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LEAD

Building harmonious relationship between WPK and people

The epoch-making achievements the Workers' Party of Korea has made in all fields of socialist construction are closely linked to June 19 1964, the day when Kim Jong Il, eternal general secretary of the WPK, started working at the Party Central Committee.

He saw the buildup of the Party as the fundamental issue for achieving victory in the revolution and accomplishing the revolutionary cause as he began to work in the Party Central Committee in the mid-1960s when complex situations were brought about in succession in the world political arena due to the acts of aggression by the imperialists and the attempts of the modern revisionists who raised their head in the international communist movement.

He formulated the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il Sung as Kimilsungism by conducting energetic ideological and theoretical activities before anything else. And he paid primary attention to strengthening and developing the WPK into a powerful party that advances the cause of independence



Kim Jong Il delivering a concluding speech at the Third Conference of Ideological Workers of the Workers' Party of Korea in February 1974.

of humankind, the socialist cause under the banner of Kimilsungism.

He strengthened the WPK into the one which took root deep among the masses of the people and formed a harmonious whole with them sharing the intention and feelings.

It was his maxim that nothing should be spared for the people even if the state makes a loss and it should not do anything that does any harm to the interests of the people even if it

brings in huge economic profits.

Saying that the people are the basis of socialism, he always found himself among them, enshrined their simple opinions in Party policies and solved all problems by enlisting their inexhaustible strength.

All the eye-opening achievements "Chollima Korea" had made and the frustration of the attempts at the DPRK's "collapse" made by the allied imperialist forces were the miracles the

Korean people performed by upholding the leadership of the WPK.

Regarding these people as heaven and his mentor, he found pleasure in their joy.

So popular policies increased even in the hard times when the DPRK was under the apprehensive gaze of the world.

In the 1990s when hostile forces were hell-bent on an anti-DPRK isolation and pressure campaign trumpeting about the "end of socialism" the DPRK firmly defended socialism under the banner of Songun and built a solid groundwork for the building of a powerful socialist country.

Therefore, the Korean people built the Monument to Party Founding in the Munsu area on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the WPK on October 10

1995 and inscribed such words on the facade of the monument as "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea that organizes and guides all the victories of the Korean people!"

Time passes, but the Korean people will always remember and add brilliance to the great exploits Chairman Kim Jong Il performed for building up the WPK.

Kim Hyok Ju

MESSAGE

Kim Jong Un congratulates Vladimir Putin on Russia's national day

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, sent a message of congratulation to Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 12.

He, in the message, extended warm congratulations and greetings to the President, government and people of the Russian Federation on its national day on behalf of the government and people of the DPRK.

Today the strong and diligent Russian people are making great achievements in their efforts to build a powerful and prosperous Russia while bravely overcoming all the challenges and difficulties under the energetic leadership of President Putin, and the DPRK government and people are sincerely pleased with them, he said.

The first meeting between you and me in Vladivostok, the beautiful

port city of the Russian Federation, in April was a meaningful and important occasion for building a sincere and close relationship between us and opening a new history of the DPRK-Russia friendship as required by the changing international situation and the times, he said, adding he was very satisfied with it.

It is our common responsibility for the times and history to lift the

precious long-standing tradition of friendship which was carried on generation after generation to a higher stage, he noted.

He expressed the firm belief that the common understanding and agreements made at their first significant meeting would bear rich fruits, bolstering up the strategic and traditional DPRK-Russia friendship provided by the preceding leaders.

The Supreme Leader sincerely wished the Russian President good health, happiness and greater successes in his responsible work for building a prosperous Russia.

Compiled from KCNA

CONTRIBUTION

Cherishing the leader's outlook on the people

I am going to tell about the facts that have not yet been known to the world.

On August 22 2015 Rason City was stricken by unprecedentedly heavy rain.

At the time, all-out efforts were made to find out missing persons, but to no avail.

Their families also thought it was impossible to recover their bodies as they were swept away into the sea.

Just at that time, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un phoned the leading official of the Rason City Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea at midnight. He told him to take drastic measures to repair flood damage and made sure that the sailors of the Korean People's Army who were on combat duty, as well as divers of fishery stations, were mobilized in the search of the missing.

As a result, all those who were lost due to the deluge were returned to their families.

He even ensured that a two-year-old who was orphaned by the inundation was provided with a new home.

Such favour was also shown to Hong Yong Won, who was final year student at Sonbong Senior Middle School.

More than half of his body was smashed severely and he was in a coma when he was driven to

the hospital. Every viewer did not think he would survive.

Dozens of rounds of consultative meetings were held, new treatment plans worked out and several rounds of difficult operations performed on him.

Costly medicines and tonics were used and doctors and nurses of the Rason City People's Hospital donated hundreds of millilitres of blood and several hundred square centimetres of skin.

It was in his hospital bed that he received a newly built home.

Thanks to the warm care of the Supreme Leader, he could recover his leg, which was said to be cut off due to gangrene, in a little over 60 days.

I could realize once again what the great joy and satisfaction of the Supreme Leader are through the practical experience during the rehabilitation of Rason City.

While inspecting new flats, he looked at a pot on a kitchen range and was very pleased to hear that the underfloor heating system works well at every home. And as he felt the tap water he said water was gushing out, beaming broadly.

I still clearly remember him saying as he inspected new homes that he was relieved and really glad to hear that the people liked them and the

revolution is carried on to relish such a delight.

On October 7 2015, the citizens were honoured with another visit by the Supreme Leader. Busy as he was with the tight schedule prior to the 70th anniversary of the WPK, he came to Rason again from afar to inspect new apartment houses.

That day, however, I and other leading officials of the city had already left for Pyongyang in order to participate in the Party anniversary celebrations.

The leader reproached us for having left for the event without getting the people to move to new homes and told us to see them moving to the flats even if we would be late for the celebrations.

Although the raging torrent of nature swept away the base for residents' living, his fervent love built up afresh their eternal homes.

To hand down his affection to posterity the Rason citizens named the new beautiful village "Manbok-dong" ("manbok" means "all blessings" in English).

This is an abridgement of the article of Jo Jong Ho, chairman of the Rason City People's Committee, which was carried in Rodong Sinmun on May 21.

Local elections slated for July in DPRK

The Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly on June 10 announced a report on holding elections of deputies to provincial (city under direct jurisdiction of the government), city (district) and county people's assemblies.

According to it, elections of deputies to provincial (city under direct jurisdiction of the government), city (district) and county people's

assemblies will take place on July 21 in accordance with Article 138 of the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK and decisions of the local people's committees.

The Central Election Guidance Committee for the election of deputies to the local people's assemblies was organized.

Compiled from KCNA

RESPONSE

Implementation of June 12 joint statement called for

Organizations in different countries released statements to mark the first anniversary of the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement.

Referring to the measures taken by the DPRK for peace in the Korean peninsula and the world, the Korean Friendship Association in a statement said that the June 12 Joint Statement, which is of great historic significance, is now in a state of being reduced to a scrap of paper as the US turns its face away from its implementation.

The arrogant and unilateral policy of the US will cut no ice with the DPRK that treasures its sovereignty, it noted.

There is limit in the DPRK's patience, it said.

"It is high time that the US scrapped its policy of hostility to the DPRK."

The Paektusan Czech-Korean Friendship Association and the Czech Group for the Study and Materialization of the Juche Idea issued a joint statement, which said the DPRK is a powerful and dignified socialist country which firmly defends its sovereignty from all kinds of threats of the imperialists and the DPRK-US summit meeting and talks were the result of the constant efforts of socialist Korea for lasting peace in the Korean peninsula.

Despite the significant measures taken by the DPRK, the US still insists on the former's unilateral abandonment of its nuclear programme and it is an intolerable outrageous logic, the statement said, calling on the international community to make positive efforts for peace in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

The British Association for the Study of Songun Policy, the British Group for the Study of the Juche Idea, the Korean Friendship Association UK and the British Solidarity Committee for Peace and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula in their joint statement said that the adoption of the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement gave hope

for peace to the people all over the world and aroused their expectations for it.

The DPRK-US Joint Statement clarified that the two countries commit themselves to establishing new bilateral relations as desired by their peoples and making joint efforts to build a durable and lasting peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula, the statement said.

The US should withdraw its anti-DPRK hostile policy and strive to build a new peace-keeping mechanism on the Korean peninsula, it added.

The Confederation of Taekwon-Do of Ethiopia in a statement said that the faithful implementation of the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement is the only way to ensure peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

The US should take practical measures in response to the DPRK's sincere and positive efforts to implement the joint statement, it said.

We will conduct the solidarity movement for supporting the Korean people more dynamically together with the world's progressives, it added.

Javid Ahmad, chairman of the Kuwait Committee for Support to the Reunification of Korea, in his statement said that a trend towards peace was created and a new era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity ushered in on the Korean peninsula, once the hottest spot in the world, after the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration and the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement thanks to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's bold decision and will to defend peace.

The June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement which was adopted through the bilateral summit meeting and talks is a historic declaration and to implement it the US should radically change its DPRK policy, he said.

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CONDOLENCES

Kim Jong Un mourns former s. Korean president's wife

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, on June 12 sent a message of condolence and a wreath to the bereaved family of Ri Hui Ho, wife of former south Korean President Kim Dae Jung.

The Supreme Leader, in

the message, expressed deep condolences and consolation to the bereaved family upon the sad news that Ri Hui Ho passed away.

The dedication and efforts she made for national reconciliation and unity, peace and reunification of the country while experiencing all trials and hardships together with former President Kim Dae Jung serve as a valuable

foundation for the present trend of north-south relations toward independent reunification, peace and prosperity, and all the fellow countrymen will always remember it, he said.

Upon authorization, Kim Yo Jong conveyed the message and wreath sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to the south side at Panmunjom on the afternoon of June 12.

Present there from the south side were Jong Ui Yong, chief of the Presidential State Security Office, So Ho, vice-minister of Unification, Pak Ji Won, deputy director of the Kim Dae Jung Peace Centre, and others.

Written on the ribbons of the wreath were the words reading, "In memory of the late Ri Hui Ho" and "Kim Jong Un".

Kim Yo Jong courteously conveyed the condolatory message and words of deep consolation from the Supreme Leader to the bereaved family of Ri Hui Ho.



The wreath sent by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is given to the south side at Panmunjom.

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ECONOMY

Juche-based production processes updated

Projects are now under way in the metallurgical industry sector to upgrade the Juche-based production processes scientifically and technologically.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex has set up a new concentrate vacuum drying process, a big step forward in further upgrading the Juche-based production process and making it prove effective. The complex laid over 4 000-metre long pipeline for the transport of concentrates, built various structures and assembled many pieces of equipment, thereby successfully completing the

huge construction project in less than half a year.

The construction of the process has made it possible to supply enough concentrates needed for the production of Juche iron while saving hundreds of tons of oil. The supply of concentrates with the lower water content to the oxygen blast furnace has also enabled the complex to drastically cut the iron production cost.

The complex also lowered the sulphur content in molten pig iron. It used mag-alumina spinel bricks made by the electric melting method as fireproof materials to increase

the quality and productivity of pig iron. At the same time it conducted a performance test of the electromagnetic induction stirrers and stepped up the preparations for establishing a phosphoric acid chlorination treatment process.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex introduced over a dozen rationalization plans, including the method of operation by low-basicity slag in the oxygen blast furnace and the method of repairing furnace floor with the help of carbon materials, to lengthen the serviceable life of the furnace and normalize Juche iron production.

It also pushed ahead with the projects to complete a new standard working method for the scientific operation of the oxygen converter and improve the technical and economic indexes of steel production.

The Chollima Steel Complex introduced a technology of working with foamed slag while putting the operation of the UHP electric arc furnace on a scientific footing to increase steel production. At the same time it pushed a mass technical innovation drive to improve the quality of steel by using the electromagnetic induction stirrer.



RI TONG GYU / RODONG SINMUN

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex increases Juche iron production.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

E-COMMERCE

Mobile service in full swing

With the informatization of industry and commerce through computer and mobile telecommunications networks gaining ground, e-commerce website Manmulsang and e-commercial service system Okryu are winning growing popularity.

Manmulsang is run by the Yonphung Commercial IT Company.

Selected as one of the top ten IT businesses in 2017, the company specializes in the R&D of e-commerce.

In the website, which is divided into different lists including e-shop, economic information, introduction of businesses and products and public service, visitors can have access to such detailed information as the prices of goods they want to buy, names of sellers, telephone numbers to contact and addresses. They can also browse latest international and domestic economic news and common knowledge in the list of economic information.

Many users say that it is very helpful to their daily life though it opened only a few years ago.

An online retail service system in the style of



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A user browses Manmulsang in search of goods.

e-payment, Okryu advertises and sells goods and introduces commercial information through computer and mobile telecommunications networks.

Like in Manmulsang, people can search and buy goods online or by mobile phones in the system which provides detailed information about the popular articles produced at factories and enterprises in Pyongyang, goods and various kinds of foods in shops and restaurants and even those in local shops.

"It is very convenient as we can tell what we want and ask for delivery if necessary," said a resident in Taesong District, Pyongyang.

Subscribers to the service of Manmulsang and Okryu are increasing day by day.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Sportswear producer helps athletes perform well

"The international glory of our sportspeople is associated with the efforts of those at the Mangyongdae Sportswear Company, who make every article of clothing with great care," said Kim Chun Hui, a coach at the Kigwancha Sports Club.

It has been only a few years since the company was inaugurated as the provider of outfits for training and competition and uniforms for members of national teams of all sporting events, but its products are already popular with sportspeople as they are manufactured on a careful analysis of physical constitutions and movement characteristics of all players.

"It was really difficult at first to make sportswear without any basic data," said Director Ho Pom Sun. "However, the thought that the honour of our country hangs on our hands inspired us."

The company directed its primary focus on building a large database of information

about different sportswear items.

"We already knew that sportspersons have physiques different from ordinary people, but as we watched them training we realized in more detail that their physiques were varied according to sports as some had stronger upper bodies and others sturdier lower bodies and that they care much about their

outfits," recalled Mun Song Ho, a department chief.

Among artistic gymnasts, those exercising on the horizontal bar want their upper garments to be durable while vaulting horse players require hard-wearing trousers. In making tight one-pieces for wrestlers and weightlifters which are made with tough yet flexible cloths, it is



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Technical staff hold a discussion at the Mangyongdae Sportswear Company.

important to decide how much flexibility is given to certain parts that come under much strain according to qualitative features of cloths. As 1 mm deviation makes arrows and bullets miss the mark by 10 cm in archery and shooting, the outfits for archers and shooters should be loose in some parts and tight in others.

On the basis of such analysis, the employees of the company perfected processing methods as they fixed the number of stitches and adjusted yarn tension according to tractility, sweat-absorbability and other features of cloths. Their products were mainly in red, blue and white in colour like the national flag of the DPRK and had various patterns. Especially, they mainly adopted asymmetrical patterns, like a fluttering national flag, in processing though it required much labour.

Now the company produces hundreds of sportswear items for professionals in 26 kinds and constantly upgrades them to meet modern trends.

This year, it made suits for figure skating and synchronized swimming to contribute to the successful holding of the 26th Paektusan Prize international figure skating festival and

the synchronized swimming demonstration, both of which were held in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star last February.

"When I make an entry for international competitions wearing clothes made in our country, I feel proud and energetic," said Ri Se Gwang, three-time world vaulting horse champion and Olympic gold medallist. "That's why we, sportspeople, love sportswear with 'Tansang' trademark in the shape of a person stretching arms for joy at victory."

The company also makes sportswear for national sports competitions and takes orders from institutions and enterprises.

Last year, it provided thousands of Taekwon-Do outfits for the performers in the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance "The Glorious Country" staged in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK at May Day Stadium.

Now the company's Tansang-brand sportswear is popular at local shops and even sought after by foreign tourists and students.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

AGENCY

Engine for province's sci-tech advance



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A presentation is made at the North Phyongan Provincial Commission of Science and Technology.

North Phyongan Province leads others in the growing nationwide competition between regions to boost the economy by dint of science and technology.

In recent years the province topped the provincial rankings at the 34th National Science and Technology Festival and was highly appreciated at several other national exhibitions.

"The commission of science and technology plays a leading role in propelling the development of science and technology in the province," said Sim Chol Jun, chairman of the North Phyongan Provincial Commission of Science and Technology.

The commission contributes to the improvement of the people's living standards by supervising the development of science and technology in the local economic establishments in the province.

This year it concentrates on solving scientific and technical problems arising in easing the shortage of fuel, energy, food and firewood by the provincial efforts.

Local scientific research units, institutions and industrial establishments carefully organize the work to plan research projects of practical significance in these fields, carry them out stage by stage and introduce good experience gained by exemplary units.

As a result, dozens of sci-tech projects were completed

including the "power generation based on anthracite gasification" and "technical problem arising in building a photovoltaic power plant".

"All of them are effective and suit the specific conditions of production units," said Ko Sung Jin, chief of the deliberation department.

The commission also works hard to enhance the capacity of database of the provincial library and establish a double power supply system in order to solidify the material foundations.

At the same time it offers careful guidance on the work of city and county committees to set model units and push the development of science and technology, while regularly organizing provincial exhibitions and presentations to generalize the successes.

"About ten exhibitions and presentations are scheduled for this year," said Kim Hyok, vice-chairman of the commission.

Under the guidance of the commission, an integrated production control system was established at the Phyongbuk Pig Farm and Sinuiju Chicken Farm and the process of producing sodium carbonate from glauberite was upgraded at the Tongnim Chemical Factory. And projects are now under way to introduce over 300 sci-tech research hits in the province.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

New voltammetry analyser developed

A research team of Kim Il Sung University has developed an advanced voltammetry analyser.

After completing a general design for the analyser, it built the circuit of the device, developed a measuring program and established a voltammetry analysis method.

The new analyser is of great economic value for high sensitivity in the

analysis of metal ingredients including nonferrous metals, especially precious metals, and toxic elements, for prompt analysis and for less power consumption.

It has been introduced into the Taedonggang Brewery and other units, playing a big part in improving the quality of products.

Compiled from KCNA

TOURISM

Border city eyes more tourism products

With the tourist season at its height, tourists flock nonstop to the border city of Sinuiju in North Phyongan Province.

"Most of the tourists coming to the DPRK through Sinuiju book their trips at our Myohyangsan Travel Company," said Director Choe Jong Ho.

The company arranges tours of scenic spots and other places in the province.

The period of the trips ranges from half day to one day, and two day and one night.

On the half-day tour, tourists enjoy Korean folk games at the folk game ground on the Amnok riverside and do sightseeing on a bus in Sinuiju. During the one-day tour, they make the rounds of the North Phyongan Provincial Revolutionary Museum, Sinuiju History Museum, Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory, Ponbu Kindergarten and other landmarks of the city, while the two-day-and-one-night tour includes visits to famous Tongnim Falls, Thonggun Pavilion in Uiju County and other scenic places in the province and other places in the city.

The destinations never fail to impress them, especially the revolutionary museum that traces the development of the

province made under the guidance of the great leaders and the Supreme Leader, the history museum dedicated to the time-honoured history and folk tradition of the Korean nation and Sinuiju Folklore Street.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory whose products have a competitive edge in the world, an admirable performance of children at the Ponbu Kindergarten well-known for training art prodigies and Tongnim Falls and the Thonggun Pavilion blending in well with the beautiful natural scenery make the short trip an unforgettable experience of life.

The most pleasurable parts of

the tour are the playing of folk games and tasting of Korean food at the folk game ground on the riverside.

Tourists say that they had extraordinary experiences as they pounded glutinous rice into cakes on a flat stone, tried on Korean costumes, played on a swing hanging from a tall tree, did archery and ate cold noodles, grilled beef, kimchi and other famous Korean dishes.

The Myohyangsan Travel Company is planning to develop more tourist articles to meet the demand of increasing tourists.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



BY COURTESY OF THE MYOHYANGSAN TRAVEL COMPANY

Foreigners take photos as they see an artistic performance of children at the Ponbu Kindergarten in Sinuiju.

FACTORY

Amnokgang's cornflakes appealing to children's tastes

With temperatures rising to over 30 degrees Celsius nowadays, mothers find it laborious to feed their children who have lost their appetites and would not have breakfast.

However, nutritive cereal flakes can relieve the mothers of such trouble.

The Amnokgang General Foodstuff Factory has brought out the cornflakes that appeal to children's taste.

The nutritive flake is mainly made of barley and maize and added with lecithin and

lysine that are essential for the nourishment of children.

Parched cereals are ground and mixed with different nutrients and then compressed and seasoned into flakes 10 mm across each, before being baked. The flakes contain plenty of proteins, fat and other nutritive substances needed for children.

They are soaked for about 10 minutes in milk or juice before eating.

Kim Jong Ae in Kwanmudong of Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, said her child likes

the cornflakes very much for the pleasant smell of cereals and chewiness combined with sweet yet sourish taste of the drinks.

The food is also said to be good for elderly and middle-aged people.

"The development of health foods with locally-available materials has been the major business strategy of our factory in recent years. We are striving to make new foods good for children, elderly people and women and guarantee their quality 100 percent with natural raw materials," said chief engineer Mun Chol U.

The factory has also developed natto-based foods. Natto, or fermented soybean, has marked effects against amnesia, osteoporosis and fatty liver that are common among the advanced middle-aged. The factory patented its nutritive natto sugar-coated candy last April.

Its researchers are now engaged in R&D projects for extracting vitamins, spices and other ingredients of functional health foods from byproducts including dregs of maize and bean and farm produce.



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Cornflakes roll off the production line at the Amnokgang General Foodstuff Factory.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

EDUCATION

Department focuses on education in national architecture

Pyongyang University of Architecture is doing a good job of education and research for the development of national architecture.

The national architectural design department has introduced new subjects for the reconstruction design and survey of ancient structures and is working to make them practicable, comprehensive and modern.

It has developed and applied efficient teaching methods including the method of designing old structures by combining computer simulation survey and manual design and the method of education by means of the "museum of traditional architecture" in virtual reality in order to improve students' capability to make national architectural designs.

The museum in virtual reality contains a wealth of representative architectural heritage elements such as palace, dwelling, temple, pavilion, pagoda and tomb, embracing a long historical period from the primitive ages to modern times, and therefore it enables students to comprehensively experience architectural legacies in the limited space and time and quickly acquire their principles.

"The architectural legacies our ancestors bequeathed are richly varied. All modern structures we build incorporate the unique features of national architecture," said department chief Ri In Dong.

The lecturers of the department



RI YONG CHOL / NAENARA

Lecturers of the national architectural design department of Pyongyang University of Architecture have a discussion over the model of an old pagoda.

carried out research into the reconstruction of the pagoda at the Kungang Temple from the period of Koguryo Kingdom and worked out its technical design, built its model and shed light on the characteristics of traditional Korean roofs and their design principles.

They also came up with research findings concerning the type and decoration of ceilings of ancient buildings, platforms, interior and exterior gate facilities and construction techniques classified by object, period and type.

The Korean-style pagoda architecture and roof order, which were systematized scientifically and theoretically by the research team of the department, were inscribed as elements of national intangible cultural heritage.

In recent years, the department has conducted

research for developing afresh the national architectural form by combining classical and modern beauty. Its lecturers are now supervising the design and execution of the Rangnang Museum, a combination of museum, historical relics and park.

"National architecture involves the work of reconstructing structures of the past by relying on such small remains as citadel stones and therefore it requires profound knowledge of different fields including history, philosophy, math and fine art. Young and proficient lecturers of the department carry on the tasks efficiently. I am very satisfied with the steady continuity of education in national architecture," said the department chief.

By Pak Song Min PT

R&D

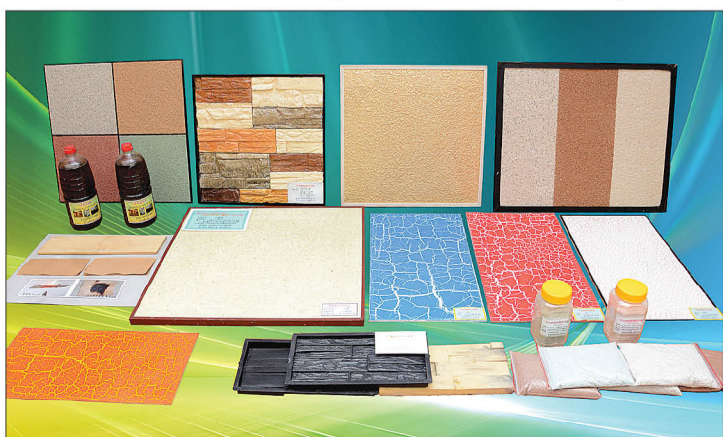
New building materials developed

The Paektusan Institute of Architecture has recently developed different building materials.

Made of locally-abundant raw materials, the new building

materials help enhance the beauty of buildings and ensure economic effectiveness in construction.

The crackpaint is one of them. A kind of art paint that



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Building materials developed by the Paektusan Institute of Architecture.

has special decorative effects, it is used as an antiquity-imitating decorative paint for craftworks, furniture and buildings.

According to Ri Jong Chol, head of a laboratory at the building-materials office of the institute, the water-based crack paint forms two-coloured patterns as it cracks during drying after spray painting, and the paint is highly resistant to acid, alkali and water, and its life span is 15 years inside and 10 years outside.

It is widely used to decorate and repair the internal and external walls of buildings, furniture, ceramics, tiles and glass as it is easy to paint and has high ornamental effects.

The pearlescent pigment developed by researchers is made by coating such plate substrates as mica with various metal oxides to a thickness of nano. It produces a mysterious gloss on the coating layer by the effect of light. For its unique ornamental effects and excellent physicochemical stability, it can be applied to the decoration of buildings, cosmetics, printing

OAP

Senior citizens enjoy playing table tennis

Now that Pyongyang is dotted with table-tennis halls, ping-pong lovers can play the sport in any part of the city.

Recently, I visited the Kosong table-tennis hall in Chilgol-dong No. 1 of Mangyongdae District.

"People of different ages come here, and those old people are regulars," said keeper Han Hye Sim.

Over 30 people who were occupying all the tables in the hall were elderly.

They said they took up the sport since the table-tennis competition of persons with disabilities and amateurs kicked off in 2010 amid the growing public enthusiasm for sports in the country.

"I didn't want to live the rest of my life to no purpose," said Paek Myong Gil. "As I had played table-tennis when I was young, I wanted to take part in the competition that is open to all and win a trophy."

The 63-year-old finally won a gold medal in the above-60 men's doubles of such competition held in autumn last year in his three-year-long attempt.

According to him, dozens of old people have been practising the sport with their eye on a medal like him.

Their technical coach is Kim Chang Ho, 75, Merited Athlete who rose to fame in the country in the mid-1960s.

Thanks to his original coaching and exact demands, those who had quit table tennis halfway and even beginners have made remarkable progress, said Hyon Ho Hyok, 66.

When asked if the sport does not exhaust him, Kim Hak Yong who was drying his sweat after a match affirmed that table tennis is the most suitable sport for the old.

The 65-year-old said that he had suffered from backache and knee trouble since his middle age as he was a footballer in his youth. But since he started playing ping-pong, he has felt no pain even without taking pills and always felt energetic with his blood pressure stabilized. He also snatched a gold in the above-60 men's doubles in last year's spring table-tennis competition.

After training matches the old sports enthusiasts were sharing experience with their faces overflowing with youthful vigour and optimism, which made it hard to guess their ages.

By Pang Un Ju PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Senior citizens share experience during a break at the Kosong table-tennis hall in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

ink and plastic goods.

The office also developed a penetrating incombustible material production and utilization technology.

Pak Kil Sop, chief of a laboratory, said that when this fireproof material is applied to paper and wood, they neither change their original colours nor burn even in the flames of over 1 000°C. He added that foamed plastics processed by this material delay the time of catching fire 5-7 times and burning speed 3-3.5 times.

A technique of decorating floors with such gems as serpentine to give natural beauty, cubic effect, formative influence and artistic taste helps represent any architectural decorative designs and art works.

The technology of producing

and utilizing decorative tiles with natural stone patterns is very effective in conserving natural resources and ensuring the construction and decoration of structures.

The institute also brought out various building materials conducive to improving the quality of buildings and speeding up construction, namely the multicolour patterned paint giving diverse ornamental effects to walls, pillars and handrails through a single spraying, the relief decorative paint which is used for raising the decorative effects of buildings, the technology of producing and utilizing concrete penetrating waterproof material, and the far infrared radiation paint.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

CHILDCARE

For the good of children



BY COURTESY OF THE KOREAN ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN

Members of the Korean Association for Supporting the Children on a visit to the Taedongmun Kindergarten in Pyongyang.

Members of the Korean Association for Supporting the Children visited different nurseries and kindergartens on June 1 to mark International Children's Day in order to congratulate children on their holiday.

"June 1 International Children's Day is a happy day for us as well as children," said Kim Myong Chol, secretary general of the association.

The association is an NGO which strives to promote state activities for children's health and intellectual development and improve their living conditions.

Since its inauguration in 2013, it has worked to aid nurseries and kindergartens in the areas which are out of reach of the assistance and benefits of the government due to traffic problems or natural disasters.

It pays special attention to hygienic information activities for children's health.

"According to the state's policy of attaching importance to preventive medicine, we conducted various forms of awareness-raising activities, especially art performance, on Child Health Day (May 20) and other occasions," said

the secretary general. He also referred to exchange with international organizations including two rounds of information activities conducted last year in collaboration with WHO to raise the rate of inoculation.

The association set up outreach clinics in villages far away from hospitals and polyclinics in South Phyongan, South Hamgyong and South Hwanghae provinces in cooperation with volunteers, thereby contributing to preventing children's contagious diseases, and gives children regular medical check-ups.

It shows close interest in cooperation with overseas donation organizations and individuals. It is now working out a plan to improve children's nutrition and living conditions at nurseries and kindergartens in close contact with overseas partners.

Kang Pong Guk, vice-chairman of the association, said that they will do more good things for the benefit of children by building up the capacity of the association and conducting external exchange proactively.

By Ri Sang Il PT

Digital guide details Pyongyang roads

The Ryomyong Geographical IT Exchange Centre has released an app which shows roads in Pyongyang.

Downloadable for smartphones and tablets, the application provides detailed information about roads and institutions in the city.

Users can receive various services at any places in Pyongyang, including map browsing, distance search, road distance, traffic lines and position transmission through Kiltongmu 2.0, a guide app for the roads in the capital city.

It displays almost all buildings

in the city in a three-dimensional way, as well as data on factories, commercial networks, schools, hospitals and roads so that users can get quick and accurate position information and route service to their destinations.

Users can search three shortest and optimum routes and know their correct distances when they input starting place and destination.

The app ensures a 360-degree rotation and zooming in and out of road image with a touch mode.

By Kil Chung Il PT

EATERY

Restaurant draws many for unique taste and freshness

More and more diners are visiting the Unha Restaurant in Unha-dong, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

The internal decorations of the restaurant's dining rooms are distinctive and stylish to give pleasure to visitors.

The restaurant serves over 300 kinds of dishes according to the order of diners.

Kim Mi Ye, chief of the restaurant, said that although ordered dishes vary according to season, diners have a great demand for roast foods.

The restaurant's roast dishes are widely known.

Grilled dishes including tenderloin, mutton and shellfish which are served together with sauce are much favoured by everyone for the sweet taste of meat and the sauce with original aroma and taste.

"Sauce is very important in cooking grilled dishes. It is made by grinding various spices and vegetables, and the main thing is to match them properly," said chef Yu Kum Suk.

Steamed mandarin fish in soy sauce is one of the favourite dishes of diners.

Mandarin fish has hard flesh, tastes good and is nutritious. The eatery serves steamed dish and broth.

Fresh mandarin fish is salted roughly and steamed slightly together with spring onion, ginger, garlic and hot pepper before serving the dish on a vessel heated by an alcohol stove. And then they pour soy sauce and spring onion boiled with oil to improve its flavour.

Pyongyang cold noodles and combined kimchi are the typical foods of the restaurant.

Pyongyang cold noodles and fresh and sourish combined kimchi are mouth-watering these days when the weather is getting hot. The kimchi includes full cabbage, rolled cabbage, sliced

radish and green pepper kimchi and the one with no red pepper.

Gorgeous and appetizing cold dishes prepared by cook Kim Ok Song seem to be art works and they are very popular with regulars and other diners who come for wedding and birthday parties.

The soft drink stand, which gives drinkers an impression as if they are in forest, serves Taeha-brand beer.

Han Song Nam, an old man living in Pulgungori-dong No. 2, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, said that he often drops in at the restaurant to drink beer despite nearby beer houses as it gives the feeling of natural environment.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Steamed mandarin fish in soy sauce and noodles in flat vessel served at the Unha Restaurant.

SCENERY

Once afflicted riverside gets a facelift

The Pothong River rises from Mt Kangnyong in South Phyongan Province and empties into the Taedong River in Pyongyang.

Before Korea's liberation, the river would flood shantytowns and fields along the riverside in July and August.

So, at that time, inhabitants called it the "river of calamity".

However, it has been transformed beyond recognition.

The transformation started on May 21 1946 when Kim Il Sung broke ground first

to signal the start of the Pothong River improvement project and inspired the people to turn out for it.

The first huge nature-remaking project in liberated Korea was completed in a matter of 55 days.

The scenery of the Pothong River got more beautiful with the development of the times. A pleasure ground was built in over 300 hectares of land by the river. Along the riverbanks are many structures, parks and streets such as the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium,

People's Palace of Culture, Chongnyu Restaurant, Mirae Shop, Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Mansugyo Fish and Meat Shop, Pothonggang Department Store and natural-acoustic theatre of the Samjiyon Orchestra.

Merry dancing parties of old persons on Unha Islet are a spectacle in the river.

"The elderly people are eyewitnesses of the yesterday and today of the Pothong River," said Hyon Kum Sil, keeper of the islet at the Pothong River pleasure ground management station. "They tell young people the story of the river's past, which even I don't know as a keeper. It is really impressive to see them, who devoted themselves to building the nice pleasure park, having a good time there."

The lovely scenery of the Pothong River is really a sight to behold: canoeists paddle their way through gentle waves, old people sing and dance pleasantly, young ones whisper words of love, families promenade and modern structures are mirrored on the river.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An artist draws a picture in the Pothong riverside that has been given a facelift.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

EDITORIAL

National independence and dependence on outsiders incompatible

In June 2000, Chairman Kim Jong Il and south Korean President Kim Dae Jung met in Pyongyang for the first-ever north-south summit in 55 years since Korea's division to adopt the June 15 Joint Declaration.

In the joint declaration, the north and south committed themselves to resolve the national reunification issue that is up to the Koreans by the concerted efforts of the Koreans.

Since then, they began to negotiate, cooperate and exchange in various fields with notable achievements, bringing much hope for independent reunification, peace and prosperity to the whole of the peninsula.

The June 15 Joint Declaration gave birth to its action programme, October 4 Declaration in 2007, which was followed by the April 27 Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration in 2018—after a hiatus of a decade marked by hostility and distrust.

The process of the inter-Korean relationship from June

15 2000 to September 2018 testified to the fact that if the north and south get reconciled and cooperate for the great cause of the nation there will be no insurmountable difficulty for them and they will be able to share a rosy future.

And it also taught the lesson that engrossment in kowtowing to foreign forces and confrontation with the fellow countrymen will only ruin the nation and keep foreign domination going forever.

Inter-Korean relations, however, still fail to develop in line with the requirements of the new era and the aspirations and demand of the nation.

Covert hostilities still persist in the south: they only study the face of Americans who force them to regulate the speed of détente so that inter-Korean relations could not be improved ahead of US-DPRK relations, and they even follow outsiders in staging war games targeting the fellow countrymen.

The issue of north-south relations can never be resolved by relying on foreign

forces who do not want to see the Korean nation reunified and thriving, and genuine peace and prosperity of the nation can never be achieved by trying to implement the agreement of the nation with outsiders' consent.

It is imperative to treasure the nation, prioritize its common interests and solve all problems arising in its reunification process by itself in accordance with its will and demand.

To this end, it is needed to resolutely oppose and reject foreign interference in inter-Korean relations, the internal issue of the nation.

The past history clearly tells that national independence results in north-south reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity and that dependence on foreign forces and confrontation with the fellow countrymen cause the vicious circle of antagonism, hatred and tension.

National independence and dependence on outsiders are utterly incompatible.

By **Om Ryong PT**

JAPAN

Ambition behind territorial claims

"What about retaking this island by fighting a war?" asked Maruyama, a member of the House of Representatives belonging to the Japan Innovation Party, as he visited Kunashir Island on May 11.

His was the latest of the persistent Japanese claims for the southern Kuril Islands.

Japan has long insisted on the "return" of the four islands of the southern Kurils, saying they are part of its territory whenever opportunity came.

As far as the southern Kuril Islands are concerned, these are the islands over which Japan, a defeated nation in the Second World War, renounced its sovereignty at the San Francisco conference in September 1951. Therefore, it has no right to claim the islands by international law.

The same is true with Tok and Diaoyu islands.

An old Japanese map made public by Japanese historian Kuboi Norio in 2017 and a Japanese geography textbook published in 1886, which was made public in south Korea, provide materials showing that the then Meiji government of Japan did not recognize Tok and Diaoyu islands as part of Japanese territory.

Japan, however, does not try to acknowledge the fact.

The Japanese government

worked out a "general maritime plan" in May last year, whose gist is the strengthening of defence of territorial waters by the Maritime Safety Agency and deployment of Self-Defence Forces troops in the Nansha Islands of the South China Sea. Accordingly, it doubled the satellite circuit last year to monitor Diaoyu Island and the surrounding sea in real time and discussed the plan for introducing mini-satellite.

This year it is pushing the plan for organizing new guard and missile units and those for the restoration of fighter jet runways allegedly to "defend Nansha Islands and Diaoyu Island", the disputed waters, and for deploying them in Miyako, Ishigaki (Okinawa) and Amamio (Kagoshima) islands.

Japan has also intensified the propaganda campaign to justify its claim over the islands.

The Japanese government built a "territory and sovereignty exhibition hall" in the middle of Tokyo for the first time in January last year to promote the false propaganda that Tok and Diaoyu islands are "inherent part of Japanese territory". In May this year it decided to relocate it and expand the building area seven times larger than the old one.

The Japanese Ministry of Education and Science on

March 26 approved the primary school textbook which distorts historical fact by incorporating Tok and Diaoyu islands into Shimane and Okinawa prefectures respectively and describing them as well as the southern Kurils as "inherent part of Japanese territory", thereby ensuring that it is officially used from 2020.

Though Japan insists on the claim for the islands of other countries as "part of its own territory", it is as shameless an act as trying to deceive others by a transparent guile.

History will never change even if it insists on it.

What then is the real intention of Japan's persistent claim for the islands?

In a nutshell, it is aimed at providing favourable objective conditions for its military resurgence by constantly straining the situation in the disputed waters.

In this context, it should be noted that Japan's defence budget has hit the record high for five consecutive years.

Japan should be aware that the more it is obsessed with the unreasonable claim over the islands, the warier the neighbouring nations will become of it and such insistence will lead Japan to self-ruin.

By **Song Jong Ho PT**

EU

Pursuing a shift away from the US in defence

The European Union has recently taken some measures to realize its defence plan. The plan includes 13 billion euros of defence fund raising for the development of weapon systems between 2021 and 2027 and the establishment of the PESCO which will coordinate military cooperation between EU member nations. The European Parliament approved the measures last April.

The fund will be disbursed for the joint defence of the EU.

Such a colossal sum of financial support will help the EU member states to develop new military hardware and strengthen cooperation in the military field.

But the US is pointing an accusing finger at such moves.

The EU, however, insists that the realization of the defence plan will make the EU member nations fulfil their obligations to the NATO more properly and the military bloc will also benefit from the EU's joint efforts for defence.

Such a divergence of opinion is not a new one.

Whether to defend Europe by their own efforts or by relying on the US is a problem the EU member nations have long racked their brains to settle.

The matter of building the EU's army also has been under discussion for years.

By **Choe Yong Nam PT**

SPACE PROGRAMMES

Nations push programmes for space exploration

International interest in outer space development is growing day by day and more and more countries are investing large funds in space projects.

Russia put forward space development as an important state policy and is directing efforts to this end.

President Putin set forth tasks to be tackled in this field by 2030 at a Security Council meeting last April, saying it is important to gain the lead in the field in order to carry out the national development programme, ensure national security and hold a competitive edge in technology and economy.

Russia is planning to launch 20 to 22 Soyuz rockets this year and seven of them are said to be sent to the international space station.

China has recently channelled big efforts into space exploration.

It successfully sent its 45th navigation satellite of Beitou series into orbit on May 17.

It is planning to launch eleven Beitou-3 satellites and one Beitou-2 to strengthen its service in Asia-Pacific and improve its

Some European countries have long regarded dependence on the US in the defence field would never guarantee the security of Europe.

The fear that they may suffer an unexpected misfortune in the future if they keep relying on the US in the field of security gets European countries to consider their self-defence.

Asserting that it has been "protecting" European countries despite huge financial burdens in recent years, the US is severely scolding the NATO member nations that they need to boost military spending. It also denies the policies worked out in collaboration with the EU through withdrawal from the Paris agreement for the prevention of global warming and the Iran nuclear deal. It presents unreasonable demands in the economic issues of European countries, including the delivery of Russian gas, import of Iran's oil, trade tariff and trade dealings with Cuba.

The failure of having a self-protection capacity is a trouble and discontent of EU countries and this is an important factor making them decide to free themselves from dependence on the US.

worldwide service.

China's geostationary weather satellite Fengyun-4 and earth observation satellite Gufun-4 provide information for forecasting weather and natural disasters and reducing damage from them.

Having sent a probe onto the far side of the moon early this year, it is going to launch more than 30 carrier rockets there by the year's end.

The Indian government sanctioned the project for manned space flight in late December last year as part of its space programme.

Describing the project as an enormous undertaking in pursuit of independence in space exploration, the minister of electronic information said that it will be implemented in 2022.

Besides, many countries are launching into space development. Rwanda and Nepal put their first satellites into space this year and Iran is trying to launch a satellite of its own undeterred by sanctions and pressure.

By **Min Chol PT**

GAMES

Pochonbo Torch Prize Games at its height

The Pochonbo Torch Prize Games are growing fiercer with each passing day.

The first-division volleyball event began at the Volleyball Gymnasium on Pyongyang's Chongchun Street on June 6 as part of the games.

Winners are decided by two rounds of round-robin matches in the event, which have brought together men's teams of Kigwanha, Amnokgang, Sobaeksu and Pyongyang and women's teams of Kigwanha, Amnokgang and Hyongjesan.

Amnokgang has been most successful in the matches so far played.

Both men's and women's teams of Amnokgang defeated all opponents 3-0 in the first round and the women's team overpowered Kigwanha 3-0 again in the first match of the second round.

There was the first match of the men's second round between Amnokgang and Pyongyang on June 11.

In the previous Mangyongdae Prize Games in Celebration of the Day of the Sun both teams recorded one win and one loss respectively and Pyongyang led the other in the total rankings with more points in the gains and losses.

But this game ended in favour of Amnokgang.

Earlier, women's teams of Amnokgang and Hyongjesan

played the second round match, in which the former defeated the latter and lifted the trophy of the tournament.

Senior-level badminton matches go on at the Badminton Gymnasium on Chongchun Street.

The tournament brought together more than 140 players from over a dozen sports clubs including Haebangsang, Amnokgang and the Defence Sports Club of the Korean People's Army, who are competing in team, singles and doubles events to decide winners.

The singles matches began on June 11, following the team event.

Amnokgang's Kim I Chon stole the show in the sport.

"His active change of tactics and scoring with sudden attacks are really attractive," said Jon Su Ryon, a badminton fan.

"He is a promising player. Though he lacks experience, he surpasses veteran players in many technical indexes," said Amnokgang's head coach Ri Chol Gyu.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the men's volleyball match between Sobaeksu and Pyongyang at the Pochonbo Torch Prize Games.

He played an important role in his team's win in the team event. And he beat a player from the Sports Club of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering in a singles match, advancing to the final 16.

The male players of the KPA Defence Sports Club and Amnokgang's female players won the team event respectively.

Senior-level rhythmic gymnastics, acrobatic gymnastics, athletics and handball tournaments also began on June 13.

By **Jong Tang Song PT**

TAEKWON-DO

Nation's martial art grows ever popular

Visitors to the DPRK often see young and other people in Taekwon-Do uniform in Pyongyang and local areas.

It reflects growing public interest in the nation's orthodox martial art.

Taekwon-Do has become a popular event at the annual mass sports games.

People from all walks of life flaunt the Taekwon-Do techniques they have trained through practice at several games, including the national games of workers and farmers, the games of health workers, national inter-provincial games and people's games.

Taekwon-Do education has been intensified especially in the general education sector according to the kinds of schools.

A new Taekwon-Do education has been launched at all primary, junior and senior middle schools across the country in the new school year this year.

Through the education students will be able to get up to the fifth grade in the primary school years, up to the

second grade during the junior middle school period and up to the first dan (degree) before graduation from senior middle schools.

Some children of the Mirae Kindergarten in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, recently obtained gup, or grade, to the surprise of the people.

A Taekwon-Do contest will be included for the first time in the national games of primary school sports classes to be held soon.

Women are also eager to learn the national martial art.

Taekwon-Do is now a must-have event in national sports and amusement games of women's union officials and members which are held to mark March 8 International Women's Day.

Recently, the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee produced multimedia presentations for Taekwon-Do learning for gup-holders, heightening the enthusiasm for the sport among working people, students and children.

By **Jong Chol PT**



Schoolchildren practise Taekwon-Do, Korea's traditional martial art.

physical conditions," recalled her coach Kim Song Ok.

Her skills improved with the sincere assistance of many well-wishers. A few months later, she came first in her school's swimming competition held to mark the months of maritime sports, winning unsparing praise from teachers and fellows.

"At the time, I felt as if I picked up a star in the sky. I gained confidence that I could realize my dream like others," Yong Hyon said.

After thinking many times to whom she would open her heart, the happiness that she regained her dream and the desire to fulfil her dream without fail, she sent a letter to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The Supreme Leader read her letter reflecting her resolve to

be triumphant at domestic and international tournaments by training hard and took a measure to train her as a good swimmer.

Later, everything changed in her way of life and training. She carried through her daily training assignment to swim thousands or tens of thousands of metres at most like professionals.

She is now drawing the attention of experts as a promising player as she proved herself in different games including the youth championships.

Last year, she advanced to the final in three swimming events at the Third Asian Games of the Disabled, and won the swimming match at the recent domestic contest of persons of disabilities and amateurs.

By **Jong Sun Bok PT**

PROFILE

Disabled girl set on a course of being a good swimmer

Three years ago, a 13-year-old one-leg amputee won the 100m swimming event at the youth championships.

She is Kim Yong Hyon (pictured), student at Tongan Senior Middle School in Central District, Pyongyang.

"Yong Hyon liked to play in the water since her kindergarten days and she used to say that she would become a professional swimmer when she grew up," said her mother Choe Kyong Hui.

However, Yong Hyon had to give up her hope as she unexpectedly lost her one leg by a traffic accident on her way back from school when she was seven.

She left hospital in a three-wheeler. She began to dislike talking and going outside. She sat close at the window all the time to look out on other



children frolicking outside.

"At that time I often dreamed of swimming. I wanted to swim even in a dream," Yong Hyon said as she recollected those days.

Her mother often took her to a swimming pool. Yong Hyon waved her limbs in the water with all her efforts, but it was similar to the case in which a young bird with a broken wing

wanted to fly in the sky.

One day, an official from the Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled visited her home. Yong Hyon's heart beat high when the official told her parents an intention to train her as a swimmer.

So, she became the first woman swimmer of the Korean Sports Association of the Disabled.

She regained her vigour and laughter in the new life.

But it was not easy to realize her dream.

She sank down many times with pain due to strain, often shed tears on the sly for the failure of acquirement of skills and wavered.

"Training did not go smoothly as I intended. It required considerable efforts to find out a training method suitable for Yong Hyon with unusual

