

These are frank remarks made by weaving worker Kang Won Gyong, sewer Kil Myong Gum and Packer Kim Chung Sil.

The sports socks produced at the factory are supplied to the juvenile sports schools and sports teams across the country. A close

combination of rubber and compressed fibres, these socks suitable for Korean athletes are supple and convenient to wear. Their production process won a gold medal at the nationwide invention and new technology exhibition.

With no content for their success

The factory's management staff and workers are still discontented with the successes achieved in the work of modernizing the production processes. They always remember that the people's tastes and choices change constantly. So, having succeeded in introducing the new method of producing three-ply elastic socks, they are now eager to make the socks-fixing device automatic.

Kim Mi Hwa of the men's socks workshop says, "At present more and more customers are seeking our *Choljjuk*-brand socks. This prompts us to accelerate the modernization of production processes along with normal production. We'll study harder and innovate our techniques to produce more and better socks."

Choe Chol Jin



Jongbangsan Mushroom Farm

THE MUSHROOM, USED FOR FOOD FOR about 30 000 years, is popular for having plenty of vitamins and mineral matters.

Recently mushroom farms have been built in all the provinces across the country in Korea to industrialize the mushroom production. In North Hwanghae Province a mushroom farm went up in the picturesque area of Mt. Jongbang. All the production processes are on the flow line.

Mun Hye Sun, who was well-known across the country as she produced a mushroom weighing 30 kg in 2013, was appointed as chief engineer. “I was afraid. I wasn’t sure I could operate the farm with my poor experience in producing mushroom by a crude method. But when the State built a good farm and took a measure to supply fungi, I was encouraged,” recalls Mun.

Since the State provided the fungi which is the main material in the mushroom cultivation, the farm only had to prepare the substrate and cultivation process. They made nutritive substrate by mixing vegetable materials—which are easy to treat and highly expansive—with other materials like rice bran with plenty of nitrogen.

The farm also succeeded in the sterile inoculation, one of the essential matters in the mushroom production. By filtering the air totally, they got mass inoculation, thus increasing the productivity. Now that the farm put the fungi production on a scientific footing and introduced modern equipment it directed efforts to development of technical and practical skills of the employees. The chief engineer and other managers are “lecturers” giving technical courses to the workers. They told about the lessons they had got from their experience in producing mushroom by old methods. Vivid examples were also presented. In addition, researchers and technicians of central organs are invited to solve knotty problems arising in production.

An emulation drive to increase the mushroom



production is going forcefully among the employees who have improved their technical and practical skills, thus producing lots of mushroom in small areas. Last year there was a competition of mushroom production among the mushroom farms across the country, and the Jongbangsan Mushroom Farm won it. The farm sends the mushroom to the baby home, orphanage and old folk’s home in North Hwanghae Province. The workers felt an unusual pride when they saw the children in the baby home and orphanage and the old people delighted to have mushroom. True to the Workers’ Party of Korea’s slogan “We serve the people!” the managers and workers are working hard to produce more mushroom and supply it to the people in the province.

“Though we won the competition of the mushroom farms, we are not content with this. In order to lead the effort to enrich the people’s table my workers have turned out as one,” says Mun Hye Sun.

Kim Hyon Ju

Korea Hungsan United Company

NATURAL GRAPHITE BRUSHES DEVELOPED by the scientists of the Korea Hungsan United Company are widely introduced in different fields of the national economy, bringing huge profit. *Most countries rely on the artificial graphite industry, but we should set up a graphite industry with the abundant natural graphite in our country. For this we should first develop a natural graphite processing technology in our own style.*

This was a decision of the researchers of the company including Jo Il Suk. For its materialization they formed a technical team and worked with devotion counting every minute of the day. Their tables began to be piled with relevant technical books and docu-



ments on the trend of the latest sci-tech development. The team comprehensively analyzed the voluminous documents and conducted scores of simulations. Failures repeated, but they didn't lose heart. They went to several factories such as Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex and the West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps and set up hundreds of natural graphite brushes and measured voltage and current while observing the abrasion rate and the life of the brushes at different speeds. So they succeeded in adjusting the voltage fall,

rectification, brush spark, commutator and sliding ring abrasion to the relevant international standard. This meant that they made a quality natural graphite material for the first time in the world.

The International Electrotechnical Commission judged, based on a scientific analysis, that in comparison with the existing brush material sweeping the international market, the natural graphite material is 7 percent smaller in density and 28 percent larger in electric conductivity and 1.5 times stronger in breaking point. So the natural graphite brush received a world standard (IEC/PAS).

Now the DPRK has laid a foundation to produce high-quality graphite brushes with the natural graphite material which is found abundantly in the country by industrializing the natural graphite processing technique. Their brushes were introduced to Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex, water-pumping motors in the agricultural field and minor hydroelectric power stations in Jagang Province, bringing huge profit.

Kim Chol Man, officer of the Korea Hungsan United Company, says, "Approach the world with our own things. This is our determination and goal." The scientists and technicians of the company are making redoubled efforts to develop highly competitive products with natural graphite.

Kim Hyon Ju



Pride of a Veteran Educator



IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, Jong Tae Yong, professor at the Pyongyang University of Architecture, marked his 79th birthday. Many people came and congratulated him. Most of them were his old pupils. They delighted their teacher on his birthday by telling him about the successes they had achieved in the past one year, some of them obtaining a doctor's degree, while others developing new technical ideas or building new structures.

Growing up in a farm village, Jong cherished a dream to breed high-yielding rice and potatoes to the astonishment of his teachers and classmates. But his dream changed during the Korean war (1950–1953) started by the US imperialists, when he promised a little girl who was shivering with cold in front of her demolished house to come back and build a house for her without fail, wrapping her with his overcoat. So, when he came to Pyongyang to enroll in a college after the war ended in victory for the Korean people, he applied for admission to a construction college instead of the then Biology Department of Kim Il Sung University

which he had so eagerly wished to enter. At that time postwar rehabilitation work was in full swing and so civil and building engineers were in great demand everywhere. Perceiving the actual reality, Jong had a different determination. After graduation, he became an educator, abandoning his dream of becoming a famous architect.

Since then he has taught at the college for over 50 years, bringing up large numbers of talents. His old pupils still remember what he said at the beginning of his lectures, "Our hope and ambition should be oriented to the prosperity of the motherland, and our pride in life consists in how much we have contributed to the prosperity and development of our country." With this aspiration Jong has devoted all his wisdom and energies to fostering the students into able men for the country. He would give extra one-hour lessons after school to the lagging students or sit up all night with his students to complete an important research thesis.

His pupils who studied under his meticulous instruction are now playing the pivotal role in the domains of architectural researches and construction and on the construction sites. All the leading architectural designers such as Chae Yong Su who made the plan for the People's Theatre which boasts modern architec-

tural beauty and Ri Chol Su who projected the fine new building of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum cherish the dear memory of Jong as their unforgettable teacher.

Jong broke new ground in the architectural graphics of the country, his specialty, by writing scores of new textbooks and improving their contents to meet the requirements of the developing times and the characteristics of the graphics. The reference books and papers written by him such as *Practical Architectural Graphics Based on the Analysis of Diagram* are now indispensable companions of students who specialize in architecture.

People would not easily believe anyone if he says Jong has not written theses either for honorary titles or for academic degrees. When his children or pupils or acquaintances should feel sorry for it, Jong would say, "To an educator a high honorary title may be important, but still more important is to have high qualifications acknowledged by the students and to make a great real contribution to education."

Today he is faithfully devoting his all to educational work, proud of his life dedicated to rearing a new generation of architects who will plan the new looks of the developing motherland.

Chae Kwang Myong

In Keeping With the Children's Ages and Mentalities

“IT IS VERY INTERESTING to go to school and study. Our teacher is good at teaching not only our language but maths, painting and music as well. Indeed, everything comes easy to her.” This is what all the pupils of Kim Song Ju Primary School say.

In February last year, the teaching staff of this school held a conference, where Headmistress Ri Yong Ryol said, “Before long the new universal 12-year compulsory education will go into effect. According to its curriculum, we have to teach the pupils the ideas and elementary concepts of nature and society and the laws of their change and development in preparation for receiving secondary education. At the same time, we have to educate them to have a sound character, a tender emotion and a strong physique. What is important here is to adopt methods and contents of teaching suited to the psychology and characters of young children. For this purpose, we teachers have to raise our ability and qualifications higher.” At the conference, they discussed concrete ways and means to raise the pupils’ cognitive faculty and practical ability. Then, the teachers were encouraged to make good preparations for lessons.

They held discussions often about their teaching plans and teaching aids, and deliberated on teaching contents and methods and the way to correctly understand the pupils’ mentality. Every week, a teaching contest was held for the teachers to

improve their qualifications and learn good teaching tacts from competent teachers. During lessons, teachers urged the pupils to ask questions of their own accord, and explained everything plainly for the children to gain a correct idea of it. Setting forth various problems the teachers would organize the pupils into groups of four to de-

their impressions of the books they had read. Further, they were encouraged to take part in extracurricular sports and art activities such as football, Taekwon-Do, table tennis, swimming, music and dancing according to their tastes. To this end, the teachers were called upon to become skilful in sports and arts. As a result, the



bate and argue the set problems within each group and solve them by themselves. In addition, teaching aids and demonstration lessons were meticulously prepared to enhance the pupils’ cognitive faculty by means of visual aids.

More stuffed animals and botanical and other specimens were shown in the natural history hall as a measure to improve demonstration lessons. So as to get the pupils more interested in reading, the school library stepped up its work, and the pupils were urged to write and announce

teachers of this school have been highly appraised in national forums of teaching experience and methods and at teaching contests. In a matter of a year, the pupils’ understanding and practical abilities have risen remarkably.

Ri Yong Ryol says, “In the future, too, we will continue to study and improve the educational contents and methods in keeping with the pupils’ ages and mentalities and strive to improve the teachers’ ability and qualifications.”

Choe Chol Jin

Mannyon Pharmaceutical Factory

THE MANNYON PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY, located in Taesong District, Pyongyang, is not a big enterprise. But its production and quality control system has reached the world standard. The products of the factory are popular both at home and the international market. The factory is able to produce traditional Koryo medicines such as *Kyongokko*, *Samhyang Uhwang Chongsimhwan*, and *Rokthaego*, and injections such as the Musk Injection and *Sophora angustifolia* Anti-cancer Injection, household medicines and health drinks and foods such as Kaesong Koryo Insam Tea, Insam Liquid Medicine, *Ganoderma* Medicinal Wine after their own will.

The secret of this success lies in the effort for technical improvement and development of new medicines. Last year the products of the factory won a dozen gold medals and awards at national and foreign exhibitions such as the 13th national exhibition of inventions and new technology and the 9th China international patent technology and product trade fair.

In the factory the whole processes from examina-

tion of materials to the packing are supported by able quality managers, up-to-date experimental and analytical equipment and manufacturing facilities. The quality authentication administration of the DPRK approved that the factory has fully reached the GMP standard after it carried out the GMP test two times and the final test. Thus the factory ranked the top among Koryo medicine factories in the country in arrangement of production environment in 2014.

It is vigorously conducting technical exchange with authoritative medicinal experts of the world and organizes GMP courses on a regular basis. The foreign-ordered medicines are also produced. Through hundreds of orders for production the factory has earned greater confidence. The counterparts appreciated after several strict tests that the products secured the world standard. The medicines are supplied to major pharmacies in Pyongyang.

General Manageress Song Yong Suk says, "We are going to produce more effective and popular Koryo medicines and health food. By conducting activities to adopt experience in higher GMP practice and install stable and advanced technology we'll contribute to the public health and the development of the country's medicine industry."

Chae Kwang Myong



Our Maternity Hospital Is Best

“OUR MATERNITY hospital is best with its kind-hearted doctors taking warm care of the patients.” This is a line of the letter sent by a woman farm worker of Singye County, North Hwanghae Province, to the North Hwanghae Provincial Maternity Hospital. She had been taken to the hospital unconscious and given treatment until she got well again. After returning home, she wrote to the hospital. She expressed her thanks on behalf of all the women who had been treated there.

It is not long after the maternity hospital was newly built to supersede the old-type one of the province according to the Workers' Party of Korea's intention to make everything serve the people. It is an all-round medical service centre with a four-floor ward and a three-floor outpatient polyclinic. Equipped with up-to-date facilities, it has telemedical system to hold a direct picture consultation at any time with able doctors of central hospitals including the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and Okryu Children's Hospital and to get detailed guidance for operation. Even some serious obstetrical and gynaecological diseases that could only be treated in Pyongyang before are now operated on and cured here in close contact with central hospitals through this system.

The woman farm worker in Singye County, too, underwent an operation in this way. When she



was rushed to the hospital soon after its opening, she was six months gone with child and suffering from splenic ascites. The doctors had a serious discussion about the senseless patient, but they had little experience in treating such rare cases. It was feared that the treatment of the patient ill with abdominal dropsy might impede the growth of her unborn child. However, thanks to the telemedical system, they operated successfully on her with the assistance of doctors of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital.

Further, the doctors of the entire hospital or a separate department hold a scientific research discussion and exchange information about treating methods once a week with their counterparts in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and Okryu Chil-

dren's Hospital. Doctors and nurses of the baby department say that they learn a lot from this

system. On the other hand, they made a pamphlet for nursing mothers to develop their knowledge about baby care. The mothers say that the pamphlet is very helpful to them and that the modern and convenient facilities of the hospital make them feel quite well already.

All the doctors of the obstetrical, breast cancer prevention, women's health management and other departments have gained new sci-tech knowledge through this system. In five months since the inauguration of the hospital, 550 babies have been born and 300 women have been cured of their diseases here.

At present the hospital is giving a good deal of encouragement to the remedy of sterility.

Kim Yong Un

Mass-based Sporting Activities Encouraged



I*N THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea the enthusiasm for sporting activities is growing among the general masses. A Korea Today reporter had an interview with Ri Chi Ung, vice-director of the Mass-based Sports Department of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.*

Now the DPRK is putting much emphasis on the development of mass-based sports. Would you tell me about it in detail?

My country regards mass-based sporting activities as an important index of social progress and civilization in the new century and an indispensable requirement in sports development. Mass-based sport is one of the major State policies. The Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea specifies that the State shall put the principles of socialist education into practice and raise the new generation to be steadfast revolutionaries who will fight for society and the people, to be people of a new Juche-oriented type who are knowledgeable, morally sound and physically healthy. It also stipulates that the State shall thoroughly prepare the people for work and national defence by popularizing physical culture and sport and making it their daily regime, and augment sporting skills to meet the country's reality and the trend in

modern sporting skills.

The Constitution was amended and supplemented in keeping with the prevailing situation and the requirement of the developing reality, but the paragraphs concerning the sports development of the country have remained unchanged. Thanks to the State measure the sports work is making headway as a State and all the people's concern. The State has got the National Sports Guidance Committee which gives a unified control and guidance with regard to sports affairs. And sports guidance committees are in operation in all provinces, cities and counties, and senior officials of local authorities assume the responsibility for the work.

The changing appearance of Korea helps us to envision the future of the mass-based sport developing day by day. A world-level ski resort was laid on the once secluded Masik Pass; the Munsu Water Park, a latest

Working people learn skiing at the Masikryong Ski Resort.





A scene from the National Inter-provincial Games-14.

▶ multi-purpose sports service facility, went up in the Munsu area, and the Mirim Riding Club, a public horse-riding service centre, came into existence in an extensive area in the suburbs of Pyongyang. Along with this, the existing sports facilities are facelifted suited to the requirement of the new century, and the sports parks with volleyball and basketball grounds and a roller rink are erected across the country, transforming the overall appearance of the country.

Public sports and cultural service establishments including the Rungna Alpha Mare, the People's Open-air Ice Rink and the Thongilgori Fitness Centre were built to the delight of the people, and facilities which are flawless in all respects are under construction or renovated. The Pyongyang Indoor Stadium was refurbished some time ago, and the Sports Village in Chongchun Street underwent a change into a comprehensive base for physical exercises and sports games while the May Day Stadium was newly renovated. They help the mass-based sport develop further, and our sportspersons make new records by taking advantage of the foundation.

These days I see mass-based

sporting activities getting more brisk than ever before. What do you have to say about this?

We divide the mass-based sporting activities into those done by the public and those by schoolchildren, and the latter is more emphasized. In the course of making sport mass-based and a part of everyday life a lot of people have grown to be in the national team. In particular, there is a growing interest in football. Promising footballers are selected through away and home matches, and contests of the juvenile sports schools.

The sporting atmosphere is surging up among the public as there are more mass-based sporting activities. A number of games such as the sports contest of artists, the national sports contest of industrial workers and the national sports contest of agricultural workers are held regularly, encouraging the whole society to take a fancy to physical culture and sport. People have growing interest in sport through mass-based sporting activities, and they find themselves do their work better amidst the sporting zeal. And it gives full play to collectivism, and the love for their working places and home villages is going up remarkably.

At the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326 the managers are taking the lead in mass-based sporting activities and the workers are joining in the campaign as one. Thus, they feel more pleasant at their jobs and the spirit of helping and leading one another forward is prevailing in the factory. All this gives great energy to the effort to fulfil the national economic plan. Besides, the workers actively turned out in the work to facelift the factory in keeping with the requirement of the new century. Consequently, the factory is well known as one of the model factories in Pyongyang.

Now what does your department do to make mass-based sporting activity more animated?

I'm sure you saw many good sporting events last year. For example, the National Inter-provincial Games-14 were taken part in by kindergarteners, pupils of primary schools, junior and senior middle schools, students of colleges and universities, and blue and white collar workers, agricultural workers and housewives across the country under the State auspices. And the enthusiastic cheers of each team livened up the sporting atmosphere. In order to advance ▶

► to the inter-provincial games, each county had tournaments on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (July 27) and each province had relevant matches on the occasion of the anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il's start of Songun-based leadership (August 25). The winners of those matches came to Pyongyang to participate in the national games on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (October 10).

Last year the qualifiers for the National Inter-provincial Games-14 begun from the outset of the year fueled the sporting zeal at factories and enterprises, cooperative farms, schools and colleges. The heated sporting zeal in the whole country bolsters production and construction, and this is the current reality in Korea. The encouragement of mass-based sporting activities has raised the public interest in sport, opened up the prospect of training promising athletes in particular and laid a foundation for improving sports technology.



The Mirim Riding Club is a great public resort.

This year, too, it will be carried on briskly. Sports contests are going to be held at industrial establishments on the occasion of the Day of the Shining Star (February 16), and the training exercises have already begun at parks and sporting facilities in

factories and enterprises. Amidst the growing zeal of mass-based sporting activities our sports technology is advancing forward. Witnessing the rapidly-changing appearance of the country the world will have a new eye of the Korean people. □

Sports parks are ubiquitous.



Two Noticeboards

LAST YEAR, WHEN I HEARD THE PYONGYANG Printing Shop had overfulfilled its national economic plan ahead of schedule, I visited it. At the entrance I saw two noticeboards. One of them showed the innovators of the printing shop and the other introduced its volleyball players who won the matches at city and district levels. What attracted my attention was the names of some innovators appearing among the volleyball players too.

Three years before many workers of the printing shop failed in the national physical fitness examination which lasted for a month. This was written up on the board. Hyon Chol, chairman of the non-permanent sports association of the shop, was standing in front of the noticeboard, lost in deep thought. When the newly-appointed general manager Ho Il approached him, he asked Ho abruptly, pointing to the noticeboard, "Mr. General Manager, what do you think about that?"

Ho Il had also thought a lot about it. The production results of that month, too, were down. That day they had frank talks on bringing about sporting enthusiasm among the workers as the first step towards a new production upsurge. They chose volleyball to this end. Because many people can take part in volleyball games. When some people were dubious about it, Ho Il told, "It is true that we are pressed for production, but production is carried out by man, and a rise in production can be achieved when people turn out as one and make concerted efforts."

He prompted the management staff to take the lead in participating in volleyball games. Those who felt awkward at first to enter the volleyball ground were soon captivated by a strong urge to win the games and vied with each other to participate in them. So, another volleyball court had to be laid out. The workers of the printing shop showed a growing interest in the "volleyball championships" in which over ten teams took part and wanted to become a champion. The cheering enthusiasm ran high, not because the prizes of the matches were plentiful. When a workteam won a game, all its members became animated like in festival merrymaking. Gradually, the volleyball matches resulted in

increased production.

Two years ago an urgent task of labour service came up. At the time it was an unwritten rule of the printing shop to assign this sort of task to the workteam that had come out bottom in the last volleyball league match. The members of that workteam worked hard to fulfil the task quickly to make up for



the disgrace. But now the workers of the winning team in the last game joined them in the work to hasten the task because they thought they should be the first in everything. Consequently, the two teams worked together in a hot contest.

In this process, their volleyball skills improved rapidly. Their volleyball team would always come off first at the tournaments of teams from factories and other industrial establishments in the district held on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army, May Day and Day of Songun. Last year, in particular, it won the Jonsung Cup tournament and the municipal volleyball tournament of the National Inter-provincial Games-14. Later, the printing shop fulfilled its annual plan. So, labour innovators were introduced on the noticeboard, and it was mentioned specially that all of the innovators were simultaneously ranking volleyball players.

The general manager says, "Sporting enthusiasm is now sweeping across the country. Spurred on by the atmosphere of the times tending towards a sports power, more workers will appear on those noticeboards."

Ri Kum Chol

Children's Palace

and Chairman Kim Jong Il having a happy time with children. It was a good show of their love and care for the children.

NOT LONG AGO WE VISITED THE Pyongyang Orphanage which had been newly built. Approaching it we found the yard well laid with different colours of rubber blocks and lawns inside the modern establishment of high formative art.

Kim Jong Hui, mistress of the orphanage, welcomed us and led us into the entrance hall. There we saw a picture of President Kim Il Sung

Saying that children were very happy to live in the new well-furnished home, Kim guided us to the room for Education Class No. 1. There were a dozen children learning how to sing to the accompaniment of the organ played by their teacher. A rabbit-shaped clock was ticking, and smart, small chairs lay round the table. The room looked like a fairyland. In it children learn music and play intelligence games. All sorts of toys shaped like animals, tanks and airplanes and sporting necessities like roller-skate are in good order along the wall.

The room leads to a bedroom, a sunbathing lounge and a washroom. The bedroom with double-decked beds felt cosy and comfortable. The sunbathing lounge with a glass wall helps the children take enough sunbathing even in winter.





▶ What caught our eyes there were the animal pictures including tiger, deer, roe deer and rabbit labelled on all drawers of wardrobes and shoe chests and beds. Children choose the compartments with their favourite pictures. The education room had a clock-shaped daily schedule that tells the daily programmes of meal, playing, snack and so on by pictures.

Kim Sun, the nurse in charge of the class, said, "Seeing the pictures of the daily schedule children know the time of each of the daily activities and begin the right activity in the right time for themselves."

Learning that every room was well arranged to

meet the children's psychology, we headed for a general playing hall. In the round hall with children's favourite pictures on the walls and ceiling, children were riding bicycles, running here and there to catch up another in various shapes of slides, playing with balls and playing at house-keeping. All were engrossed in their play.

Hearing that the hall was furnished to help improve their hobby and growth, we went to an indoor wading pool. There were children rowing on ▶

Triplets celebrate their first birthday at a baby home.





▶ mini boats, sliding down water slides, dabbling and showering water to others passing through an apple-shaped tunnel. We heard the water temperature is always 33–34°C. Even we wished to enjoy ourselves in the pool covered with various patterns of beautiful tiles.

On our way to the first floor, we saw many pictures from famous animations on the corridor walls and the spiraling staircase. On the floor were also children’s rooms along with an intelligence game room and a nurses’ office.

In the intelligence game room there were many picture books, assembly toys and hundreds of kinds of other intelligence-improving devices. The mistress said that various intelligence plays like drawing, tower building and assembly play are very good for children’s intelligence development, and led us to the nurses’ office. Furnished with excellent furniture, it looked like a hotel room.

We also looked into a baby room on the second floor, where babies were asleep in warm cradles.

Lest we should disturb their sleeping, we left the room and went downstairs quietly. In the yard there were some animal sculptures and stone-covered paths in the lawn. Marvelling at it, we were walking along the corridor, when nurses passed us taking children to the dining hall. In the dining hall with beautifully-patterned tables and



chairs suited to children’s physical condition, children were having delicious foods provided to suit the standard of nourishment.

Kim told us that the country had also laid a clinical facility with special departments like internal treatment, surgery and dentist’s to keep children from diseases.

In the entrance hall we met Kil Myong Chol, who introduced himself as a worker at the Rungna Dolphinarium. Father of a set of triplets, he said, “My triplets are staying here. I’ve just looked round this place, and I find it built modernly to meet the children’s mind. I feel as if I were in a palace. It is wonderful my children live here.”

With a conviction that all the children of the orphanage would grow to be pillars of the country, we left there.

Jo Yong Il



Kinsfolk

A LOT OF PEOPLE VISITED the home of Kim Kwang Su, an honoured disabled soldier, in Okryu-dong No. 1, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang on the New Year's Day this year. Among them were managers and workers of the Jangsan Clothes Factory including Ri Sun Im, as well as Kim's relatives and friends.

One day some 20 years ago Ri Sun Im, then a workteam leader, and other management officers and workers of the factory went to Mansu Hill to pay tribute to the statue of President Kim Il Sung. At the foot of the hill they saw a man get down from a wheelchair with the help of his family members. Ri and her colleagues supported him up the hill, made a bow before the statue together with him and climbed down. On the way back along with them, Ri knew that he was an honoured disabled soldier who had lost his sight and one leg in an accident during his military service some years before and that he lived in Okryu-dong No. 1.

A few days later Ri and other officers and workers went to see him in his apartment. But he was in hospital for eye treatment. The visitors headed for his hospital. There they inquired him about his illness, giving a pep talk.

The day he left hospital Ri said to Kim, "From now on we are going to look after you like kinsfolk."

Since then, the factory employees often visited him, on holidays and Sundays in particular, singing songs for him and giving an entertainment party for his



merriment. Meanwhile they offered him various kinds of medicines and foodstuffs.

Years passed, and the disabled man's first son Kim Kyong Hak joined the Korean People's Army. The day he left for service, the factory workers went to see him off. They said to him, "Don't worry about your father. We'll take better care of him, and we hope you will do your service well and become a good man."

Later when Kim Kyong Hak got married (he was a KPA officer), the factory provided him with materials for the wedding ceremony, arranged a wedding party for him and prepared things for everyday life.

The factory also arranged for the wedding ceremony of Kim's second son and first daughter.

One August day last year Ri Kyong Ok and other young people of the factory visited Kim's home. "Your children have come to see you, father," they called in happiness, stepping inside. But they could not see him in. When they asked, his youngest son Kim Song Hak told his father had been in

hospital for days. Now the young people went to the hospital. There they asked Kim why he hadn't told their factory he was in hospital. When he said he didn't want to trouble the factory workers for a trifle matter when they were busy with production, Ri Kyong Ok said, "We know the country pays close attention to the health and life of the honoured disabled soldiers. And yet it is our moral obligation as well as a duty to look after you well. We know our country is safe and secure and we are living happily because there are good people like you who sacrifice themselves for the sake of the country. That is why we try to be like your kinsfolk. If you really think we are your adopted kinsfolk, please remember to tell us whatever problem you have."

Now the factory has Kim as its honorary employee and looks after him lest he should have any inconvenience in life.

Kim says, "The factory is my home and the workers are my brothers and sisters and kinsfolk."

Kim Yong Ok

Visit to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



Data and materials on the struggle of the defenders of Height 1 211.

(Continued from the last issue)

AFTER THE 3RD STAGE OF THE WAR HALL we came to the 4th Stage Hall.

Active Positional Defence

“The 4th Stage of the War extended from June 11, 1951 to July 27, 1953, when the Korean People’s Army units waged an active positional defensive warfare to ceaselessly dissipate and weaken the enemy forces and build up our own military power to win final victory in the war,” said the guide. Here we saw the oil painting *The Great Leader Kim Il Sung Commanding the Defensive Battle of Height 1 211*. The Supreme Commander of the KPA put forward the strategic tasks of the 4th Stage of the War to hold fast to the defence line by waging active positional defensive warfare, and to ceaselessly strike and destroy the enemy forces, while gaining time to reinforce the People’s Army and consolidate the home front creating all necessary conditions for final victory. Then the guide told us about how matters stood on the front line at the time. In June 1951 the front line was settled more or less along the 38th parallel and both sides faced each other across the parallel line. In the one year of the war, the US imperialists lost immense troops and huge amounts of combat and technical materiel. Nevertheless, they did not give up their aggression design but beefed up their armed forces to further expand the war. Having suffered repeated setbacks on the battlefields, they proposed armistice negotiations with a view to taking a vast territory of Korea by cheating and gaining a breathing space to rally their forces again.

Failing to achieve their sinister aim at the negotiation table, the US imperialists broke off the armistice talks unilaterally and launched a “summer offensive.” They set the main striking course on the eastern sector of the front. Their goal was to seize the ▶





Data on the optimistic life of the defenders of Height 1 211.

▶ vantage grounds in the eastern mountain area like Height 1 211 and Mt. Kungang by concerted operations of ground units and marine corps landing in Wonsan or Thongchon, and push north to the Wonsan area. The course of the main blow was confidential even to the division commanders on the front line. The enemy made a feint of attacking in the western sector of the front and massed large forces in the area. But Kim Il Sung, seeing through the enemy's designs, stated clearly that the Americans were aiming their strike on the eastern sector of the front line, not the western sector, and shifted the military force from the western sector to the east to strengthen the defences in the area. As the "summer offensive" was

brought to grief by the People's Army units' stubborn defence, the enemy fell to the "autumn offensive". This time, too, they threw large attacking forces on the western sector of the front to delude the KPA into a wrong belief about direction of their main strike and then suddenly launch into a violent attack on the eastern sector of the front line.

Penetrating the enemy's insidious intention, the Supreme Commander declared that the Americans were directing their main blow not on the western sector of the front line but on the eastern sector around Height 1 211.

There were on display binoculars and an operation map which the Commander had used at the ▶

A picture of the defence battle on Height 1 211.



► time. Pointing at this map, he stressed how important the defence of Height 1 211 was and pointed out that the defence of the height required building tunnels for positional defence, stepping up assault teams' activities and bringing direct-firing guns onto the height. He further said that as chilly weather had already set in, the soldiers had to be given hot meals and provided with warm shelters. He then sent them soybeans to let them grow and eat bean sprouts on the height.

Hearing the guide's explanation about the large panorama of the Battle of Height 1 211 and seeing the military uniform and accouterments of Hero Ri Su Bok who had blocked the embrasure of the enemy pillbox with his chest and the national flag he had kept about him, we learned clearly the self-sacrificing spirit and bravery of the defenders of Height 1 211.

Then we came to the photograph *Kim Il Sung Gives an On-site Guidance to the Tunnel-building Work*. The Supreme Commander put forward the tunnel tactics saying that the tunnel positions would protect the men and combat and technical materiel to the maximum and make it possible to wipe out more enemy troops.

The People's Army soldiers fighting from the tunnel positions mowed down the enemy troops with small arms and grenades, and some of them penetrated into the enemy's rear and struck them from behind to frustrate their offensive.

We moved on to see the data about the activities of the aircraft-hunting teams, tank-destroying teams, sniper teams, separate heavy machine-gun teams and assault teams.

Kim Il Sung proposed three hard-hitting battles to beat the enemy all hollow after they had already been dealt serious blows on the ground and sea and



Data and materials on the movement of aircraft-hunting teams.

in the air. He gave instructions in detail about the objects, order and methods of the strikes.

During the campaign, the KPA soldiers captured Height 351 within just 15 minutes, the height which the US imperialists said was more important than Seoul, and bragged it was "the line of no retreat." The battle for the height alone was enough to show how miserably the nose of the Americans was put out of joint. The US imperialists who had suffered immense losses of military strength and combat and technical materiel and sustained ignominious defeats everywhere were driven into a tight corner and at last fell to their knees before the Korean people and signed the Armistice Agreement, an instrument of surrender, on July 27, 1953.

We left the museum, convinced that we would on all accounts be crowned with victory in the struggle against the US imperialists in spite of all their sinister manoeuvres and crafty stratagems.

(The end)
Choe Chol Jin

The hall dedicated to the defeat of the US imperialists.



A Worker Artist



IN AUGUST LAST A STORY about a worker in the field of the civil aviation was carried by *Rodong Sinmun*, the WPK Central Committee's organ, under the title of *Happiness of Worker Artist*. His creative life was also broadcast by TV several times. For scores of years he has produced artistic and literary works in his leisure time. Sometimes he produced several works of different themes a day.

The admirable person is Kim Ho Sik, a worker at the Pyongyang International Airport. He comes from Songnim, North Hwanghae Province, the hometown of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, and his father was a worker of the complex. During his days at middle school he and his friends used to go to his father's workplace bringing scrap iron with them. When the smelters praised them, he often made a painting of himself and his friends. In such process he got interest in painting, but he did not think that he had got natural talent. However, when his picture, under his class teacher's advice, won the top place at a schoolchild-

ren's art exhibition of the town, he nourished a dream of becoming an artist. The picture he presented was a poster that encouraged the pupils to collect scrap iron, and in his mind the joy and patriotism were growing together.

So, on finishing middle school he, though qualified for an art college, chose to go for military service valuing his civic duty more than his personal ambition. During his service he kept painting. Even in busy training days he made a picture of his comrades-in-arms. In 1980 there took place an art exhibition of the Korean People's Army in Pyongyang. He presented a picture *Even When the Birds Have Got a Nest*, which took second place. Dealing with the reunification problem, it created a sensation for its true description. At that time Ho Sik made up his mind to hold fast to the brush for the sake of the society that highly appreciates even an ordinary soldier's work.

Thanks to the high appreciation of his talent at the exhibition, he was offered, after his service, a job at an authoritative art establishment. He considered the offer and refused to accept it. So, following his military service in the air force he was assigned to work at the then Pyongyang Airport terminal. Working at the airport meant the continuation of his engagement in the air service. The job gave him less time for painting because he was extremely busy almost every day. But he found out a way to gather

a seed of his creation from ordinary life. The image of his colleagues and the enjoyable life of ordinary workers gave him inspirations. Before he could know it, he got a habit of writing his feeling and emotions from the life.

Despite his hard work he found himself unable to show the life satisfactorily with painting. So, he wrote a poem titled *The Greedy Youth*. One day he went to the countryside to help farm workers, when he saw a young man who had begun to work at the farm after he was demobbed. When people praised him for his good manner of work, he said that he would like to hear his compliment when the problem of the food supply was solved with good farming. Ho Sik wrote a poem about his selfless enterprise. Although he knew he was inferior to professional poets in skill, he felt an urge to sing of the society and people's lofty mentality this way or that to boast them to the world. This pushed him to the poetic creation.

Over the past 30-odd years he has presented his works to national art shows and national workers' art exhibitions. Many of them won prizes. And many of his poems were introduced to the public by mass media. He says, "I am proud of being a worker. Because the life that inspires me to work devotedly and passionately for the sake of my country is just the source of my inspiration."

Kim Chol Ung

After Many Years

By Ri Hui Nam

1

PAK JONG GU, GENERAL manager of a motor maintenance factory, left Musan though his friends asked him to stay for some more days. No sooner had he got on the train than he shut his eyes after straightening his suit. Then he sat in the same way all along.

Pak had once worked at the Musan Mining Complex as a driver of a heavy-duty truck. He visited his old workplace this time, 15 years after he had left it, to attend a conference of general managers of major factories and enterprises across the country held to discuss how to assist the complex.

With the flow of 15 years without a hitch, Musan had changed beyond recognition, but still retained enough things to excite his old memory. Jong Gu had a pleasant meeting with his friends and had a warm welcome. And he got memorable impacts from some of his old pals.

It had happened the day he arrived at Musan days before. Having called on the general manager of the mining complex in his office to notice he was there in Musan and share the pleasant memories of the past, Jong Gu got to the reception desk of the guest house around dark.

In the reception room was a

middle-aged woman with a round face and rather a small body. Wearing a refreshing and gentle smile, she looked into Jong Gu's ID card for a moment and raised her head to stare at him in his face dotted with red. Her eyes had sparkles of pleasure, which is common to a very happy reunion.

Jong Gu also got a slight impact, for she looked quite familiar. He screwed his eyes to have a close look at her. Her round face seemed to be asking him something and a small mole on her round chin was attracting his attention. He felt he was being reminded of what he had forgotten about the woman.

"Hello, can I ..." Jong Gu opened his mouth, when the woman asked, "You must be here for a conference, right?"

"Yes, madam," Jong Gu answered.

The woman registered his identity in the book and said, "You have Room No. 10."

"Is it a single room?" Jong Gu asked.

"No. Double room."

"Have you got any single rooms? I've got a bad sleeping habit in bed. So bad that they can't go to sleep by me."

"Then, go to Room No. 8," the receptionist said with a light smile in the corner of her mouth.

Jong Gu turned and walked a few steps and looked back. The

two people's eyes met again. At the moment Jong Gu felt his faint memory of the woman changing into a clear image. *That's Jong Ok Gum*, he told himself. He could not say what he wanted to do, however, as there were guests waiting in the room.

He treaded along the long corridor to Room No. 8. It was a clean room with a wardrobe, a round table, and a bed almost as big as that for two persons. It felt a little humid. Jong Gu put his brown suitcase on the bed and flung the window open. He could see Cholsan Peak in rosy twilight stand magnificent like an eternal creation of nature. It was a gigantic heap of iron ores. A golden evening glow was winding the peak in the middle, like a banner. All those felt quite familiar—the endless pour of ores at the unloading grounds, the glittering windows of the concentration plant nearby, and all things around looked ready to respond with pleasure if he called them like he had done before. Those things seemed to be giving a new feeling to him now. It was an indescribably grandiose and indomitable, unusually wonderful and harmonious scene.

Jong Gu inhaled deeply. The Songchon Stream was flowing in front of the guest house as it had been long years before. As if trying to arouse the interest of the

▶ visitors, the water was showing off its infinite clarity. And it seemed to be reminding him of the white and clean face of Jong Ok Gum he had just seen in the reception.

The round face of the woman and her small mole on the chin could hardly escape the memory of Jong Gu, for he had teased her about the mole in her girlhood. Later she became wife of Ri Kyong Hun who was Jong Gu's shift driver of a heavy-duty truck in the mine. Ri was a man with an oblong face and gentle eyes.

Presently there came a knock on the door. Then, Ok Gum stepped in happily with a smile. She looked quite refined, perhaps for her age. And yet there was still the girlish attraction in her refined manners.

"Good evening, Jong Gu," she said with great pleasure.

Overwhelmed with an ecstasy of gladness for her calling him as she had done in the old years, Jong Gu called out, "Hi, Ok Gum." He felt as if he were floating in the air for the happiness. He could also see it in Ok Gum's face.

Carried away by the delight to see each other, their manners were simple and unaffected.

"I've never expected you'd come here so abruptly like this," Ok Gum said.

"I haven't imagined I could meet you here, either," Jong Gu responded.

"You didn't recognize me at first, did you? But I did."

"I'm sorry," Jong Gu begged, feeling a little guilty, and changed the topic in haste, asking, "How is

Kyong Hun?"

"He is fine, thanks. He is still driving up and down the peak." Her voice sounded proud and boastful. A happy smile got on her face, and the mole looked more pronounced.

She is more than happy with her husband, Jong Gu thought. "How many children do you have?" he asked.

"We've got two sons, and the eldest is in the army," Ok Gum said, and swallowed saliva, as if moved by something. She seemed to be at a loss what to say of all the words she wanted to do.

"You'd better relieve your fatigue first. I've got something to look after at the moment. You're staying here for some days, aren't you?" she asked.

"I think so," Jong Gu said.

"Then, I hope you'll visit us at our house. We can have a good conversation about the past," said Ok Gum with expectation, and receded from the room.

Kyong Hun is still a driver of a heavy-duty truck, Jong Gu mumbled to himself.

Now the old days he had spent with his colleague arose in his mind clearly, like the hard nature on a fine day.

Ri was once in the volleyball team of the Musan mine. But he was an ordinary player without any conspicuous things about him. He diligently made a toss for the striker, regarding it as his task. "You'd better stop playing volleyball that way. You have to learn how to strike and have your honour," Jong Gu often advised him. But the volleyball coach did

not fail to involve Ri in the team—Jong Gu did not know why.

One holiday there took place the final volleyball game between the heavy-duty truck team and the excavator team on the ground on the summit of the mine. The sun was scorching the whole of the earth, and the last ball was flying between the sides more than a dozen times. Roaring cheers and nervous cries were coming from the crowd uninterruptedly. Confusion and revival changed time and again. Kyong Hun jumped and fell several times, making a nice toss for the striker, and the spectators were all giving a big hand to him. All at once there came a great chance for him to strike—a critical moment.

"Strike, Kyong Hun!" A chorus of shout burst forth among the cheering crowd. Jong Gu felt his heart shrinking to a lump in a moment, for he didn't know what Kyong Hun would do with the ball as he couldn't make a blow at all.

But a totally different event unfolded. Kyong Hun jumped up violently and dealt a hard blow—maybe he was greatly elated by the cheers. It was a hit, bringing victory to the team of the heavy-duty trucks after all.

Cheers of triumph erupted on one side while disappointment reigned on the other. Jong Gu was more surprised than anybody else. He had thought Kyong Hun was only accustomed to passing the ball to somebody else. He had never known his friend had got such a marvellous ability to make a blow.

(To be continued)

Korean Folklore Museum

(Continued from the last issue)

Housing

WE ENTERED A HALL WITH DATA ON dwelling houses, wooden handicrafts and fur-



Data on a site of shelter in the primitive age.



A tile-roofed house of Koguryo.



Data on different types of dwellings in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

niture on display that the Korean people created and developed from the primitive age to the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

The guide first told us about photos showing the housing sites of the primitive age, “Our ancestors developed their dwelling houses for a long time to suit the climatic conditions of the country and their tastes. These data show the Komunmoru cave remains in Sangwon County where the primitive men lived about one million years ago, cave remains of the Palaeolithic era including the one in Tokchon, South Phyongan Province, and the cabin in the late Palaeolithic era, unearthed in the Sophohang remains in Kulpho-ri, Rason.”

We came to know from pictures and models of semi-dugout and cabin of the primitive age that the people lived in natural caves at first and then in cabins, and later, in the Neolithic era, settled in dugouts and semi-dugouts.

Pointing to the models of the house in the Bronze Age and of the underfloor heating system in ancient times, the guide explained, “In ancient times the dwelling house was gradually developed from the dugout to the ground building with walls and a roof. Hundreds of dwelling sites and village ruins have been unearthed at the ancient remains in the Taedong River basin. At the time, people lived in pillar-frame houses with underfloor heating systems.”

Listening to the guide, we went up to a photo showing the royal palace seen in the mural painting of Anak Tomb No. 1. The explanation went on, “In the period of the Three Kingdoms, the housing style of the country was established in the main. It was characteristic of the dwelling house in this period that a house consisted of several buildings—the main building in the centre with auxiliary buildings including a kitchen, a mill, a stable, a cattle shed and so on around it.” Also on display were a model of the tile-roofed house of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the data on dwelling sites in the periods of the Three Kingdoms and Palhae (698–926), the successor to Koguryo, and the photo of a house in the west of Sangkyongryongchonbu, the capital of Palhae. The documentary data on the book *Sonhwapongsakoryodogyong* on the underfloor heating system drew our attention. In the period of Koryo (918–1392), this heating system spread widely and developed into a system of whole floor heating. ▶

Linguist Choe Se Jin

CHOE SE JIN (?–1542) WAS A LINGUIST and an educator in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

He left behind a lot of philological works.

He translated *Laoqida* and *Piaotongshi* which had been in use since the period of Koryo (918–1392) into Korean. The contents of these books are compiled in the form of two persons questioning and answering mainly about travelling, trade, etc.

Choe Se Jin wrote *Hunmongjahoe*, textbook and dictionary for the classification of words, which is considered to be of great value in making a study of the vocabulary related to the history of the Korean language. Besides, the book contains the views of the author on the phonology and the rules of spelling of the Korean language and data on the changes in the sound of every word and on the accents of the Korean language. Accordingly, the book renders help to the study of the historical phonology of the Korean language in no small measure. Especially, it gives the name of *kiyok*, *niun*, *tigut*, etc. to every alphabet of the Korean letters. This is the first mention of its kind in documentary records.

Choe published annotated *Rimunjinnam* that contains an abundant vocabulary and the names of some places and then *Rimunsokjipjinnam* by supplementing it once again.

The books clear up *rimun* to be helpful to drawing up diplomatic documents. They were considered to have been written up well in those days. They are helpful to the study of *rimun* and to comprehension of historical data written in the style of *rimun* and constitute one of the valuable national classics offering materials needed in the study of the history of development of the Korean written and spoken language, for some words are explicated in the Korean written language.

Choe Se Jin made linguistic study extensively and in depth in various fields such as *Hunminjongum* (the Korean alphabet), the sound of words and vocabulary.

In addition, he, as an educator, wrote books for the education of children, such as *Nyohunohae*, *Nyohogyong* and *Sohakphyonmong*. □



Metalwork.



Various kinds of furniture.

- ▶ At first, it had a single underfloor smoke duct, but later developed into a multi-flue system.

Now we looked round the data about the housing styles and various forms of roofs of the feudal Joseon dynasty period. In this period the dwelling fashion and customs became more diversified in keeping with the people's enhancing creative power and the developing economy and culture. The dwelling houses were built in conformity with the natural and climatic conditions. In the relatively warm southern, middle and northwestern areas of Korea, a house had many rooms arranged in a long row under a ridge, and in the cold northeastern area, the house was built with two rows of rooms under a ridge. The roof had varied shapes—a gable roof, a roof with four inclines, and a hip-saddle roof. The hip-saddle roof with beautiful curves is shaped like a flying crane, and even now the Korean-style buildings have a hip-saddle roof. We also saw photographs showing the different kinds and forms of windows of dwelling houses. Farther on, we saw wooden articles like a coffer, a tobacco box and a mirror stand box, various kinds of furniture, and a lantern, a lamp stand and candlesticks.

Our visit to the museum acquainted us that from antiquity the Korean people built various types of houses suited to the given natural and climatic conditions and created fine housing devices like the underfloor heating system.

Jo Yong Il

True-hearted Master

URUK WHO INVENTED THE *KAYAGUM*, one of the Korean national musical instruments, in the sixth century, created a lot of musical pieces for the *kayagum* and trained players of this instrument as well. Among his disciples were three persons named Kyego, Popji and Mandok who excelled others in musical talent.

They were so clever as to guess at two or three things when their master taught them one thing. On top of that, they devoted their faculties of inquiry and their passion to making themselves familiar with what they had learned. Consequently, Uruk loved these three disciples unusually and did his best to hand over all his knowledge of music and his skill of *kayagum* performance to them.

In this process their artistic ability made progress day in and day out and they became able to skilfully perform 12 musical pieces created by their master. They were also teachers of the instrument. While practising Uruk's compositions and imparting technical skills to people almost everyday, they came to discern various shortcomings connoted in tunes. This was because the aforementioned pieces had been based on old pieces found in different areas. Therefore, there were some aspects that were not consistent with the times.

The three disciples made up their mind to realize a double purpose of putting to the test the musical knowledge and skill they had learned from their master and of recomposing and readjusting their master's 12 musical pieces. Before anything else, they struck off some parts that sounded complicated on account of fast tunes or tedious and devoid of gaiety, while giving life to excellent parts whose associability with the people was good. In addition, they, supplementing more elegant, refined and gracious tunes and polishing them up with the pooling of their wisdom, converted the 12 musical pieces into five ones.

These five recomposed pieces seemed to be pleasant to their ear, but as they were their first works, they could hardly assure themselves that they were successful ones. What came into question was that they had to seek guidance from their master. When they decided to produce their works to their teacher, anxiety was the first to grip their mind. They knew the 12 pieces were what their master had created with all his heart and taught as if they were teaching materials. Moreover, they were being performed as imperial court music amid the praise of the king and all the civil and military officials and were widely circulated among the commoners.

The disciples were overwhelmed with anxiety, but they had to inform their master of this fact anyhow. One day they went to see their master, availing themselves of a quiet opportunity. They seated themselves in front of him, bending their knees.

"Sir, forgive us. It is very presumptuous of us, but we tried to polish the 12 musical pieces embodying your devotion and changed them into five pieces."

"What?" Instantaneously, the master became agape with astonishment. *What a mishap this is! My beloved disciples have done something to my works?* It was something he could hardly dream of.

Uruk closed his eyes gently. He knew he had put heart and soul in the 12 musical pieces. In order to compose them he had passed innumerable sleepless nights. He had been indomitable thinking he was making a worthwhile effort to push his way through the untrodden path of *kayagum* music.

I know how valuable my compositions are. They are accorded a welcome everywhere, from the royal palace to all parts of the country. Over them I've shared joy and sorrow with the people. I've used them to find my life worth living while teaching them to my disciples. But you've done something to my works arbitrarily, he groaned.

But he felt like believing in his disciples as well. It seemed there were some reasons after all. Calming his mind that was ill at ease and was becoming lonesome he handed his *kayagum* over to Kyego, saying, "Let me hear the tune you've polished up."

Kyego who had been fidgety, conscience stricken for having wrung the heart of the master, put the *kayagum* on his knee and began to strike up a tune encouraged by the generous words of the master. From below the fingers that were moving elastically as if dancing over the *kayagum*, there flowed out clear and sweet-sounding tunes. They seemed to be gently making even the deep lines on the face of the master, while filling up the quiet room with a variety of sounds.

The *kayagum* performance was over. Tears were seen glistening in the eyes of the master who was sitting motionless.

Kyego said with a heavy heart, "Sir, we've done this out of fun. So, don't be offended, please. Never again will we do such a thing..."

"What?" With his eyes opening wide, Uruk said, "You're mistaken. My dear fellows, you're praiseworthy, indeed. I'm very proud of you now and I've nothing to regret even if I were to die now. I'm sure these five pieces you've created are more splendid than the 12 pieces I made. Your works are pleasant but not too stylish. The plaintive tunes are sorrowful but not too pathetic. So I think your music is really good. Let's designate the five pieces as *kayagum* music to be used in the imperial court."

"Sir!" The disciples were so grateful for his generous and sincere mind that they with tears threw themselves on his bended knees.

Uruk passed his hands over his sobbing disciples. Pleased with the success of the disciples from the bottom of his heart, he was also in unselfish tears. □

Basic Ideal for National Reunification

“WITHOUT MAKING one Korea, it is all a vain attempt to attain economic power, national prosperity, elementary human right, welfare, education, culture and new political administration. Only after Korea becomes one along the road indicated by the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, will the greatness of our nation be able to come into limelight with our resourcefulness and talent flourishing, and make contribution to peace and prosperity of the world and mankind.” This is a quotation from an article carried by *Jajuminbo*, a south Korean Internet newspaper.

National reunification is the unanimous desire and will of the Korean people. What is essential in achieving reunification as aspired by all the people is to adhere to the banner of “by our nation itself.”

The Korean peninsula has been suffering from division caused by the foreign forces for nearly 70 years. This tragedy of the nation carries a serious lesson that reunification can be won only when the foreign forces are rejected and the efforts of all the Korean people are joined.

The Koreans had long lived harmoniously in a single land as a homogenous nation until they were divided into north and south by the US along with the end of the Second World War. The Americans have pursued inter-Korean confrontation to attain their aggressive DPRK policy for their strategy of control of the world. It is self-evident that they will not bring reunification to the Korean nation.

The Koreans realized through the June 15 reunification era that there is nothing they can't get when they join hands as members of the same nation. The north-south summit meeting held in Pyongyang in June 2000 adopted the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration to solve the problem of reunification by the concerted efforts of the Koreans. And in October 2007 the October 4 Declaration was adopted which is geared to implement the June 15 Joint Declaration. The north-south dialogue entered the arena of trust and cooperation whereby to solve substantial problems, discarding the outmoded frame. Railways and roads that had been cut for more than half a century were reconnected, and air and sea routes were opened, making a breakthrough in the wall of division. This was a tangible contribution to the effort to remove inter-Korean distrust and expand cooperation and exchange. Experiencing the validity and vitality of the ideal of “by our nation itself,” the Koreans keenly felt that the ideal is essential to independent reunification, peace and prosperity.

Today they sorely miss the time when they travelled to and from each other to meet and share the hope for national reconciliation and unity, and want to see the era resume with vigour. Having suffered the vicious cycle of distrust and confrontation for some years, the north-south relationship gives an evident lesson that the adhering to and the implementing of the joint declarations will provide the future to the nation and a shortcut to achievement of national reunification

and peace.

Both the principle of the north-south relationship and the starting point of trust lie in the respect and thorough implementation of the joint declarations that are comprehensive crystallization of the nation's desire and aspiration; the success in the effort to open a new future for reunification, peace and prosperity by the concerted efforts of the Korean people depends on how to keep the fundamental spirit of the declarations. History has already proved that to deny the other's social system and establishment and approach dialogue for a political aim is the cause of the acute situation in the Korean peninsula.

Improvement of the inter-Korean relations leads to one Korea. However difficult and complicated the matter of national reunification may be, anyone will be able to reject flunkeyism and dependence on foreign forces and uphold the banner of independent reunification if he considers the reunification from the view of “by our nation itself.”

The motive force of independent reunification is the ideal of “by our nation itself.”

When all the Koreans share the same intention and join hands there will be no impossible problem for them to solve. There are still ordeals and obstacles in the way to reunification, but the dawn of one Korea will surely break as there is the guidance of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration which are the crystallization of the ideal of “by our nation itself.”

Kim Kyong Hui

Fair International Order Is Needed

THE VOICE ASKING FOR A new fair international order is getting stronger in the international arena. As long as the outmoded order of domination and subjugation is in existence, neither independent development of individual countries can be achieved nor the global peace and security maintained.

To set up a new justifiable order in the international arena is an aspiration of humankind and demand of the times. But it is the last thing to be gifted. Without foiling moves of the dominationist forces to keep and bolster the old international order of control and subjugation, it is impossible to accomplish the desire of the progressive people for a new fair order around the world.

The present-day reality of the international relations is eloquent proof of the necessity of a new fair international order in the current century. The infringement on the right to independence of countries and nations is more outrageous, and the main culprit is the US. The Americans stick at nothing to get their end of establishing a world order under their control. They carry themselves haughtily like a master in the international ground, without giving any heed to the international law, justice and fairness. They bring oppression and threat to those countries that reject their unjustifiable claim, and even resort to military means to attain their aim.

The US is expanding aggression war and armed intervention under the signboard of “fighting with terror” seeking world hegemony. The “war on terror” conducted by Washington in the current century is nothing but acts of

aggression to infringe upon other nations’ independence and set up an order of its world control. The US is conniving at the murder of innocent people in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries but forcibly and arbitrarily inflicting unjust sanctions and oppression on independent nations that go against its grain. This is a grave anti-human crime which deserves being indicted by the international law and held accountable.

Styling itself as “international judge,” the US wields its domestic laws against disobedient nations, upsetting their development and stable livelihood. Many countries, including the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, are now undergoing great hardships in their effort for national security, economic and cultural development and improvement of living standards due to unilateral sanctions and blockade applied by the US pursuing a hard-line and arbitrary policy.

For the past scores of years the US has mobilized all kinds of laws to bring sanctions to the DPRK. This mean policy comes from its political purpose of stamping out the DPRK’s ideology and social system to which it has pathetic and physical antipathy. To establish an international legal system to criminalize and bring to account the act of applying unilateral sanctions to certain nations using domestic laws and thus harming a third party is one of the important tasks that brook no delay for the progressive people of the world aspiring after independence and peace. This reality shows that it is no more than an empty talk to argue for

establishing a new fair international order without checking and foiling the Americans’ malevolence.

History tells an invasion against a certain country begins with an intervention in its internal affairs. When intervention in internal affairs were permitted, the world would be divided into the dominating and the dominated, and an international relationship that allows such a structure would in no way be accepted as fair and equal.

One step back in the face of the US will lead to ten and a hundred ones, and finally to loss of the national sovereignty. The present-day reality when the Americans’ arbitrary pursuance is getting more outrageous stresses the need to develop military potentialities enough to cope with it resolutely. The national sovereignty should be defended by one’s own efforts—this is the very lesson taught by the Iraqi tragedy. It is foolish to think that somebody else will defend one’s sovereignty for oneself or that concession or yielding will help maintain independence.

The struggle to accomplish the aspiration and desire of the people to live in an independent and peaceful world with a new fair international order still remains an arduous task. The US is prattling about liberty, democracy, human rights and peace, but it is the most heinous anti-independence, anti-peace block. If the Americans’ scheme of domination is to be shattered, the progressive people who champion independence should have strong international unity and solidarity.

Kim Hyang Mi

Jongnung Temple

THE JONGNUNG TEMPLE BUILT IN THE period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) is situated in Ryongsan-ri, Ryokpho District, Pyongyang.

It was erected at the beginning of the 5th century when the tomb of King Tongmyong (Kojumong), the founder of Koguryo, was moved to this place so as to pray for the “repose of his soul.” Visible on the sloping side of a hill just behind the temple is a thick wood of pine trees aged hundreds, and located in the wood is the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong. Far behind the tomb are Mt. Jeryong and Mt. Majang that stand like a folding screen, and spreading in front is a broad plain. Therefore, the landscape is lovely and impresses on everyone that this place is quiet and comfortable to live in.

Originally, the Jongnung Temple ranged 132.8 metres from south to north and 223 metres from east to west, covering a space of about 30 000 square metres. Also, there were 18 houses, an octagonal well and other things that were in a good order with an octagonal wooden pagoda as the axis. On top of that, the temple was surrounded by a corridor on the four sides. An inner gate, a pagoda, *Kumdang* (the basic building of a temple for the performing of various Buddhist functions), *Kangdang* (a hall for giving lectures for preaching Buddhism or administering

other ceremonies), etc., were set up on the central axis from north to south and the Ryonghwa Hall, the Kuknak Hall and other buildings made for people to live in were erected symmetrically on either side of the pagoda. A dwelling that was in existence at the foot of the mountain farthest behind in the central district was 16 metres from east to west and 11.8 metres from north to south. Accordingly, it was not so big. It was so built as to be connected with the king’s tomb via the western garden by laying a stone bridge over a ditch between it and a hill behind it.

When the successive kings of Koguryo visited the tomb of Koguryo’s founder to hold memorial services, they sometimes stayed at this temple for several days.

The temple was closed up after the time of Koguryo. But after the country’s liberation from the Japanese military occupation (August 15, 1945) it was unearthed and adjusted to a good state thanks to the cultural remains preservation policy of the country. In 1992–1993 the temple was restored to the original state along with reconstruction of the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong.

At present the temple consists of main buildings such as an inner gate, an octagonal pagoda, the Pogwang Hall, the Ryonghwa Hall, the Kuknak Hall and the corridor that surrounds them.

In the temple area, lots of remains of the Koguryo period, such as cornerstones, *ondol* (a Korean floor heater) facilities, tiles, pieces of brick and earthenware were unearthed, which tell of the ceramic techniques, the development of handicraft technology, the way of life and the establishment of Buddhist temples in Koguryo.

Jo Song I





ISSN 0454-4072



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