IL-14 Plane

Gift presented to President Kim Il Sung by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in September 1958
DPRK’s Universal 12-year Compulsory Education and Its Future

Thanks to the universal 12-year compulsory education children are growing into reliable pillars and able personnel in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

A Day at Kanggye Teachers Training College

Competent Teachers

Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace

President Kim Il Sung’s Reminiscences With the Century 20 Yuan

For Development of DPRK

The State and Its Master

Front Cover: Children of the Phyongchon District Mirae Kindergarten raise cheers at the national flag

Photo by Hwang Jong Hyok

Back Cover: New features of Pyongyang Metro (in the underground platform of Kaeson Station)

Photo by Ri Song Ik

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17 Seventy-five Years of WPK (9)
Motherly Party
20 Immortal Juche Idea (5)
Essential Qualities of Man
21 Quality Cosmetics Developed
22 Big Things from Small Things
24 Visit to Offshore Culture Company
26 Devoted to Koryo Medicine
27 Heparin Therapy Draws Attention
28 Pioneering New Phase of Treatment
29 Determination Leads to Success
30 New Features of Pyongyang Metro
32 True story
Life and Promise
34 National Musical Instrument Makers
36 Ryongchon County Today
39 Environmental Protection–Primary Concern
40 Traditional Principles of Korean Cuisine
42 Beef Barbecue of Korea
43 Yang Sa On’s Tour of Mt Kumgang
44 Mt Myohyang (4)
46 Pigyokjinchonroe, First Time Bomb in the World
47 Constitutional Revision–For What?
48 National Intangible Cultural Heritage (46)
Customs for 24 Divisions of Year
IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA the State, regarding education as an essential matter on which the victory of the revolution and the future of the nation depend, has been organizing and providing education in a responsible manner.

In the course of providing universal 11-year compulsory education for decades, the State established a scientific education system on the free basis and pushed ahead with the construction of socialist culture by combining general education with technical one on a high level.

At present education work for development of science and technology and training of able personnel is the fiercest part of the competition for greater national power. Accordingly, the DPRK makes sure that the ideal of all-people education and learning is realized on a higher level.

Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, said that to turn the country into the one of education and a talent power through an educational revolution it is necessary to regard the education work as one of the important national affairs and push it forward as the concern involving the whole Party, the entire country and all the people. And he took practical relevant measures. As a result, investment in the sector of education further increased from 2012, and the preparation was promoted to enforce universal 12-year compulsory education. The updating of the education system was actually a bold decision in view of the fact that the country was advancing socialist construction amid the vicious blockade and sanctions of the hostile forces.

In June Juche 101 (2012) the Supreme Leader examined the curriculum of general secondary education as a whole, and pointed out that the education program should be boldly improved in the Korean way. Thanks to him the 6th Session of the 12th Supreme People’s Assembly held on September 25, 2012 adopted a law to enforce the universal 12-year compulsory education.

The enforcement of the education was not merely a matter of extending the education system by a year. It meant a historic starting point for a great change in the sector of education, that
is, perfecting the education system, reforming the contents and methods of education and improving educational conditions and environment radically as required by the present age.

Thanks to the Supreme Leader’s determination to turn the country into a talent powerhouse as soon as possible, all the preparations for the comprehensive enforcement of the new education system was completed in a short period of time, and the general secondary education system was further perfected in such a way as to train as able personnel as required by the present age.

The Supreme Leader clarified specific tasks and ways to radically improve education, and has energetically led the work to enforce the new education system.

There were built apartment houses for Kim Il Sung University teachers, those for teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, the Wisong Scientists Residential District, Mirae Scientists Street and Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp and so on for scientists and teachers.

The Supreme Leader solved the problem of paper for production of textbooks, and took a step to provide students with new school uniforms according to different kinds of schools, sexes and seasons. Under his meticulous care and guidance the Mindulle Notebook Factory and the Pyongyang Bag Factory were built with modern equipment, and orphanages, orphaned primary and secondary schools and schoolchildren’s palaces and children’s camps appeared across the country.

True to the lofty intention of the Supreme Leader there took place a campaign involving the whole Party, the entire country and all the people to enforce the new education system.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Leader inspected educational institutions in both sectors of general and higher education including Changjon Primary School and Wisong Junior Middle School and Pyongyang University of Architecture, Pyongyang Teachers Training College and Kim Chaek University of Technology. During his inspection of Pyongyang University of Architecture, he promised that he would become honorary president of the university to give active backing to its work.

In accordance with his noble intention the university made its education work IT-based, modern and advanced and was provided with educational conditions and environment on a high level as the centre of science, information, data service and online education in the sector of architecture.

One January day in 2018, in the teeth of midwinter cold, the Supreme Leader inspected Pyongyang Teachers Training College. That day he said that educational revolution was inconceivable apart from achievements in educational science, and instructed that colleges and schools should be renovated well as befit the bases of cultural revolution to suit the students’ convenience in study and life and meet the pedagogical requirements.

The general objective of education in the country is to turn the work into the one good enough to bear the responsibility for the nation’s future.

Efforts are made in earnest to make the contents of education practicable, comprehensive and modern.

The ranks of teachers are being consolidated with their qualifications and sense of responsibility being improved steadily.

The excellent of middle school graduates are recommended to teachers training colleges and universities of education, and the quality of teachers’ training is being improved radically.

And due attention is paid to the shortage of teachers in rural and mountain areas for proper solution, and their in-service training and the work to provide them with good conditions are done properly so as to narrow the gap between the central cities and the local areas in educational levels.

Efforts are also made to ensure the domestic production of experimental equipment and materials along with the establishment of an integrated educational information network, the speedy construction or renovation of teachers training colleges across the country and the turning of all their classrooms into multifunctional ones, thus laying the proper material and technical foundation for talent training.

The improvement of educational conditions and environment is pushed ahead with as a matter of nationwide concern. This year seven new school boats were built and put into operation for schoolchildren of mountain villages in Jagang Province and various other measures have been taken to consolidate the material and technical foundation for education.

New contents and methods of education are being spread to good effect, thus developing the overall educational work of the country rapidly and in a balanced and coordinated way. Educational systems are being further renovated and perfected with novel contents and methods of education.

In particular, the sector of secondary education is increasing the number of technical senior middle schools according to the characteristics of each locality and its demand for technical personnel, and inventing the methods of education to help students develop the studying ability and put what they learn into practice. A large number of colleges are successively bringing about sci-tech achievements of high value through brisk combination of education, scientific research and production.

Online education is going ahead dynamically on a nationwide scale.

The Sci-Tech Complex situated on Ssuk Islet in Pyongyang is an edifice for all-people study in the new century that is making an active contribution to implementing the WPK’s policy of making all the people well versed in science and technology. Lots of people visit the complex almost every day.

The Korean people’s effort to realize the Party’s intention to bring about a radical improvement in education in the new century will surely bear fruit.

Yom Song Hui

Children take the boat for their exclusive use to go to school in the mountainous Jagang Province.

Photo taken in June 2020
A Day at Kanggye Teachers Training College

KANGGYE TEACHERS TRAINING College is situated on the bank of the Jangja River in Kanggye, Jagang Province. Some time ago, I visited the college for news coverage. Entering the campus through the front gate at 7 a.m., I got a general view of the college, whose building was covered with a blue roof, along with a gymnasium and a football ground covered with artificial turf. Students were already cleaning the campus. Some students were cleaning the front staircase to the college building, and others were sweeping the outdoor sports ground with a lot of apparatuses like horizontal bars and uneven bars. Among them was Jang Pok.

Practical qualities are developed.

Sim, a third-grader specializing in information science. She said, “I think we can become attached to and have a will to add lustre to our street, village and school only when we value and keep them clean. So every morning I clean my classroom and the compound of the college together with my classmates. Now it has become a daily routine.”

All her classmates said in unison that such an attitude enabled her to take third place at the 19th National University Students’ Software Contest held in August last year, displaying the honour of the college.

At eight o’clock, the bell rang and all students began to take classes. I wanted to see those who were training themselves into future educators, so I looked round some classrooms. The classes were different in teaching content and method—children’s literature, family pedagogy and juvenile hygienics—but had something in common: they took place using virtual scenes and environments.

Kim Un Ju, principal of the college, said, “My college is giving priority to the introduction of advanced science and technology into teaching. Last year we began to introduce artificial intelligence technologies like voice-recognition technology into teaching. It is very effective.”

Then she told me about achievements her students had made in different contests and festivals: Kim Ye Jong, a third grader of the preschool pedagogy course, took second place at the 5th national teachers training college students’ memory contest in July last year; Choe Song Hui and Kim Jong, second graders of the information science course and preschool pedagogy course respectively, won special prizes at the 5th national exhibition of IT achievements in November last year; and other students were highly appreciated at eight different contests and exhibitions last year, including a national teachers training college students’ foreign language listening and conversation contest and a national university students’ exhibition of information science and technology achievements.

Their enthusiasm for study became clearer to me during the extracurricular activities and practices taking place from 3 pm. One of the favourites of the students during the hour was a place for learning how to develop children’s intelligence. The place was provided with an im-
Competent Teachers

PYONGYANG SENIOR
Middle School No. 1 situated in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, has many teachers who are dedicating themselves to the education of the rising generations without seeking any fame of their own. Ri Ik Son, head of the physics department, is one of them. In his 36-year-long career he has received over 50 diplomas and certificates of various kinds.

In his mid-twenties he made public the paper Research for Measuring and Observing Characteristic Quantity of Semiconductor Material by Means of Scanning Electron Microscope, striking the circle of physics with wonder. Then he developed an apparatus for demonstrating the laws of motion, and introduced it into les-

sons. It was an experimental apparatus showing Newton’s laws of motion with a computer-aided device. He has also written a lot of textbooks and reference books such as Physical Theory, Functionality of Physics and Physical Experiment. In the course of this he received two DPRK certificates of invention, 20 certificates of new idea, three certificates of registered sci-tech achievement, and over 20 certificates of registered education support program and of registered new teaching method.

Jong Un Hui is a chemistry teacher, who has engaged in education for over 20 years after graduating from Kim Il Sung University. Her mind is always filled with a sense of pride as a teacher. She is wont to tell students that they can contribute to the country as much as they know. And she teaches them what attitude they should have in learning in order to support the country with chemistry before teaching them the ABC of the subject.

A lot of her students have ranked among the top three winners at the national multi-subject academic contest year after year. She has written many textbooks and reference books, proposed new ideas and made inventions needed for the education of the rising generations, and thus she has received scores of certificates. She also spoke to a national symposium on educational science, a national meeting for presenting experience in instruction and edification, and a national symposium on subject-specific teaching methods. She is an October 8 Model Teacher.

Ri Kwang Il is a mathemat-
ics teacher. He has the knack of helping students develop their intellectual faculties to suit their age and characteristics. Once there was a task of guiding the students who would participate in the International Math Olympiad on their study. As the contest was recognized as a “window” to judge countries’ educational level and development prospects, they all paid deep attention to it. And the level of the contest was considerably high.

Though Ri was a new teacher at that time, he took charge of the students with the determination to challenge the world. While imparting to them in-depth knowledge of number theory, algebra and geometry, he made efforts under a scrupulous plan to help them develop their concentration and cogitative faculty to the maximum. Thus he made a great contribution to the students’ winning gold and silver medals in several rounds of the International Math Olympiad.

Article by Sim Chol Yong
Photos by Ri Chung Guk

Ri Kwang Il.
MANGYONGDAE SCHOOLCHILDREN’S PALACE IS A COMPREHENSIVE after-school education and edification centre for schoolchildren. It has some 150 circle rooms and practice rooms which can accommodate as many as 5,000 children a day simultaneously. It provides all conditions for the schoolchildren to develop their talent and hope as much as they want in accordance with their aptitudes.

Photos taken in 2019
20 Yuan

I remember that it was my birthday. As my father was sick in bed, I had no time to think of my birthday. After looking round the street, my father unexpectedly went into a shop taking me by the hand. This outing went beyond all my expectations. “Why has he brought me to this shop?” When I looked at a show-case, silently preoccupied by this thought, my father told me to choose a pocket watch. This shop displayed a lot of pocket watches; some of them bore portraits of Sun Yat-sen. I chose one without Sun’s portrait and my father paid 3 yuan 50 fen for it.

He said in a serious tone of voice: “You are old enough to have a watch. A man fighting to win back his country must value two things. One is his comrades and the other is time. I give you this birthday present in the hope that you will value time. Keep it well.” I accepted his words as meaning that I had become a man. Somehow I felt that I was hearing his last wish. He apparently felt that his days were numbered. In this frame of mind, he gave me the watch and also passed on to me the independence cause which he had devoted all his life to. The event amounted to a celebration of my manhood.

Less than two months later, he passed away. I subsequently entered the Hwasong Unuok School with this watch, met like-minded people there and organized the Down-with-Imperialism Union. During the guerrilla struggle, I followed my daily routine by this watch and set the time of attacks and rendezvous by this watch.

Around the time of the Pochonbo battle, I received a wrist-watch in place of the pocket watch. My comrades-in-arms suggested that I wear a new wristwatch for the sake of a commander’s dignity, as my pocket watch was now outmoded. I gave one of my comrades the pocket watch I had kept for 10 years and put on the new wristwatch. My father thereby made sure that I grew up with no knowledge about money until I began to fight for the revolution. Only in Jilin did I buy myself things in shops.

If I say that in this way I became indifferent to money, the reader will not consider it strange. Reviewing my 80 years of hardships, I would like to tell young people that if you are captivated by money and wealth, you become a dirty man, who is disloyal to the leader and the Party, the fatherland and fellow people and, worse still, thinks nothing of his parents, wife and children.

Strict control of the children, to prevent them becoming interested in money from childhood, represented a peculiar family tradition established by my father.

However, my mother broke with this tradition for the first time, when she faced her death and gave me 20 yuan as an inheritance, the epitome of her life of hardships.

I received the money as a treasure, feeling as if the whole of my mother’s hard life were condensed in a few notes. These notes were like an amulet for me. This money dispelled hunger, cold and fear from me. I felt as if my mother were protecting me with her body and soul, always staying near to me. I decided not to spend this 20 yuan on myself, whatever might happen. I wanted to keep it for ever, if possible, as a token of my mother’s love for me.

However, grave reality shook me. Four years have passed since I left you with this money. I have kept it until now to provide against future need, although I have gone through many crises. Now, however, I must spend it. I must provide clothing for children who have no kith and kin in the world. Although I realize that I may encounter more trying situations in the future, I have made up my mind. I hope you will support my determination. You know that I am very fond of children,” I said to myself, turning to my mother who lay buried alone on the cold slope of the Tuqidian valley.

“Go to Fusong county town with this money and buy cloth. Make clothes for the children,” I ordered regimental political commissar Kim San Ho.

He was extremely embarrassed and received the money with reluctance. As he had been my companion for years, working for the Anti-Imperialist Youth League since his days in Wujiazi, where he had lost one finger bitten by a straw cutter, while working as a farmhand for a landlord, he knew the details of this 20 yuan better than any other man.

“General, I must obey your order, but I feel my hands trembling. What kind of money is this?”

He went to Fusong county town and bought seven or eight rolls of gabardine-like fabrics, which cost ten fen a foot. Although he was a man of great strength he said that his tongue nearly lolled out carrying them on his back. On the way back he was robbed of all the fabrics by the remnants of mountain rebels who had become bandits. The bandits ran away after binding him to a tree, so he was nearly frozen to death, although he was strong as an ox. I sent a small unit to save Kim San Ho and take back the fabrics.

Seven or eight rolls of cloth were not enough to provide all the children with clothing. I wrote to Zhang Wei-hua and sent Kim San Ho again to Fusong with the letter. Kim San Ho obtained a lot...
of cloth with the help of Zhang. We made clothes for the children and one hundred soldiers enlisted in the new division, after shaking off the stigma of “Missaengdun.” Now my heavy heart was somewhat lightened.

In fact, 20 yuan was not a large sum. But I felt greatly relieved at the time. Then we left Maanshan.

The children in new clothes were ecstatic and begged us to take them with us. I agreed to take them despite numerous objections. Apart from children who were too young to follow us and the sick, most of them joined us on the arduous southward march. It was quite an adventure for the revolutionary army, which was moving from one place to another to engage in guerrilla warfare, to take the teenagers with it. Although it was unprecedented in the history of guerrilla warfare and went against common knowledge, I was determined to train them in guerrilla warfare and went with clothes free of charge. In the shop and make his or her own suit. Why should the state provide children with school uniforms? How do you make up for the losses from free clothing?"

I respond by recalling the days when I had met the ragged children in Maanshan. It is only natural that politicians from capitalist countries with no experience of the anti-Japanese war do not understand the historic meaning of the policy of the Government of the Republic and consider it only from the financial point of view. A “loss” incurred by the state for the good of the people is not a loss. The more money it spends on the people’s welfare, the greater happiness our Party feels; and the greater the “loss” it incurs for the children’s sake, the more our state is satisfied.

I believe that as long as the socialist system exists and the traditions of Mt. Paektu are carried forward in our country, such a communist policy as state provision of clothing for children will continue to be implemented in the future.

As well as all the children of the country, the former Children’s Corps members of Maanshan and anti-Japanese war veterans receive every season new clothes, thanks to the benevolent care of Organizing Secretary Kim Jong Il.

On my 70th birthday Ri O Song and Son Myong Jik appeared before me, wearing new uniforms which the Secretary gave them as a gift, and recalled the days in Maanshan with deep emotion.

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Popular Design of National Emblem

IT WAS ONE FEBRUARY day in Juche 37 (1948) when the national flag and emblem of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to be founded were under all-people discussion for the first time in the history of the nation.

Kim Il Sung, leader of new Korea, asked an official if there was any opinion about the national emblem and flag.

During the mass discussion the design of the national flag was absolutely supported, but that of the national emblem was in dispute, and some of the opinion was that the design with a blast furnace in it looked dark and dull. This meant that the design of the national emblem was not perfect enough to receive absolute approval from the people.

Understanding that, the leader said the national emblem should well reflect the prospect of the country’s development and that the national emblem should reflect the matter of electrification of the country in order to show the bright future of the country that would develop into one of the developed prosperous and powerful states in the world. Then he said that if something like the Suhphung Power Station in the country was drawn in the design it would be able to visually express the prospect of electrification of the country, and instructed that a shining red five-point star like that of the national flag should be drawn over the power station, that they should be flanked by rice ears of a lot of grains bound with a red band and that the name of the country should be written in the centre of the band. He went on to say that the national emblem should be designed to depict the unity and cohesion of the broad masses of the people based on the worker-peasant alliance with the working class as its core, and the prospect of the development of a modern powerful industry and advanced agriculture.

This is my opinion about the design of the national emblem, Kim Il Sung said.

Now the blast furnace was replaced with a hydropower station in the design of the national emblem, which reflected the bright future of the country that would attain complete electrification.

The design caused a great sensation among the people from all walks of life. It depicts a spectacular sight of water pouring from the dam of a hydro-power station under Mt Paektu with a red five-point star over it. The design reflected the bright future of the country that would turn into a socialist power, and the image of the Korean people who would enjoy happiness from generation to generation in a land as good as paradise.

Meaning of September 9

On September 9 decades ago Chairman Kim Jong Il told officials that whenever the anniversary of the founding of the DPRK came round he would remember the great leader [President Kim Il Sung], and that the day was of greater significance in that it marked the day when the great leader was elected the first head of the sovereign and independent state, than in that it was the one when the founding of the Republic was proclaimed.

He went on to say that as there was the DPRK, the great country established and led by the great leader, the Korean people could lead a happy life, and eternal prosperity was awaiting the nation, that the dignity and honour of the nation were ensured by the prestige of the leader, that the country was inconceivable apart from the great leader, that the Republic was closely connected with the august name of the leader and that modern Korea was the great leader Kim Il Sung’s Korea.

The Chairman said: When our leader was 34 he liberated the country. And when he was 37 he founded our Republic and was elected head of the State. There are a lot of national leaders in the world but none of them could match our leader who embarked on the road of revolution in his early years, led an unprecedented arduous anti-imperialist national liberation revolution to victory and was elected head of state at such a young age.

Yom Song Hui

For Development of DPRK

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14

15
The State and Its Master

IT WAS THE KOREAN PEOPLE'S LONG-cherished desire to live happily and freely with equal rights in a country free from exploitation and oppression. The desire was unusually strong as the people underwent a bitter life as colonial slaves under the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945). Their yearning to become masters of their country turned into reality with the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on September 9, 1948 after the liberation of Korea on August 15, 1945.

In February Juche 36 (1947) the Conference of Provincial, City and County People's Committees of North Korea was held for the establishment of the People's Assembly of North Korea. A 78-year-old peasant representative delivered the opening address on the first day of the conference. He had been a miserable servant and sharecropper of a landlord for three decades. After the liberation of the country he cultivated well the land he had received from the State, thus paying agricultural tax ahead of others, and donating rice to the landlord for three decades. After the liberation of the country he cultivated well the land he had received from the State, thus paying agricultural tax.

He served as a model peasant, and elected as a member of the local county people's committee. As a result the people became the owners of not only land but also factories, power stations, railway transport, communications, banks, and commercial and cultural facilities. Not only the post-liberation democratic reforms but also social changes in all stages of the revolution in the country took place in keeping with the aspirations and requirements of the people, including the agricultural cooperation and socialist transformation of capitalist trade and industry and private handicraft.

Now the Korean people are fully enjoying the political, economic, ideological and cultural life suited to the intrinsic requirements of independent human beings as masters of the State and society under the people-centred socialist system.

They, irrespective of sex, occupation, property status, standard of learning, political view and religion, are fully provided with democratic freedom and rights, for example, such political rights and freedom as the right to elect and to be elected, freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration, and the right to submit complaints and petitions. They also have the right to get a job, be rewarded according to the quantity and quality of work done, and to get free education and free medical treatment, and the freedom to engage in scientific, literary and artistic activities, and the State legally takes responsible care of their material and cultural life.

In however difficult a situation, the State invariably maintains free education and free medical care at its expense, and all the people develop into civilized persons while learning to their heart's content and participating in mass-based sports, cultural and artistic activities.

As the masters of the means of production they play the role as such in the economic management, leading a creative working life with the right to work. Moreover, they are provided with an equal and rich material life thanks to the popular policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government.

The Korean people are enjoying a sound and rich ideological and cultural life as masters of ideology and culture. As the masters of all ideological and cultural establishments and means they manage and operate them so as to meet their politico-ideological and cultural and emotional requirements.

Seventy-five Years of WPK (9)

Motherly Party

THE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA (WPK) has always showed primary consideration for the people while leading the revolution. The history of the WPK consists in the time of valuing the people and sparing nothing for them. So, referring to the Party as mother the Korean people trust and follow it faithfully while entrusting their life and destiny entirely to it.

Motherly Party—this definition of the relations between the WPK and the popular masses is not the result of artistic or philosophical study.

Since the first day of its founding on October 10, 1945 the Party has always led Korea successfully performing great exploits: It led the building of a new country after Korea's liberation from the yoke of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule in August 1945; led the Korean people to win victory in the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s; led the postwar rehabilitation and socialist construction and enforced popular policies like universal free compulsory education and universal free medical care. All these momentous changes exerted tremendous influence upon the socio-political life of the people. The dramatic change in their destiny enabled the people fully to realize for what the WPK fought and devoted efforts for.

Actually the people's knowledge of the Party in its early days was merely that it was a political organization which guides the country and revolution. Through their new life bettering amazingly day after day they gradually began to feel its existence keenly. The peasants, who had been living under the burden of debts through generations, became owners of the fertile land, and the workers, whose families had depended on their daily wages, became masters of factories. A miserable servant of a landowner learned how to write his name at an adults' school for the first time in his life, and was elected as a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

During the Fatherland Liberation War against the US imperialist aggressors (1950–1953) the Korean people witnessed the image of the Party as the advocate of their interests: Even in war-time when the fate of the country was at stake the Party pursued popular policies such as free medical care, taking warmer care of the people's life.

With the passage of time, the people felt closer to the Party in their life. Under its tender care brick houses were built on the debris of war across the country, and schoolchildren equally received new uniforms and school things season after season.

The WPK's line and policy to build a people-centred socialist system were always correct, its leadership was always wise, and the benefits brought about by it were always substantial and impressive. Through their actual life the Korean people keenly realized that their destiny was connected with the Party, and were convinced that the Party was their mother taking responsible care of their life and destiny.

In the country it is regarded as a matter of paramount importance to satisfy the demands of the people and promote their interests under the slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" and "Let the entire Party make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the great people!" Nothing is spared for the people while devoted efforts are put in for the good of them. This is why the Korean people have a strong attachment to the socialist country of Juche, the cradle of their life, and genuinely love the country where their ideals come true.

An Song Dub
The Party’s love for the people is still invariable. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un regards selfless devotion to the people as his one and only motto. Regarding the improvement of the people’s material and cultural life as the most important of the State affairs he has to attend to, he visits industrial establishments, farms and fishing stations despite a severe snowstorm or the midsummer heat. One July day in Juche 103 (2014) he visited the Won-san Leather Shoes Factory. There he earnestly said that the factory should normalize production on a high-level, and mass-produce light and durable shoes convenient to put on and good to see and for different seasons and purposes. On another visit to shoes the factory in January the next year he measured the weight of shoes and highly praised the factory’s progress in implementing the Party’s policy of making light shoes.

In December 2016 the Supreme Leader inspected the factory again. Then he said that he was pleased whenever he visited it, and that it was just to his liking. He continued to say that he would discuss with the factory managers and take relevant measures to solve all problems arising in production, technical renovation of production processes, and designing.

When he visited the factory for the fifth time he saw with great satisfaction a scene of shoes being churned out. Saying that he was really satisfied and pleased, he took a souvenir photo taken with the workers on the spot.

When he visited a new mushroom farm, he said that he was very pleased to see a marvellous structure built for the people at the very beginning of the New Year. He remarked: How good it would be if each day of the year was like today.

And when he saw rich fruit harvest in the Kosan General Fruit Farm, he said that the apples seemed to have been dyed red, that everything at the foot of the Chol Pass looked red, that he was never tired of seeing the scenery of the farm, and that it added to his delight.

Such anecdotes can be heard at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, the Phyongsong Arti-

The Supreme Leader sees to it that such bases for the improvement of the people’s living standards are created never because there is enough money to spare or there are favourable conditions and environment.

Mothers do not feel exhausted even if they spend all night preparing the dish to their children’s liking, and even if they have to make their way through virgin snow all night, they are happy to think of their beloved children being pleased even for a moment; and if officials walk more than others and work hard with less sleep like mothers, the people will be happier. This is an idea of Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the WPK.

The Supreme Leader proposed to pull down all the damaged houses and build new ones, asking to make a good design by considering the desire of the farm workers, that is, if they preferred a private type or a two-families-in-one-building one.

Learning how the homeless people were living, he sent them hundreds of tents and thousands of quilts, as well as daily necessities and medicines, plus rare fish. Receiving such a parental care the local inhabitants were all tearfully thankful.

This is in no way an unprecedented story. Earlier, when thousands of families had been afflicted by the flood in Rason, a northern city in Korea, he had asked to make sure that the people in the damaged area would have no sufferings, even if it would mean the consumption of all the treasure of the nation, and whatever the expense might be. His appeal had moved all the hearts in the country. His profile of sparing nothing for the sake of the people and doing whatever he could for them was indelibly inscribed in all the minds.

Though everything in the world may change, motherly love is eternal. As such love is the nature of the WPK, the people’s trust in it is rock-solid, and their will to sacrifice themselves for it without hesitation is invariable.
Quality Cosmetics Developed

The invention “Ganoderma Culture” and anti-aging nutritional solution with Ganoderma content received a patent of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Last year the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) recognized the invention as valuable, and sent a Medal for Inventors and the relevant certificate to the inventors.

Not long ago I went to the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory to meet the developers. The invention was led by Doctor and Associate Professor Kim Hung Won, a 57-year-old Merited Scientist and head of the industrial experimental centre of the factory. At the first sight he impressed me as a self-possessed scientist.

After graduating from the then biology faculty of the University of Sciences he became a researcher of the factory. In a few years he received dozens of certificates of invention by developing cosmetics like an anti-acne cream and an anti-ultraviolet cream.

It was in 2007 that he decided to develop anti-aging cosmetics. At that time such a kind of cosmetics were widely developed and used a lot, but as they had some limitations they could not satisfy the users’ desire.

Through relevant research Kim came to know that the major cause of skin aging and wrinkling was deficiency of collagen in the dermis. He also made it clear that high-polymer collagen in cosmetics only moisturizes the skin surface. Later he, through countless experiments, invented a method of decomposing collagen by means of Ganoderma, a natural medicinal plant. If Ganoderma is cultivated with collagen added to it, then it will contain peptide and amino acid under 1000Da. These materials permeate through the layer of dermis and accelerate the synthesis of collagen in fibroblast, thus increasing the content of collagen in the skin.

In 2015 a French analytical laboratory compared the anti-aging effect of Pomyangyi cosmetics from the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory with that of Lancome advanced Genifique. The latter was developed by over 3000 experts of 65 countries for 14 years—it has won nine patents. The result of the analysis showed that Pomyangyi has more distinctive and better anti-aging effect than Lancome.

Ryu Chol Ho, an office head of the Invention Administration of the DPRK, says, “This patented technology won a gold medal at the 16th National Invention Exhibition.”

Pak Un Yong
Big Things from Small Things

A SAYING GOES, “TO ATTAIN many advantages at one move,” and it goes for the Chicken Farm 927 situated at the foot of Kuil Hill, Ryokpho District, Pyongyang. It is getting a lot of profits by making effective use of “small things,” which used to be regarded as waste.

Electric Power from Waste

Today the farm is breeding tens of thousands of chicks and chickens for meat and eggs. The excrement from them totals as much as 15 tons a day. In the past the farm used to put most of the excrement in a dump to produce manure. This caused an unpleasant smell along with gas generated from the decaying excrement, badly affecting the protection of the ecological environment in no small measure.

Now the farm made a plan for producing electricity by using the excrement, and put efforts into the project. Thus it built a methane-generating tank with the capacity of 1,000 m³, and completed a methane-based power production system. Workteam leader Kim Kwang Nam says, “We use some of the produced gas for cooking at the canteen, hostel and recuperation house. The waste heat from the methane production is used for the operation of the bath house and greenhouse and for heating offices. And the sediment from the production of the gas is used for the production of quality organic fertilizer to be sent to neighbouring farms.”

The farm also uses rice chaff effectively. It gathers rice from its fields of scores of hectares, and the chaff from the rice cleaning amounts to dozens of tons. In June 2019 power generation began using rice-chaff gas. Solar energy is also in effective use. Seventy percent of the electricity needed for the operation of the farm comes from the three sources of energy, that is, the chicken excrement, rice chaff and solar energy.

Substitute for Basic Feed

The farm used to depend on cereals like corn and bean for chicken feed. In consideration of the fact that it had tens of thousands of chickens, the amount of cereals consumed for their feed was not small at all. So the farm paid attention to the matter, and strove to produce substitute feed.

The research team of the farm directed their attention to bean cake first. At that time the farm extracted oil from soy beans gathered from its fields, and sold bean cake from the oil extraction to neighbouring farms at a low price. Now the researchers found out that bean cake was an ideal substitute feed as it contains a lot of vitamins and nutrients. By mixing the bean cake with dried grass gathered from natural grassland, maize straw and other kinds of materials they succeeded in producing substitute feed containing different vitamins, proteins and minerals. This made it possible to reduce the consumption of grains for feed by 50%.

The farm is also making effective use of the by-products from the chicken processing such as the feather and intestines. In Juche 106 (2017) the research team developed the “Kuilbong”-brand additives for egg-laying and fattening by using peat, chicken feather and intestines.

Now the farm is maintaining the egg-laying and fattening rates at over 90% using the substitute feed and the “Kuilbong” additives.

Article by Kim In Son
Photos by Ri Song Ik

Meat and egg production is on the rise.
SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE ONGJIN Offshore Culture Company in South Hwanghae Province. Spectacular were its drying grounds covered with kelp. The smell of the seaweed evoked an unusual emotion.

Kim Chang Su, manager of the company, told me that the scenery of the port was pleasing, but it was more pleasing to gather the kelp from the culture ground.

To experience the joy myself, I followed the manager to get aboard a tug which was ready to set off.

"Start engine!" shouted the captain, and the crew moved swiftly. With a whistle the boat left for the culture ground towing a dozen lighters. Other tugs followed with lighters behind them. Aboard each lighter were workers with outfits.

The boats approached the place where white buoys were floating closely. As soon as they stopped, the lighters went to their respective sections. Soon the workers started their jobs. They continuously thinned out several metre-long strips of kelp and put them on their boats. The piles of seaweed rose up on the decks with the passage of time.

Someone began to sing the song Song of Sea, joined soon by others.

Seagulls fly over the waters,  
You are fare against the wind, my dear.  
Yo-ho yo-ho yo-heave-ho  
We go unloaded,

Those who sang the song were well-known model workers Choe Yong Min, who was a workteam leader, Kim Yong Jin and Kim Il Bok, the manager told me proudly.

At last the lighters with piles of kelp on them returned to the tugs. The workers were full of joy. Some of them said they would be ahead of others in the production of the seaweed if theirs were measured after arriving at the port. And Ri Kwang Chun, leader of culture workshop No. 3, said full of confidence that they overfulfilled their quota of the day by 20%.

Now the tugs headed for their home towing the full-loaded lighters.

At the port Kang Chol Min, head of the technical department, said, "Offshore farming, too, can be successful only when top priority is given to science and technology. We have made effort to attain the goal of improving the breeding method while increasing the area of the mixed breeding ground." He continued to say that instead of breeding mussels and kelp by individual areas, they created breeding grounds designed to breed both the shellfish and seaweed in individual stationary nets, and that they changed the old method of using trepang culture grounds into the one of using cage nets, which makes it possible to increase the quantity of production with a low cost.

The company is not only producing kelp, laver, mussels, oysters and short neck clams but also protecting the marine ecosystem in a planned way.

Visit to Offshore Culture Company

Article by Pak Yong Il
Photos by Hwang Song
Devoted to Koryo Medicine

SOME TIME AGO I HAD an opportunity to meet Om Song Chol, teacher of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Koryo Medicine Faculty who had been introduced in the Korea Today magazine. You readers of the magazine may include those who got acquainted with him while attending his lectures or getting treatments from him.

In 2012 in Bulgaria he gave lectures on Koryo medicine to medical workers from different countries. During his stay there he employed acupuncture and cupping to cure a Bulgarian of febricula he had been suffering from for several months. And he treated a lot of patients who came to see him after hearing the news.

Back home the teacher used natural materials of Koryo medicine to develop medicines by employing classical prescriptions though he was busy with lectures and clinical activities. The medicines include the Compound Wilford Swallow-wort Anti-hepatitis Pill, which is efficacious in the treatment of cirrhosis and hepatic dropsy, and the Brain Nutrition Capsule which promotes the brain function.

Now, when meeting him, I could not help but become curious about what new medicines he had made. But contrary to my supposition the doctor showed me a high-pressure Koryo medicine extractor. According to him, the device can destroy cell walls of plants without any power consumption, and help increase the efficacy of medicines markedly as never before. I found it good enough to be introduced in Koryo medicine factories.

Om also has put much effort in to develop medical appliances. A nano Koryo medicine-based scratcher he showed me could be held in one hand. The scratcher therapy has long been used among the people. The therapy is to scratch or press meridian points or meridian vessels to the extent that they feel warm. It has an influence upon the five viscera and six entrails through the meridian system, thus helping the spleen, stomach, small intestine, large intestine and bladder work properly, and adjusting the balance of the negative and the positive to put functional activities of the body on a normal basis. In view of modern medicine the therapy expands capillaries, controls functions of different secreting glands, promotes the blood circulation, enhances immunity and kills pain.

Om developed a nano-Koryo medicine scratcher for the therapy with a readily available material. It is permeated with nano Koryo medicines so that it can produce bioactive effect. The tool can produce the effect of the scratch therapy and that of Koryo medicines and far-infrared ray treatment. This made the scratch therapy more popular.

Om also developed a bioactive indirect moxibustion cup. A far-infrared ray from the cup has several times greater treatment effect than traditional ones. It helps cure hyperlipemia, prostatic hypertrophy and diabetes in a short span of time without using other medicines.

At the moment Om is intensifying the research to improve health indicators by combining the research successes he has achieved for scores of years in an organic way. Recently he has developed an anionic far infrared ray-based bioenergy radiation device. This pyramid-shaped device helps develop lifelong immunity in the human body and create favourable environments for rehabilitation and retarding of aging.

Om’s research findings were introduced by different publications such as an international traditional medicine journal, and highly appreciated at international scientific and technical symposiums, being registered as sci-tech successes.

Om, however, is not content with his success. He told me of other research projects of his under contemplation or under way. He also told me about his three principles in the development of medical appliances—convenient to use, keep and carry.

He said, “Today non-medicinal treatment is a worldwide trend. And Koryo medicine provides a lot of natural treatments. I know I’ll improve them on modern lines.”

His research is continuing to improve treatment efficacy by combining the traditional medicine with modern technology.

Heparin Therapy Draws Attention

SUBMARINE SICKNESS IS an illness that occurs among divers. If the balance between the amount of nitrogen gas that has gone into the body of a diver and that of the gas coming out through the lungs is destroyed when he raises his body from deep water above its surface, the remaining nitrogen gas drops clog the blood vessels. This causes dystrophic degeneration at the part where the body gets a supply of nutritious substances and oxygen.

The disease is regarded as very dangerous as it might cause different kinds of obstinate diseases. In the past its treatment was mainly based on a high-pressure air therapy which provides an underwater environment.

Recently the resuscitation and intensive treatment department of the Kangwon Provincial People’s Hospital has introduced heparin in the treatment, producing satisfactory results.

Jin Ok, a doctor of the hospital, says, “Even the high-pressure air therapy leaves some amount of nitrogen gas in the body. If it is not removed in time, it causes various acute diseases.”

The high-pressure air therapy took 20 to 30 days. So not a few cases developed into extremely serious ones. A combination of experience in the treatment, aroma, and reduce the administration of medicines by 50%. Now the heparin therapy has brought a ray of hope to the patients poisoned by carbon monoxide and submarine sickness cases.

Pak Ok Nyo, a doctor of the Munchon Municipal People’s Hospital, says, “The advantage of the therapy is coming clearer day after day. My hospital has actively introduced it, and it is favourably commented upon by the patients.”

The research on the heparin therapy is drawing the attention of the medical world.

Kim Il Bong

Some of facilities and Koryo medicines developed by Om.
Pioneering New Phase of Treatment

When I Visited the Su-songchon General Foodstuff Factory in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province

I went to the hospital to meet the doctor.

In February last year, I was told that there was a doctor good at treating hepatitis B in the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Hospital, and I had an operation by the doctor. Now I am completely free of diabetes as well as bile duct stone.

The general manager added that the doctor is PhD and Associate Prof Mun Chung Yong, deputy director in charge of technical affairs of the hospital.

With my occupational curiosity, I went to the hospital to meet the doctor.

He is an ordinary man of rather small stature and build in his mid-forties, and he has made a lot of achievements in the medical world. He developed a method of operating on hilar bile duct cancer, which was exclusive technology of only a few countries in the world, and pioneered a new phase of post-operative treatment of the cancer by employing a Koryo therapy. This is favourably commented upon by the relevant patients.

Ri Gun, 65, a woman living in Rason, says, “I once gave up my life when I was diagnosed with hilar bile duct cancer (II). Then I was told of Dr Mun, and I had an operation by him at the hospital. Nearly ten years have passed since then, and I still enjoy my life in good health.”

Kim Hyon Ju

Determination Leads to Success

Recently the researchers of the Silicate Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences have developed heat-resistant tempered glass.

Heat resistance of glass is the property by which the glass is resistant to any serious change of temperature. In other words, heat-resistant glass is the one that can stand the temperature change of up to over 700°C and has the bending strength of more than 80MPa.

The glass is used to make high-temperature windows for observation, astronomical telescopes, high-temperature electric bulbs, infrared ray transmitting glass, ultraviolet ray intercepting glass and so on. Only a few countries in the world have been producing such glass. They choose an extremely limited number of persons to produce the glass in order to check the leaking of the relevant technology.

The abovementioned institute set a goal of developing such glass by relying on its own efforts and technology and formed a research team led by Kim Jong Su, head of the glass laboratory. The team did a chemical analysis of the glass, measured its density, bending strength and heat resistance, and studied scores of documents. They thus grasped the properties of the glass. After repeated experiments they managed to make a good heat-resistant crucible.

However, there were still not a few problems to solve. One of them was to ensure transparency of the glass. Whenever they melted glass, the test pieces of the glass lost transparency during crystallization treatment–like porcelain. Generally, microcrystalline glass contains crystals, so it is opaque. Though the researchers knew there were some kinds of special transparent microcrystalline glass, they were at a loss as they were unfamiliar with this kind of glass.

Kim says, “At that time some people doubted that we could make such glassware. But our conscience and self-respect as scientists did not allow us to think we were unable to make what others did.”

The researchers repeated experiments. At last they got a sample of the heat-resistant tempered glass. They compared the technical indexes of a product from the pilot furnace with those of the glass produced in other countries for analysis. The result was completely successful.

Researcher Om Hyok says, “All other researchers of the institute congratulated us for the success, but we are not content with it. We will intensify the research so as to make heat-resistant tempered glass of an advanced level.”

Kim Chun Guk, senior engineer of the heat-resistant tempered glass workshop of the Taean Friendship Glass Factory, says, “This time our researchers have developed the heat-resistant tempered glass in a little over two months without any basic data. Their success convinced us that we can do anything we are determined to.”
New Features of Pyongyang Metro

The metro is one of the main means of public transportation in Pyongyang, capital city of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Some of its stations were opened in 1973 for the first time, and the number of them increased with the formation of new streets and expansion of residential quarters in the capital city. Hundreds of thousands of people use the metro every day, or more on holidays and Sundays.

To the Korean people the metro is not only means of transportation but also a venue of ideological and cultural education. The individual stations have large mosaic murals, sculptures and other kinds of artworks dedicated to the themes related to their names. They intensively reflect the course of development of the country.

Kaesong Station has a bust of President Kim Il Sung delivering a speech on his triumphant return to the country after liberating it from the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation, and large mosaic murals that depict the people cheering for him, and those who turned out for the building of a new country at that time.

Jonu Station has mosaic murals depicting the peasants who were in rapture over the land they received from the country thanks to the agrarian reform. Recently several stations have been spruced up with artworks of new styles showing newly-built structures and the improving life of the people. The passengers say that they can learn the history of change of the country and its vibrant reality in the metro.

The walls of underground halls, linking corridors and escalator sections in Jonu Station are hung with eye-catching pictures of the improved Samjiyon City, Jungphyang Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, Yanggok Hot Spring Resort, Ryomyong Street and other new streets. And graceful illuminations and ceiling decorations add to the impressiveness of the pictures.

The country changes for the better not only on the ground but also underground year by year.

The Pyongyang Metro, which is called underground palace, greets people with new features of civilization.

*Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Song Ik and An Yong Chol*
A M O M E N T  A W O M A N  C A M E  O U T

With a tray of dish in her hand, and when she saw Ho Kwang Ho, she exclaimed with her eyes wide open, “My goodness, that’s Kwang Ho, isn’t it?”

Kwang Ho recognized the second elder sister of Ki Chon’s. “Hi,” he greeted.

“What a surprise!” the woman said. “Come in, please. We are celebrating Ki Chon’s wedding now.”

“Wedding?” Kwang Ho cried in surprise. Guided by the woman, Kwang Ho went into a room, and his appearance added to the atmosphere of the wedding party.

Pak Ki Chon sprang up from the wedding table and came across to Kwang Ho to have an embrace. And other old middle school mates of Kwang Ho’s and the bridegroom’s parents were also too glad to let go of his hands.

The bridegroom took Kwang Ho to his side and introduced him to the bride, saying, “This is my childhood friend.”

The bride looked at Kwang Ho deeply. Only then did Kwang Ho look attentively at the woman with a round face and soft eyes. He liked her. He then got a glance of the backdrop hanging on the wall behind the television set. It was vacantly sunk in thought several times. Some how he got sad and was out of sorts. So he did not go to Ki Chon’s home but visited his uncle, aunt and other relatives. Early the following morning he left by train.

Even in the ritual following the wedding ceremony, Kwang Ho sang well. He felt a look of the backdrop hanging on the wall behind the woman with a round face and soft eyes. He liked her. He then got a glance of the backdrop hanging on the wall behind the television set. It was vacantly sunk in thought several times. Somehow he got sad and was out of sorts. So he did not go to Ki Chon’s home but visited his uncle, aunt and other relatives. Early the following morning he left by train.

The wedding ceremony was over more than one hour later.

Kwang Ho soon came out with his old school mates and had a talk with them on one side of the yard. It was also quite long since he saw them last. Meanwhile, under the bright light from windows of the apartments, there were hoistious farewells between the host family and the guests.

Talking with his friends, Kwang Ho came to know Ki Chon had been discharged from the army in the previous year and was now working at Chongjin Port. After seeing off all the guests, Ki Chon, in a shirt, walked up to his friends.

“Why don’t we school mates have another round? Do you agree, Kwang Ho?” asked Ki Chon.

“No, thank you. Your family must have had much trouble preparing the wedding ceremony,” Kwang Ho declined. Then, with an inquiring look, he asked Ki Chon, “Why are you alone? Where is your bride?”

Then Kwang Ho felt somebody tapping him on the side.

Though in darkness it was clear that Ki Chon looked awkward.

“Ah, she is feeling uncomfortable now,” Ki Chon murmured.

…Continued from the last issue
National Musical Instrument Makers

The researchers of the National Institute of Musical Instruments are carrying on techniques and methods of making national musical instruments. The national musical instruments of different kinds they presented to the 10th Pyongyang Exhibition of Musical Instruments held in October last year were awarded a diploma of Good Science and Technology. It was a unanimous comment of relevant experts and people present at the exhibition that all the instruments had a rich volume and high quality of sound.

Veteran Kayagum Maker

Kang Song Jin, chief of the stringed instrument laboratory of the institute, is an experienced kayagum maker well-versed in all sorts of national stringed instruments such as oungum, okryugum and sohaegum. From his childhood he had an unusual interest in woodwork. At that time it was his dream to make his wood works reflect profound human emotion and feelings and life.

After graduating from college he became a national musical instrument researcher in Juche 86 (1997) as he wished, and put his heart and soul into making musical instruments that could reflect the emotion and soul of the nation as he had dreamed in his childhood. His untiring research bore fruit after a dozen years. In September 2013 his kayagum and oungum won a prize for the first time in his life at the 7th Pyongyang Exhibition of Musical Instruments. Later, he wrote some theses on quality improvement of national musical instruments, and developed new techniques of making the nut and bridge of kayagum.

In October 2017 his technique of making kayagum was registered as No. 65 on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Now he is engrossed in the research for a modulating kayagum to be used in the orchestra where tonality changes from time to time. His instruments give soft and gentle sounds with a unique national tone. They are in great favour in professional art troupes such as the Phibada Opera Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe.

Like Father, Like Son

There is a proverb “Like father, like son,” and it seems to go for Kim Myong Nam, chief of the wind instrument laboratory of the institute.

His father Kim Jae Hyon, 83, is a well-known woodwind instrument maker in the country. He worked at the Pyongyang National Musical Instruments Factory for over 60 years since 1954. During the career he made a great contribution to carrying on and developing traditional techniques of making woodwind instruments. As a Merited Maker, he won a lot of diplomas and medals at different domestic exhibitions.

Myong Nam grew up while learning the technology and knack of making woodwind instruments from his father. With an ambition to become a renowned musical instrument maker like his father he strived to master the relevant techniques. His painstaking effort and the strict guidance of his father brought him prominence in making woodwind instruments.

In September 2013 he presented a tenor jodae (a Korean flute) to the 7th Pyongyang Exhibition of Musical Instruments, winning a technical prize. Afterwards, he mastered and further developed the technique of making different kinds of woodwind instruments such as jodae, saenap (a Korean brass wind instrument) and jangsaenap. His technique of making jodae and saenap was officially put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage in 2017.

He also gained some successes in modernizing woodwind instruments. In September 2019 he received a certificate of new idea by making a plastic-button tanso (a kind of bamboo flute) and made public the thesis Study on Improvement of Thungso, thus drawing the attention of experts.

At present his son Kim Nam Yong is learning to play the tenor jodae in the music circle of his school. The boy also intends to become a woodwind instrument maker. It is his dream to live up to the idea of “Like father, like son.”

Kim So Yong

National musical instruments presented to the 10th Pyongyang Exhibition of Musical Instruments in October 2019.

National musical instruments made by the researchers are serviceable items for training instrumentalists.
Ryongchon County Today

RYONGCHON COUNTY IN NORTHWEST
North Phyongan Province used to be engaged
in rice farming alone. Now it has changed into a
locality good to live in provided with industrial
factories fed with locally-available raw materials,
a fishing station, scores of educational institutions
at different levels, and medical facilities. The local
people are striving to better their life.

Changed Land

All residents of the county say the history of its
change is just that of irrigation. The county has
sufficient water resources: The Amnok River flows
northeast to southwest to its west; and the Samgyo
Stream flows east to west to its north. It also has
several small and large streams such as Ssangry-
ong, Ryongsan and Rimphyong.

It was during the Amnok River irrigation pro-
ject in the late 1950s that a new history of irriga-
tion started in the county under the concern of the
State. Let’s develop our land by our own hands—
this was the unanimous will of the local residents.
The increased State investment added to their
zeal. They constructed the Maebong Reservoir and
scores of pumping stations in three years. Later,

they pushed ahead with the project, establishing a
rotational irrigation system over thousands of hec-
tares of fields in the Ryongchon Plain.

The completion of the Paengma-Cholsan Wa-
terway in 2005 led to the expansion of the area
under irrigation by thousands of hectares. Thus
all fields in the plain were fully irrigated. Besides,
the construction of reservoirs and a gravitational
waterway transformed the landscape of the local-
ity completely. And many power production bases,
fish farms and recreation centres appeared in the
county. A lot of tourists visit the county to see the
extensive gravitational waterway network.

Land and Environment under Good
Protection

The county is also striving to keep the land
and environment in good conditions. A huge land
realignment project was done there 20 years ago.
The local residents and builders from across the
country pooled their efforts, and thus rezoned over
50 000 patches of paddy and straightened 4 000
kilometre-long curved ridges in paddy fields in less
than a year. All dry and paddy fields in the county
changed into standardized ones, and a large area of
new land was brought under the plough.

In the new century the county has been mak-
ing more strenuous efforts to harness nature and
protect ecological environment. In 2012 it con-
ducted the stone covering of the bank of the Sam-
gyo Stream, and dredged the Tongsin Stream off
its bank. From April to June last it carried out the
work for the protection of the Amnok River bank.
Zeal for National Sports Runs High

The county is famous for being good at national sports. It won national sports events of different species annually. This enabled the county to turn all the mountains in the county into orchards and cultivated love for the nation. The school has a record of winning 45 consecutive victories in the ssirum event of the national schoolchildren’s sports meeting.

Today it is a commonplace to see people engrossed in ssirum matches on holidays and Sundays and during breaks or spare time not only in the ri but also anywhere else in the county. This helps them recover from fatigue and promote harmony.

Amid the growing zeal for national sports, the local people are feeling pride in their working life and devotedly working to better their country.

Wrestlers from Sinam-ri.

Environmental Protection—Primary Concern

RECENTLY THE DEMOCRATIC People’s Republic of Korea has put in a lot of effort to protect environment. Thus the area of forests has increased, while the cultural and sanitary environment of industrial establishments is improving considerably. The Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 in Phyonghon District, Pyong- yang, is one of those spearheading environmental protection. The factory was awarded a DPRK certificate of environmental management system for its having long protected environment well.

All its workshops are clean and provided with favourable conditions to increase the rate of operation of equipment, normalize production and raise the quality of products, and thus the factory outperforms its plan year after year. The green area of over 7,000 ㎡ between production buildings and auxiliary buildings is thickly covered with various species of trees such as apricot tree, cherry tree and metasequoia. And rose and other flowering plants grow in flower beds. It seems that the factory is in a large park.

“Environmental protection is not merely economic and technical work. It is a responsible and important undertaking for the health and future of people,” says Kim Sok Nam, general manager of the factory.

Over the years the factory has pushed ahead with the effort to improve the hygienic and cultured standard, and provided its workers with a good working environment. Now it is invariably endeavouring to protect environment. Dust collectors and ventilation devices in workshops are routinely checked on a weekly and monthly basis so as to correct any defects in time.

Jong Song Il, leader of the rolling workteam, says, “In accordance with our annual work plan we removed the old-fashioned dust collector and made and installed a new water spray-type one which makes it possible to raise the dust-collecting rate over 90%.” According to him, the factory regularly examines the maintenance of environmental equipment of workshops to take necessary measures, and the sheet metal processing workteam of the maintenance workshop repaired and readjusted the return water pump of a dust collector of a forge and introduced a new technique, raising the rate of dust collection 98%.

The insulation workshop of the factory made and installed a new cooling-water basin for the plastic extruder, thus making it possible to save raw materials by 30% and increase the production.

Kim Kyong Hwa, warehouse worker, says, “We are benefiting from the green roof as well. The area of green roof is more than 100㎡. It provides fresh air in summer and prevents heat release in winter. Different kinds of vegetables and fruits from the green roof farming are supplied to the workers.”

Pak Yong Il

The factory compound is kept tidy.
Traditional Principles of Korean Cuisine

KOREA HAS THE PHRASE “yaksikdongwon” meaning that medicine and food are of the same origin, so medicine is just food, and vice versa.

From olden times the Korean people applied it in cooking. In the course of this they found out and developed different principles of cooking suited to their physical constitutions and tastes, and helpful to good health and longevity. Here go some typical principles of Korean cuisine.

The first is the harmony of the negative and the positive.

In terms of cooking materials, the negative indicates animal materials, and the positive vegetable ones. The principle of harmony of the negative and the positive means the one whereby cooking is done by appropriately combining animal and vegetable materials so as to provide the matched tastes of foodstuffs and favourable effect on the human body.

In Korean dishes over 70% of subsidiary foodstuffs is the combination of animal materials such as meat and fish and vegetable materials such as greens, edible wild herbs and seaweed. For example, putting radish into beef soup or broth makes it sweet and savoury with meat done well. And mushroom blends well with chicken soup, and when parsley is put in the dish made with fish such as mackerel and yellowtail, it removes fishy smell, stimulates appetite and prevents food poisoning by dint of its own aroma and sterilizing function.

Like this the Korean people combined animal and vegetable materials appropriately to create dishes of distinctive tastes, and developed the Korean-style food culture.

The second is to create five tastes, that is, the sour, pungent, bitter, sweet and salty tastes.

The salty and sour tastes, the sour and bitter tastes, the bitter and sweet tastes, the sweet and pungent tastes, and the pungent and salty tastes correlate and supplement each other, creating the unique tastes of dishes.

From of old the Korean people through cooking practice, observation and study, found out that those five tastes are related to man’s heart, liver, lungs, kidney and spleen. An old book tells: Too bitter taste harms the liver; too salty taste harms the heart; too sour taste harms the spleen; and too sweet taste harms the kidney.

Typical dishes prepared on the principle are kimchi and pickled fish. Kimchi with a deliberate combination of salty and sour tastes, and pickled fish with a delicate combination of pungent and salty tastes stimulate appetite.

The third is mutual exclusiveness of the five tastes, which means creating savoury tastes by using the way the tastes check one another.

Through their long dietary life the Korean people understood the principle that the bitter taste is checked by the pungent, the pungent by the sour, the sour by the sweet, the sweet by the salty and the salty by the sour respectively. On the basis of the principle they made different dishes.

Typical of them are soy and bean paste of Korea. The condiments are indispensable to the Korean people’s dietary life. They are made by crumbling well-fermented soybean lumps to be put in a jar or pot, and pouring saline water in it for maturing of the content. In the course of maturing, different kinds of saccharide such as glucose and polyaccharide, and acid substances come into being. However, the sour taste is restrained by the sweet, the sweet by the salty, and the salty by the sour respectively, thus creating savoury soy and bean paste.

The fourth is to supplement the nutrition of the internal organs with similar materials. The Korean people came to know that a certain weak organ in the human body can get well by a dish made with a similar organ of animals. So they ate dishes made with the appropriate amount of them protecting the organs and promotes health.

These cooking principles held fast to by the Korean ancestors are being carried on now, enriching the nation’s cuisine and actively promoting the people’s health.

Ri Yong Chol, department head of the Central Committee of the Korea Cooks Association

Traditional Principles of Korean Cuisine

Ginger Tea

FROM OF OLD THE KOREAN PEOPLE used ginger as both spice and medicinal material. In particular, they were fond of drinking ginger tea in the scorching season of summer.

1. Ginger and Orange Peel Tea

The tea warms the spleen and the stomach, and removes cold-evil. It helps the spleen, stomach, small intestine, large intestine and bladder work properly, and invigorate the weak spleen. The tea also helps cure the pain from a bloated belly, nausea, vomiting, phlegm retention syndrome and coughing.

The method of preparing the tea is as follows: Put orange peels and ginger into the teapot before adding an appropriate amount of brown sugar to drink.

2. Black Ginger Tea

It helps warm the stomach, cure vomiting and improve vitality. It also helps invigorate the spleen and the stomach, remove fatigue and retard aging, and acts as antiphlogistic and diuretic. Brew the black tea leaves and ginger in the teapot before adding an appropriate amount of brown sugar.
Beef Barbecue of Korea

One of the dishes typical of Korean cuisine is barbecue. Especially, seasoned beef grilled over a charcoal fire is known to the world as one of the Korean people’s three favourite dishes.

Maekjok, Origin of Korean Barbecue

The Korean roast meat is different from roasted dishes of other countries. The Korean people season meat mainly with garlic and sesame oil before roasting the meat. Such a method of cooking was widely used in the period of Koryo (273–936). The dish prepared by this method was called maekjok, and it was also known to neighboring countries.

It is recorded in a Chinese legendary book compiled in the period of the Jin dynasty (265–420) that from ancient times they worshipped maekjok in China, so it was always served at important feasts given by aristocrats or the rich.

Maek means the tribe of Ancient Joson who founded the Koguryo dynasty, and maejok means the roast meat prepared by the tribe for their food.

Maekjok is seasoned skewered meat roasted over a fire. For the meat they used beef, pork and poultry, and beef was counted as the best.

Solyajok, Speciality of Koryo

Beef barbecue of Korea further developed in the period of Koryo (918–1392), the successor to Koguryo. The following is recorded in Haeodongjaky, a historical book of Korea: Solyajok has long been a specialty of Kaesong (capital city of Koryo).

The method of cooking the dish is as follows: Season the ribs or heart of the cow with oil, garlic, ginger and so on and roast them. When they are half done, put them in cold water for a moment and roast them again over a strong charcoal fire. They are good to eat over the wine on a snow-falling winter night, and they are very soft and tasty.

The word solyajok originated from the meaning that it is roast meat to eat on a snowy winter night.

Its cooking method is as follows:

Slice beef and tap the meat with the back of a knife to tenderize it. Stick the meat on bamboo spits and season it. When the meat is fully seasoned, roast it over a charcoal fire.

The cooking method further developed with the passage of time. Roast meat is quickly put in water once, and roasted again. The process is repeated three times before spreading cooking oil over the meat and roasting it once more. This makes the meat softer and tastier.

In the period of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910) not only the cooking method but also the relevant tools developed further. In the 19th century the use of grills to roast meat was introduced across the country. At that time various methods were employed to roast meat, including that of roasting meat on a grill or a spit over a charcoal fire. But there was something common in the methods. It was the way meat was seasoned before roasting.

This was the distinctiveness of the Korean-style barbecue.

Tradition of National Cuisine Carried on

It is in a restaurant on the third floor of Daesong Department Store in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang that you can eat the most distinctive beef bar-
Mt Myohyang (4)

Scenic Spots in the Area of Hyangbiro Peak

You can say that you have enjoyed all the scenery of Mt Myohyang only after climbing up Hyangbiro Peak past Paegun Rock.

Hyangbiro Peak, 1,909 metres above sea level, is the highest one in Mt Myohyang. The Korean ancestors called the highest peak Piro Peak, hence the name of Hyangbiro Peak.

The top of the peak consists of rocks and flat grassland. Various flowers are in full bloom on the grassland in July and August, not in spring because of low temperature. While it is early summer down on the shores of the Myohyang Stream, it is spring on the top of Hyangbiro Peak.

Dwarf Siberian pine trees cover a wide area between Hyangbiro Peak and Chilsong Peak to the southeast. Hyangbiro Peak commands a panoramic view of a chain of mountain peaks, high and low mountains and plains in Nyongbyon, Pakchon and Anju areas, and the West Sea of Korea far away.

Along the mountain-climbing route to Hyangbiro Peak and in the vicinities there are many scenic spots: Chonthae Valley famous for its waterfalls; a resting place at Hyangbiro Gate, the entrance to the climbing route to Chilsongdong Valley and Hyangbiro Peak; a place where you can see three scenic beauties—crystal-clear water, fragrant thick forests and peculiar rocks; the ancient Habiro Hermitage; Kumgang Hermitage; Poryon Rock; Kangson Rock; a spring called Myongansu; Chonthae Falls and Isonnam Falls in Chonthae Valley; another resting place halfway on the way to Hyangbiro Peak; Paegun Rock; and different waterfalls and pools in Chilsongdong Valley.

Paegun Rock, in particular, is known as a famous observation platform. The rock towers above the forest with white clouds girdling its waist, from which came its name, and commands a bird’s-eye view of the chain of peaks of Mt Myohyang. The place, fragrant with the smell of cypress, overlooks almost all valleys and peaks such as Sangyon Valley and Manphok Valley along the Myohyang Stream. To the north you can see peaks made up of rocks of fantastic shapes such as Wonman Peak and Sokka Peak and to the south peaks resembling hundreds of running horses.

So there is an old saying that dissuades people from commenting on the scenery of Mt Myohyang unless they climb Paegun Rock. In particular, when white clouds rise up the ravines, the latter disappear into the clouds excepting high cliffs and peaks soaring over the clouds. From the rock you can also get a view of the autumn scenery of Mt Myohyang dressed up with red and yellow leaves. For this reason, this scenery was counted as one of the “eight beautiful views of Mt Myohyang.”

Sollyong Rock is also one of the famous rocks in the mountain. Its gigantic and fantastic shape goes well with the surrounding scenery to present a superb view. As it stands on a high place, it has long been known as a noted place. Originally there was a temple called Sollyongdae, hence the name. The view of clouds girdling the rock is designated as one of the “eight beautiful views of Mt Myohyang.”

And in the area of Outer Hyangsan (Kujang area) there are the Ryongmun and Paengnyong caverns. These caves came into being as the underground layers of limestone had been dissolved and washed by rainwater and underground water for a long time. For the numerous stalactites and stalagmites of myriad shapes, the caves are well known as wonderful underground scenic spots.

Pak Yong Il
Pigyokjinchonroe, First Time Bomb in the World

PIGYOKJINCHONROE

was made by Ri Jang Son, a weapons technician, during the feudal Josen dynasty (1392–1910). When the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) broke out with the invasion of Korea by Japan, Ri put his heart and soul into inventing a new powder weapon. Thus he succeeded in making the weapon pigyokjinchonroe in several months.

The weapon was first used in the battle to retake Kyongju Fortress in September 1592. The following is a record of the battle.

"On the evening of September 7 the Korean troops secretly approached the fortress wall and fired pigyokjinchonroe into the middle of the yard of an inn where the enemy troops were stationed. Without any idea of what it was, the enemy gathered round the cannon-ball touching or rolling it, and at that moment it suddenly exploded killing many of them. The survivors trembled thinking it was a work of demon. Then the Korean troops began to charge into the fortress wall all at once. Seized with panic, the enemy hastily began to flee with no courage to face them. In the battle the Korean troops wiped out the enemy's manpower a lot, retook the fortress and captured lots of weapons and combat equipment and 10 000 som of military provisions (A som is equivalent to 5.12 US bushels). The weapon played an important role in attacking the foreign aggressors during the war."

The explosion of the cannon-ball was like thunder and shook the earth, so it was called pijinjinchonroe or jichonroe.

Cast in iron, the cannon-ball had a small hole through which black powder was put inside. A fuse was installed round the ball and it was filled with cailrops. Then the hole was covered with an iron lid, and a screw box was connected to the lid. The screw box was to be fixed with two screw holders with ten and 15 grooves respectively. A fuse was stuffed in each of the grooves. So the cannon-ball was to be fixed with the screw holder with ten grooves for the bomb to explode soon after being fired or the one with 15 grooves for it to explode a while after being fired.

The cannon-ball was fired by means of different cannons. And its distance of flight was 750–900m.

No cannon-ball with a fuse like pigyokjinchonroe could be seen in other countries at that time.

Commenting on pigyokjinchonroe a Japanese ordnance scientist said: What is ingenious about this bomb is its fuse. It must be something startling at that time (the Imjin Patriotic War).

As the first kind of time bomb pigyokjinchonroe left a remarkable page in the world history of guns.

Kim Hyon Ju

Constitutional Revision—For What?

RECENTLY HUNDREDS of thousands of Japanese people put their signature against the proposed constitutional revision which is aimed at stipulating the existence of the “Self-defense Forces.” It is said that the people actively turned out in the signature campaign though it was extremely hard to go out owing to the spread of the COVID-19 infection. This is an expression of indignation against the present Japanese government hell-bent on trying to revise the constitution for the worse, and a reflection of the Japanese people’s strong desire to avoid being drawn into a tragic war any longer.

Japanese Prime Minister Abe tried to realize at any cost the revision of the constitution, which he regards as his lifetime political goal, in the remaining few years of his term. He is wild about giving publicity to the “validity” of the constitutional revision, saying, “There is no change at all in my intention to realize it by myself at any cost.” “Let’s put an end to the dispute over the constitution by stipulating the existence of the Self-defense Forces in it,” and “We should create an environment in which the SDF members can act in high spirits.”

Describing the revision of the constitution as the major policy and historic mission of the Liberal Democratic Party, he is egging the LDP onto the constitutional revision, and pressing the Diet to push ahead with it.

The Abe clique’s scheme to revise the constitution at any cost is an extremely dangerous act essentially aimed at perfecting the legal basis for the militarization of Japan and overseas expansion so as to turn the country into a nation capable of going to war.

The society of Japan is rapidly turning militaristic. The ruling class makes it a routine to visit the Yasukuni Shrine, and has made the society fascist by reshuffling the legal system, for example, manufacturing a special secret protection law and revising the organized crime punishment law for the worse. They fabricated a security law, an emergency law and a special anti-terrorism law, thus creating legal and institutional guarantees for the SDF’s military action in a wider area of the Asia-Pacific region.

With the annual increase of war expenditure the modernization of the SDF’s military equipment is being accelerated on a full scale. On June 12 last the SDF Air Force staff chief said at a press interview that improved Patriot missiles were deployed in four bases in Chiba, Shizuoka and Fukusuka prefectures.

They are plotting to push ahead with the renovation of radar sets and launchers of SDF units in various places successively.

Since its defeat Japan has pushed ahead with moves for its conversion into a military power and thus virtually completed the preparation for reinvasion in all aspects. What still remains to do is merely to fabricate a war constitution so as to turn it into a “country that can have an army” and a “country that can go to war.” If it is realized, the Japanese reactionaries believe, their country will be able to legalize its overseas invasion, and, in case of emergency, fully mobilize its manpower and material resources to carry out a war.

Japan is dreaming a silly dream of going to aggressive war once again in an attempt to realize the old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere,” the wild ambition for world supremacy.

The existing constitution of Japan represents a legal pledge by which the country declared to the international community that as a nation defeated in the Second World War it would follow the road to eternal peace alone without taking the one of militarization and overseas invasion again.

If Japan stubbornly revises the constitution, it will mean nothing but that the country itself becomes a common enemy of humanity.

History shows that those who went against the desire of humanity to live in peace were doomed to destruction without exception.

Japan is well advised to bear in mind that it is entirely thanks to its peace constitution that it has been getting on with the Asia-Pacific region filled with grudge and hatred against it, and behave prudently.

Yom Song Hui
KOREAN PROVERBS GO, “BARLEY HAS RIPENED ENOUGH TO BE TRANSPORTED, SO IT’S MANG-JONG;” AND “CUT BARLEY BEFORE MANG-JONG,” AND THE PROVERBS CAME INTO BEING BECAUSE BARLEY OFTEN FALLS IN WIND AFTER MANG-JONG.

In that period seeds were sown for the last time, and barley was gathered and threshed. In the season there took place folk games such as swinging and masque play.

Chubun means the period when autumn is well on without the atmosphere of summer at all. Chubun this year falls on September 22.

Day and night are of equal length on the day. Night lengthens and day gradually shortens after the day. This was followed by rice harvest and the gathering of dry field crops like bean, foxtail millet, and sorghum. In the season the Korean people ate songpyon (a half-moon-shaped rice cake stuffed with beans and flavored with pine needles), solgittok (steamed rice cake), nochi (fried cake made of steamed glutinous rice, millet or glutinous foxtail millet fermented in malt) and other cakes, and pandanja (an egg-shaped glutinous rice cake covered with a mixture of boiled chestnut flour and honey), and they were fond of eating chestnuts and jujubes.

In the period they also prepared vegetables for the coming winter. They gathered and dried wild vegetables such as lance asiabell roots, broad bellflower roots, aralia shoots, fern, bracken, and aster as well as perilla leaves, pumpkin vine sprouts and sweet potato sprouts.

In the season they played many folk games such as ssirum (Korean wrestling) and tug of war. In particular ssirum took place across the country with a bull as the prize.

Tongji means winter solstice, and it falls on December 21 this year. It is the day of the year with the fewest hours of daylight unlike Haji.

On the day the Korean people take gruel made of adzuki beans with bird’s-egg-shaped sorghum or glutinous rice balls in it. The gruel symbolizes the winter solstice. The typical folk game played in the period is the snowball game.

In the period the Korean people prepared for farming of the next year. For example, they made or repaired farm implements.

Days are now counted according to the solar calendar in Korea but the people habitually observe customs for the 24 divisions of the year in the lunar calendar.

The customs associated with the wisdom of the Korean people are registered on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

THE CUSTOMS FOR THE 24 DIVISIONS of the year in the lunar calendar are the social conventions and working life customs to be observed in different seasons according to the 24 divisions of the orbit along which the earth goes round the sun.

The customs have long been handed down in Korea.

The 24 divisions were each fixed on the basis of the vernal point to denote the moment when the longitude of the sun varies 15 degrees, and thus each of the divisions comes round in 15 or 16 days along with certain climatic features.

According to the 24 divisions the Korean people did farming at the right time while holding different ceremonies or having a good time making and eating different foods or playing folk games according to seasons.

The 24 divisions are: Ripchun, the beginning of spring; Usu, the first rainfall of the year; Kyongchip, the end of hibernation; Chunbun, the Spring Equinox; Chongmyong, April 5th or 6th; Kogu, the rainfall for seeding; Ripha, the first day of summer; Soman, the 21st of May; Mangjong, the barley harvest season; Haji, the summer solstice; Soso, the beginning of the summer heat; Taeso, the midsummer day; Ripchu, the first day of autumn; Choso, the period at the end of summer; Paengno, the first dew of the year; Chubun, the Autumn Equinox; Hanno, cold dew; Sanggang, the frost falling; Riptong, the beginning of winter; Sosol, the light snowfall; Taesol, the heavy snowfall; Tongji, the winter solstice; Sohan, the beginning of the severest cold; and Taechan, the height of the winter cold.

Typical of the divisions are Ripchun in spring, Mangjong in summer, Chubun in autumn and Tongji in winter.

Ripchun this year fell on February 4. The Korean people greeted the day in a particular way: All families cleaned the interior and exterior of their houses, and greeted the new spring. And they enjoyed vernal fragrance, relishing fresh wild vegetables or those grown in a pit.

Mangjong this year fell on June 5. Mangjong means that barley is harvested followed by the transplantation of rice seedlings.

In the old days the division was regarded as the favourable period for barley harvest and rice seedling transplantation.

Korean proverbs go, “Barley has ripened enough to be eaten, and rice seedlings have grown enough to be transplanted, so it’s Mang-jong,” and “Cut barley before Mangjong,” and the proverbs came into being because barley often falls in wind after Mangjong.

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