- Yangdok Hot Spring Resort
- Popular Ceramics Exhibition House
- World of Prodigies
Silver Ornament

A gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by Kaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in April 1992
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Yangdok Hot Spring Resort
Seeing Is Believing

ON THE MORNING OF January 15 my husband and I got on a Pyongyang-Onjong train, bidding farewell to our children. Among the travellers in our carriage were a newly-married couple and another couple with their children. As the train was getting nearer to the Onjong Railway Station, the passengers grew more excited.

On our arrival at the station, buses took us to the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort. When we got off the bus taking in fresh air of the resort sheltered by pine trees, a guide led us to Room 319 in Block No. 5 of a hotel.

Inside the room I drew aside the curtain of the window to look out. Then I called beside myself, “Darling, look at the hill over there. What a wonderful pine wood it is!” My husband also remained open-mouthed as if he were intoxicated by the fresh air.

No sooner had we checked in than we went to the Indoor Spa Baths with a tepid bath, a sunset hibiscus spa bath, a honeysuckle spa bath and so on, all looking like pools in a natural forest. Put up at each bath were boards with information on the efficacy and methods of relevant treatment, and each bath had a water temperature display.

I wanted to have a photo taken and looked round for my husband but he was nowhere to be seen. I had to go to a stone-floor sauna, a sand sauna and other saunas until I found him relaxing himself pleasantly under treatment for rheumatism in a mud bath. I got the same treatment, and my waist felt much better.

We also did exercises using different kinds of apparatuses in the fitness room on the first floor, and it was quite refreshing.

The next morning we went to the Outdoor Spa Baths. After changing into special clothes we got there, we entered a long corridor where we were surprised to learn it was not cold at all though it was really winter with the twigs of pines outside the corridor laden heavily with snow. Those who had already passed the corridor were heading for outdoor spa baths.

While bathing in the hot ginkgo leaf, biota leaf, mint and other medicinal spa baths, I was reluctant to leave the place.

Up the Outdoor Spa Baths where we could enjoy the natural scenery was the Terraced Spa Bath. It was quite pleasant to look down at the surrounding scenery while sitting in the bath.

I was sorry our stay in the resort spanned only a few days. How many days would it take to look round the resort as a whole? We were really reluctant to leave the place.

Even on the train back home I could not contain my excitement because I had been so impressed by the resort.

Not only our children but also our neighbours ask us about our impressions of the resort almost every day. I am embarrassed with their questions because I can hardly give a good account about the place as a whole. I just say, “The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is very, very good. The scenery is excellent, and you can hardly tell the time when you are enjoying yourself in the wonderful spa baths. There’s the saying ‘Seeing is believing.’ You’d better go to see the resort yourself.”

Hyon Jong Suk, resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 38, Munhung-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang
Three Days and Three Nights

At 8 am on January 10 this year I got on a Pyongyang-Onjong train at the Pyongyang Railway Station in the centre of the capital city, guided by the Pyongyang Koryo International Travel Company. I was in the first tourist group to go to the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

The train was already crowded with holiday-makers on their way to the resort. Their faces were expressive of their excitement and joy with the expectation of the coming enjoyment.

Soon after I checked in at Block No. 2 in the resort sheltered by pines, I went to the Indoor Spa Baths, where I could enjoy myself in hot, tepid, high-pressure water and some other medicinal baths. What caught my eye in particular were a dozen kinds of spa baths infused with such medicinal herbs as mint, honeysuckle, sunset hibiscus, ginkgo and Angelica sinensis. The baths were quite attractive. Especially, the pine needle spa bath was obviously efficacious in promoting blood circulation and treating arthritis, neuralgia, hypertension and insomnia.

I spent the next day all in the Outdoor Spa Baths referred to as a specialty of Yangdok. I felt an unusual sentiment in the baths engulfed in a hazy fog, a combination of cold midwinter air and steam from the baths. And I could relish both the conspicuous mountain scenery and the uniqueness of the baths that numbered over 30, including a medicinal spa bath, spa bath for couples, terraced spa bath and cottage-style spa bath.

“The Outdoor Spa Baths have a place that is always very popular with the holidaymakers. It is the egg-boiling pool,” said one of the guides there, inspiring me to go to the pool. I found it shaped like egg. I put some eggs in a chicken-shaped bag, and soaked them in the water. The eggs were half done in 15 minutes and full done in 20 minutes, absorbing medicinal ingredients of the spring water. I cannot forget the special taste of the eggs I ate with appropriate seasonings.

On January 12 I climbed the top of Tae Peak with three fascinating ski slopes. After changing into a ski suit, I toed the line. But as the saying goes...
“Talking is easier than doing,” I found skiing hard at first. But with the help of a guide who taught me how to warm up, stop, turn and other basic skills, I could ski down a track to the end.

As darkness began to fall, the resort turned into another world with bright light from windows and the ski slopes looking like three unfolded rolls of silk. Every corner of the area reverberated with pleasant sounds and happy singing until late at night.

The three days and three nights I spent there were not long, but they were enough to let me picture in my mind the brighter future of the country.

Kim Kwang Sok, senior engineer of the Moranbong District Water Supply and sewage Management Station
Korean Nation’s History of Using Hot Spring

In Korea the history of taking a spa bath spans thousands of years. It is recorded in the national classic Samguk Sagagi (Chronicles of Three Kingdoms) that in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) during King Sochon’s reign, his younger brothers, on the pretext of sickness, went to a hot spring to enjoy themselves over amusements, that King Onjo of Paekje (late 1st century BC–AD 660) saw the meaning that it had cured various causes, diseases of circulatory and respiratory systems, women’s diseases and skin diseases.

The fact that hot spring is close to the people’s life can be proved by the names of places in the country. The names having the Korean letters on and chon are generally associated with hot springs. Some examples are Myongchon County of North Hamgyong Province, Samchon and Paechon counties of South Hwanghae Province, Onjong-ri of Yangdok County in South Phyongan Province, and Onjong-ri of Kosong County in Kangwon Province.

There are many stories related to hot springs. A typical example is the legend of the Talchon (Jongdal) Hot Spring in Tachon-ri, Samchon County.

In ancient times the hot spring was surrounded by a marsh. In the summer of a year a skylark with a broken leg perched on the marsh and tried to fly again for several days, flapping its wings. At last the bird flew up again with sound legs. With curiosity the local villagers went to the spot to discover that hot water was gushing out from underground. They called this mysterious water Jongdal (skylark) Onchon (hot spring) in the meaning that it had cured the bird’s legs. The name of Talchon-ri was originated from an abbreviated word of Jongdal Onchon.

On the following morning, lots of equipment were put on the list of the country’s natural monuments for their excellent pharmacological actions and treating efficacy.

And there are sanatoriums around the hot springs, making a contribution to the improvement of the people’s health and their recreational activity, and efforts are now being made to better the hot spring resorts.

Rim Ok

Architecture for the People

In the democratic People’s Republic of Korea the popular masses are creators and enjoyers of architecture. This is vividly expressed by the belief of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who makes sure that top priority is given to their aspiration, requirement and convenience in constructing even a single structure.

“We Have Nothing to Spare for Our Women”

When the whole country was sorrow-stricken at the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il on December 17, Juche 100 (2011), the matter of building the breast tumour institute of the Pyongyang maternity hospital was temporarily laid aside.

On learning the fact the Supreme Leader sent a strong building force to the construction site so as to push ahead with the project, and took measures to provide preferentially the materials and equipment necessary for the project.

Several months later, he inspected the construction site to acquaint himself with the details of the construction under way, and gave important instructions related to the project.

When the institute was completed he visited it and looked round several places. He instructed that all elements of the institute should be of world class as it was built for the sake of women and said: We have nothing to spare for our women.

Thus, the following morning, lots of equipment and furnishings sent by the Supreme Leader arrived at the institute.

113 Scale Models

One day in March 2012 the Supreme Leader called an official to his office. That day he put forth an ambitious plan to build a modern water park for the people in the Munsu area, and clarified its location, and the ways and method of construction.

The next day he learned in detail about the design of the park. Receiving the report from the relevant officials that the construction would be fairly expensive, he said that the park was for the people, that they should not spare anything for them, and that they should not worry about the cost. Thus, the designing of the park was done in real earnest.

In those days the Supreme Leader examined the scale models at any time—at midnight, in the early morning and on holiday—suggesting novel ideas. Such scale models numbered 113 in total.

One day he saw to it that a steeper slide should be chosen to install in the park, and said that a float-shaped ornament should be fixed on the upper part of a diving platform to be installed in the outdoor pool.

In this way the Munsu Water Park was built wonderfully.

Supreme Leader’s Happiness

In July 2018 the Supreme Leader inspected Jungphong-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, with a plan to build a large-size vegetable greenhouse farm for the people of the province. At that time the area was a major agricultural base.

Looking over a vast stretch of lowland there he said that it would be wonderful when a vegetable greenhouse farm was built there, and that he was very pleased when he did things worthwhile for the people one after another. Then he instructed that the farm village should be built well enough to be a model for the construction of socialist rural culture and a socialist paradise to live and work in, and set forth the general direction for the construction of the farm and the preparation for its operation.

A month later he visited the place again and gave instructions on different matters arising in the construction of the farm and its management after completion.

As a result, 320 blocks of greenhouses, a tree nursery, and hundreds of dwelling houses went up in the Jungphong area of 200 hectares in merely a little over a year.

Kim Hyon Ju
Fruit of Enthusiasm

Is it possible to build high-rises on sand subsoil?

In the past 15-storey buildings on that basis were the highest in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Recently Won Song Rim, a laboratory head, and other researchers of the Architectural Science Institute of Pyongyang University of Architecture have erected 20- and 30-storey buildings in the Wonsan Kalma coast resort whose area consists of fine sand subsoil. What they attached importance to was to prevent large boreholes from being filled with sand as they had to drive huge concrete piles into the holes.

They decided to introduce a construction method of argillization to protect walls. It had already been known that the method is an advanced one of laying piles into the holes, but the researchers had no experience in introducing the method, so the process of its introduction was not smooth. Though they poured clay solution around boring bars, the walls of the boreholes would fall down continuously. This greatly helped lay the foundation of socialist industrialization.

On important occasions the WPK sent letters of the Party Central Committee to all its members or made public slogans of the Party Central Committee, stressing the need for increased production and economy. True to the Party’s call, the people conducted the struggle for increased production and economy through a mass movement. They broke the old rated capacities and norms everywhere and tapped reserves for increased production and economy. It was at that time that 320 000 tons of steel was rolled from a blooming mill with only a 60 000-ton annual capacity and that 270 000 tons of pig iron was produced with the equipment of only a 190 000-ton annual capacity. The First Five-Year Plan was carried out two years and a half ahead of schedule in terms of gross industrial output value through an all-people struggle. This greatly helped lay the foundation of socialist industrialization.

TODAY KOREA IS STRIVING TO SMASH OFFENSIVE FOR FRONTAL

Today Korea is striving to smash offensive for frontal breakthrough and increased production and economy.

The sector of agriculture has introduced scientific farming methods including water-saving farming, and fish farming has developed into the labour- and energy-saving one. Economy is just being regarded as production and the expression of patriotism. The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in December last year advanced the tasks of raising a wind of emulation drive for tapping reserves and further increasing production and practising economy in keeping with actual conditions of their own sectors and units.

All working people are now encouraged to turn out in a campaign to increase production to the maximum and save as much as possible. Technical innovation is regarded as an immense reserve for increased production and economy. The management of the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory boldly believed in its workers and technicians and encouraged them to fully display their creative power by turning the factory into a labour- and energy-saving one. The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has saved lots of materials by introducing a new technique of vinyl chloride foaming and established a cost-saving production process by substituting materials available in the province for iron cores. And a nationwide drive is under way to learn from production and enterprises that have turned into labour-, energy-, cost-, and land-saving enterprises.

Meanwhile, all sectors and units are striving to improve the quality of their products and creations on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity. This endeavour is waged as a patriotic struggle by the high-pitched enthusiasm and creative efforts of the working people.
Here is a thatched house at the foot of Mangyong Hill in the capital city of Pyongyang. Around 1860 a landlord in the city at that time built at the foot of the hill a house for a person who would look after his grave. And a man, Kim Ung U by name, moved to this house as he was so poor. He thus became a grave keeper and a tenant. In the 1910s the third and fourth generations of the man’s family were living in the house.

One early morning in the spring of 1912 an old man with a drooping beard in a white Korean overcoat, reached Mangyongdae. He was searching for the best landscape travelling across the country. On Mangyong Hill he saw the clear and blue water of the Taedong River under the cliff, and the Turu and Konyu islets near the hill and the Rangnang Plain in the distance. Captivated by the bird’s-eye view of Mangyongdae he said, “It is backed by mountains and near the river, and I have never seen such a place where the water, wind, topography, trees and grass blend well. Indeed, Mangyongdae is the land which will produce a man of distinction.”

At the time when it was rumoured that Mangyongdae would produce a noble man the story of a dream of the grave keeper Kim Po Hyon (son of Kim Ung U) spread among the villagers. The story was as follows:

One early morning Kim Po Hyon was climbing up Mangyong Hill to bring the firewood he had gathered before. On the way he found a beam coming from the hilltop. With curiosity he rushed up to the peak, where he saw a round cushion about two metres in width in a large open space. A dazzling light from it was illuminating the surroundings. What was more surprising was that an imposing boy was decently sitting on it, looking down at Mangyongdae. With an impulse to embrace the boy the old man ran towards him with open arms but fell down on the ground as a leg of his A-frame carrier got caught by a branch of a tree. He sprang up to his feet unaware of pains lest he should lose the boy, but it was just a mere dream.

Some time later the cry of a newborn baby broke the silence of the dawn, resounding through the whole village. It was on April 15, 1912. The fine countenance, bright eyes and resonant cry—the child resembled the boy that Kim Po Hyon saw in his dream. His birth gave an unusual happiness to the grave keeper’s house. His great-grandmother, grandfather (Kim Po Hyon) and grandmother never left his side all day long. The great-grandmother called the child Jungson, meaning that she had a beloved great-grandchild as she had lived long. The child’s father Kim Hyong Jik named him Kim Song Ju (President Kim Il Sung’s previous name), wishing that he would be a pillar of the country.

Kim Il Sung spent his childhood in Mangyongdae. In every place of Mangyong Hill around which the crystal-clear Taedong River meanders and where beautiful flowers bloom in spring there are many things associated with his childhood including the ash tree he climbed up to attempt to catch a rainbow, the Swing Site, the Sliding Rock, the Warship Rock, the Wrestling Site, a spring, the Study-
They marched southward in silence. All my comrades, ranging from the regimental political commissar Kim San Ho to the boyish orderlies Choe Kum San and Paek Hak Rim, were fully aware of the importance of our advance to Paektu mountain area.

Mt. Paektu was an impregnable natural fortress, so to speak, for its terrain features were so favourable to defence, that even one single man could repel 1,000 attackers. No base was more suitable to the expansion of guerrilla warfare than the mountain. Yun Kwan of Koryo and Kim Jong So of the Ri dynasty had fulfilled their heavy duty of national defence and pioneering of the frontier, by basing themselves on that mountain area. On that mountain General Nam I also conceived the high aim of pacifying the country, inscribing his idea in a poetic form on a pumice rock.

Mt. Paektu also provided an ideal fortress for the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. The establishment of a new base in this mountain by the revolutionary army to step up its advance to the homeland did not mean that we were abandoning the Manchurian theatre of operation, which had been pioneered with great difficulty. We planned to fight, moving freely around Korea and China from the base in this mountain.

We attached special importance to the mountain as a natural fortress for military action and also as our moral background. Mt. Paektu, soaring majestically as if the ancestor of this land, is the symbol of Korea and cradle of the 5,000-year-long history of Korea.

The spiritual effect of this mountain on Koreans can be illustrated by the inscription, "Monument to the Dragon God of Heavenly Lake, Guarding Mt. Paektu", on a rock at the foot of Janggun Peak, on the shore of Lake Chon. At the beginning of the 20th century, when the people were feeling apprehensive about the survival of the nation, the monument was erected by the religiousists, connected with Taeguk faith and Chonbul faith. As the inscription indicates, the people who erected the monument prayed to the Dragon God for the lasting security of the nation.

Venerable Mt. Paektu implied veneration of Korea and love for their motherland.

The mountain, which soared higher and higher in our minds as we grew up, became the symbol of our struggle for national liberation as well as that of Korea.

Our belief that we could only muster all the forces of the nation for resistance and ensure an ultimate victory of the struggle by entrencching ourselves in Mt. Paektu, was derived from our experience of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle during the first half of the 1930s as a natural conclusion drawn from the summary of the struggle.

The Sobaeksu valley, reconnoitred by Kim Ju Hyon, Ri Tong

The Secret Camp on Mt. Paektu

...
Hak, Kim Un Sin and others, was the first to arrive at the valley on Mt. Paektu in the homeland. Mt. Paektu soared approximately ten miles northwest of the valley. About five miles northwest one could see Mt. Sono. Four miles northeast of the valley Mt. Kanbaek rose above a dense forest. The long elevation behind the valley was called the Peak of Saja. Our arrival in the Sobaeksu valley was a jubilant homecoming after many years of absence. In the historical context of the anti-Japanese revolution, it implied the shifting of our operation centre from eastern Manchuria to Mt. Paektu.

A man’s homecoming is a matter of joy for his neighbours as well. But there was no neighbour of ours in the valley lying in the very position in which we were from which even “a bird flew away unable to endure the loneliness of the forest,” as one poet put it. We were greeted by the sighing forest and murmuring stream. The people in the homeland were still not aware of our arrival in the Sobaeksu valley.

Twenty-five miles south of the place, there were the homeland people who would welcome us warmly, but there were also uninvited guests from the island country, who were aiming their guns at us. If this obstacle had not existed we would have gone to the island people who would welcome them, there were the homes of our movement, we walked to Mt. Paektu.

The comrades with me in the valley at that time never imagined that the place would be a famous historical site, which would attract visitors from the rest of the world.

Without leaving any trace of our movement, we walked up along the water edges of the stream, which was flowing with floating leaves.

Travellers so place now—days will never imagine that it was part of a primeval forest half a century ago. The quiet and serenity of the old days have given way to the well-surfaced road, where tourist buses and visitors pass without cease, to the houses for the travellers and travellers’ village, as well furnished as fashionable hotels, and to the endless flow of pedestrians and their songs ringing out in all seasons. But in those days we could hardly find a footprint of wild beast in the primeval forest, which was attracted by the exquisite scenery of the valley, which preserved its beauty at the time of genesis and its terrain features, which provided us with a natural fortress...

On the day after our arrival I inspected together with other commanding officers, the site of the secret camp, and the sites for barricades chosen by the advance party. I convened an officers’ meeting and reviewed our expedition from Nanhuotou to Mt. Paektu, debated our task, and then gave assignments to the officers. We aimed to establish the Paektusan Base as soon as possible. It comprised two aspects: the construction of secret camps and establishment of underground revolutionary organizations in the villages around Mt. Paektu.

There were considerable differences in content and form between the guerrilla zone, established in eastern Manchuria in the first half of 1932, the new Paektusan Base created in the latter half of the decade. The former was a fixed, visible open base of guerrilla warfare, whereas the latter was an invisible revolutionary base, which consisted of secret camps and underground revolutionary organizations, serving as the base of military actions and political activities.

The people in the base in the first half of the decade lived in line with the policy of the people’s revolutionary government; the people affiliated with underground organizations in the latter half were under enemy rule in appearance, but in effect acted on our instructions and lines.

Great efforts had to be devoted to the defence of the guerrilla zone in the first half, whereas there was no need to do so in the latter half.

This enabled us to launch guerrilla activity over a wider area. In other words, the change in the form of the guerrilla base could be made more offensive. Therefore, the wider the guerrilla base was expanded, the broader the area of our activity...

We intended to expand the guerrilla base, centring on the secret camp on Mt. Paektu, to the wide area of Changbai, and then deep into the homeland along Paekmu and Kaema Plateaux and Rangrim Mountains, and then spread the flames of armed struggle from the northern region to the middle and southern regions of Korea, while at the same time expanding and developing the Party organizations, as well as the united front movement and pushing ahead with preparations for nationwide resistance.

After roaming the forest for more than two hours on our way, I sent scouts off in many directions. One of them returned with an old man. The old man said that he was living alone on a foot hill of Mt. Paektu and that, on his way back from Manjiang, where he had been to obtain salt and foxtail millet, he met the reconnaissance party. The old man took us to his grass-thatched hut at Datuo. The hut was located by a good hot spring. The water was so hot that the crayfish we had placed there turned red. We took a bath, washed our clothes and cooked crayfish in the hot spring. The Icelanders I watched taking an open-air bath in the depth of winter on television one day reminded me of my own experience at the hot spring.

One day I talked a lot with the old man. I asked him why he was living in the deep mountain. He said he had been a lowlander, but on seeing the waning stars, had moved to the ancestral mountain.

“If I died a shameful death of an enslaved nation, it would make no difference where I should die. But I wanted to live and die at the foot of Mt. Paektu. My teacher at the village school, who taught me a Thousand Chinese Characters, used to say that the Koreans should live with Mt. Paektu in their embrace and die with it as their pillow. His words were, indeed, a maxum, which should be engraved on a monument," the old man said.

Following endlessly his narrowed eyes, which were gazing at Mt. Paektu, I solemnly felt as if every phase of his wretched existence were unfolding before my eyes. His words that he wanted to live at the foot of Mt. Paektu and die with his head resting on the mountain, moved me.

“Well, how do you like Mt. Paektu?”

“Wonderful. Hard as it is to live by growing potatoes and hunting roe, I feel hale and hearty, because I don’t have to see the Japanese.”

My talk with the old man reconfirmed my belief that Mt. Paektu offered strong moral support for our people. I keenly felt that I was absolutely right to make Mt. Paektu into the strategic centre of the revolution. The old man, who was living alone stoutly in the mountain in his late years, was really patriotic. I regret that I did not ask for his name.

Like the old man Ma in the highlands of Lunzigiou, he had never been to the seaside.

When we were leaving for Heixiaziogou after taking a bath at the Datuo Hot Spring, he gave me several story books. Later we built a recuperation centre at the hot spring for the wounded and invalids...

By the time I returned to the Sobaeksu valley, after staying some time at Heixiaziogou, log houses were built in many sites of the secret camp. The barracks for Headquarters, subordinate units, a printing shop, garment shop, guard house, and checkpoints, had sprung up in the forest.

The door handles of the log houses in the secret camp were made of roe-hoofs. The small roe-hoof handle was engraved on my memory, as if a landmark of a historical period. Since the appearance of the roe-hoof handles on the doors of our “living quarters” on Mt.
Understanding of the People

Today the People are regarded as the classes and strata that create material wealth of society and play a progressive role in social development. But there were no such philosophical categories in the early days of mankind. Originally the word people was defined and used as a political and historical term. In the initial stage of formation of class society the word meant the members of the community enslaved by slave-holders and was interpreted as “commons.” It was interpreted as “free people” under the republican government of ancient Rome. The first concept of the word included the meaning of “the lowest stratum of society” in terms of class and social status. In other words the people were regarded as merely the target of oppression and exploitation by the ruling circles. With the beginning of formation of capitalist society after the middle ages, the forms of its expression changed into “poverty-stricken people,” “dependent people” and “newly-rising civilians,” but the words had no difference in essential meaning.

The “lava” of the revolution to liberate the country, which erupted from the extinct volcano on Mt. Paektu, attracted the attention of 28 million Korean compradors. Song Yong, a writer who had inspected the places swept by the flames of the anti-Japanese revolution, entitled his travelogue, “Mt. Paektu Is Visible from Anywhere.” As the title indicates, Mt. Paektu has become an active volcano of national liberation, a sacred mountain of revolution, visible from anywhere, since the time when we entrenched ourselves in that mountain.

Today the People are regarded as the classes and strata that create material wealth of society and play a progressive role in social development. But there were no such philosophical categories in the early days of mankind. Originally the word people was defined and used as a political and historical term. In the initial stage of formation of class society the word meant the members of the community enslaved by slave-holders and was interpreted as “commons.” It was interpreted as “free people” under the republican government of ancient Rome. The first concept of the word included the meaning of “the lowest stratum of society” in terms of class and social status. In other words the people were regarded as merely the target of oppression and exploitation by the ruling circles. With the beginning of formation of capitalist society after the middle ages, the forms of its expression changed into “poverty-stricken people,” “dependent people” and “newly-rising civilians,” but the words had no difference in essential meaning.

After all the word people was interpreted as a concept apart from the exploited working masses. The capitalist class still call the exploited working masses citizens instead of people.

It was only by the Marxist philosophy that the concept of the people emerged as a philosophical concept with the working class representative of the people, and had the meaning of “makers of history” who contribute to the historical development by playing an incomparably greater role than an individual or a hero.

Marxism viewed the popular masses in the whole of socialist relations and mainly recognized them as the producer masses and working class connected with mode of production and economic relations. The people, put out of history, were considered in history and regarded as the exploited masses in distinction from the exploiting classes. Thus the people were liberated from the status of being the object of the exploiting classes' prejudice and slander of all shades.

Marxism, however, failed to recognize the word people as the fundamental category of philosophy. The philosophy which regards the word as the fundamental category is the Juche philosophy. The originator of the Juche philosophy as a man-centered philosophical idea is Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Chairman Kim Jong Il turned the Juche philosophy into a people-centred philosophy in the real sense of the word by extensivly systematizing the Juche philosophy and developing it in depth. In his treatise Socialism Is a Science published in the November 1 Juche 83 (1994) issue of Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Chairman said:

“People of the people means a united social community which centres on working people, due to their common demand for independence and creative activity.

“The phrase ‘the masses of the people’ assumes a class character in class society. An exploiter society is divided into the exploiter class and the exploited class, or the ruling class and the ruled class, depending on who owns the means of production and who controls state power. The exploited class, the ruled class, forms the majority of the masses of the people. The class structure of the masses of the people is not immutable. It changes as social history develops. In capitalist society, not only workers and peasants, but also working intellectuals and many other classes and strata which champion and struggle for independence, form the masses of the people. In socialist historical course, all people, capitalist society, workers, peasants and intellectuals, are transmormed into socialist working people, so everyone is a member of the masses of the people.”

Thus the people could show their true image in the socio-historical course, go down to history as a great image and be firmly put at the centre of philosophical discussion.

Ri Jong Nam
Seventy-Five Years of WPK (4)

Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery Tells

THERE IS A REVOLUTIONARY MARTYRS cemetery on Jujaek Peak of Mt Taesong, which is one of the eight scenic spots in Pyongyang. In the cemetery there stand busts of over 150 anti-national and anti-Japanese fighters and anti-Japanese mass organizations and lower echelons of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF) in nearly all the major villages of Changbai County and rapidly expanded their membership. Kyongdong and Kaesong area coal mining complexes.

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had an interview with Ju Jong Nam, a bureau director of the Ministry of Coal Industry. Ju Jong Nam.

You're right. We have to find coal beds of rich deposits to increase the coal production. Now coal mines are regarding a great improvement in production as the main link in the whole chain of their work and putting it into practice.

The coal mines in the Sunchon and Tokchon areas are putting emphasis on developing lots of coal beds of large deposits with favourable mining conditions by pushing ahead with prospective tunnelling, and concentrating labour forces and men on the development of new coal beds and pits.

Today the of a resistivity CT scanner was finished the efficiency of a resistivity CT survey meter with a new function, a radiation survey meter and an infrared survey meter, and helped to master the devices.

And my ministry set it as an important task to improve the coal transport capability of the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, the Chongchon Youth Coal Mine and the Jemal Coal Mine, and made scrupulous efforts to carry it out. A thousand and several hundreds-metre-long conveyor belt was newly installed in the Puktekoel Branch Mine under the February 8 Youth Coal Mine, and the Sochang Youth Coal Mine successfully finished the construction of a belt pit with the help of scientists and technicians from the Tokchon Coal Mining Complex. This has raised the transport capacity remarkably, making a practical breakthrough in coal production.

The maintenance workshops have been arranged to produce efficient equipment capable of increasing the rate of tunnelling, coal mining and transport. This made it possible to provide sufficiently different kinds of accessories badly needed in the mines such as pit car wheels and bearings and pumps.

Today the officials and workers of mines across the country are full of zeal to produce much more coal, keeping in mind that what they can believe in is only their own strength and that they can vigorously promote the development of the self-supporting economy only when they hold higher the banner of self-reliance.

Coal Mine and in the Jolged area of the Chongsan Youth Coal Mine, and new coal beds have come into use at different mines under the Kyongdong and Kaesong area coal mining complexes.

Meanwhile, close attention has been paid to the effort to secure sufficient reserve coal beds by giving precedence to tunnelling and raise the capacity of coal mining and transport so as to maximize production in the mines. As a result, coal production has increased rapidly, making it possible to fully provide the coal needed for eastern the strain on power production.

The active introduction of science and technology and increase in the proportion of work done by machines are also important in boosting the coal production.

Certainly. Scientists of the Academy of Coal Science succeeded in developing and introducing a pneumatic rotating drilling machine, a pneumatic saw for cutting pitwood and other pneumatic face equipment. And the Phongsong University of Coal Mining Industry organized the work to solve the scientific problems arising in the coal industry in a flexible way. The teachers and researchers of the university, in cooperation with the workers in the Inho Youth Coal Mine, manufactured several new machines suited to the actual conditions of anthracite mines. They also introduced a new kind of explosion gas neutralizer which made it possible to shorten the time of removing harmful gases from explosion.

Besides, they further improved the efficiency of a resistivity CT survey meter with a new function, a radiation survey meter and an infrared survey meter, and helped to master the devices.

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WE VISITED THE NORTH PHYONGAN Provincial Power Distribution Station some time ago. Workers of the station are producing electricity at a renewable energy power plant they built by themselves, and sending surplus electricity to the national power grid. We met Jo Son Su, manager of the power distribution station, and he told us it was any citizen’s duty to do so. And he led us to the Amnok riverside some distance away from the station. We could see lots of solar panels and wind turbines installed there. Jong Nam Su, an engineer of the renewable energy power plant, welcomed us and told us the following story.

Electricity was badly needed everywhere with the development of the national economy, and it was its workers’ unanimous desire to provide electricity as much as required. After a consultation, the officials and engineers there decided to produce electricity by taking the local physiographic advantages. The right place for the installation of solar panels and wind turbines were chosen and the manufacturing of the equipment was propelled. What was most difficult was to manufacture the wings of the turbines.

They had no relevant experience and lacked the relevant knowledge. Still, with the intention to make what little contribution they could to the power production of the country, they formed a research team and finally made the wings with polyester hardened resin with the help of specialists. They, it is said, felt strongly again that they could do what they were determined to on the day when the solar panels and the wind turbines were installed and put into operation.

Now the equipment produce the same amount of electricity as that from two small hydropower stations, and they get economic benefits worth over 730 million won from the solar panels and over 72 million won from the wind turbines. The manager said confidently they would build a renewable energy power plant with the generating capacity twice the existing. The story enabled us to feel how ardent their patriotism was. The assets of the country like that electricity-producing base are increasing and the socialist economic development is being accelerated thanks to such purehearted patriots.

While looking round the power distribution station, we felt again how inexhaustible the generating capacity of the locality was as well as that of the country.

Article by Kim Il Bong
Photos by Ra Phyong Ryol
DEMAND FOR NARAEBRAND SANITARY WARE AND CERAMICS IS ON THE INCREASE.

Some time ago I visited the Narae Ceramics Exhibition House in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang. Saleswoman Ri Chun Hui said the Narae ceramics were enjoying popularity for their vivid and beautiful colours and their user-friendly shapes. Then she led me to a spot of the ground floor where sanitary ware and ceramics were put on display.

What drew my attention in particular was sanitary ware. Ri said, “The Narae products have many merits in several aspects. The radiation emissions of the TOTO products are 0.28 μsv, but those of Narae products are about 0.13μsv, so they are quite safe. In the aspect of price the Narae toilet is eight times cheaper than the TOTO product of the same size. And in the aspect of function water gushes out in two courses in the Narae toilet, so it uses less water but raises the speed of water flow to the maximum, thus enhancing the effectiveness of flushing.”

She also said that another merit of the Narae ceramics is that they are high in whiteness, lustrousness and smoothness, and that last year the ceramics from the Narae Ceramics Factory received the December 15 Quality Medal which is conferred on famous goods in the country.

There I met Kim Hwa Suk, a woman who lives in Phyongchon District, and she said that she had been abroad for several years, and that the Narae products were more convenient to use than foreign ones.

Now I looked around the first floor where there were on display different kinds of sanitary ware, and the second floor where there were on display 19 varieties of flower vases of ten kinds. Various illuminations set in the exhibition house were adding to the beauty of sanitary ware and ceramics.

And I came to know that the factory makes articles to order for the customers’ convenience and records their opinions. I saw a man who was carefully reading the book that contained the visitors’ opinions. He was Pak Song Min, general manager of the factory. He said, “Many units in the country are producing ceramics. What is important in making highly competitive goods is who is the first to make such goods favoured by the people. Our goal is to make varieties of quality ceramics in keeping with the people’s rising level of civilization.”

Then I thought that the Narae ceramics would be in greater demand.

Kim Il Bong
Nano Cloth Developers

JONG UN SUN, a laboratory head of the Nanotechnology Application Research Institute of the Nanotechnology Engineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, looked ordinary at the first glance. She was of small build and in a modest attire. Something impressive about her, if any, was her eyes expressive of tenacity. And she was rather taciturn.

When I asked her how many children she had, she said curtly, “A son.”

She paid attention to nano cloth because she regarded it as important in raising the quality of light industrial goods. Nano cloth is made by coating cloth with nano material-based solution, and the solution should be different according to the kind of fabric.

In order to develop at an early date nano cloth capable of producing desired effects by using nano materials available in the country, the researchers were busy selecting materials, doing experiments and verifying their effectiveness.

What they developed first was anti-bacterial nano cloth. Clothes made of the material produced no side effect on the human body and were especially effective in preventing and treating skin diseases. The cloth could prevent infection by varieties of bacteria, and such clothes helped a wounded man cut the period of treatment markedly.

Soon afterwards, Jong’s team developed superhydrophobic nano cloth. It does not get wet, and unlike waterproof cloth, it is ventilative. The method of making it was put on the list of national inventions in 2018. Soon came the development of superhydrophobic and anti-bacterial nano cloth, which was registered as a high-tech product in 2019, and operating gowns, operating table covers and working garments made of the cloth were favourably commented upon by surgeons, fishermen and food-stuff factory workers. Other kinds of clothes made of the cloth were very popular as outdoor clothes because they did not get wet even in the rain.

Un Sun was not merely engrossed in developing new products. Together with her researchers, she set up nano cloth production lines. Among them is a supercritical carbon dioxide-based dyeing line which makes it possible to double the quality of dyeing of cloth or thread, shorten the time of dyeing, saving energy and cost by up to 40 percent and reduce environmental pollution.

Now they are pushing ahead with the development of another kind of nano cloth with warm, stealthy, antistatic and anti-wrinkling functions.

She said, “We still have more to do than what we have done. Our goal is to make innovations in the textile industry by developing a variety of nano cloth.”

Nano cloth seems to be the same as ordinary ones, but it is excellent in function. Likewise, she looked inconspicuous, but not her enthusiasm.

A_target of Developers

AT PRESENT STRENuous efforts are being made to produce and supply medical appliances to the public health sector.

The needle tube is one of them. There are over 20 kinds of the needle tube. As accuracy is required in their processing, the relevant production facility became the exclusive property of a few countries.

Some time ago, the Mechanical Engineering Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences developed such a facility.

A few years ago, Ri Song Guk, researcher of the institute, went to Kim Man Yu Hospital to get a needle tube-based treatment, and heard that most of the needle tubes were imported from other countries.

The doctor’s words weighed heavily upon Ri’s mind. The needle tube is a medical appliance badly needed to diagnose and treat diseases, he thought. How long should they depend on imports?

Then Ri made up his mind to solve the problem. He and his colleagues positively agreed with him and helped him.

The research was not confined to mechanical engineering alone. As the tubes should vary in diameter, angle of inclination and length according to the region of treatment, they had to study the characteristics of a living body. What is fundamental to the production of tube is to ensure the geometric dimension of the tube angle of inclination required by the living body and to process their surface smoothly. Accuracy was required in grinding the tips of the tubes 0.8 to 2 mm in diameter at the first angle of 20 to 30° and at the second angle of 110°.

Having found the most rational way in the development of a CNC needle tube grinding machine, the researchers conducted the designing of the machine and the development of a tube grinding program at the same time.

They calculated the grinding power, the rotary motion of the grinding jig and so on before calculating the relevant detailed devices, and established the control system of the grinding machine.

Thus the CNC needle tube grinding machine—which had been planned to make for two years—was completed in a year. It costed two thirds of the imported, and all its processes were automated, making it possible to save time and labour. The machine can process 250 to 350 needle tubes at one time and over 6 000 per hour.

The grinding machine capable of producing needle tubes to meet the international standard was highly appreciated at many exhibitions at home.

Ri says, “The needle tubes are small medical appliances, but we did not think so. As many as one million pieces are needed a year, and it is connected with the people’s health, so we thought it was not negligible. Our target is to develop all machines and equipment to produce necessary medical appliances.”

Rim Ok

Developers of the CNC needle tube grinding machine.

A CNC needle tube grinding machine.
World of Prodigies

LAST YEAR SOME CHILDREN WERE IN THE
limelight at the 12th national contest of the
dergarten children with extraordinary talents.

Football Prodigy

Ri Sang G Yong from Kaeson Kindergarten in
Moranbong District affiliated to the Pyongyang
Teachers Training College showed an unusual tal-
ent in the sports event. In particular, he registered
the record of nine seconds, which was two seconds
faster than the previous record of eleven, in the
event of dribbling, throwing the ball into a ring and
so on while running a distance of 15 metres.

Jon Chun Yong, the boy’s teacher, says, “In the
door play time all other children soon got bored
with football except Sang G Yong. He was engrossed
in kicking the ball until I told him to stop. When I
asked his parents they said that he loved to play
with the ball in his nursery days, and he used to
kick the ball with elder brothers or grandpas in the
park, and dribble the ball while walking along the
street with his mother.”

Though Jon was not a football expert, she could
not neglect the bud of the boy’s gift for playing foot-
ball. Now she, in cooperation with a football ex-
pert, mapped out a teaching plan and a teaching
schedule suited to Ri’s physical preparedness and
psychology, and started to teach him the sport one
hour a day. Indeed, the boy was better than those
of his age. He learned the dribbling skill quickly. A
few months later he could do dribbling 1,000 times
at a time, and possessed tackling and dribbling as
his forte.

Experts commented that his correct, quick and
nimble dribbling would enable him to become a
football master. His father, an army of
nurses, doing mental arithme-
tics swiftly. In case of calculating ten
digit figures he remembered the follow-
ing ones. The potentiality of a prodigy is expressed
in memory	quality as well as potentiality.”

When Ryong Myong correctly expresses what-
ever he sees, hears and feels, Jong Hak expresses
only one time in an unusual way. The former can be
likened to a clear stream, and the latter to a deep
and quiet lake.

Thanks to the effort of the teacher who has a
knack of finding out and rearing prodigies, both
of them have developed a good intellectual ability.
She has trained a dozen intelligent prodigies for ten
years.

Kang Jong Hak was different. The teacher’s
first impression of him was that he was not seem-
ingly a prodigy. However, she happened to regard
him anew.

One day when she raised a long four-arithmetic
problem, several children raised their hands at the
same time. But Kang was calculating inwardly,
screwing up his lips.

The teacher says, “It is universal psychology of
the kindergarten children to raise their hands as
someone does. But Kang did not mind it, and gave
a correct answer. Many of the other children who
raised before him gave wrong answers. That day I
came to realize his excellent ability. While calculat-
ing the previous figures he remembered the follow-
ing ones. The potentiality of a prodigy is expressed
in memory first, and the boy has high psychological
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Article by Rim Ok
Photos taken by Hwang Jong Hyok in December 2019
LAST YEAR KOREAN SPORTSPERSONS achieved many successes in international competitions. In particular, weightlifters gained considerably high records. Some time ago a Korea Today reporter had an interview with Kim Kwang Dok, chief secretary of the Weightlifting Association under the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports.

Recently sports techniques of the country are developing, and good successes were gained in the weightlifting event last year compared to the previous year, I think. Certainly. Many weightlifters participated and attained good results in five major international contests such as the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships and the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.

Our weightlifters won seven gold medals, twelve silver medals and five bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Weightlifting Championships held in Thailand in September, and won seven gold medals, ten silver medals and thirteen bronze medals at the 2019 Asian Weightlifting Championships held in Ningbo, China, in April. They also won six gold medals, fifteen silver medals and six bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Cup held in China in February, and ten gold medals, seven silver medals and four bronze medals at the 2019 IWF World Cup held in Tianjin, China, in December. The total number of those medals won in the events is 198, including 87 golds, 68 silvers and 43 bronzes, almost twice as many as the previous year.

Om Yun Chol, who has established astonishing records in men’s 55kg category so far, participated in men’s 61kg category event of the 2019 IWF World Cup for the first time, winning a gold medal in the jerk while Pak Jong Ju came first in total of men’s 67kg category. Last year Om Yun Chol, Pak Jong Ju, Choe Hyo Sim and Rim Jong Sim broke the world records. At the 2019 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships Kim Il Gyong, Paek Hye Jong and Kim Chung Guk and other five weightlifters renewed eleven world junior records and eleven Asian junior records, and four world youth records and eight Asian youth records.

Like this our sportspersons broke the previous records through the matches of last year.

I think such successes are greatly attributable to your association. Could you tell me about it?

My association carefully selected players and coaches, and made exact demands on them to make all training scientific in keeping with the trend in...
the development of sports techniques, and conduct-
ed the work to improve the coaches’ practical ability
in different forms and ways.

Meanwhile, the coaches, based on their correct
understanding of physical and technical prepared-
ness of the players, set up a realistic training plan
by day, week and month, and carried them out ex-
actly. And the researchers, in close contact with the
coaches, made sure that all the training processes
were put on a scientific footing and that advanced
training methods were introduced, thus raising the
effectiveness of training.

We also waged a vigorous campaign of learning
from and overtaking others and swapping experi-
ence, and organized many training, challenge and
home-and-away matches so as to kindle a flame
of zeal for creating new records. Thus over 60
weightlifters updated more than 40 DPRK records,
30 youth records and 50 junior records at domes-
tic competitions such as the Mangyongdae Prize
Games to celebrate the Day of the Sun (President
Kim Il Sung’s birthday—Tr.). During the competi-
tions, we organized short courses and demonstra-
tions to enhance the coaches’ ability.

My association organized 15 short courses for
over 190 coaches and instructors during the major
domestic competitions. In particular, the Pyong-
yang Sports Club gave a demonstration under the
title of Support System Program for Weightlift-
ing Instruction and Training, and Its Application
during the Mangyongdae Prize Games held to cel-
ebrate the Day of the Sun, helping the coaches have
a correct understanding of the problems arising in
the application of the program and become able to
widely use it.

During such competitions we also organized a
short regulation course and referees’ course to have
the coaches and instructors understand the weight-
lifting regulations and rules changed in 2019, thus
making it possible to successfully hold the 2019
Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Champions-
ships in Pyongyang in October of the year.

Not resting on our laurels we will further
scrupulously organize preparations for the 32nd
Olympic Games to be held this year so as to produce
many Olympic medallists.
True story

I’ll Remain a Winner

(7)

Kang Ho Jin

That Day Sun Hui pledged inwardly, “I’ll prove myself worthy of this honour and happiness by winning more gold medals.” She, however, did not know it would not be an easy job at all. Yet she knew it was the only way for her—a difficult road towards victory. She would have to devote a lot of things to the goal.

At last Sun Hui drew a deep breath and opened the gate feeling as if she were opening that to a new life.

As she entered the training hall, lots of shining eyes were focused on her at once. Then a girl of about fifteen, who seemed to be the captain, shouted in a high voice, “Attention! Mrs Kye Kang Ho Jin, we judo circle members have been waiting for you.”

Now Sun Hui realized for the first time who she herself was, and got aware what she should do.

I’m neither a hero nor a famous athlete now. I should start from scratch as an ordinary coach. I’ll find my pride and the value and significance of my life in devoting myself to the development of my country’s judo, she thought and vowed to herself: I’ll look back no longer. I’ll live and go forward as a person steadily advancing towards victory. Only then will I be able to remain an eternal winner.

2. Patriotism and Gold Medal

Sun Hui hesitated for a while because she was at a loss what to say first.

Standing still in a line before her, the little circle members were watching her with twinkle eyes.

What shall I say first to them before starting to train them as their coach? She thought. She forgot all the words she had considered all the previous night, and she could not readily say what her husband had meticulously told her to say as greetings before she left home in the morning.

Then she abruptly said, “If any of you can sing ‘Patriotic Song’, raise hands.”

All the circle members raised their hands, and they looked doubtfully at their new coach’s unexpected question.

Now she said, “Then let all of us sing the song,” and she led the song.

Shine bright, you dawn,
on this land so fair,
The country of three thousand ri,
So rich in silver and in gold you are,
Five thousand years your history. Our people ever were renowned and sage, And rich in cultural heritage, And as with heart and soul we strive, Korea shall forever thrive!

The training hall reverberated with the cheerful voices of the children.

Having looked round the circle members raised their hands, and they looked doubtfully at their new coach’s unexpected question.

Now, however, she also started her first training of her charges with the song like the first coach of hers.

The song had been imprinted not on her brain but in her mind, and she would instinctively sing it whenever she had the flag of the country hoisted by winning international competitions. Now, while singing the song together with her charges, she looked back upon those days when she won world championship for the first time.

“I don’t like it. I won’t do without you, Mr Pak,” Sun Hui said stubbornly.

Pak Chol deliberately wore a stern look, and rebuked her, saying, “Why do you say you won’t do? You’re Kye Sun Hui even without me. Go in and continue to train. You’re not to be out here as captain.”

Nevertheless, Sun Hui would not withdraw, saying again, “If you leave the national team, so will I.”

Then Pak Chol roared with rage, “What? You mean you’ll leave the national team? Don’t be absurd, Sun Hui.”

Taken aback, Sun Hui looked him in the face. The broad face was expressive of anger.

“All have praised you, and do you intend to act rashly as you please now? Who on earth is this Pak Chol? Will you die if I do? Will you entrust your life to another?” Pak gasped out still red with anger. Then he went on to say loudly, “Mark my words. Now you have no right to be negligent in training swayed by personal feelings. It is not me who trained you, but our benevolent country. What is important for you is not to be faithful to your coach but to return the benevolence of the country by winning more gold medals. But you are now giving up gold medals or everything else, aren’t you? What’s your alternative, then?”

Sun Hui only listened to the coach’s reproach without saying a word.

After a while, Pak Chol managed to calm himself down. He lit a cigarette and inhaled its smoke eagerly in silence. After finishing it he hesitated before taking her by the wrist, leading her to a nearby stone bench and saying, “Let’s sit here.”

For a while he stared at her sitting next to him with her mouth shut closely. Then, in a calm voice, he said, “I’m also sorry to leave you behind. You’re the best of the athletes I’ve trained so far. You’ve been my pride and joy. And I wish to work as your coach all my life.”

Now he gave a heavy sigh before going on to say, “But now you need a more competent coach than me. I know I cannot help you win world championship. This is true though it is hard for me to admit it.”

Sun Hui gently raised her head and watched him. There was an agony in his face which had always worn self-confidence and a sense of superiority.

After winning victory in the Atlanta Olympics, Sun Hui won gold medals in many international competitions in succession, including the women’s 52kg judo event of the Asian Judo Championships held in the Philippines in November 1997, the Asian Games held in Bangkok in December 1998 and the Asian Judo Championships held in China in June 1999. She, however, had never won the world championship. She took second place in the 52 kg event of the world championships held in Paris in 1997, and third place in the same event of the world championships held in Britain two years later.

Officials in the sports sector had a serious discussion about the fact that she had failed to win the two rounds of the world championships, and concluded that her coach’s stereotyped technical guidance was the main cause of her failure.

Pak Chol had been content that Sun Hui won by dint of her physical merits—she was unusually strong and good in balance—and thus he did not put due emphasis on her technical training while putting efforts into raising her physical ability alone. As a result, her techniques failed to develop in an all-round way, leaving her level of competition stagnant.

At first Pak Chol unreasonably tried to refute the argument of the technical officials. He had assumed an air of importance from his university days, and guided Sun Hui from her childhood so that she could win Olympic and many other gold medals. This made it difficult for him to admit that his ability was out of date.

(To be continued)
SOME TIME AGO A national demonstration course was given at the sheep breeding base of the Hadan Cooperative Farm in Sinuiju. The participants looked around the four blocks of sheepfolds, an anti-epizootic laboratory, a fodder processing shop, a fodder depot and a silage pit, and they were struck with wonder when they saw a vast stretch of grassland before the base.

“Everything is really wonderful. The prospect of the base is bright. We will learn the experience,” the visitors said. To them Kil Chong San, head of the base, said, “We think the method of solving problems depends on how the managers set a goal and strive to work to this end.” Now he told the following story.

What Kil put the main emphasis on when he began to build the base was to create an artificial grassland. However, it was not so easy as he had thought owing to some natural conditions. Then some people suggested that it would be OK to make a small pasture as they would be engaged in sire keeping alone. Now Kil said, “This size of grassland would be enough at the moment, but what will you do in the future when we rear sheep for fattening up? We should overcome today’s hardships for the sake of tomorrow.”

To his call all the employees turned out. Regarding the creation of natural grassland as the major line of their work they expanded the area of grassland and pushed ahead with the work to prepare different species of fodder grass with great vitality and of high nutritive value and productivity. Meanwhile, they paid close attention to how to reduce the feed consumption unit while raising the productivity in cooperation with special organs. And they treated bean straws and dried grass with bacteria and prepared a good deal of silage to use them for winter fodder.

Kil also focused on a thorough anti-epizootic arrangement. Instead of assigning the task to some veterinarians alone he had all the workers involved in it. To this end he, through daily sci-tech lessons, let them know the diseases sheep were likely to catch due to different causes and conditions, and learn technical measures related to sheep rearing. This made the workers have a high sense of responsibility for their work, and they actively applied their knowledge to practice while understanding well how to rear sheep in conformity with the distance to pastures, grazing hour and seasons. Soon the base got a larger number of breeding sheep and sent them to cooperative farms in the area.

Now the managers and workers of the base, on the basis of their achievements, have set up a high target and are waging a vigorous campaign to increase the number of lambs.

Article by Pak Un Yong
Photos taken by Ra Phyong Ryol in October 2019
Recently the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club developed a complex hand-foot reflex therapy which is effective for recovery from fatigue and functional recovery, and growth among sportspersons. Based on traditional medicine of the Korean nation, the therapy is favourably commented upon by coaches and sportspersons. The reflex therapy was developed by Kim Song Hui, a researcher of the sports club. With plenty of experience, she has made a contribution to the promotion of health of many workers, peasants, office workers, young people and children across the country for tens of years. The following shows what made her develop the reflex therapy.

One day she happened to see her colleagues positively commented upon by coaches among sportspersons. Based on their return from training, she saw there was no particular progress in their training as she had anticipated. So she tried and treated each of them with reflex therapy but she could not do all of them by herself. She thought and thought and decided to develop a new reflex therapy that anybody could do by themselves. If they were taught to perform the main technical motions of the therapy to music in the form of collective exercise, it would be quite possible. Ra Su Hyang, one of her colleagues, positively helped with her research.

It was not easy to turn each method of the therapy into a motion and set it to a melody. But they finally completed the complex hand-foot reflex therapy in close cooperation with officials in the sector of the arts and those of the sports club. It was applied to the members of the club for several years, and the result proved that the therapy helped them improve their ability to put their skills into practice in competition and raise their scores, and had good effect on their intellectual development. The reflex therapy done to music stimulated the blood flow, regulated the excitability of nerve cells, strengthened the contractile force of heart and raised immunity. It was also good for the lubricity, accuracy, variety and agility of hand exercises and the development of the functions of the brain. And it helped them recover quickly from fatigue, thus freeing them from sleep disturbance, indigestion, anxiety and a feeling of helplessness, and it was good for the treatment of different diseases such as cold, tonsillitis, cystitis and arthritis.

And it helped young members of the club grow tall, smoothly solved the problem of its members’ weight regulation and sharply reduced treatment expenses and the amount of the medical workers’ work. As a result, members of the sports club have achieved remarkable successes in competitions.

The therapy won first place in the 19th and 21st national sports sci-tech achievements exhibitions and the 31st national sci-tech festival, and it started to be introduced in other sports clubs and juvenile sports schools across the country.

In those days Kim Song Hui succeeded in using the reflex therapy in lavaging the kidney. Thus she successfully treated hundreds of patients who were suffering from kidney stones without operation.

Now she is striving to better the reflex therapy on the basis of the traditional medicine of the nation.

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Kim Song Hui (centre) gives a blood circulation speed control treatment by applying the reflex therapy.
National Dog under Good Care

A COUPLE OF NATIONAL DOG BREEDERS live in the picturesque Mt Taesong area, Pyongyang. They are Hong Yong Il and Ri Hyang Rim, residents of Neighbourhood Unit No. 80, Kammun-dong, Taesong District.

The couple grew Yuwol, belonging to the kind of national dog Phungsan, which took first place in Korea’s National Dog Phungsan Show 2019 held in November last year.

Everyday life of the man and wife is inconceivable apart from the national dog. The husband’s daily routine starts with running in the morning. Just at 6 a.m. he goes out together with the dog. They run a distance of about two kilometres along the foot of Mt Kobang. Through the exercise, Hong says, they harden themselves physically and deepen their mutual affection.

He says, “It is in winter that there is the biggest difficulty with running in the morning. Yuwol, however, always joins me in the exercise even in the intense cold of midwinter when the temperature falls as low as ten degrees below zero. In the past I ever, always joins me in the exercise even in the intense cold of midwinter when the temperature falls as low as ten degrees below zero. In the past I

Hong goes to work at 8 a.m. He works in the Central Zoo, and in his spare time he reads books, most of which are those on dogs, including Phungsan Dog, Breeding of Pet Dogs and Pet Dog Encyclopaedia.

He is well versed in the breeding of Phungsan dogs and preventing and treating their diseases. So, he goes by the nickname of Phungsan dog expert.

It is also his wife’s duty to breed the dog well while taking care of her family. She is now busy tending five pups born of Yuwol.

Yuwol is so clever that it understands well what people say and helps a lot with her work, the wife says and adds, “Phungsan also guards the home well. Our home is situated at a hillock with many foxes and weasels. Yuwol reliably protects chickens, ducks and geese from the natural enemies’ attack. Phungsan is very clean, too. Her five young, though it is merely one week after they were weaned, are already able to go to stool by themselves.”

It is four years since the couple brought Yuwol from Kim Hyong Gwen County (former Phungsan County) of Ryanggang Province, the home of the dog. They have been engrossed in preserving and multiplying pure-bred Phungsan dogs, and thus they have spread over thirty dogs of the kind across the country. They have a plan to spread 100 such dogs across the country by 2025.

Thanks to their efforts the number of the people breeding those dogs is increasing in not only Kamkun-dong but also Chongho-dong, Kosan-dong and Anhak-dong and other localities. Lots of people frequent the home of the couple to learn from their experience in breeding Phungsan.

Hunting is also important part of the couple’s life because the Phungsan is strong in hind legs and good at running up mountains, and has so keen a nose and sensitive ears as to find games exactly and quickly. More important is that the dog fights its enemy to the last until it wins and that it protects its masters well, the couple says. They attach the greatest attention to walking in their life. Back home after the day’s work Hong and his daughter Paek Sol go out for a walk together with their dog. This is a kind of rule for them. The walk takes 30 minutes, and it is an unusually good time for them, when they relieve their fatigue of the day, and plan what they will do the next day.

Like this the daily life of the couple is continuing in a pleasant way along with Yuwol.
Glimpse of Japan’s Plunder of Korean Cultural Heritage

RECENTLY A KOREA Today reporter interviewed Kong Myong Sung, chief of the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, about Japan’s criminal pillage of Korean cultural relics.

Do you have any idea about the amount of Korean cultural relics kept in Japan?

There are as many as 30,000–40,000 pieces of Koryo ceramics in Japan at the moment. According to some Japanese sources, the Tokyo National Museum has got 40,000 items of Korean cultural heritage, while the Nemi Art Museum keeps thousands of articles of the kind. Large and small museums, colleges and Buddhist temples have on display or keep different kinds of Korean cultural relics, such as ceramics, metalwork, mother-of-pearl work, drawings and paintings, books and types. In addition, many things are in private hands. Altogether, there are hundreds of thousands of items of Korean cultural heritage in Japan.

They say Japan began to plunder cultural relics from Korea hundreds of years ago. What’s the story?

Japan started an aggression war against Korea in 1592, and stole a colossal amount of cultural relics and paintings by the end of the war—which we call the Imjin Patriotic War that came to an end in 1598. During the war six detachments of the Japanese aggression forces were charged with the exclusive mission of plundering valuable cultural things from Korea. Their greatest lust was ceramic articles. A stack piece of evidence is that one Koryo ceramic vessel was worth some 512,000 US bushels of rice in Japan at the time.

Along with ceramic articles, bells, Buddhist images, pictures and whatever was created by the Korean nation were on the list of the things to be taken by the Japanese marauders. Their vandalism caused the disappearance of ancient historical documents cherished by the Korean people for a long time. The Chunchu Hall Archives in the royal palace and similar ones in Songjus and Chungsus were burnt to ashes during the Japanese invasion—the one in Jonju alone could avoid the pillage. It was also during the turbulent time that a lot of porcelain technicians and handicraftsmen were forcibly taken to Japan.

At the beginning of the 20th century the Japanese imperialists put Korea under their military occupation and began to plunder Korean cultural relics indiscriminately and stealthily in order to take them to their homeland.

The Japanese imperialists’ military occupation of Korea following the so-called 1905 Ulsa Five-point Treaty gave rise to rampant plunder of Korean cultural heritage, the extent of which was absolutely unheard of in history, I would say.

The Japanese adopted quite sinister means to get Korean cultural relics. Soon after they occupied Korea the Japanese imperialists formed an organization headed by Sekino, a Japanese who was in the cloak of surveyor of historical remains and relics, and carried out an overall expert investigation into the Korean national heritage in the whole Korean land for ten years, thus working out a 15-volumed book. On this basis Hirobumi Ito who was the first Resident-General in Korea proclaimed a decree to find out and collect Korean cultural relics, which became the legal and institutional basis to plunder the cultural heritage of the Korean nation. Ito illegally dug out a dozen truckloads of treasure from the mausoleum of King Kyonghyo, who was the 31st king of Koryo. During their occupation of Korea, the Japanese imperialists unearthed more than 200 royal mausoleums and as many as 11,000 old tombs to get a colossal amount of treasure to be taken to Japan.

Terasuchi, the first Governor General of Korea, pulled down a building of Kyongbok Palace, the residence of the Korean king, and moved it to his home town. There he had it restored true to the original model, named it Korea House and put on show lots of Korean ceramic articles, Buddhist images, metal handicrafts, and trinkets.

Besides, officials of the Government General of Korea and many other Japanese under the guise of investigation commissions excavated antiquities collectors unearthed a huge amount of valuable cultural treasure and took them to Japan. Karube, who stole into Korea under the cloak of archaeologist, dug hundreds of tombs of those who belonged to the middle and higher classes on the yearly basis, which belonged to Paekje, a feudal state of Korea that was in existence from the close of the first century BC to 660. In his interview with a Japanese reporter in 1963 he confessed that he had “unearthed 2,000 ancient tombs of Paekje and learned that they were worth three hundred and tens of millions of yen when I entrusted them to merchants for evaluation.”

I hear the Japanese are insulting the time-honoured history and tradition of Korea claiming the Korean cultural relics as theirs.

At the moment the Japanese are praising their ancestors for the plunder, saying it was the “most wonderful cultural campaign.” They keep cultural relics of Korea registered on the list of possessions at the Ueno Museum in Tokyo and publicize them as Japan’s “national treasure,” “prime cultural assets” and “principal art work.” A Japanese scholar once said, “Who is the maker of almost all of those things Japan is boasting to the world as its own treasure and many people around the world praise for their beauty? Isn’t it true that they were made by the Korean nation? No doubt even the historians admit the truth. There is no other alternative than to call them Korean treasures.”

Restitution is a global trend at the moment, isn’t it? Sure. Last year the UK returned some cultural relics to Ethiopia and France gave back what it took from Senegal in the 19th century. This is a sign of the will of the countries not to repeat the past record of crime, and it is also a reflection of the current international trend of pursuing reconciliation and new relationship between nations by settling problems of the past.

Nevertheless, Japan still remains shameless against this reality. Its plunder of the Korean cultural assets is not simply confined to the crime of individual Japanese, but is a extravagantous state-sponsored crime that Japan committed with an intention to clear away the history and culture of the Korean nation by mobilizing the whole government and military authorities.

It is also an unpardonable crime against the international law. Although more than 70 years have passed since its defeat, the insular nation is flatly refusing to admit its past crimes including the plunder of cultural assets. What is more disgusting is that it is embellishing its past, resorting to militarist moves of resurrection with a burning intention of reinvocation. Japan is strongly advised to learn that its record of aggression will not disappear even if it covers it with silk cloth and that the statute of limitations shall not apply to its crime even after the passage of centuries.
Sijungho Mud Therapy

There is a lagoon called Sijungho in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province. It was originally a bay in the east coast of Korea. Later it was separated from the sea as its estuary was blocked by a strip of sandbank which rose by elevation of the ground and waves. With an area of 2.94 km² the lake is 11.8 km round, 3.5 km long, and 0.8 km wide on average, 3.5 m and 0.6 m deep at the maximum and minimum respectively and 2 m deep on average.

The bottom three to four metres away from the shore is covered with mud. The peloid was separated from the sea as its estuary was blocked by a strip of sandbank which rose by elevation of the ground and waves. With an area of 2.94 km² the lake is 11.8 km round, 3.5 km long, and 0.8 km wide on average, 3.5 m and 0.6 m deep at the maximum and minimum respectively and 2 m deep on average.

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Scenic Spots in Phaldam Recreation Ground

**THE PHALDAM VALLEY** has eight pools, hence the name. Now it has changed into a cultural recreation ground. It covers Woljong-ri, Norumegi and Hwajang valleys bounded by Susamthaeryong, Sansong-dongmun, Josedae and Obong. It has many sites of historical importance such as Woljong, Samsong and Phaeyop temples.

Sightseeing and mountaineering in the recreation ground starts from Woljong-ri, Anak County. Woljong Temple was built in 846, and later repaired several times. The structure and style of the temple are fine and well matched mechanically, and it is of significance in studying ancient buildings of Korea.

The temple backs onto Asa Peak which is the fourth tallest peak in the mountain. It is also referred to as the mountain of Tungun, founding father of the Korean nation. The peak rises precipitously from almost level ground, thus looking magnificent. Growing on the peak are pines and pine nut trees, oaks, maples, apricot and peach trees and the Korean pepper bush, and over five hundred metres up the peak azaleas and royal azaleas grow in crevices of rocks.

The Phaldam Valley is one of the main valleys stretching from Sahwang Peak divided into different branches, thus it is deep and thickly wooded. The valley is a scenic spot where crystal-clear water flows down over bedrocks at its bottom and forms eight pools on flat rocks. A signpost for the climbing route to Phaldam (eight pools) stands at the entrance to the valley. Curious rocks rise jaggedly or form cliffs on the right side of the valley, with the climbing route lying beneath the rocks, and a wide road spreads on the left. The clear water cascades down 100 metre-long layers of bedrock forming the eight pools. A giant rock stands over the eighth pool. And spring water called Chongchun (youth) Spring gushes out from a crevice of the rock, and it is said that one has youthful vigour if one drinks the water.

In the past the scenic spot served as a pleasure resort where only the rich from Nampho, Unryul, Sinchon and Anak enjoyed themselves playing with kisaengs (professional entertainers). Now it has changed into the people’s resort.

There is Unjong Falls above Phaldam. The waterfall, which looks like hundreds of silver beads hanging over a moss-covered wide rock, is very beautiful. On the top of the waterfall there is Lake Unjong, whose blue water inspires people to drink it or plunge into it. Even in mid-summer days the water is very cold. A picnic ground, a dancing ground and a resting place are well arranged around the lake.

The Phaeyop Temple in Mt Kuwol is well-known across the country because it is one of 31 Buddhist head temples in Korea, and it houses rare Buddhist scriptures named Phaeyop Scriptures. If you go up 400 m northwest along the valley from the temple you can see Sesim Falls. Its water flows down rock steps, and there is a pool on each of the steps. The space around the rock is so wide that it is an appropriate place for rest. You feel refreshed by the waterfall, hence comes its name. A little way down from the waterfall there is Ssangthae Falls whose water pours down in two courses.  

_Sim Chol Yong_