A medallion awarded to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the International Relations Development Institute, France in March 1993
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SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN THE Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has advanced century after century through the rapid development of the economy, defence, science, culture and all other fields. This is inconceivable apart from a mass movement, an all-people movement, which turned the strength of the popular masses into a powerful driving force.

On October 11, Juche 60 (1971) an Iraqi press delegation on a visit to Pyongyang asked President Kim Il Sung to tell them what he considered to be the most important experience of the fighting people of Korea.

Then the President said:

“In our country, revolutionary struggle and the work of construction have been conducted in all fields as a mass, popular movement. We have succeeded in all the huge and difficult tasks of revolution and construction by relying on the high degree of revolutionary zeal and creative energy of the people. An important key to the rapid progress of our socialist construction lies precisely in the fact that we have solved all our problems by the revolutionary method of relying on the masses and rousing them to action.”

In December 1956 the national leader visited the Kangson Steel Works (Chollima Steel Complex at present). After explaining to the workers the prevailing situation in and around the country, he called upon them to produce 10 000 more tons of steel, saying: Let us break through the prevailing difficulties together, I believing in you and you trusting me.

His words served as the starting-point of the Chollima Movement to be under way across the country. Under the slogan of “Charge at the speed of Chollima!” the flames of a great revolutionary upsurge spread across the country.

In all parts of the country old norms were broken and lots of reserves for increased production and economization were mobilized while new miracles and innovations were brought about in all sectors of socialist construction. The workers of the Kangson Steel Works rolled 120 000 tons of steel billets using a blooming mill with only a 60 000-ton annual capacity, and those of the Kim Chaek Iron Works produced 270 000 tons of pig iron with the equipment of only a 190 000-ton annual capacity. And

The first tractor and the producers of the first lorry.
A tractor and a lorry of Sungni 58 model were produced in some 30 and 40 days respectively, followed by the production of a bulldozer, a water pump, an excavator, a lorry-mounted crane, an 8-metre turning lathe and an electric locomotive.

Amazed at the rapid progress made in Korea’s economic construction through the Chollima Movement during the building of the foundation of socialism in the country, especially, the transformation of people before great economic changes, a foreign journalist wrote in an article as follows:

“Whenever I heard here and there about the achievements in the Chollima Movement, I had doubts. When I heard that ‘the five-year plan expected to raise the total industrial output value 2.6 times has been fulfilled in merely two years and a half,’ I thought that the standard of the original plan might have been low.

“And when it was reported that ‘the total industrial output value has increased 3.5 times and the average annual increase in the industrial output has reached 36.6 percent over the four years from 1957 to 1960,’ I thought the original output value might have been too low.

“Moreover, I thought that even if that might have been true and even if the equipment had been expanded, there would have been a great miracle made by the Chollima Movement.”

The Chollima Movement was a mass education movement to turn people into active elements in socialist construction, who would make continued innovations and advance onwards, and a movement for technical and cultural transformation to make innovations in economic construction and cultural development by giving play to mass heroism.

The Chollima era is never a memory of the past but a tryst with the future.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited the Weaving Division of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. I was welcomed by Pak Ki Yong who has been working at the mill as head of the division for over three decades.

He led me to a billboard hanging on the left wall of a corridor. It was posted with the photos of 16 heroes produced by the division, including Ri Hwa Sun, the first hero of the division in the 1960s. I was looking at the board, when Pak told me the following story.

Ri Hwa Sun introduced a dozen technical innovations from 1964, including a method of zig-zagging round looms, thus lighting the torch of a multi-loom tending campaign. From then on she kept overfulfilling her annual plan. Later, the multi-loom tending campaign spread throughout the mill, kindling the flame of innovation. In the course of this many of the weavers became heroes and model workers. Ri also trained more than 160 weavers as skilled hands, and participated in the Second National Meeting of the Vanguard Workers in the Chollima Workteam Movement held in May 1968, making a speech on her experience.

Pak then said that before the billboard they often hold oratorical meetings, discussions and oath-taking gatherings with a view to carrying on the spirit of the heroes. Guided by him I went to a workshop which was resounding with the smooth buzzing of looms. There my eye was caught by the slogans “Let us smash straight through all the barriers in the way of our advance!” and “Self-development, prosperity by dint of self-reliance.”

Pak introduced me to Merited Weaver Ri Myong Sun, who has been working at the workshop for over two decades. The total length of the fabric she has woven is 2 400 km. And the distance she has covered while tending her looms is 400 000 km, which is equivalent to that of ten rounds of the earth. Ri also made strenuous efforts to help those who lagged behind others so as to make her workteam into the one of model workers helping and leading one another forward.

When I asked Ri how she could work so honestly for such a long time, she replied that she thought the heroes were watching her, and that their spirit encouraged her to do so.

There I could meet An Mi Gyong, who was the first to fill the first six months’ task this year. Though not so tall, An was an enterprising girl full of vigour in her early twenties. Saying that she could become a model worker thanks to a “treasure notebook,” she showed it to me. Written in the fuzzy notebook were the characteristics of each loom, methods of cutting the time of tying the broken thread, requisites for managing many looms, new ideas she got during experience swapping and discussion with colleagues, methods of simple maintenance of looms, and the experience of mechanics.

The head of the division said that the originator of the notebook was Hero Ri Hwa Sun, and that though the owner of it changed, the hero’s spirit was still carried on. He also proudly told me that over 50 and ten of the factory’s works had fulfilled their assignments for the first half of the year and their yearly tasks by last March respectively.

Looking around the division I was convinced that the spirit of the heroes would be carried on by the weavers of the new generation. I left the mill, promising that I would visit it again when the division produced the 17th hero.

Article by Kim Il Bong 
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok
IN KOREA THE TAEAN HEAVY MACHINE Complex is a leading producer of generating equipment and ordered equipment.

It is mainly producing equipment for major construction projects.

Kwak Tae Won, leader of processing workshop No. 1, says, “It was in February when we were processing a power generator for Tanchon power station No. 5 under construction. At that time we had to make T-slots on the rotator. But we didn’t have the necessary machine. Having decided to make it by our own efforts, we and the technicians of the complex pooled wisdom and efforts, and thus we completed it in several days and processed the power generator ahead of schedule.”

Kim Un Chol, a lathe operator who was tasked with processing its axis, says, “When I was given the task of processing the 10-odd-metre-long axis of the power generator, I, as a young man, worried that I might fail to process it. But everyone encouraged and helped me, and thus I could finish the task five days ahead of schedule. At that time I had confidence that I could do something for the country.”

That’s not all. The workers of the complex helped complete the phosphatic moulding drying furnace in the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory by developing a welding jig to make the fire grate for the furnace. The workers of the complex’s steel casting shop improved the moulding method to prevent air bubbles from forming in steel castings, thus helping reduce the production cycle of water wheel and large gear with less labour.

Based on their success in transforming an automatic welding process last year, the workers of the generating equipment-related sheet metal processing shops increased three times the speed of welding the bodies of the equipment for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry while ensuring their quality on a high level.

Meanwhile, the large-size machine shop, generating equipment assembly shop and ordered equipment assembly shop produced dozens of units of ordered equipment while helping and leading one another forward.

The other workers of the complex spent their spare time helping the generator assembly shop short of manpower assemble magnetic pole iron core and winding, enabling the complex to finish its task at the fixed date.

Kim Kwan Sik, assistant-chief engineer in charge of technical affairs of the complex, says, “In the future, too, we’ll demonstrate the honour of our complex as a leading one with one mind and one will.”

Sim Chol Yong
Earnest Request

Official Should Make Tiresless Efforts for the Good of the People

O fficials should make tiresless efforts for the good of the people who are the best in the world. They should seat the people on golden cushions even if it means their pains. This is what Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Workers’ Party of Korea always requests officials to do. He always thinks of the people first, and considers everything in the interests of the people. He requests that top and absolute priority be given to the demands and interests of the people even in constructing a single building or producing a simple thing.

One November day in Juche 101 (2012) the Supreme Leader inspected the Ryugyong Health Complex once again just before its inauguration. While looking round different parts of the complex, he mentioned that it would have lots of visitors when it opened, and said that what mattered was to make sure there was no problem in operating the complex in winter and that perhaps it would enjoy greater popularity in winter than in summer.

Before leaving the complex he requested relevant officials to run the complex well by organizing the service and operation scrupulously in the coming winter so that the people could enjoy much benefit from it, and to operate the complex properly and provide good service in the future so that the people could enjoy a happy and cultured life to their heart’s content as creators and enjoyers of socialist culture.

One February night in 2018 a trolley bus with the Supreme Leader on board was running along a street of the capital city. He had made time to ride the new-type bus, saying that he would feel as if it was the one conducive to the promotion of children’s education.

One of the major reasons why the socialist public health care of Korea attracts the attention of the world is that the DPRK has got the universal free medical care system in force, and health care centres are all built up to provide emergency services.

Accordingly, the construction of the general hospital can be said to be a nonprofit undertaking for the State. It, however, will satisfy on a higher level the desire of the people who want to live in good health while getting the most advanced medical care. This is why the State attaches importance to the living standards.

Now the typical banner the country holds is “Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!” which demands attaching importance to the people and serving them faithfully, and top and absolute priority is given to the demands and interests of the people in working out and applying whatever lines, policies and measures of the State.

All officials, bearing deep in mind the word the people, are devoting their all to doing things for the good of the people, and find their true worth of life in solving the people’s problems.

Yon Song Hui

Political Idea Manifest in Pyongyang General Hospital

P YONGYANG GENERAL HOSPITAL NOW under construction on the bank of the Taedong River in the capital city of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is one of the most important projects in the country.

On March 17 this year Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un went to the construction site to announce the beginning of the project and break ground first to signal the project. In accordance with the joint resolution adopted by the April meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea the country took more thoroughgoing State emergency anti-epidemic measures to cope with the steady spread of the worldwide epidemic, and drastically adjusted or carried forward to next year some important construction projects planned to be done this year. But the construction of the hospital is still going ahead.

The State assumes full responsibility for the people’s health care of Korea attracts the attention of the world.

The Third Session of the 14th Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK held last April decided to increase the expenditure on education and public health by 5.1 and 7.4% respectively this year compared to that of last year. The enforcement of such popular policies has been in force despite the rigorous circumstances in which the country has been exposed to the vicious, uninterrupted sanctions imposed by the hostile forces.

The State is devoting its all to doing things for the good of the people, and find their true worth of life in solving the people’s problems.

Yon Chung Hoik
Under Unfurled Banner of Juche

The West Sea Barrage.

Barrage by the country. It was a gigantic project. They had to erect a dam across the 8-km-long sea river where the difference between the high and low tides was enormous and whose water was scores of metres deep, along with several locks through which different vessels including 50 000-ton ones can pass, and dozens of sluices. The Chairman proposed a Korean-style method of construction to carry out the project in a three dimensional and all-round way. From the outset a powerful building force conducted the project on the ground and the sea and under the water simultaneously, thus it was completed in a short span of five years by dint of the country’s own design and technology. As a result, it changed the Taedong River, which had harbored geese into the sea for thousands of years, into a large artificial lake, with the dam linking Nampho City and Unryul County, which had been separate from each other by the sea, and made it possible to solve fully the problems of irrigation, industrial and drinking water in the surrounding areas. Kim Jong Il also saw to it that modern machines and equipment including a 10 000-ton press and a large oxygen equipment including a 10 000-ton press and a large oxygen plant were made by employing the country’s own way, and wisely led the laying of a solid foundation of an independent national economy in all sectors of the national economy such as the metal and light industries and agriculture with the country’s own equipment, materials and technology. During the time of Arduous March and forced march in the 1990s Jagang Province was the first to undergo the Arduous March as it was in much more unfavourable conditions than others in all respects. Taking this into consideration, the Chairman set the province as the pilot in breaking through the prevailing difficulties and arousing the whole country to a grand march. He visited the province in order to acquaint himself with its actual conditions in detail and introduce its examples throughout the country.

From January 16-21, 1998 he looked round nearly 20 units in the province. While inspecting different kinds of mediums and small-size power stations the province had built by its own strength and technology and many factories and enterprises there, the Chairman named the fighting spirit Kanggye spirit to be emulated by the whole nation. Thus the Kanggye spirit spread to all sectors and units, making it possible for the country to successfully overcome the grim trials of the Arduous March.

The Chairman developed the Korean-style socialist culture. In the early 1970s he supervised the effort to make an opera by adapting the immortal classic masterpiece The Sea of Blood created by President Kim Il Sung when he was engaged in his anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the early 20th century. At that time operas were all bound to European form or Changguk (traditional Korean musical opera). The Chairman set Korean-style creation as the main orientation in the production of a new opera, and saw to it that the orchestral music of opera was created with folk and famous songs as its main melody. He also led the creation of a new kind of stage art, that is, three dimensional stage art supported by a revolting stage. In particular, he saw to it that stanzas and pangechung (off-stage chorus) were introduced in the opera.

Thus the revolutionary opera The Sea of Blood marked a significant turning point in creating a new style of opera, unfolding a new history of producing The Sea of Blood-style revolutionary operas. Besides the creation of opera, there was ushered in a great heyday of poetry, drama, music, fine arts and acrobatics. Thanks to the revolutionary leadership of the Chairman who laid a firm foundation of independence during his guidance on the revolution and construction, the Korean people are vigorous pushing ahead with socialist construction with the confidence in their own strength and by dint of their own effort.

Scenes from the Korean feature film Star of Korea and the revolutionary opera The Sea of Blood produced during the revolution in the art and literature.

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Writing Brush in Emblem of WPK

THE HISTORY OF BUILDING up the Workers’ Party of Korea as ruling party consists in that of expanding the ranks of the Party and consolidating it on a solid and unshakeable basis. The primary task in this respect was to make it mass-based. A party is the vanguard of a certain class that struggles to realize the requirements and aspiration of the class. But if a party is built for the sake of a given class alone, it will not be able to perform its duty as a revolutionary party, and get support from the broad masses of the people.

Taking this into consideration, the WPK has made consistent efforts to build itself up as a mass party that represents the interests of all the people and embraces the progressive elements of the working people from all walks of life.

The emblem of the WPK, bearing a hammer, a sickle and a writing-brush, is a piece of eloquent proof.

Addressing a rally held in the then Moranbong Public Playground, Pyongyang, on October 14, 1945, in honour of his triumphal return to the homeland soon after Korea was liberated from the Japanese invader, Kim Il Sung, the founder of the WPK, said: “The emblem of the Party was surely made to symbolize the firm unity and cohesion of the working masses including the workers, peasants and intellectuals, the handles of the hammer, the sickle and the writing brush should be crossed midway, with the hammer on the left, the sickle on the right and the writing brush in the centre, and that the writing brush should be surely placed in the centre, a little higher than the other symbols. He went on to say that drawing the writing brush on such a higher position reflected the meaning that in future all the workers and peasants, too, would have to attain a high level of knowledge and culture and do their best to contribute to the building of a prosperous and highly-civilized independent country.

The next day the leader examined the design revised by the designers. Saying that lines of distinction should be drawn to make the handles of the hammer, sickle and writing brush distinguishable from one another so that anyone could clearly know the order in which the symbols were placed, he took a pencil and drew a model design.

The emblem created in this way has served as the shining symbol of the WPK, with the intellectuals and good counselors of the Party not only during the building of a new country but also during the grim Fatherland Liberation War, postwar reconstruction and socialist revolution. Their role is going on inevitably at the moment.

Kim Son Myong

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION OF PHILOSOPHY RAISED BY JUCHE IDEA

Supposing the Juche idea is a big building, we can say that its philosophical principle is the foundation. A spacious foundation is essential for building a large house and a properly-placed foundation is needed to erect a well-balanced house. And a strong foundation is prerequisite for a strong building. The Juche idea owes its recognition as the thinking of our age to the truthful and scientific character of its philosophical principle.

The Juche idea is the first to put forward the fundamental question of philosophy with the consideration of man at the centre, and elucidates the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything. What, then, does the Juche idea take as the fundamental question of philosophy?

The fundamental question of philosophy is the basic problem, which lies at the bottom of all the problems to be solved for the philosophy to fulfill its mission.

The basic mission of philosophy is to serve the aim of helping people to carve out their destiny. The human history began with man’s thinking and study of his destiny. Mankind has created and pushed forward their history through their groping and paving the way of carving out their destiny. All the spiritual and material wealth they have produced in the realms of science, technology, literature, arts and whatever else is the result of their activities to shape their destiny.

It is the same case with philosophy. Therefore, the fundamental question of philosophy should be the one of helping people to carve out their destiny.

What, then, does the question of man’s destiny boils down to? It does to the one of relationship between man and the world, because man can shape his destiny only in the framework of the world since he is a component of the world.

People live in the world, to be more concrete, in nature and society. Wherever they are, they always keep relations with nature and society in order to maintain their existence, and for this reason their destiny is shaped in relation to nature and society. Therefore, in order to answer the question of human destiny it is essential to learn what kind of relation man keeps with the world, what kind of position he has and what kind of role he plays in the world.

Thus Korean intellectuals contributed a large share to the endeavours to accomplish the socialist cause as the eternal companions, faithful helpers and good counselors of the Party not only during the building of the world.
The Boys Who Took Up Arms

Once noteworthy effect the advance of the People's Revolutionary Army to the Mt. Paektu area had on the younger people was their fiery enthusiasm for enlisting in the guerrilla army. Each time the forests echoed along the Amnok River to the sound of gunshot, young people flocked to our secret camp in an endless stream hoping to join us.

As the volunteers increased, many interesting events took place. Once we were visited by a dark-complexioned boy with bushy hair wearing wet trousers. He earnestly pleaded to be allowed to enlist in the guerrilla army, saying that he wanted revenge for his brother's death. The boy came from the village of Shangfengde. He said that his eldest brother, who was teaching at a night school for youths and children in his village, had been killed by the police, since it had been disclosed that he supplied the guerrillas with food, and that his second brother had joined my unit just before the battle at Pochonbo was fought. That was why he wished to join the revolutionary army.

Though today they hold the positions of Vice-Marshall, General or Lieutenant General in the Korean People's Army, at that time they were little cubs who had to stand the test of whether or not they were capable of holding a rifle. Never before had I felt the need for a military school so keenly. How good it would be if we could afford to train all these eager boys and harden their bodies at a military school. Previously even the Independence Army had had cadet schools all over Manchuria. But this was before Manchuria was occupied by the Japanese imperialists. Manchuria in the late 1930s was trampled under the jackboots of the large Japanese imperialist armed force. Therefore, it was impossible for us to run military schools, as the Independence Army had done, I wondered whether something like a training centre could be opened in the secret camp, but that was not feasible. All “barometers” across the world were forecasting that the Japanese scoundrels would unleash another September 18 incident in the territory of China. To cope with this, we were preparing grand mobile operations. Enrolling the teenagers in our armed ranks at such a moment was as good asshouldering an extra pack just before an arduous march.

I was at a loss as to what I should do about the question. What was common in their behaviour was that they all tried to look as grown-up as possible. They had all lost parents, brothers or sisters, witnessing horrible scenes of their family members and relatives being killed in the enemy’s “punitive” operations, and this was why they had resolved to take up arms: to avenge their deaths. Having this heart-to-heart talk with them, I felt that in their thinking they could match several wise men.

As the saying goes, children mature early in troubled times. All these boys saw misfortune and their life was full of hardship. The children of Korea were all too familiar with the world, though young. Revolution moves and awakens people with great force and at great speed. There is profound truth to the words of the sage who likened revolution to a avalanche. The 20-odd boys who flocked to our bivouac hoping to become guerrillas were all miserable victims in one page of our nation's history, a page beset by vicissitudes. I was greatly moved by their determination, his mother consented to his joining the guerrilla army.

Even Kim Phyong, who was fond of children, would shake his head whenever these boys came to us. One summer's day in 1937, when our unit was bivouacking on the highland of Diyangxi, he came and asked me for advice, saying that about 20 kids, each shorter than a rifle, were plaguing him with requests to join and he did not know what to do with them. “I told them to come back when they were a little bigger, but they would not listen to me. In the end they started pressing me to let them see you, General...They say they won't leave until they've seen you, General. They are as obstinate as mules.”

I went to the boys and had a chat with them. I told them to sit down on a fallen log, then asked them, in turn, what their names were, how old they were, what their fathers did and where they came from. Each time I asked a question, the kid I was addressing would spring to his feet like a bouncing ball to answer the question. What was common in their behaviour was that they all tried to look as grown-up as possible. They had all lost parents, brothers or sisters, witnessing horrible scenes of their family members and relatives being killed in the enemy’s “punitive” operations, and this was why they had resolved to take up arms: to avenge their deaths. Having this heart-to-heart talk with them, I felt that in their thinking they could match several wise men.

In contrast to the so-called patriots—who harbored continuously on their love for the country—but only in words—to the renegades of the revolution, and to the degenerates who lived to no purpose and talked idly of the ephemeral...
pledge on the paper tonight. Why I said, you must put down your
the boys in our unit, I told them
the nation with education through di-
course simultaneously, in combi-
tary and political cadres' training
role of military school and mili-
tary training them in action. In other
was out on manoeuvres we would

a stout-hearted effort to train
them. What a wonderful harvest
veteran soldiers in the next year
or two.

If the veteran guerrillas made
a stout-hearted effort to train
them, even if it meant they had to
suffer hardship. I convinced the
boys would become agile soldiers in a short span of
time. I planned to form a company
with the boys on the principle that when circumstances permit-
ted we would train them at the
secret camp, and when the unit
was out on manoeuvres we would
take them with us, teaching and
training them in action. In other
words, I intended to form a spe-
cial company that performed the
role of military school and mili-
tary and political cadres’ training
course simultaneously, in combi-
nation with education through di-
rect action. Determined to enlist
the boys in our unit, I told them to
their friends, but I did not mind this.

It was not their fault if they were
incapable of scribbling because of
a lack of schooling. I told them
their written pledges were all ex-
cellent. At this, they all let out a
dear, dancing with joy. I called
together the officers above the
level of company political in-
structor at Headquarters and of-
ically announced that as of now
we were forming a Children’s
Company with Children’s Corps
members from Maanshan and
those who had come to us in West
Jianado. Even after the official
announcement of the formation of
the Children’s Company, quite a
few commanding officers contin-
ued to feel anxious about this step
taken by Headquarters. They
were apprehensive that these
children might become a stum-
bling block to our activities, that
we would be at a disadvantage
because of them. But if the little
kids could not face the trials
even the grown-ups found it dif-
cult to endure.

I formed the Children’s Com-
pany by virtue of my authority as
the Commander-in-Chief because
I wished to gratify the children’s
desire as quickly as possible.

First, I was touched by the
children’s ardent desire to take
part in the revolution and the
burning hatred that drove them
to want to avenge the murder of
their parents, brothers and sib-
ners. My meeting with them awk-

enad me to the need for training
reserves for the guerrilla army. I
came to think that the formation
of a special military organization
of children might be an answer to
this need.

Looking back on the path
traversed by successive order-
lies, such as Jo Wal Nam, Ri
Song Rim, Choe Kum San, Kim
Thaeck Man and Paek Hak Rim, who
joined the guerrilla army at a
similar age to the kids in the
Children’s Company, I was as-

ured that the children of 14 to 17
were capable of pulling their own
weight.

Soon after forming the Chil-
Dren’s Company, I made sure
that its members were dressed in
military uniform and presented
with weapons, mostly Model 38
carbinés. I still get a feeling of
satisfaction when I recall the boys
in the company, who were beside
themselves with joy at the new
uniforms and weapons.

The company set about train-
ing the next day in the high-
lands of Dyangxi. I was having a
strenuous time at that period,
drawing up plans for coping with
the Sino-Japanese War, but I
managed to find time quite fre-
quently to guide their training. I
explained to them that independ-
ence was achieved through
national unity and the unity and
strength of all revolutionary
forces, and that their presence
would add weight to their
actions and told them that they
should drill the full-step march
over and over again so as to get
accustomed to army manoeuvres.

I also instructed them to aim for
the enemy’s breast during target
practice.

The whole unit helped and
looked after the Children’s Com-
pany as they did their own bro-
thers. Each veteran soldier took
care of one boy so that every
member of the Children’s Com-
pany had a reliable guide and
friend.
The women guerrillas, too,
showed greatest affection for and
made efforts on behalf of the kids
in the Children’s Company, tak-
ing charge of two or three of
them each. The women taught them
everything they needed to know
about the everyday life of a guer-
illa—how to cook rice, make
a bonfire, sew and mend clothing
and cure blisters on the soles of
their feet—starting with the best
method of arranging things in
their packs.

My greatest concern was
given to developing the ideologi-
cal education of the Children’s
Company. Whenever I had time
to spare, I was their teacher.
I began by teaching the illiterate
among them to read and write.
The boys were greatly interested
in the histories of renowned
men, so I talked a lot about the
lives of famous men. I also lec-
tured on the history of Korea’s
downfall. Many of the Children’s
Company dreamed of carrying
pistols and hand-grenades with
them, as An Jung Gun, Yun Pong
Gil and Ri Pong Chang had done,
to kill the emperor of Japan or
the governor-general of Korea. I
explained to them that independ-
ence was achieved through
national unity and the unity and
strength of all revolutionary
forces, and that their presence
would add weight to their
actions and told them that they
should drill the full-step march
over and over again so as to get
accustomed to army manoeuvres.

Under the kind assistance and
concern of the Commander-in-
Chief of our Children’s Company rapidly
grew up. They began to clamour
for participation in battle, side by
side with the veteran guerrillas.
It was the battle of Xinfangzi that
baptized the Children’s Com-
pany. From this battle on they
went through innumerable en-
gagements with the enemy, fight-
ing shoulder to shoulder with the
veterans. Many things happened
in the course of these battles.

In spite of the hundreds of
precautions we had given them,
these little guerrillas did unex-
pected things—things that went
beyond the imagination of the
grown-ups once a battle had
started, things that left us breath-
less or made us double over with
laugh. The boys, cool and col-
clected at ordinary times, were
gripped by feverish excitement
as soon as the battle started, some-
times doing crazy things in their
flight from the enemy. One of the
children was so tottering on the
weight that he had started
dancing with joy. I called him by
the collar by a veteran soldier
and fell on his buttocks: he had
started blasting away with his
gun while keeping his upper body
exposed because he thought it
was just too much of a nuisance
to take cover.

Another boy had gone with-
out a cap for some time because
his brand-new cap had burned
up in the campfire. From then
he concentrated so intently on the
thought of a cap, that in an
encounter with an enemy soldier
his first move was an attempt to
grab the man’s cap before shoot-
ing him down. Because of this he
very nearly lost his life. Another
boy, who saw the out-of-uniform
sentry duty, was seized with an
irresistible impulse to shoot it,
which resulted in an emergency
call for the entire unit.

Throughout the years of ar-
duous training, the Children’s Com-
pany members distinguished
themselves in many battles. The
unusual circumstances of life
in the guerrilla army prompted
them to display the kind of sharp
intelligence and courage that was
rare in ordinary life.

During the entire period of
the anti-Japanese war the young
men from the Children’s Com-
pany fought as courageously as
the veterans, despite their ten-
der age and physical shortcom-
ings, making heroic contribu-
tions to the armed struggle. The
Japanese army and police had a
standard warning for their men:
Don’t talk to guerrillas trained in
the Children’s Company. In
other words, better avoid fight-
ing with them.

Let me give Kim Song Guk
as an example. He became a boy
guerrilla with the help of Kim II.

As he had faced many unus-
ual hardships in his child-
hood, Kim Song Guk was quick to
learn. In addition, because he was
bold and aggressive, he mastered
marksmanship and learned the
guerrilla code of conduct quickly.
In a few months, he was picked
out as assistant to machine-
gunner O Paek Ryong. Kim II
always looked upon him with
profound affection.

During one very cold winter,
while we were operating near the
River Songhua, Kim Song Guk
was out on a blocking mission
for some time. One day he was
warming his foot over the camp-
fire and, as he felt the sole to be
too hot, he pulled off his shoes.

Unfortunately, just at that
moment the blocking party was
attacked by the enemy. To make
matters worse, the machine-
gunner O Paek Ryong was not
there. Ordered by the commanding officer, Kim Song Guk hastily set up the machine-gun on the ice of the Songhua and opened fire at the enemy. He was completely oblivious of the fact that he was fighting barefoot.

While he was engrossed in shooting, he felt somebody pulling his foot back.

He looked behind him angrily, to see Kim Il wrapping his foot in a torn piece of underwear.

Kim Il said, “Don’t make such a spectacle of yourself! Do you want to have your foot amputated?”

After finishing the battle, Kim Il came and told me that he had seen Kim Song Guk running over the ice of the Songhua, the machine-gun on his shoulder. Each time he lifted his bare foot from the ice there came the sound of tearing skin. Of course, Kim Song Guk was no ordinary fellow, machine-gunning barefoot on the ice in the biting cold as he did. Nevertheless, Kim Il, too, was an uncommon person in that he followed the little machine-gunner through the hail of bullets and swathed his foot with pieces of cloth torn from his underwear. If Kim Il had not done that, Kim Song Guk would have ended up with seriously frostbitten feet and his foot back.

One of the young guerrillas who trekked many steep mountains to shoulder to shoulder with us in the anti-Japanese revolution, was Thae Pyong Ryol, who came to the Mihunzhen Secret Camp in the spring of 1936 at the head of a women’s platoon. He told me that he had joined the KPYA and taken up arms at the age of 15 or 16.

He was nicknamed “Chili”. It meant that though short and of small size, he was mature in his heart. He fought audaciously and lived a well-regulated life. After joining the anti-Japanese guerrillas he took part in the battles at Miaoiling, Jinchang, Jiansanfeng, Muijhe, Dapuzhaihe, Dashaehe-Dajianggang, Emu county town and in other battles, and performed as well as any veteran. He became a perfect marksman in the course of performing these military services.

In half a year all the boys in the Children’s Company grew into soldiers indistinguishable from the veterans. They made truly marvellous progress.

Toward the close of 1937, when they all become full-fledged soldiers, we disbanded the Children’s Company and spread its members out to other companies. This way they were transferred from the reserves to active army units.

Not a single renegade or laggard appeared among the guerrillas who had been trained in the Children’s Company. This proves how loyal they were to the Party and the revolution, the country and the people. Even in the trying days before national liberation, when fascism was going through its struggle to the death in the East and the West, they all faithfully carried out the small-unit activities under my command. In the years of building a new Korea it was they who, as division commanders or regimental commanders, built the armed forces of the country hand in hand with the revolutionary elders and crushed the US generals and tanks in the “punch-bowl”!

Kang Kon, the first Chief of General Staff of the Korean People’s Army, joined the revolutionary army at the age of 16. He was 30 when he was appointed Chief of General Staff. At the end of 1948 he paid a visit to the Soviet Union. The high-ranking military cadres of the host country, mostly generals and marshals, who were present at the airport to meet him, were really surprised to see that the Chief of General Staff of the Korean People’s Army was such a young man.

When Kang Kon told me of this after his return home, I remarked with a smile, “If I had been there I would have told them that you were already a renowned soldier in your childhood.”

Since the days of the Children’s Company I have come to think that a man’s physical age does not coincide with his mental age. Of the two age categories I place more emphasis on the latter. One’s mental age in youth or in childhood may leap forward by two, three or even five years in one year.

The education of young people is one truly essential factor in the shaping of a country’s future. As shown by the experiences of the Children’s Company, the earlier, the more carefully the successors of a revolution, the reserves, are prepared, the better it is for the future of the country.

Creative manager

HONG HYON GIL, MANAGER of the Pothonggang Organic Compound Fertilizer Factory, is known as a creative man. The workers comment that when he is in deep thought, something new will come into being. What catches your eye first before entering the compound of the factory is a cylindrical chimney scores of metres in height. It came into being thanks to the manager’s idea.

It happened soon after the inauguration of the factory. While looking around the factory, Hong noticed that fine dust was flying in the air in the compound. In the course of examining all equipment of the factory he knew that the dust originated from the very low chimney of the dust collecting apparatus attached to a raw materials mixer.

The chimney, set up during the building of the factory in order to prevent such phenomenon, was failing to collect fine dust.

He thought and thought, and finally conceived a bold idea of erecting a conical chimney on the existing one, and put it into practice. Thus it became possible to ensure clean air in the factory.

What he did first after he began to work at the factory was the rational arrangement of production processes. While looking around workshops he came to know that the production processes were in an unfavourable order. This caused a considerable waste of manpower and power, and hindered the improvement of labour efficiency. Now he researched to rearrange the equipment in keeping with the trend in the economic development and according to the production processes while having collective discussions with workers. And he also pushed ahead with the work of modernizing equipment in order to save manpower and power by 50% and 60% respectively compared with the previous days, and that the production of the fertilizer nearly doubled.

Giving priority to profit

Ri Yong Chol. Ri Yong Chol is a senior engineer of the factory. He does everything on the principle of ensuring profit.

Master of invention

Pak Yong Su, operator of a raw material-filling machine, attends Kim Chaek University of Technology online. On the basis of what he learned from the university he has invented valuable things, thus being known as a master of invention in the factory. A bucket lift installed in the factory is an invention of his. Previously, two conveyor belts had been occupied by the conveyors. Later, he invented a product loading machine and different jigs, making a contribution to the increase of the fertilizer production and the modernization of production processes.

Sim Chol Yong

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Taedonggang Furniture Factory

This month marks the 70th founding anniversary of the Taedonggang Furniture Factory in Pyongyang. As a furniture and fittings producer it has contributed to the improvement of the people's material and cultural life.

In the 1970s, when Rangwon Street was under construction in the city, the factory was tasked with producing the furniture for the apartment houses built in the new street. It waged a mass-based technical innovation campaign to produce quality furniture for the convenience of the people. This brought about innovation in the production of furniture. The furniture of the new houses were to the liking of their residents, and would become the first topic of their talk about their houses.

Besides household furniture the factory started to produce those for public establishments and service facilities in the 1990s. Products from the factory could be seen in the Okryu Restaurant, the Pyongyang Condiments Factory, the Central Mushroom Institute, the Mansudae Art Studio, hotels and other units all over the country.

Furniture and fittings from the factory did not get deformed in humidity, were durable even after a long time and looked fine, thus being known as high quality products, and the demand for them increased day after day.

With the development of the times its production processes have been put on a modern and scientific footing by the introduction of CNC technology into the wood processing equipment and furniture decorating process, the introduction of a 3D designing-support program and the computerization of production and business management.

Meanwhile, it often holds a technical innovation and invention exhibition and a designing prize contest that involve all its technicians and workers. This makes it possible to introduce new ideas of technical innovations and designs, the fruit of the masses’ creative wisdom, and train competent designers and skilled hands.

The furniture designs that combined utility and beauty proportionately came within the top three places at a national industrial art exhibition, and the furniture based on the designs such as a dressing table and wardrobe were put on the list of February 2 Product. A New Method of Improving Quality of Furniture Painting was highly evaluated at the 32nd National Sci-Tech Festival as it was conducive to the development of the painting industry. Besides, the natural painting materials-based products from the factory were rated as excellent at the Pyongyang International Green Building Material and Furniture Exhibition.

Now the factory produces over 240 kinds of furniture, and the number is on the steady increase.

The Taedonggang Furniture Exhibition House in Sochong-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, has on display the factory’s furniture and fittings. It also offers services on order.

The house is frequented by many people, and their opinions are valuable hints for making new products.

The users of the goods say, “The Taedonggang furniture is light and durable. They have little change despite the passage of time.”

Although plastic furniture is now in vogue, the traditional wooden furniture from the factory is still popular.

Wonderful Medicinal Efficacy

The Yangdok Hot Spring comprehensively contains elements appropriate for natural medical treatment, and the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort boasts geographical characteristics and natural environment good for having a bath in hot spring.

Tonggukyojisungnam (Handbook of Korean Geography compiled in 1481) has a record that there are three hot springs 8km north of Yangdok County, Phyongan Province and that the springs are quite hot. Situated in a mountain region of a low elevation, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is the most ideal place for natural treatment as it is shaded by pine trees in a valley.

The spring water evenly contains different ingredients necessary for acceleration of metabolism. It is rich in sulphur and contains an extremely small amount of radon. The hot spring is mainly composed of metallicate, sulphur and fluoride. Being mildly alkaline, it is high in pharmacological action and therapeutic efficacy. It contains no ammonium, nitrous acid and ion nitrate, which are pollution assessment indices, and no pathogenic microorganism.

The hot spring is especially good for the treatment of eczema, neurodermatitis, psoriasis, arthritis, muscular and bone diseases and neuralgia; it acts as antibacterial and anticancer agent, facilitates blood circulation and accelerates absorption and excretion of inflammatory wastes.

If rheumatic polyarthritis patients get hot spring treatment, it increases the glucocorticoid concentration in blood. And the treatment cures the ovarian dysfunction, normalizes and adjusts all physiological functions of the body and acts as a strong antidote. It also prevents calcium from leaving bones, thus strengthening them and preventing osteoporosis. It accelerates the growth of the body and prevents arteriosclerosis.

If a diabetic takes a tepid bath in the spring water or drinks the water, it promotes insulin secretion, thus reducing blood sugar.

Taking a bath in the spring water normalizes the function of the autonomic nerve, and raises the anagenetic ability. It also quickens the regeneration of injured nerves, and markedly shortens the process of coalition of fractured bones.

Yom Song Hui
Through Indefatigable Efforts

T he Biological Branch of the State Academy of Sciences has developed the newflin broad-spectrum antiviral injection which is very effective in treating different kinds of viral diseases. The injection has been verified to be much better than other kinds of similar medicines developed earlier. With its therapeutic effect assured in clinical examinations as well, the injection was given a DPRK patent.

The developer of the injection is Kim Won Thae, 60, researcher of the academy. In 1992 he developed β-cyclodextrine penicillin solution, doubling the therapeutic efficacy of penicillin. In 2003 he developed multifunctional antioxidant health drink EM-X which is especially efficacious in retarding aging—it earned him a DPRK patent.

It was in 2008 that he buckled down to the research in antiviral medicine. At that time many people in the world were suffering from viral diseases such as novel avian flu and AIDS. There were a lot of antibiotics but the lack of antiviral drugs caused troubles in treatment. Furthermore, the viruses became resistant to those medicines, decreasing the effect of virus treatment.

Now Kim was obsessed with the idea how to develop a medicine which would allow no resistance. He knew he could not feel at ease as there were no such kinds of diseases in his country. This is why he started the research. He set an innovative goal of developing the medicine by a new method of his own, not by relying on the worldwide-acknowledged one. Thus, in less than a year, he developed an antiviral drug which was highly efficacious in the treatment of influenza and hepatitis. Its effect became conspicuous in 2009 when it was used against sweeping flu.

Not content with the success he energetically worked on other kinds of antiviral agents. In the course of this he succeeded in developing a strong broad-spectrum antibiotic substance, and confirmed a rational ratio of mixture of various microelements, thus making a completely different broad-spectrum antiviral injection. The injection was highly rated for its being capable of removing viruses at the 33rd and 34th seminars of the National Hepatological Society. There are opinions that it might be efficacious in the treatment of COVID-19 infection as it has a very strong capability to remove various kinds of viruses.

The researcher also developed a new medicine capable of curing hepatitis.

People’s desire for a long and happy life is growing along with the rapid development of modern science. To this end he is redoubling his effort to develop antiviral medicines conducive to the improvement of their health.

Pak Yong Il

Teaching Aids Researchers

The Sci-tech Exhibition Hall of Kim Chol Ju University of Education has on display experimental apparatuses and teaching aids developed by teachers, researchers and students of the university. Many of them are credited to researchers of the High-tech Product Development Institute established merely five years ago.

Jong Se Yong, head of the institute, says, “Most of my researchers are in their twenties and thirties, but the experimental apparatuses and teaching aids they developed are in wide use at many educational institutions including my university. A meteorological information measuring device we developed for the educational purpose won the first prize at the 10th national exhibition of sci-tech achievements of universities.”

The device, which was made by Kim Hyang Song, chief of the development laboratory, and other researchers, can measure the wind speed and direction and precipitation by using supersonic technology, and receive promptly and exactly the information from the spot of measurement by means of radio communications. The high-tech network selector which are both helpful for teaching in a multifunctional classroom; a hyperbolic path demonstration device; a demonstration device showing the force acting on a moving body; and a cycloid demonstration device showing the property of brachistochrone.

The inventions received certificates of the Good IT Product of the DPRK, and those of invention, new idea and introduction respectively.

Modern equipment for education and teaching aids they develop with strenuous efforts help improve steadily teachers’ teaching ability and students’ creative power.

Sim Chol Yong
TAKING SPECTACLES OFF AFTER 52 YEARS

When I told Kim about the purpose of my visit, he, with a perplexed look, said that he could not make time as he had many patients to treat. Then he excused himself, saying I had better meet Kim Rye Sun, a woman from Yangji-dong, Phyongsong. So I decided to see her first. It was when Rye Sun was seven that she began to wear glasses because of her congenital myopia. At that time her visual acuity was -12 Dpt. With the passage of time her eyesight gradually became poorer. By the time she was 40 the visual acuity of her right eye had been -30 Dpt, and that of the left eye -14 Dpt. Now she could hardly discern things 10 cm away from her eyes even with the glasses on. She visited different hospitals in the country and took all the medicines that were said to be efficacious for the treatment, but in vain.

One day in June last year she heard about Kim Jong Chol, and she decided to have an operation on her right eye first because different medical institutes had concluded that she would lose the sight of her right eye before long. She had no other choice but to have an operation. Thus she had an artificial lens insertion operation on the eye, and recovered a week later.

In retrospect she said, “The moment the eye patch was taken off my right eye, I could gradually see vividly the bright light, beautiful world, figures in a wall clock, and dates and days on a calendar without the help of glasses. It was the happiest day in my life.”

A month later she had the same operation on the other eye, and now she did not need to wear the glasses. At last her visual acuity was restored to 0.8 D after 52 years.

“The result of the checkup of my eyes today is also good,” she said and added, “I have always said the socialist free medical care system is good, but I have never keenly felt its benefit like now. It has restored my eyesight.”

According to her, the doctor has cured over 50 congenital myopia cases, and those with other eye diseases including glaucoma and cataract.

When it was almost lunch time I could meet the department head again.

He apologetically said, “My job is always like this, but I can say it is worth doing. As you know the old saying goes that when the price of a man is 1,000 nyang (an old Korean monetary unit), that of his eyes is 800 nyang.”

Article by Kim Hyon Ju
Photos by Ra Phyong Ryol

Kim Jong Chol.
Kim Rye Sun consults her doctor.
Kim (left) wears glasses no longer.
To Cure Obstinate Disease

A therapy of an obstinate disease is under discussion.

NOW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING from rheumatism is on the increase across the world. According to data less than 17% of patients were rheumatic cases in 1990, but the percentage increased to 18-25 in 2005. Researchers of the Rheumatism Laboratory, the Clinical Institute, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, are solving many problems in rheumatism research. Head Ri Myong Hak, Dr Ri Po Hum and researchers Ri Yong Jin and Kim Paek Hwa of the laboratory noticed that there had not been established a correct method of diagnosing gonarthrosis in its early stage, without using diagnosing appliances or experiments.

In the course of this they made clear that if gonarthrosis becomes chronic, it might cause different complications. They also confirmed that if regimens according to different forms of the disease are followed properly, it might help check and retard abrasion of articular cartilage, the cause of the disease. Meanwhile, the laboratory wrote the books Diagnosis and Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Its Early Stage.

Their research findings are drawing the attention of the global medical circles. Ri Yong Jin’s treatise Symptoms and Signs of Significance in Diagnosing Gonarthrosis made public on the January 2017 issue of a Chinese medical magazine created an international sensation. Not long afterward he was invited to an international academic seminar held in the UK in the presence of medical scientists of authority.

Ri Myong Hak says, “Our success is only the first step. We will continuously push ahead with the research to completely eradicate the disease which inflicts sufferings on people and threatens their lives.”

Sim Chol Yong

Challenging for Victory

THE FEMALE CONTORION duo of Korea is recognized as a strong one in the acrobatic gymnastics circle of Asia. They are the acrobats from the Sports Club of the DPRK Ministry of Commerce.

They took first place for the first time at the Eighth Asian Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships held in 2013. The competition was attended by many experienced gymnasts from Asia. Many of them had won the same event at other international competitions.

The Korean gymnasts were comparatively greenhorns who had never attended such an international competition. They, however, performed difficult movements—a series of tossing and catching for three somersaults and a non-stopping standing on one hand—wonderfully. The spectators were impressed by their rhythmic and attractive performance done to a soft tune. Thus, they won first place at the championships.

Seeing the girls who were full of joy at their win, their coach said, “Your success doesn’t surely lead to the next one. There are many strong rivals dreaming to win in the world. We must challenge them.”

Later, they created new difficult movements and redoubled their efforts to perfect them for the next competition.

But the duo was faced with an unexpected problem: For some reason the equilibrist became unable to exercise several months before the competition. And it was a risk to replace her with another at the time.

At this juncture, a girl in the junior group volunteered to substitute for the equilibrist. Recollecting that time she said that she did not know what made her do so and that she had only thought that she also should do something for the sake of the country.

With such a laudable thought the new equilibrist and the support trained hard and mastered such difficult movements as the former’s landing on the shoulder of the support after pirouetting in the air. The stunts enabled them to take first place again at the next championships by beating their strong rivals.

After two consecutive victories, they invented such new stunts as the support’s catching the equilibrist after the latter performs a 360° backward somersault with the back straightened and the latter’s 900° backward pirouette before holding the support’s waist between her legs and doing two consecutive backward somersaults. Others

Hamhung Fortress

THE HAMHUNG FORTRESS SITUATED ON Mt Tonghung in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, dates back to the period of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). The fortress encompasses the mountain and plain areas with Mt Tonghung for a background. As one of the nine forts that came into being after Koryo reclaimed the northern part of Korea, it was built in 1108. At that time it was called Hamju Fortress. It was rectangular north to south, and the walls in the mountain section were single and those in the plain area double.

The gates of the fort were set up in appropriate positions in consideration of their topographical and traffic conditions. They were called Phaedongmun (east gate), Phungsomun (west gate), Jinnammun (south gate) and Jinkukmun (north gate) respectively with a tower on each of them. Inside the fort were barracks, arsenals and food depots. And on the highest place there was Puksangdae (northern commanding post) overlooking the inside and outside of the fort. At the post there was the Puksang Pavilion, but now on the site of the pavilion there stands the Kuchon Pavilion which was rebuilt in 1713.

The fortress served as an important stronghold in fighting against foreign invaders during the Koryo dynasty and the feudal Juson dynasty (1392–1910).

Kim Tae Song
**True story**

**I’ll Remain a Winner**

*Kang Ho Jin*

LEFT ALONE, SUN HUI shuffled and puffed at the coach’s demand, and arrogantly approached a judoist doll in the corner. She plucked the doll with her strong hands, and dashed it onto the floor over her shoulder. She did it again and again, shouting inwardly, “All right! I’ll do it two thousand times, not two hundred times as he has asked, and I know I’ll no longer let the coach deny my movement.”

From her childhood Sun Hui most disliked being scolded whether it was right or wrong, and would feel repulsive. It took her two hours to do the relevant movements each four hundred times instead of two hundred times. Now she was all in a sweat. Utterly exhausted, Sun Hui collapsed down beside the doll, when she was surprised to hear the coach’s voice from behind her.

“How do you like the movements? Are you confident you can do them with ease now?” asked the coach.

Looking back, Sun Hui found him watching her with his arms folded. Jumping to her feet, Sun Hui, stony-faced, simply replied, “Yes.”

“Do you mean you can employ the movements skilfully in competition, too?”

Sun Hui said yes.

The coach, however, shook his head and asked, “Do you know what your demerit is, Sun Hui?”

Sun Hui felt confused. “It is that you fail to control yourself,” said the coach.

“The girl could not understand him.

Then the coach explained, “If you want to defeat your rival and become a world star, you should control yourself first. Don’t be enslaved by your feelings. Your characteristic demerit is that you think too much of yourself and would feel repulsive.

So when she was surprised to hear the coach’s voice from behind her.

“How do you like the movements? Are you confident you can do them with ease now?” asked the coach.

Looking back, Sun Hui found him watching her with his arms folded. Jumping to her feet, Sun Hui, stony-faced, simply replied, “Yes.”

“The coach asked again, “Do you mean you can employ the movements skilfully in competition, too?”

Sun Hui said yes.

The coach, however, shook his head and asked, “Do you know what your demerit is, Sun Hui?”

Sun Hui felt confused. “It is that you fail to control yourself,” said the coach.

“No, I can’t control myself…”

“Then why did you…”

“Shut up! What you say is…”

“Do you still think too much of yourself and would feel repulsive? Are you content with the victory of that day?”

“Mr Coach, I’m afraid I’m…”

“The girls said, “We trained for a while at his advice. Finally Sun Hui was determined to make much more efforts for a greater victory without being content with the victory of that day.

Then she got on the mat with a new goal and hope.

Before Sun Hui could know, it was high time to finish the day’s training. Her charges differed in age and stature stood in two rows before her. Now it was customary for the girls to sing Patriotic Song when the coach declared the end of the day’s training.

“Will they be able to win a gold medal in an international competition and sing the song proudly? Sun Hui thought, seeing the girls singing the song energetically, with trust and expectation in her eyes.

3. Her Desire

“Today is Sunday. Why don’t you have a day off?” Sun Hui’s husband Kim Chol said casually, while reading a sports technology magazine in an armchair.

To keep winning, Sun Hui, folding up her training wearing put into her bag, turned her head to look at him.

The man of big build always wore a smile on his bright manly face, impressing people favourably at the first sight. He was a senior women’s judo coach of the Rimyongsu Sports Club. He had just come back home the day before from the field training of his charges to prepare for the national championships. And Sun Hui had always stayed in the training hall. Now they were together after a long time when they had had a talk merely on the phone. This was commonplace in their life, and they even considered it normal. Now, however, Sun Hui found herself hesitating for a while at his advice.

In fact Sun Hui, too, wanted to have a good day together with her husband for the first time after a long time. Yet she knew her charges were still not well prepared for the coming championships.

When Sun Hui had been appointed judo coach of the Moranbong Sports Club, she had found something mortifying. It was that whenever there had taken place domestic competitions such as the national championships and the technical innovation competition, women judoists of other sports clubs had been seldom afraid of those of her sports club. A women’s judo coach of a certain sports club had gone so far as to say that his charges did not warm up for the match when they knew their rivals were from her sports club.

Angry about this experience, Sun Hui had made up her mind to train her charges into matchless judoists without fail.

Even her husband was her rival, so the man and wife often had to face each other with their own charges. And when there was coming a match, Sun Hui, folding up her training wearing put into her bag, secretly tried to get information on the tactics, competition modes and fortes of each other’s charges.

Kim Chol usually hated talking about work at home. He liked staying in a family atmosphere. Sun Hui, too, wanted to be an ordinary wife at home, so she, if possible, would avoid talking about work with her husband.

“I have to go because my charges are waiting for me in the training hall. I’ll come back early in the evening.” Sun Hui promised in an apologetic tone.

While casting an affectionate glance over to him, Kim grinned and shook his head.

“All right. In fact I also have to go to work. But I was sorry to go. Now let’s go together,” he proposed.

After a while the man and wife left home together.

*(To be continued)*
Two Decades with Paduk

Paduk (Go) is an interesting traditional sport of Korea. The moves of paduk are profound, diverse and complicated, and it is widely encouraged among the people. One of them is Ri Se Chung, 64, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 19, Ryugyong-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

He began to play paduk 25 years ago, and now he is a member of the Korea Paduk Association. He has participated in the national amateur paduk players’ contest every year and ranked among the top three winners. His two sons and two grandsons of his are also amateur paduk players. Whenever all of his family gather in his home in the evening, they have paduk matches. Jo Yong Hui, the man’s wife, says, “It is almost a daily routine for my family to play paduk in the evening. As the eldest daughter-in-law and I have become umpires, all the family members are engaged in the game. My home is like a paduk house as a whole.”

Last year Ri, together with his eldest son, took part in the Pyongyang inter-district paduk contest, and his high skills drew the attention of the public.

Among his 200-odd disciples are Ryu Rim and Jang Ryo Gyoung, paduk players of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee. They are among the best paduk players in the country, and fully displayed their ability in an international competition.

Many of his disciples have become paduk players or coaches superior in ability to their old instructor, teaching the rising generations.

Not resting on his laurels Ri has contributed over 20 articles relating to paduk to Rodong Sinmun, Pyongyang Sinmun and Cheyuk Sinmun to help amateurs. Some time ago he compiled the book Basic Paduk Theory and Its Application. It contains the data on general knowledge of paduk, and the ABC and basic moves of the sport, all described to be helpful to the beginners.

When people ask him if he finds his job difficult as he gets older, he says, “Paduk reflects our nation’s wisdom and talent. It has the longest history and is most superior among intellectual games. I find pleasure and pride in widely disseminating the tradition of our nation and further developing its superiority.”

Promising Artist

He developed his talent while attending a fine arts circle of a middle school and then Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. The watercolour painting Moranbong he created in his middle school days won first place at a Pyongyang municipal middle school students’ fine arts contest.

Recently, he has created the new-style double-glass painting Pine and Goshawk, demonstrating his high ability. He used over ten layers of glass in creating the painting so as to give a 3D effect while employing the traditional techniques of Korean painting. The painting vividly depicts the resilience of the pine and the disposition of the goshawk as a predatory bird. And its different colours harmonize thanks to the mild techniques of Korean painting, filling its observers with admiration.

“The techniques of Korean painting can create paintings of any style,” Ho says.

The artist, who has created unique works using the techniques of Korean painting, is now in his heyday, and lots of people are waiting for another piece of his. Sim Chol Yong
Koreans have long made different kinds of drinks and used them in their everyday life. One of the typical drinks is makkolli.

Makkolli, traditional wine of Korea

Makkolli is a proper Korean word meaning a coarse wine, which derived from the practice of its rough making. Of the word “makkolli” the first syllable mak means rough and the latter part kolli stands for the gerund of the verb filter.

Depending on the kind of material used, makkolli is divided into high-class makkolli which is made from white rice and high-quality malt, ordinary makkolli made from cereal wastes and wheat malt, Koryo medicinal makkolli mixed with different kinds of medicinal materials, and some others.

In the past it went by such nicknames as thakju, jaq and boeja as it looks cloudy, kaju as it is made at home, saju as it is often drunk during the working hours, or nongju and nongthak as it is a favourite of peasants.

Of the traditional wines of Korea makkolli is the one that is made by the simplest method. And it is known that makkolli has been in use for ages. There are different historical documents with descriptions of makkolli, typically Tongjuhansanggukji written by Ri Kyu Bo (1168–1241) who was a renowned poet during the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). They show that the Koreans’ practice of makkolli making began earlier than the time of the Koryo dynasty.

The original drink continued to be a favourite of the Korean people in their everyday life during the years of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910). There goes a tale that foreigners from a neighbour-

ing country on their visit to Korea were surprised to see peasants drink big bowls of makkolli at a gulp during the break of work.

As it is of low alcoholic content and has a pleasantly refreshing mixture of sour, sweet and astringent tastes, makkolli was in wide use in everyday life. Every family made makkolli and shared it with their neighbours during the break of work or over lunch in the scorching season of summer, relieving the fatigue and furthering friendliness, and this was almost a community tradition.

Chonghyang, modern type of makkolli

Chonghyang is the top-ranking makkolli in Korea at the moment. Made by Chonghyang Makkolli House in Songsin-dong No. 3, Sadong District, Pyongyang, it has received the first prize at a number of shows and festivals including the Makkolli Show held in July Juche 99 (2010). Many people from Sinuiju, Chongjin, Hambung and many other parts of the country visit the house to know the secrets of the makkolli making.

Cook Kim Son Hwa of the house explains about the six-point formula of the traditional Korean drink like this:

First, the main material should be prepared carefully. As far as the characteristics and merit of makkolli are concerned, the primary importance should be attached to the diversity of the main materials. As makkolli was made by individual families, the taste, method of making and kind of material were varied extensively.

Secondly, the malt should be prepared properly. Thirdly, the main material and malt should be mixed proportionately. Fourthly, nice water has to be used. The fifth point is to use a good ceramic vessel and the sixth one is to keep proper temperature.

Keep to the six points while mixing the main material and malt well and leave it aging for 10-15 days at the room temperature of 18-20°C, and then you will be able to get sweet, cream-colored and pleasant-smelling makkolli with the alcoholic content of 3-7%, says Kim.

In addition to the traditional methods the famous makkolli house is introducing novel methods to put new life into the old drink. A typical example is the application of different kinds of mould and enzyme like rhizopus tamarii. Meanwhile, carbon dioxide gas is impregnated into the drink in the hot summer days to improve the refreshing quality.

In this way the traditional mode is combined with modern science and technology to open a new phase of the makkolli making.

At the moment draft makkolli is in growing demand because they know that the draft kind which contains a good deal of lactobacilli helpful for the body is much better than the one sterilized in the final stage of manufacturing. Taking this idea into consideration, the institute is concentrating its effort on the development of draft makkolli. Along with this it is pushing ahead with the programme of making makkolli sweet by fermenting the main material slowly without adding any sweetening substances like sugar, fructose and aspartame. Yet another task is to develop makkolli of different alcoholic contents from 1.5% to 15-16%, while making proper types of their container.

The researchers’ thoughtful studies are going on steadily.

Choe Sol Mi
Infrared Electronic Whiteboard
Achim, Winner of Top Prize

IN THE DEMOCRATIC People’s Republic of Korea ten best IT businesses of the nation are selected through an annual national exhibition of IT achievements. The businesses include Achim Computer JV Co Ltd, which has been put on the list for four years consecutively from 2016. The company is a developer and producer of various computers and relevant applications programs. It has plenty of experience in developing computers, LCD TVs, single-unit PCs and other electronic products. In 2018 it won software development certification, a certificate for its LCD Colour TV and quality control system certification for its electronic product assembly line.

Now an infrared electronic whiteboard developed by the company is drawing the attention of the educational sector. Previously the educational tablet computer Achim from the company was favourably commented upon by the sector. The computer simple in shape was very popular with students as its system was easy to use and fast in performance, and multi-functional to ensure text reading, documenting, multimedia program reading and so on.

Now the country is pushing ahead with the effort to put education on the IT and modern footing, and this has been urging the company to develop new things. The scientists have worked on developing a new whiteboard free from the defects of those previously developed at home and superior in performance to the latter. While pooling their wisdom to that end, they concluded that it was rational to use the characteristics of infrared rays. Soon they developed a new kind of whiteboard in a short space of time.

Such whiteboards were fairly popular with the teachers. Some comments are: “The performance is very fast, including the writing speed, and the position of the pointer is exact.” “It is useful for teaching as it has the function of recognizing many points—20 points at maximum—to enable a teacher and students to use it at the same time.” “It is convenient to use as it is never affected by natural light, noises, electromagnetic waves or what else.” “With over 300 tools it provides enough conditions for electronic teaching, and its educational applications programs such as virtual laboratories and 3D programs are quite functional to help students improve their power of cognition.” It provides sources of subject-specific educational contents for curriculums of kindergartens and primary, junior middle and senior middle schools, ensuring more favourable conditions for teaching activities.

These comments can be heard in any educational institutions, including Taedongmun Kindergarten and Changjon Primary School in Central District, Pyongyang, and Hyesan Teachers Training College, that use such whiteboards. And more and more institutions are introducing the whiteboards that make it possible to attain the maximum goal of education. Last year the whiteboard was put on the list of the ten best IT products of the country.

Kim Song Chol, director of the company, says, “We have strong forces for developing both software and hardware. We will steadily strive to play a role as standard bearer in developing new electronic products.”

The assembly and test of all products are done in a responsible manner.

Sapling Production—Primary Task

SOME TIME AGO A Korea Today reporter had an interview with Ri Yong Chol, general manager of the North Phyongan Provincial Tree Nursery.

Today the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is waging a vigorous all-people campaign for forest restoration with a plan to turn all mountains in the country into gold mountains and treasure mountains. In this context, the role of each provincial tree nursery is very important in the campaign, I think.

You’re right. What is most important in forest restoration is to produce and supply tree saplings sufficiently. Otherwise, we could not plant trees in time and conduct afforestation and conservation and management of forests properly. The role of each provincial tree nursery is surely important in the current forest restoration.

Your province has always been in the lead in forest restoration. This is because your nursery has produced and supplied in time the saplings needed for forest restoration in the province.

My province has mapped out a ten-year plan for forest restoration and is carrying on the project in a far-sighted way. To this end we set detailed tasks and have carried them on substantially.

First of all, we give definite priority to securing seeds. Seeds are the main factor in producing healthy saplings with a high rate of rooting. We have put in efforts into securing saplings of good species such as Changsong larch and pine-nut tree, thus obtaining 150 tons of seeds each year to use them in sapling production.

We have also made efforts to increase the fertility of sapling fields. First we expanded pens to a larger scale, and increased the number of pigs, goats, ducks and geese. Now we produce hundreds of tons of manure every year.

While actively introducing advanced methods of raising saplings and taking a thorough measure for protecting the saplings from damage by blights and harmful insects, we have introduced a field responsibility system, thus enhancing the responsibility and role of each worker in sapling production. In this way we have produced and supplied tens of millions of saplings for forest restoration in the province for five years.

Meanwhile, we have pushed ahead with the work to modernize the tree nursery. Previously the sapling production had been done by a manual method. We started the modernization in September Juche 106 (2017) in order to fully satisfy the growing demand for saplings and meet the requirement of the developing times. Now we have completed the modernization of a greenhouse which can produce saplings in all seasons, a seed selecting and sowing area, a light substrate production area, a sapling display ground and an outdoor cultivation ground, thus laying a firm foundation for producing 20 million saplings of many species on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis.

And we have provided a day nursery, a hostel and comprehensive welfare service and recreational facilities so that the workers can work without any trouble.

I would like to know your future plan.

Our goal is to make the sapling production range varied and raise the scientific, industrial and intensive level of the production to the world standard in a short space of time. In the past tree nurseries had engaged mainly in the production of forest tree species. In the future we are going to establish a system of producing saplings of trees for landscaping and fruit trees as well as forest trees.

And we will positively introduce the latest science and technology and keep accelerating the modernization of the tree nursery so as to perform our duty in afforesting and landscaping all mountains in the province and turning them into orchards.

Rim Ok

KOREA TODAY
No. 6, 2020
O-il Health Drinks

The O-il General Health Drinks Factory on Rungna Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang was inaugurated in November Juche 106 (2017). In its early days the factory only produced scores of kinds of drinks. It has focused on expansion of production and development of new kinds of drinks, thus changing into a leading drink production base in the country. Today the popularity of the drinks from the factory is growing day by day.

Unusual hour of reading

How is it that the drinks from the factory are popular with the public?
To the question Kim Un A, head of the factory’s laboratory, said to me, “Our drinks have become familiar to the public because we do not neglect their opinion and liking, I think.” Then she showed me a notebook. It contained the opinions of those who tasted the drinks.

The factory makes it a rule to write down such opinions in the notebook. Those opinions are read out to all the workers in the morning before the beginning of production.

The following are some of the opinions.

Your strawberry yogurt lacks its own uniqueness. It has strawberry flavour but not its natural aroma. In a word, it is half done."

"The sugar content of your apple juice is 5%. Can’t you give a sweet flavour without using sugar? If so, those who are suffering from diabetes like my parents would be able to drink it."

"If corn Eskimo is shaped like an ear of corn, it will be a more popular Eskimo, I think."

Now the five-minute-long hour gives new “research subjects” to all the workers in the factory.

“We think of people’s health first”

“We think of people’s health first” is an invariable principle and ideal held fast to by the factory in its management and production activities.

Since inauguration it has put focus on research on how to ensure natural taste and flavour by using different kinds of natural materials such as natural fruit juice, natural vitamins and minerals. And it has put in effort to develop functional drinks containing nutritive elements such as collagen and peptide. In the course of this it has developed a lot of different drinks including chokeberry fermented drink, lecithin ice cream, lemon-black tea juice and sweet potato Eskimo. Insam health drink, peptide drink for big stature and collagen Eskimo are representa-
functional drinks such as black garlic drink which has a high anticancer effect, sujonggwa as a kind of Korean punch which prevents septicemia and is good for recovering from fatigue, raw milk Eskimo and soy bean juice Eskimo. Now it is producing over 500 varieties of health drinks.

“We hope for active mutual cooperation”

In November 2018 there was held the Pyongyang International Exhibition of Health and Sports Science and Technology in the city. Different functional drinks from the factory were rated as good at the exhibition. Especially, the drinkable hydrogen water was awarded the technical prize and the exchange prize for its high antioxidizing, anticancer and anti-aging efficacy. The factory has received more than 30 diplomas and certificates at various exhibitions and festivals.

After looking round the factory, Thomas Schafer, the former German ambassador to the DPRK, wrote in the visitor’s book as follows: “I highly appreciate your effort and development made in a few years. Hoping for the time to cooperate. Thomas Schafer.”

Many other foreigners and overseas Koreans also wrote in the book their impressions of the factory’s products, and their hope that it would further develop.

Kim Un Hui, general manager of the factory, says, “We will further develop national and international cooperation and exchange in order to produce more wonderful and tastier health drinks.”

The workers of the factory are redoubling their efforts for its development.

Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by An Yong Chol

Popular Paekhak Products

PEOPLE HAVE LONG regarded it as one of the five blessings to have fine teeth. So their demand for dental hygiene supplies is growing.

Recently the Paekhak-brand goods produced by the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory are popular with the citizens of the country. The factory situated in Songyo District, Pyongyang, produces over 30 kinds of toothpaste, gargles, and different dental hygiene supplies.

Some time ago it developed functional substances based on natural raw materials. On the basis of this, it developed functional and curative sorts of toothpaste such as poplar antibacterial toothpaste which is especially effective against stomatitis, phytic acid toothpaste for preventing tartar, whitening toothpaste, borneol toothpaste, strawberry-flavoured toothpaste for children, gargle for epidermal growth and Honggok-activated gargle. As they showed obvious effects, they were favourably commented upon at the autumn trade fair and other exhibitions and shows held last year, especially, the borneol toothpaste and the gargle for epidermal growth.

Pak Jong Guk, 39, a resident of Sungri-dong No. 3, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, says, “I’ve used the borneol toothpaste for some time. Flakes of borneol in the toothpaste remind me of ice crystal. It makes me feel refreshed and is highly effective in preventing caries.”

Jong Kyong Chol, 36, a resident of Misan-dong No. 2, Taesong District, Pyongyang, says, “Whenever I did not feel well and was tired in the past, my mouth blistered and was inflamed, and it was hard for me to brush my teeth. So I used the gargle for epidermal growth and, to my surprise, my mouth got well several days later.”

The dental hygiene supplies from the factory have become popular with people thanks to the effort of the managers, researchers and workers. General Manager Ri Yong Suk and other officers and researchers regularly visit different service facilities to get the public opinion of their products and, on this basis, further improve the quality of the goods. Not long ago they set up a new peppermint oil refining line, the main factor in raising the quality of toothpaste. Last year they carried out 65 items of technical innovation, for example, the automation and modernization of such production processes as tube shoulder injection and multi-layer extrusion.

The Dental Hygiene Supplies Institute of the factory set a goal of developing more than ten kinds of new products this year, and is pushing ahead with new natural materials projects.

The goods from the factory are available at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, Daesong Department Store and other shops.

Kim Myong Sim
KOREA TODAY

Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the socialist Korea, who aboard the ship had given advice how to improve the passenger service. Ri put effort into training her crew members able to give good musical, dancing and rhetoric entertainments to the passengers while in navigation. Meanwhile, she, hand in hand with her crewmen, set an example of admirable service.

Over the years she was honoured to participate in a number of national conferences. The route of her ship changed several times, but she has been accorded a warm welcome everywhere.

Ri's hair has turned grey now, and her husband, daughter and colleagues advise her to retire, but she says, “You know a lot of things have gone up along the Taedong, like Changjon and Mirae Scientists Streets, the Rungna People’s Pleasure Ground on the Rungna Islet and the Sci-Tech Complex on the Ssuk Islet. The river is getting younger, and so am I.”

She is still at the wheel of the ship with a pleasant mind, and hearing the whistle of her ship they call her “seagull” of the Taedong.

Ri repairs the engine, and cleans the ship with her crew.

Ri Song Hui, captain of the passenger ship Moranbong, is one of the few women captains at the Pyongyang Shipping Company. Before I met her I imagined that she was of great build and outgoing character, but when I saw her actually, I was surprised. I found her to be of rather average build and soft character wearing a smile all the time.

She says she sealed a tie with her ship 22 years ago. At the time she used to go for a walk along the promenade of the Taedong River, taking her little daughter with her. After the walk she often enjoyed getting aboard a passenger ship which travelled from the quay near Kim Il Sung Square to the one near the Tower of the Juche Idea across the river. A spectacular view unfolded before her eyes, attracting her like a magnet—giant fountains ejecting a spout of water high up into the sky from the middle of the river, passenger ships cruising in the spray, people having a pleasant time on them, all types of boats floating on the water like petals, and what else. They aroused her impulse to find her worth of life in cultivating such a beautiful world herself.

Some time later, she was admitted into the crew of the passenger ship Moranbong. First she was given the job of receiving passengers. Yet it was too simple to satisfy her. She had been a singer in an artistic motivation group during her girlhood, and building on her experience she began to sing for the passengers, and sometimes told stories about the origin, history and natural ecology of the Taedong, which flows through the heart of Pyongyang as one of the five longest rivers in Korea. Her talks and singing got an increasingly appreciable effect on the passengers. Meanwhile, she assiduously assimilated knowledge and skills about navigation from the veteran crewmen including the captain and at crewmen’s courses.

In 2003 she was appointed captain of the Moranbong. “It’s nearly 20 years since I set out on my first voyage, but I still remember the day vividly,” says Ri.

As if testing the determination of the new captain at the wheel, the current was unusually fast and the wind blew as hard as ever, throwing high waves against the ship mercilessly. Without any hesitation, however, Ri brought the ship safely to the destination by taking the performance of the ship, wind speed and water current into consideration. Even her crew members, as well as the passengers, were quite struck with wonder for her ability.

With the passage of time Ri became able to control the Moranbong skilfully, considering the current of the river in any rough condition—she can tell the depth of the water even at a glance of the colour of the water. She was asked to move to other passenger ships at her company several times, but she refused to accept the offer, and has looked after her ship like her own flesh and bone, since the ship is associated with the memorable inspection of

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Over the years she was honoured to participate in a number of national conferences. The route of her ship changed several times, but she has been accorded a warm welcome everywhere.

Ri’s hair has turned grey now, and her husband, daughter and colleagues advise her to retire, but she says, “You know a lot of things have gone up along the Taedong, like Changjon and Mirae Scientists Streets, the Rungna People’s Pleasure Ground on the Rungna Islet and the Sci-Tech Complex on the Ssuk Islet. The river is getting younger, and so am I.”

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Celebration of First Birthday

KOREA HAS A CUSTOM of giving a feast in celebration of a baby’s first birthday while taking a photo of it. The day is usually called tol or chottol in Korean, while historical records refer to it as chodool.

Families had a celebration in honour of their babies’ first birthday. Relatives and neighbours paid a visit offering toys, Foodstuffs or some money as a token of their wish for the babies’ good future and having a good time.

In the past the celebration started with preparing the baby’s clothes and dressing it on its birthday, followed by giving a birthday spread, seeing what the baby grabs from among his birthday presents and treating the guests to traditional dishes.

Mothers used to dress their baby in a rainbow-striped garment they had made themselves, and the technique of making such clothes was conveyed to daughters or daughters-in-law.

The baby’s clothes varied from sex to sex.

Boys wore a jacket with multi-colored sleeves, blue trousers, a gold- or silver-pressed overcoat along with a first-birthday band and a hood of happimagi (a kind of Korean overcoat) with sleeves of many-coloured stripes was used. And they wore quilted socks with embroidered decorations in winter and carried a first-birthday pouch on their side.

Girls wore a coat with multi-colored sleeves and a crimson skirt along with a first-birthday band, a gold- or silver-pressed hat and quilted socks in winter, and carried an embroidered first-birthday pouch on their side.

The first-birthday band was a sign of the wish for the baby’s long life in good health, and the pouch for its happy and affluent life all the time.

Next, the baby was seated at the birthday table to let it take what it liked from among the first birthday presents. On the table were put traditional dishes, rice, noodles, rice cake, fruit, money and thread. Added to them were a bow and arrow, a sheet of paper, a writing brush and an ink stick if it was a boy, and a pair of scissors, a ruler and a needle if it was a girl. Seeing what the baby got, people would predict its future.

Then, the parents of the baby treated the guests to dishes and had a chat.

The dishes are called first-birthday food or taltok.

The method of making the first-birthday clothes, the method of preparing the first-birthday table and the method of letting the baby take what it likes from among the birthday presents are intangible elements.

In the modern times taking a photo of the baby on its first birthday was added to the celebration.

The celebration reflects the fine custom of the Korean people who love children and show deep concern for their growth and future development.

Now the celebration is further developing as required by the times while retaining its inherent characteristics. The Korean costume has been carried on and developed while keeping its national characteristics under the care of the State and public. Now rainbow-striped costume of the children is produced at factories, making it possible for every family to obtain the first-birthday clothes with ease.

Various toys are on sale at the Pyongyang Children’s Department Store and other shops, and photo studios offer preferential service to the babies who celebrate their first birthdays.

The celebration, a traditional family custom which makes all families optimistic about the future of their baby and helps realize the harmony and unity of the parents and relatives, is on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Ritm Ok

THE REAL NAME OF Kim Satgat (1807–1863) was Kim Pyong Yon. He was generally called so as he wandered around the country wearing a hat, a kind of conical bamboo rain-hat. He was born into an aristocrat’s family. While wandering about the country he witnessed the harsh exploitation and oppression by the corrupt and dissipated aristocrats and rulers, and the miserable life of the working people. This made him have burning hatred for the idle aristocratic bureaucrats, and sympathy for the people.

As a child he was quite clever and made unusual efforts. So he distinguished himself in his village school and was known even to neighbouring villages.

He liked to put what he saw, heard and felt into poems.

One summer evening he visited a poor peasant’s home. The peasant awkwardly put a bowl of thin gruel on a straw mat spread in the front yard, apologizing for poor treatment several times.

Then the guest composed the following poem.

A bowl of thin gruel is on a four-legged table.
And the gruel reflects the sky and clouds.
Master! Don’t be sorry at all. I eat enjoying the green mountains mirrored by the gruel.

There are not a few facts that Kim Satgat, with sympathy for the poor who had no rights, wrote indictments to solve their legal problems smartly. For example, an ox of a wealthy family gored a calf of a poor family to death, but the wealthy family would not compensate the poor for the loss. Then Kim Satgat wrote a relevant indictment to help the poor family get repaid for the calf.

Kim Satgat, with hatred for exploitation and tyranny of the rich men and aristocrats, wrote not a few poems that scathingly satirized them. One day when he dropped in at a rich family’s house, he was given a lump of spoiled rice for a meal. While feeling sad to be treated as being something subhuman, he composed the poem Beneath a Zelkova out of boundless hatred for the miserly family.

The wicked family gives spoiled rice
To a miserable visitor beneath a zelkova.
What an evil thing it is in the world!
I would rather return home to eat half-done rice.

At first he began to roam out of private anger. But after coming to know about the life and sufferings of the people, he became fond of living among the poor working people, abandoning wealth, rank and fame.

Eventually he died while roaming in 1863.

Ritm Ok
MANY COUNTRIES HAVE repented of their past wrongdoings, and are aspiring to establish new relations. Last year Germany officially apologi
gized for a Nazi unit’s murder of civilians in Italy in the past, and assured that there would never be an end to her respon
sibility at all. Recently, during a visit to Indonesia, the king of the Netherlands made an official apology for the acts of extreme violence it had committed in the country during its colonial rule.

The king, mentioning that it was impossible to efface the past, said that he reflected on the past crime of his country with a deep understanding of the fact that the victims of the violence were still suffering pain and sorrow.

Needless to say, the apology consoled the victims, and deeply impressed the international community. In this regard the Asians, as well as the Koreans, cast a look of sharp criticism and understanding of the fact that their<br/>

A man who plans, prepares and orders such acts or executes a war: For example, plunder and occupations in a militarily occupied area, use of poisonous gas, germ or chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruc
tion.

The third one is an act against humanity. It includes mass murder or enslavement of residents, genocide aimed at exterminating a nation or race, persecution or suppression for political and religious reasons and other inhuman atrocities before or during a war.

A man who plans, prepares and orders such acts or executes the order is judged to be a war criminal regardless of his status as a member of government or junior soldier.

In November 1968 the UN adopted an agreement on applying no statute of limitations to war criminals, thus making it possible to arrest and punish such criminals even a long time after war.

Japan’s past war crimes each come under the requisites.

Nevertheless, Tokyo reduced the contents of Kono’s statement of 1993 that had acknowledged Japan’s responsibility for the crime of slavery for the Japa
nese army for mere form’s sake, and it is almost a routine in Ja
pnan that the cabinet ministers visit the Yasukuni Shrine which keeps the nameplates of the war criminals. Even a son of a war criminal’s daughter has become the prime minister.

It is axiomatic that today is unthinkable apart from the past. Japan’s denial of the international law on war crimes is a challenge to the international community opposing war and aspiring to peace. The country is showing off its purse, coveting a permanent seat in the UN Secu
rity Council, for the purpose of holding a leading position in the international arena. The international community is ridiculing Japan, attributing it to the coun
try’s absurd way of thinking as a political dwarf.

The Japanese politicians, who are disregarding their country’s past crimes, are well ad
vised to know that perhaps it will be helpful to them as well to know exactly that the statute of limitations does not apply to war crimes.

Kim Il Bong

MT MYOHYANG (1)

MT MYOHYANG IS ONE of the celebrated moun
tains in the Democratic Peo
ple’s Republic of Korea. Located in the centre of the Myohyang Mountains in northwestern Korea, it has a circumference of about 120 km and an area of 375 sq km, and it is 1,909 m above sea level.

Around Piro Peak (1,909 m), the highest one, the mountain stretches out its smooth-curved ridges and peaks northwest and southwest as if it were opening its arms, and it has streams flow
ning between valleys. The peaks whose heights are between 1,000 m and 1,900 m, includ
ing Piro Peak, Jingwi Peak (1,832 m) and Woman Peak (1,795 m), rise precipitously with white clouds surrounding their sides, thus appearing both jag
ged and magnificent. The peaks have their own beauty: Thakki Peak looks like a flagpole with a fluttering flag on it; Tottae Peak resembles a soaring mast on a vast expanse of water; the Paeksan mountain looks as if it were covered with white snow; and Siru Peak is similar to an upside-down steamer.

Valleys echo with the sound of their waterfalls falling down from steep cliffs, and ravines boast curious and spectacular rocks.

Rocks in the mountain are not only immaculate and beau
tiful but also unusually white with smooth surfaces. And as they contain lots of quartz which is hardly soluble in water, the broken quartz pieces are clean, and the water flowing through their crevices and the valleys are.

A resting site and a climbing route.

No Today Apart from Yesterday

Mt Myohyang (1)
Commenting on the renowned mountains in the country, Saint Sosan, a famous Buddhist priest of Korea in the 16th century who lived long in the mountain, said, “Mt Kumgang is beautiful but not magnificent while Mt Jiri is magnificent but not beautiful. But Mt Myohyang is both beautiful and magnificent.”

The thick forests in Mt Myohyang cover steep cliffs, rocks and precipitous peaks, so the mountain looks gentle and sublime.

As it rains much in the mountain with a humid climate, trees grow well even on the cliffs. In the area there are over 2,000 species of plants like those growing in northern and southern parts, lowlands and highlands. Flowers cover the mountain in spring, their fragrance wafting through the valleys, and it turns freshly green in summer. It is tinged red and golden in autumn, and evergreen trees characterize it in winter.

The mountain is inhabited by over 40 species of wild animals such as bear, antelope, musk deer, roe deer, hare, badger and raccoon dog and by more than 190 species of beautiful and rare birds including Myohyangsan broad-billed roller, pheasant, migratory grosbeak, lark, oriole, greenfinch, scops owl, Eastern gray wagtail, woodpecker and cuckoo. Fishes as rainbow trout, char, sweetfish and minnow live in the Myohyang Stream.

The mountain has a lot of cultural heritage showing off the Korean nation’s cultural attainments, artistic skills and creative talent. And it boasts the International Friendship Exhibition House where there are on display the valuable gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by many countries, regions and individual figures.

The mountain has been developed as a tourist attraction with such establishments for tourists and campers as the Pyongyang Schoolchildren’s Myohyangsan Mountaineering Camp, Hyangsan Hotel and Myohyangsan Spa.

Climbing routes up the Sangwon Valley and Manphok Valley and to Piro Peak, and other sightseeing paths are arranged in such a way as to go well with natural scenery, along with convenient safety facilities, and resting places and pavilions.

The Pyongyang-Hyangsan train and the Hyangsan-Myohyangsan tourist coaches are in operation, and a tourist motorway links Pyongyang and Hyangsan.

Pak Thae Ho