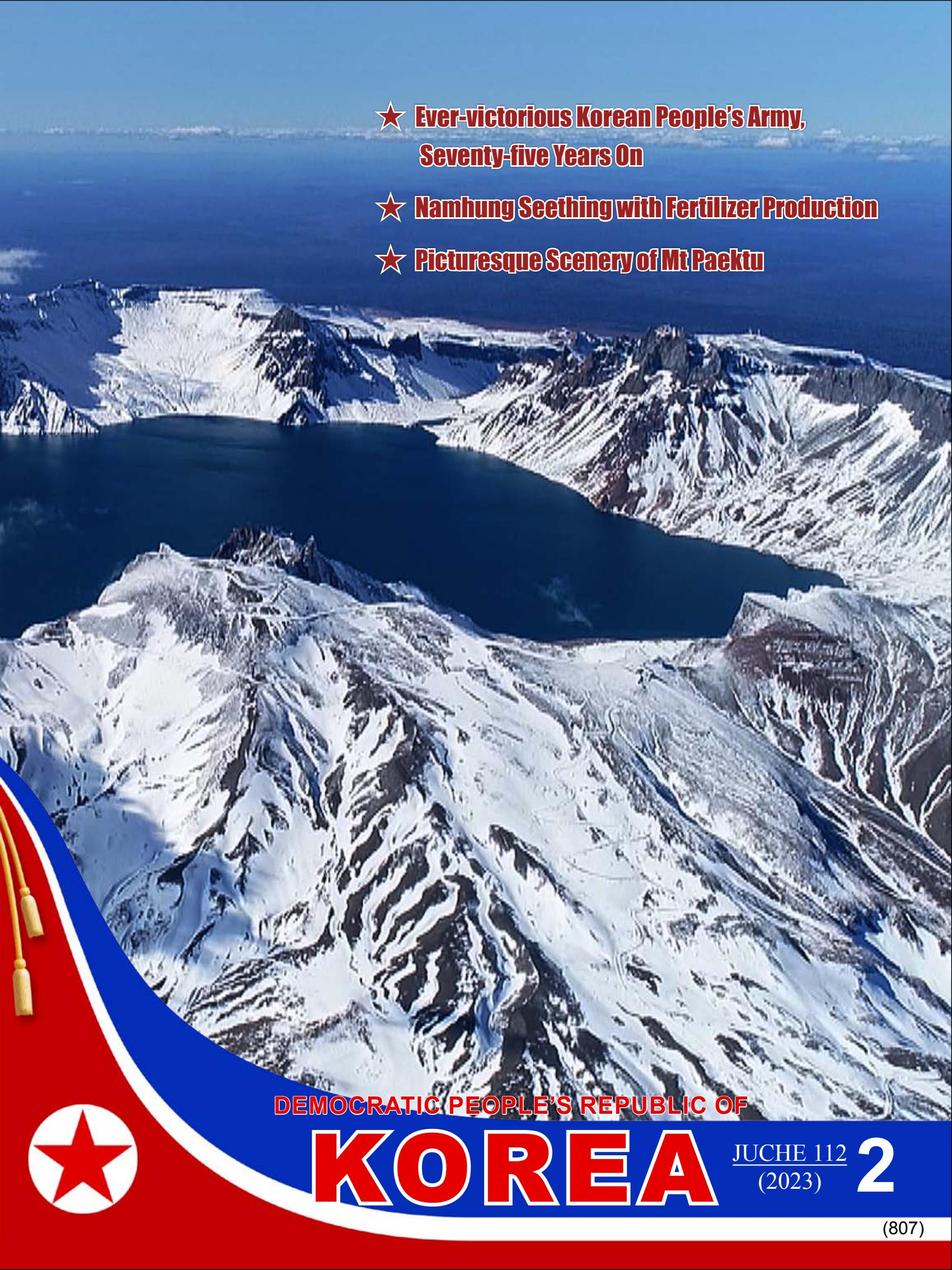


★ Ever-victorious Korean People's Army,
Seventy-five Years On

★ Namhung Seething with Fertilizer Production
★ Picturesque Scenery of Mt Paektu



DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

KOREA JUCHE 112
(2023) 2





Pictorial Korea founded in April 1956

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COVER: Mt Paektu, ancestral mountain of Korea

Editors: Sin Jae Chol, Kim Jong Chol, Kim Kyu Song, Choe Il Son,
Jo Chol Ju, Sung Ryong

정
일
봉

The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il was born
in the Paektusan Secret Camp

February 16, 1942

Reverence of Mankind for Veteran Statesman

In February the Korean people, who are greeting the Day of the Shining Star, birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il, as the greatest national holiday, are recollecting his sacred career with a surging yearning for him.

Chairman Kim Jong Il was a veteran statesman who performed undying exploits in accomplishing the cause of independence of mankind.

The late 20th century witnessed worldwide turmoil characterized by rapidly changing situations and challenges. The international political structure underwent dramatic changes, and the tyranny and arbitrariness of imperialists went to extremes.

In such grave situation Chairman Kim Jong Il formulated the original mode of Songun politics and demonstrated an iron will and courage and unexcelled diplomatic strategies in defending the sovereignty of the Republic and peace and security in the region.

Mankind will remember for ever the brilliant exploits the Chairman performed in victoriously leading the DPRK-US confrontation that started in the early 1990s and reliably safeguarding socialism and the cause of independence of mankind.

Chairman Kim Jong Il led the world political trend along the road of justice and peace through his energetic external activities.

In the last days of his life alone the Chairman visited the People's Republic of China on several occasions and further cemented the traditional DPRK-China friendship, and paid visits to the Russian Federation on two occasions to bolster up the bilateral friendly relations.

His foreign visits fully demonstrated that the batons of friendly relations were being carried forward invariably and solidly and served as living examples in promoting friendship between the countries aspiring after unity and cooperation under the banner of independence, thus giving powerful impetus to the dynamic advance of the cause of independence of mankind.

Chairman Kim Jong Il also met heads of party and state of many countries, political and social figures, and delegations that visited the DPRK to clearly indicate the path ahead for developing friendship, promoting the Non-aligned Movement, rallying the anti-imperialist forces and ensuring peace and security of the world.

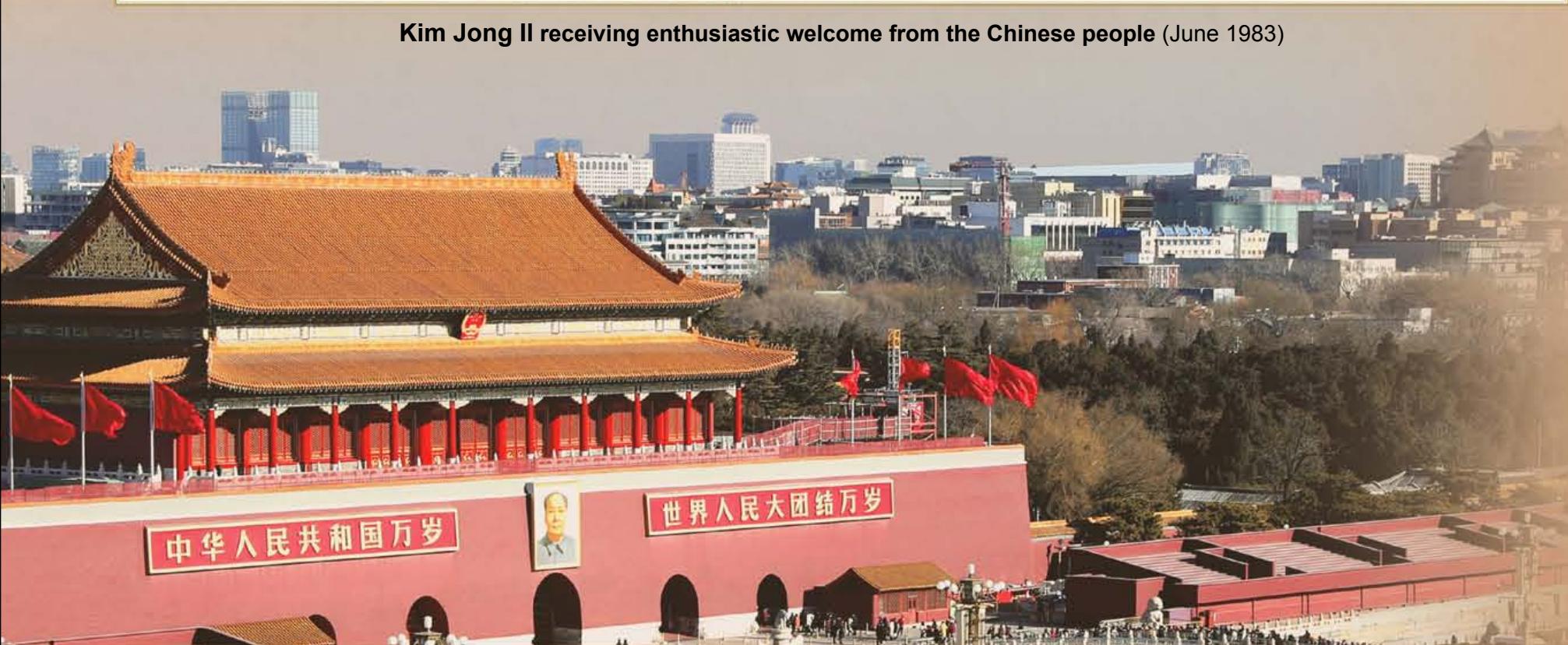
The feelings of admiration cherished by the progressive mankind for Chairman Kim Jong Il, veteran statesman of the world politics, continue unabated to this day.



The Great Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il



Kim Jong II receiving enthusiastic welcome from the Chinese people (June 1983)



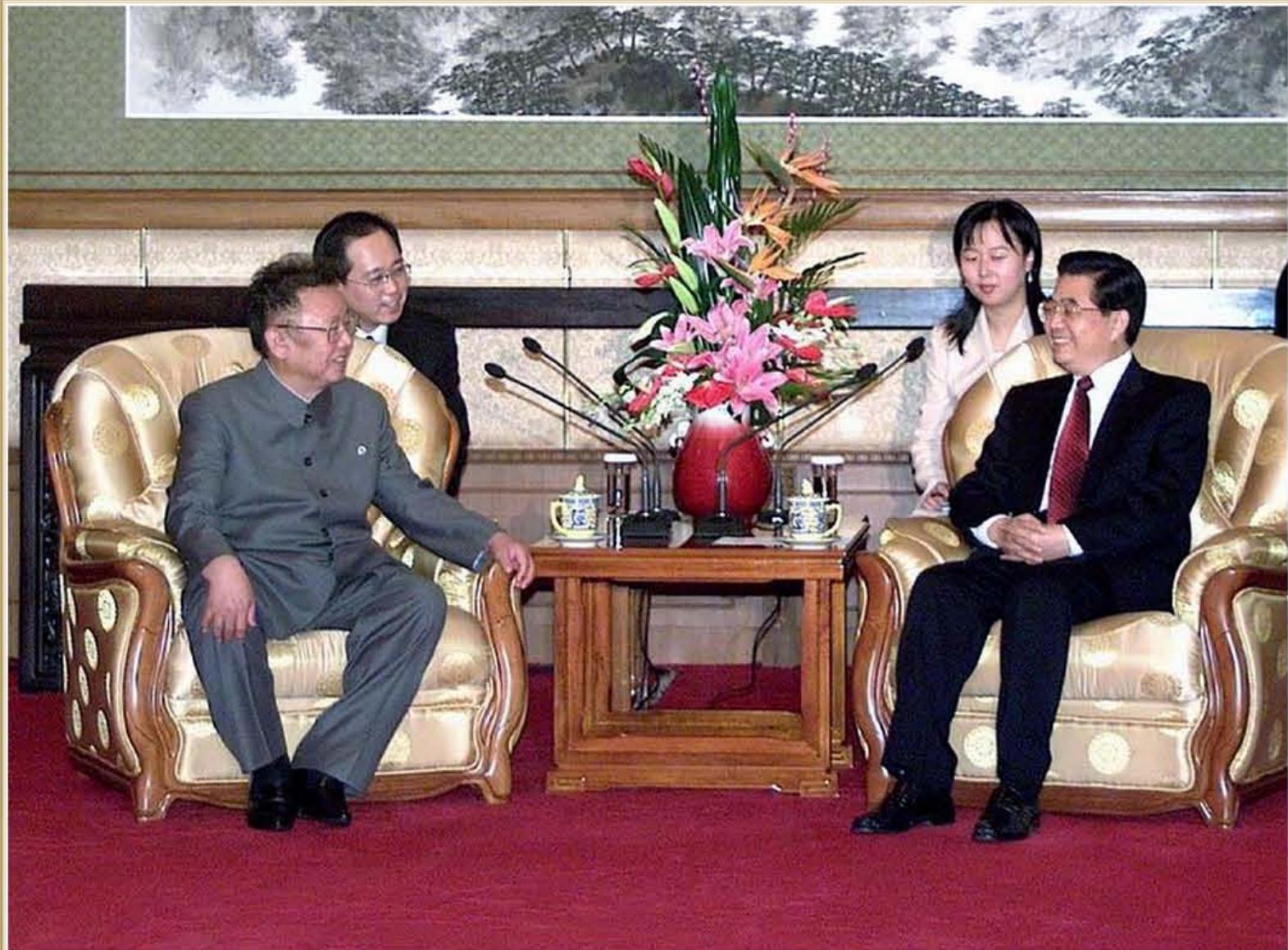
Kim Jong II having an amicable talk with Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China (June 1983)



Kim Jong II meeting Xi Zhongxun, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (June 1983)



Kim Jong Il meeting Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (May 2000)



Kim Jong Il meeting Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (January 2006)

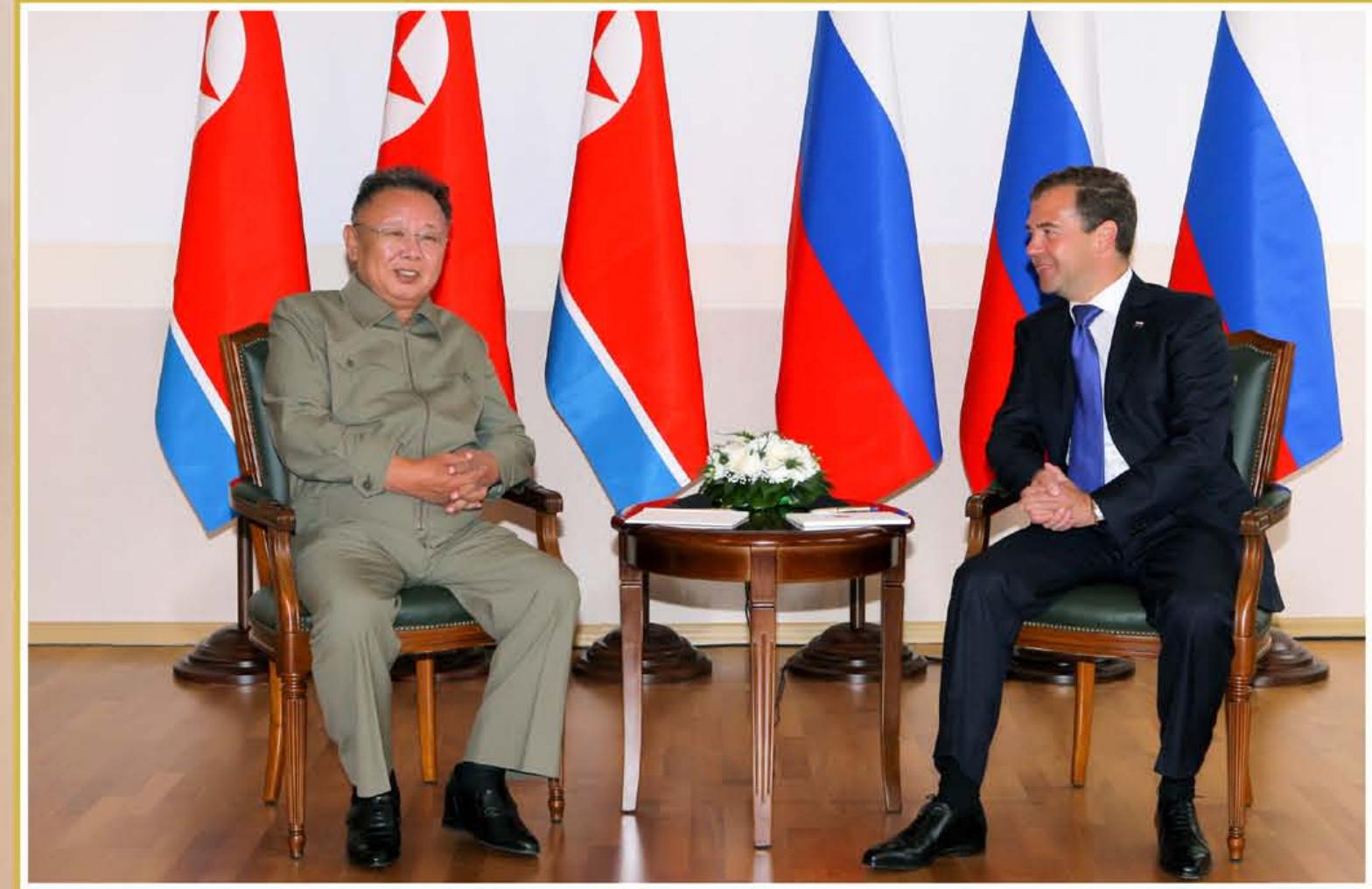




Kim Jong Il greeting V. V. Putin, president of the Russian Federation, visiting the DPRK (July 2000)



Kim Jong Il meeting V. V. Putin, president of the Russian Federation (August 2001)



Kim Jong Il meeting D. A. Medvedev, president of the Russian Federation (August 2011)





Kim Jong Il meeting Tran Duc Luong, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (May 2002)



Kim Jong Il receiving gift from Nong Duc Manh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (October 2007)



Kim Jong Il greeting Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba (March 1986)



Kim Jong Il meeting Megawati Sukarnoputri, president of the Republic of Indonesia (March 2002)



Kim Jong Il meeting Madeleine K. Albright, secretary of state of the United States of America (October 2000)



Kim Jong Il meeting a high-level delegation from the European Union (May 2001)



Kim Jong Il receiving the highest order of Cambodia
from Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia (July 2004)



Kim Jong Il receiving the highest order of Laos from Kaysone Phomvihane,
premier of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (April 1992)



Some of orders awarded to Kim Jong Il by foreign countries



Some of medals and honorary titles awarded to Kim Jong Il by foreign countries



Ever-victorious Korean People's Army, 75 Years On

Seventy-five years have passed since the founding of the Korean People's Army, Juche-type revolutionary regular armed forces, which carries forward the tradition of the anti-Japanese struggle. February 8, 1948 is recorded as an auspicious national event which realized the long-cherished desire of the Korean people and also a historic event noteworthy in the Juche-oriented army building.

Founding Revolutionary Regular Army

February 8, 1948

The Korean People's Army, revolutionary regular armed forces, was founded

The heroic Korean People's Army, which reliably defends the sovereignty of the DPRK and vigorously propels the building of a thriving socialist country, greets the 75th anniversary of its founding.

President Kim Il Sung advanced the three major tasks for founding a party and state and building the army immediately after the liberation of Korea (August 15, 1945). To this end, he ensured that political and military officers were trained, various armed units were organized and solid foundations for a self-reliant defence industry capable of producing military hardware were laid.

As a result, the Korean People's Army was founded on February 8, 1948, a little over two years after the country's liberation.

Thunderous cheers that resounded in the venue of the military parade marking the founding of the KPA were just an outburst of the Korean people's boundless gratitude to President Kim Il Sung who realized their long-cherished wish to have their own army, and also an expression of their determination to defend the country with honour by firmly grasping arms.

The 75 years of the KPA represent a glorious history, during which it has adorned its golden age of continuous development, holding up great leaders as their supreme commanders and displaying ardent love for the country and people.



Kim Il Sung reviewing the parade of the Korean People's Army (February 1948)





Kim Il Sung making a radio address, *Go All Out for Victory in the War* (June 1950)

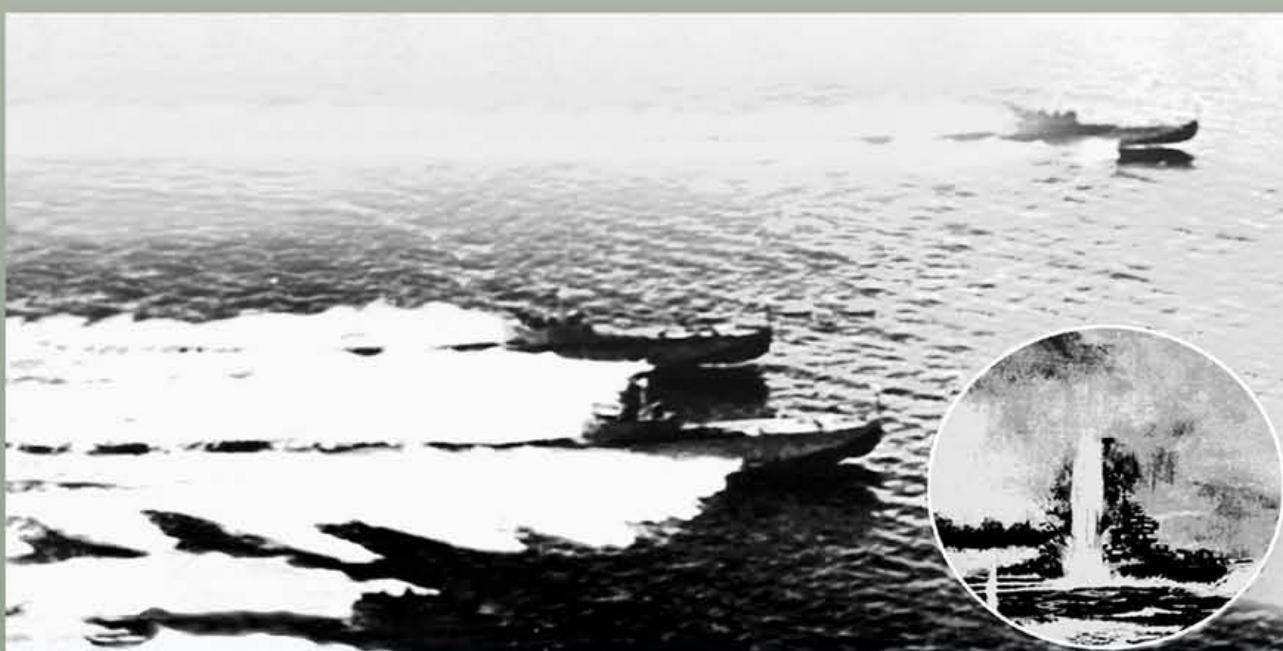
In hearty response to the radio address delivered by Kim Il Sung, the KPA launched a decisive counteroffensive and liberated Seoul, the enemy's stronghold, three days after the war began, thus making brilliant military achievements unprecedented in the world war history.



Kim Il Sung visiting a tunnelling site (October 1951)

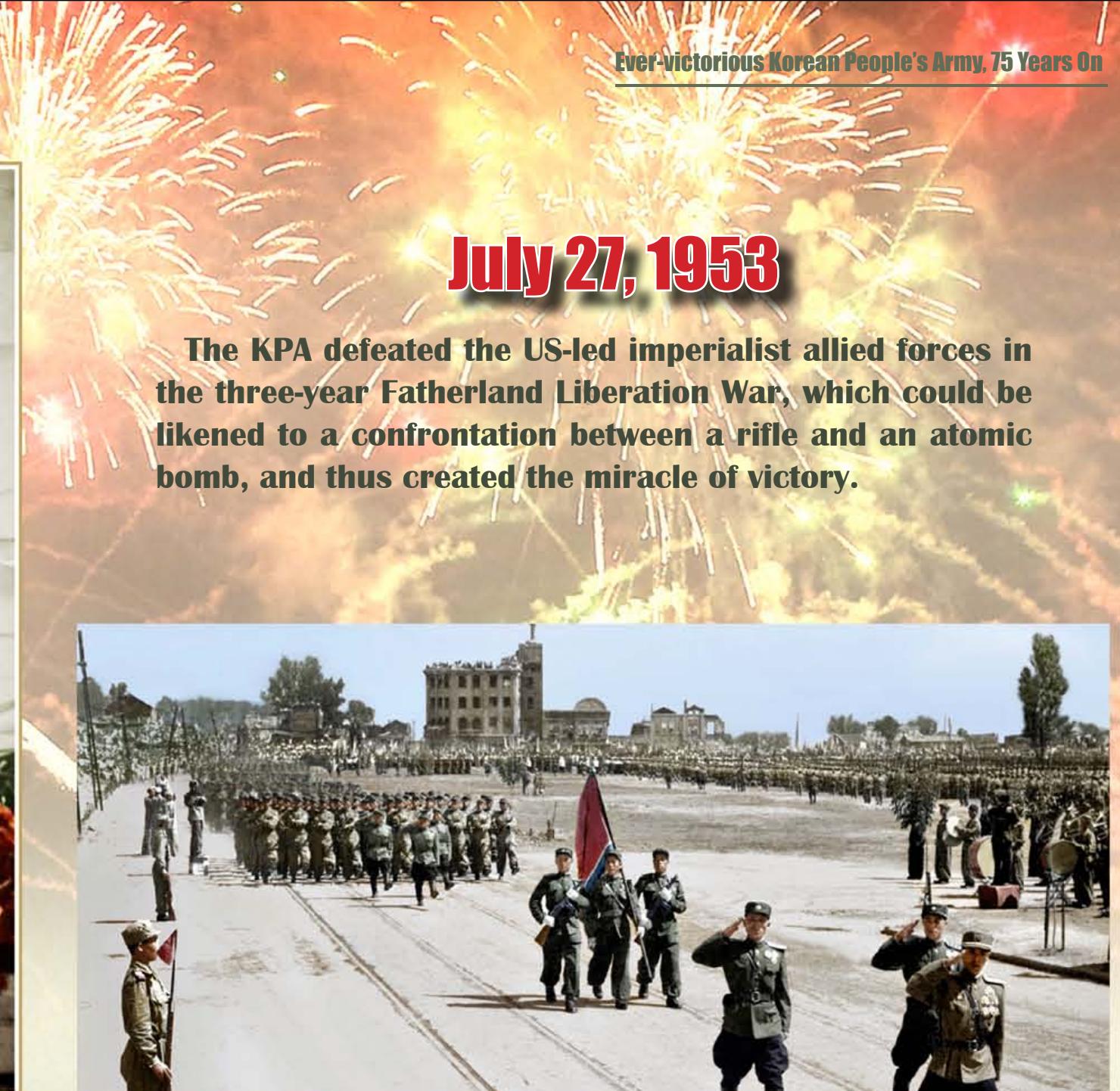


Kim Il Sung meeting Heroes of the DPRK and model combatants (June 1951)





Kim Il Sung acknowledging the cheers of the KPA service personnel (August 1953)



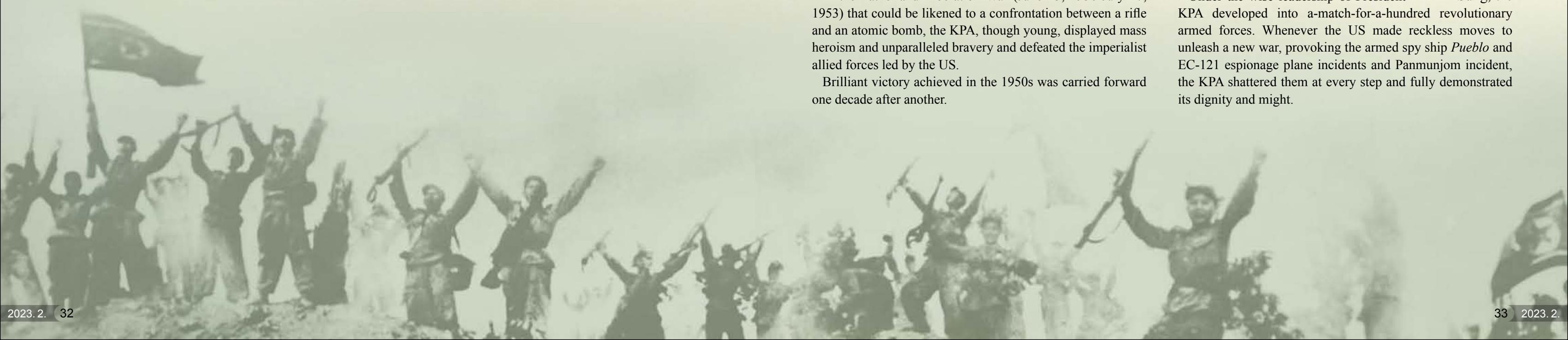
July 27, 1953

The KPA defeated the US-led imperialist allied forces in the three-year Fatherland Liberation War, which could be likened to a confrontation between a rifle and an atomic bomb, and thus created the miracle of victory.

In the Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) that could be likened to a confrontation between a rifle and an atomic bomb, the KPA, though young, displayed mass heroism and unparalleled bravery and defeated the imperialist allied forces led by the US.

Brilliant victory achieved in the 1950s was carried forward one decade after another.

Under the wise leadership of President Kim Il Sung, the KPA developed into a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces. Whenever the US made reckless moves to unleash a new war, provoking the armed spy ship *Pueblo* and EC-121 espionage plane incidents and Panmunjom incident, the KPA shattered them at every step and fully demonstrated its dignity and might.



Kim Il Sung inspected an army post on Mt Taedok in February 1963 and put forward a revolutionary slogan of “a-match-for-a-hundred”.



Kim Il Sung inspecting a frontline post (February 1963)



The KPA smashed the US attempts to provoke another war, such as the incidents of the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* and large espionage plane EC-121.



Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il inspecting a KPA unit (May 1965)



Kim Il Sung inspecting the military equipment of a KPA soldier (May 1965)



Kim Il Sung among KPA service personnel (February 1966)



Kim Il Sung meeting tankmen (April 1983)



Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il seeing military hardware (April 1986)



Ushering in New Phase in Building Up Revolutionary Armed Forces

Chairman Kim Jong Il further strengthened the KPA with his outstanding army-building ideas and leadership.

Already in the first days of his leadership over the revolutionary armed forces in 1960, the Chairman led the KPA to uphold the slogan "Let us defend with our very lives the Party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il Sung!" And he put forward the programme of modelling the entire army on Kimilsungism so as to thoroughly establish the Party's unified command system in it and thus make it perform with credit its mission of firmly defending the cause of the WPK by force of arms.



Kim Jong Il at the Dwarf-pine Company of the KPA on the morning of New Year's day (January 1995)



Kim Jong Il guiding a political study of the KPA service personnel (July 2000)

Thanks to the administration of his Songun politics, socialist Korea advanced dynamically toward a broad avenue for building a thriving country, overcoming harshest trials and difficulties of the Arduous March and forced march in the 1990s.

Cherishing an unshakable faith that the dignity and peace of the country and people and the victory of socialism hinge on the arms, the Chairman set out on the road of military inspection and taught service personnel military strategies and tactics capable of defeating any formidable enemy.

As he lavished parental care and affection on the KPA soldiers, visiting them wherever they were, the harmonious whole of the supreme commander and soldiers was further consolidated and the KPA strengthened into an invincible army closely rallied based on the revolutionary comradeship.



Kim Jong Il looking over combat equipment (April 2000)





Kim Jong Il at a KPA air force unit (December 2008)



Kim Jong Il at a frontline commanding post (April 1997)



Kim Jong Il presenting an automatic rifle at a KPA naval unit (June 1997)



Kim Jong Il meeting soldiers at Panmunjom (November 1996)



Kim Jong Il congratulating soldiers on their success in drills (January 1998)





Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un inspecting a KPA unit (November 2011)

Strengthening into Invincible, Elite Revolutionary Armed Forces



Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK

The KPA is now greeting its heyday of development under the leadership of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

He set the modelling of the entire army on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism as the general task in the army building in the beginning of the new century of the Juche era, thus providing important guidelines for consistently developing the KPA.

He put forward ever-victorious strategy and tactics and the line of developing the KPA into an elite and strong army, raised the hot wind of such mass movements as the Guards Units Movement and the movement to become crack shots, gave strong impetus to establishing military discipline, and personally organized and guided actual war-like drills and training competitions unprecedented in the history of army building.

Thanks to his energetic leadership, a revolutionary turnaround has been effected in perfecting combat preparedness of the KPA and its fighting strength enhanced remarkably. And it is demonstrating its political and ideological superiority, moral soundness and invincible might with the strongest military muscle in the world.

Inexhaustible might of the revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK is the source of the stable life enjoyed by the Korean people in a peaceful environment, in spite of the dark clouds of war constantly hovering over them for decades.

As the KPA is making a dash along the course indicated by the Party Central Committee, peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region are reliably safeguarded and the cause of building a powerful socialist country is making a steady advance in the DPRK.

Under the leadership of the WPK, the KPA will add eternal glory to its sacred history and tradition and always emerge victorious.



Kim Jong Un visiting a KPA unit defending an island and stressing the need to intensify education through the leadership exploits of the Party associated with the unit (April 2012)



Kim Jong Un guiding the Fifth Conference of Training Officers of the KPA (April 2015)





Kim Jong Un inspecting the KPA units at the southwestern front (February 2012)



Kim Jong Un among KPA soldiers defending the Ung Island who have become crack shots (July 2014)





Kim Jong Un guiding the inspection flight drill of combat pilots
of the Air and Anti-Aircraft Force of the KPA (October 2014)



Kim Jong Un inspecting the KPA Tankmen's Competition-2016 (March 2016)



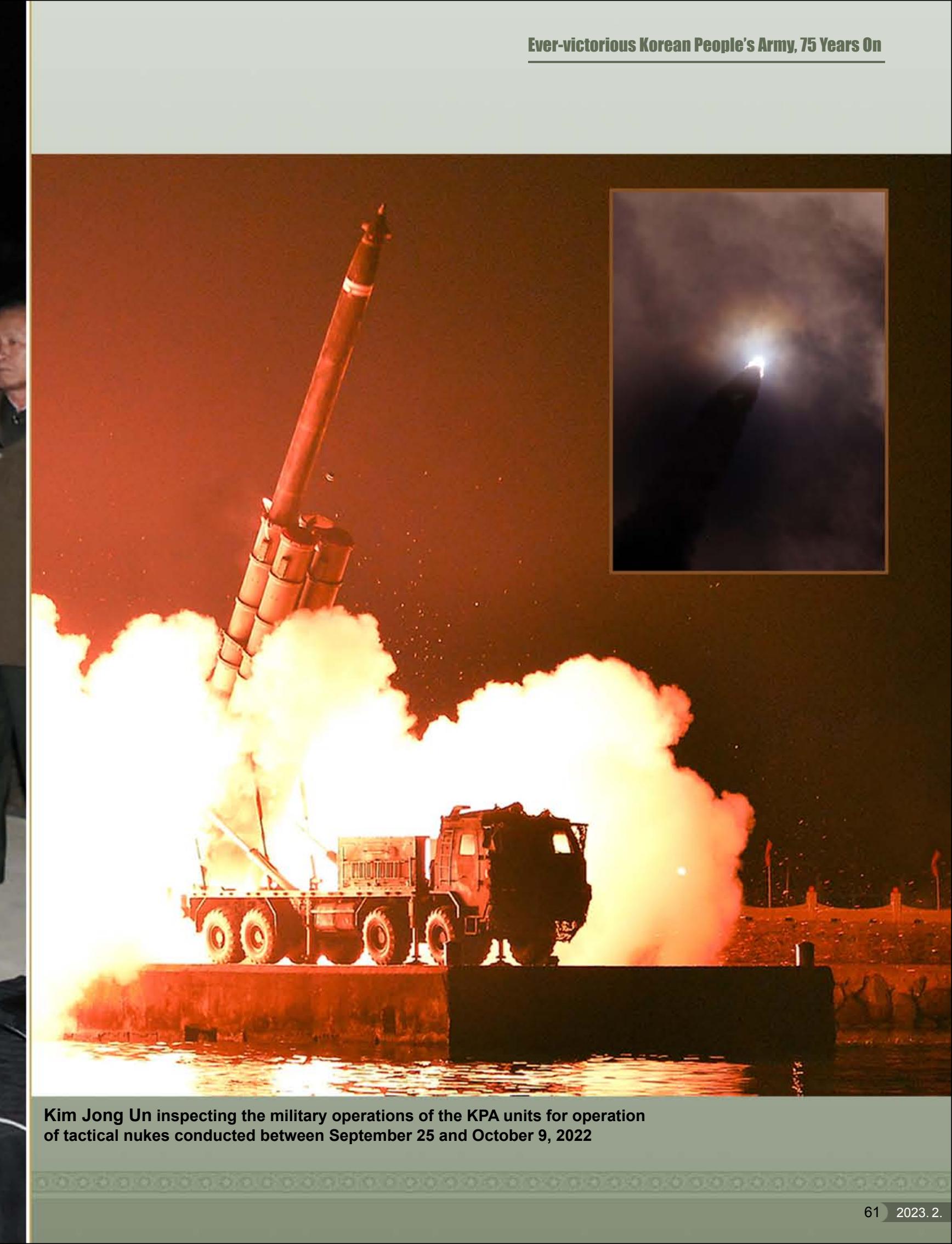


Kim Jong Un guiding the striking contest of KPA commando units (August 2017)



Kim Jong Un inspecting on board the manoeuvres of the KPA navy (June 2014)





Kim Jong Un inspecting the military operations of the KPA units for operation of tactical nukes conducted between September 25 and October 9, 2022





Kim Jong Un guiding a test fire of new-type ICBM of DPRK's strategic forces (November 2022)



Kim Jong Un on the platform of the military parade in celebration of the 90th anniversary
of the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (April 2022)







Eighth Session of 14th Supreme People's Assembly of DPRK Held



The Eighth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea took place at the Mansudae Assembly Hall between January 17 and 18.

Present at the session were the deputies to the SPA and as observers officials of the Central Committee of the WPK, the Standing Committee of the SPA, the Cabinet, armed forces organs, ministries and national agencies, chairpersons of city

and county people's committees and officials concerned.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, first vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and chairman of the SPA Standing Committee, made an opening address.

When the session was declared open, the national anthem of

the DPRK was played.

The session decided the agenda items of the Eighth Session of the 14th SPA of the DPRK.

Unanimously adopted at the session were the decision of the SPA "On approving the report on the work of the DPRK Cabinet and the fulfilment of the state budget for Juche 111 (2022)", and ordinance of the SPA "On the state budget of the

DPRK for Juche 112 (2023)".

The session adopted the ordinance of the SPA "On the adoption of the Law of the DPRK on the Protection of Cultured Pyongyang Dialect" and a decision of the SPA "On approving the report of the DPRK Central Public Prosecutors Office's work".

The organizational matter was discussed in the session.



Namhung Seething with Fertilizer Production

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex has launched a dynamic campaign of collective innovation from the outset of the year, with an enthusiasm to adorn this year, the third year of implementing the five-year plan, with proud labour successes.

The management of the complex have set high targets according to stages and processes for achieving the sustainable development and are making scrupulous arrangements so as

to raise the soaring spirit of the working masses who have turned out in the struggle to carry out the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The complex is pushing forward the production based on science and technology and in the spirit of self-reliance.

The moulding and gas generating workshops have upgraded the operation manuals of machines to improve the



quality of coal rods and increase the gas production. Workers and technicians at the urea and ammonia workshops have markedly reduced the period of overhaul by introducing effective technical innovation plans. At the same time, they are improving the level of technical knowledge and skills and strictly observing the standard operating manuals to ensure the operation of equipment at full capacity.

Amid a strong wind of socialist emulation sweeping the workshops and shifts, the forwarding workshop is closely coordinating the processes to speed up the packing and forwarding of fertilizers.

Technicians are also pooling their creative wisdom and efforts to solve problems arising in lowering the norms of material consumption per unit and raising the actual yields.

In high spirits to fulfil the production plan of this year, the workers of the complex are increasing fertilizer production.

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok

Text: Pak Pyong Hun

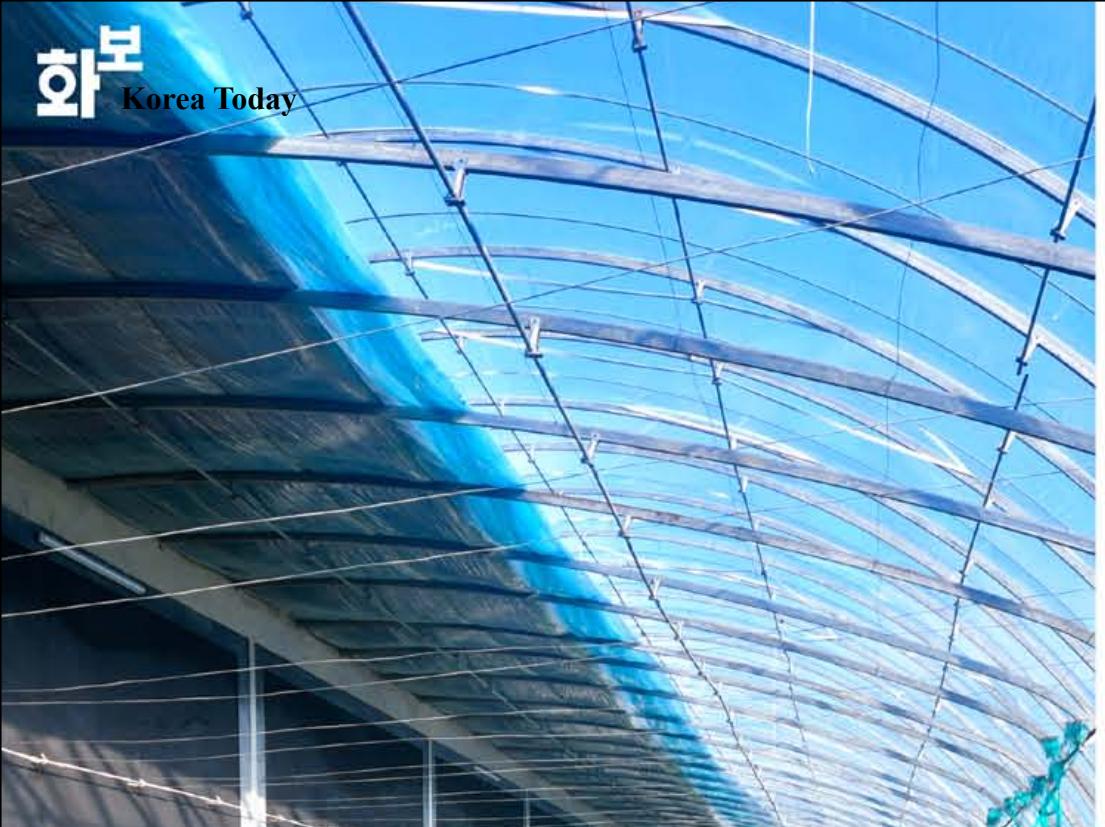




MODERN, INTENSIVE AND INDUSTRIALIZED Vegetable Farming

-Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm-





The Ryonpho Greenhouse Farm that has been built as the world's largest and modern base for producing vegetables has reaped a rich harvest of greenhouse vegetables.

The farm was erected thanks to the grand plan and energetic guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who was always considerate of the supply of vegetables to the people in Hamhung, a major industrial and science city of the DPRK, and South Hamgyong Province.

The farm, occupying 280 hectares, has 850 blocks of greenhouses that grow a variety of vegetables.

The farm village, which has 113 blocks of dwelling houses for over 1 000 households with one or two storeys and in 99 types, also looks like a holiday resort. Those houses are given to the farmers free of charge by the state.

The farm officials and workers are now burning their hearts with surging enthusiasm to uphold the noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea, which attaches top and

absolute priority to the improvement of people's wellbeing, with increased production.

*Photo: Ri Myong Guk, U Jong Guk
Text: Pak Ui Chol*

In the semi-arched and double-sheet hydroponic greenhouses various species of fruit-bearing and green vegetables are cultivated, and tens of blocks of greenhouses are installed with the geothermal heating system for cultivating vegetable seedlings.

Every greenhouse is introduced with such advanced technologies as hydroponic cultivation and nutrient solution analysis and amply furnished with modern equipment.

The farm is the largest in the world in terms of production area and capacity, and has also put the vegetable production on a scientific, intensive and industrial footing at a high level.







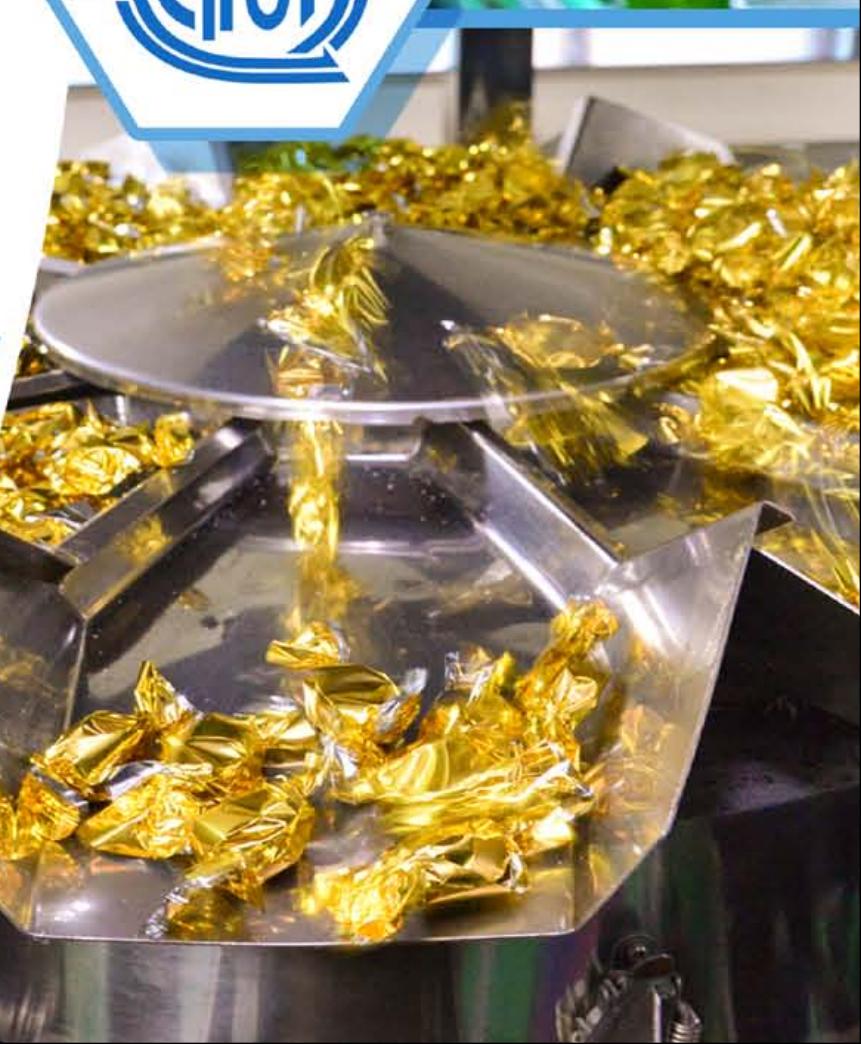
Tae-ha-brand Foods Win Favour

The Unha Taesong Foodstuff Factory, inaugurated in June 2014, is situated in Unha-dong, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

Its officials and workers are striving to carry out the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state that pay close attention to improving the people's living standards.

Tae-ha meaning a large river in Korean is the trademark of the factory, and it reflects the unanimous mind of all the staff to provide people with high-quality food products in large amounts.

To this end, the factory directs consistent efforts to putting the production on a normal footing by ensuring full operation of all the production lines.





The development of new products is the factory-wide focus, involving not only officials, technicians and skilled workers, but even novices.

When it started its operation, it had produced only several kinds of food products, but it has expanded its food varieties to more than 600.

In recent years alone, it developed scores of varieties of functional foods conducive to the health promotion of the people by processing wild fruits and marine products.

Many of its products are highly appreciated as the best products at home, and the Taeha-brand foods appeal to customers at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, Kwangbok Area Supermarket, and other commercial outlets in Pyongyang and other parts of the country.

*Photo: Choe Won Chol
Text: Pak Pyong Hun*



Some of products





WHERE TALENTS ARE GROWING UP

-At the 1 000-ri Journey for Learning Schoolchildren's Palace-

The 1 000-ri Journey for Learning Schoolchildren's Palace, located on the bank of the picturesque Jangja River in Kanggye of Jagang Province, is closely associated with the ennobling view on the rising generations cherished by the great leaders.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il took benevolent measures to build the palace for the schoolchildren in the province and sent lots of educational facilities and musical instruments.

The respected Comrade

Kim Jong Un, who visited the palace in May 2019, acquainted himself with its reconstruction and operation and ensured that it developed into a modern and comprehensive hub for extracurricular education.

Accordingly, the palace that was





refurbished and provided with ample conditions and environment, including 20-odd group rooms and a gymnasium, for schoolchildren's after-school activities on a high level was inaugurated in October last year.

Now many schoolchildren in the city of Kanggye come to the palace after school.

They engage in various group activities to attain their hopes and develop their talents under the guidance of qualified instructors, who devote their all to bring them up into dependable masters of the future.

So the palace always resounds with clear and merry singing and laughter of children.

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok

Text: Pak Pyong Hun



Schoolchildren are developing their talents at 20-odd group rooms after school.



Mirim Aviation Club

Merry laughter of the Korean people, who are leading a happy life, is resounding not only on the ground but also high in sky.

The Mirim Aviation Club built in the outskirts of Pyongyang under the warm care of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un is now very crowded with people who want to enjoy the thrill of “tour” in the air.

Among them are seen brides and bridegrooms on their wedding days, children with their parents and even the elderly.

When they are on board, full of excitement, the plane taxies along the runaway and makes an excellent takeoff.

Passengers are raising cheers without letup, fascinated by the fantastic bird's eye view of Pyongyang from above—streets full of vigour, picturesque sceneries of the Taedong River, Moran Hill and Mt Taesong, and so on.

Even after landing, they keep telling their impressions of the panoramic view seen from the sky as well as safe travel.

The club also serves those who want to pilot a plane. The applicants, who learn the flight manuals with the training planes



The club renders service to those who want to pilot a plane



Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok
Text: Pak Ui Chol



Songhwa Street in Evening



As dusk falls on Songhwa Street, a spectacular nocturnal view unfolds there.

The street is the first creation emerged in the eastern part of Pyongyang last year, according to the grand plan and energetic guidance of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un for building 10 000 modern flats in Pyongyang every year during the five-year plan for national economic development.

Bright lights from the windows of the new flats harmonize with gorgeous illuminations of the street, presenting a magnificent view.

Seen on the street are those hurrying back home after work to join their beloved family members, some families promenading on the street and enjoying its picturesque panorama, and young people strolling in pairs.

Shops, restaurants and other service facilities on the street are also full of people with pleased looks.

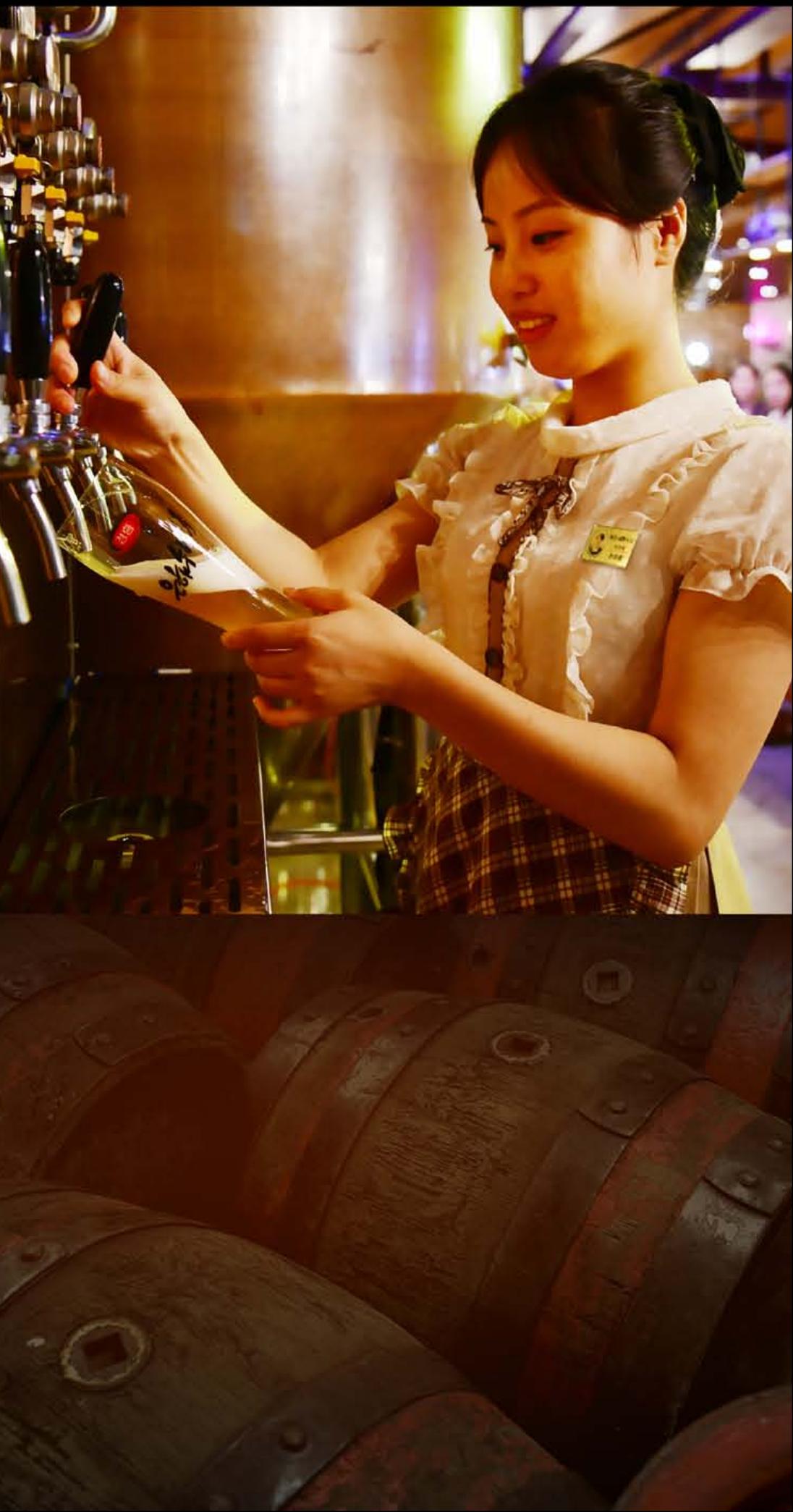
The dwellers are renewing their determination to repay the benevolence bestowed on them by the socialist system, which continuously enforces people-oriented policies even in difficult times.

Photo: Hwang Jong Hyok
Text: Ri Jin Bom





Unhasu beer is made from high-quality barley malt, hop and yeast with the introduction of modern brewing and fermenting equipment and sterilizing technology, so that its flavour and hygienic safety is ensured at the highest level.





Life-long Devotion of Woman Scientist

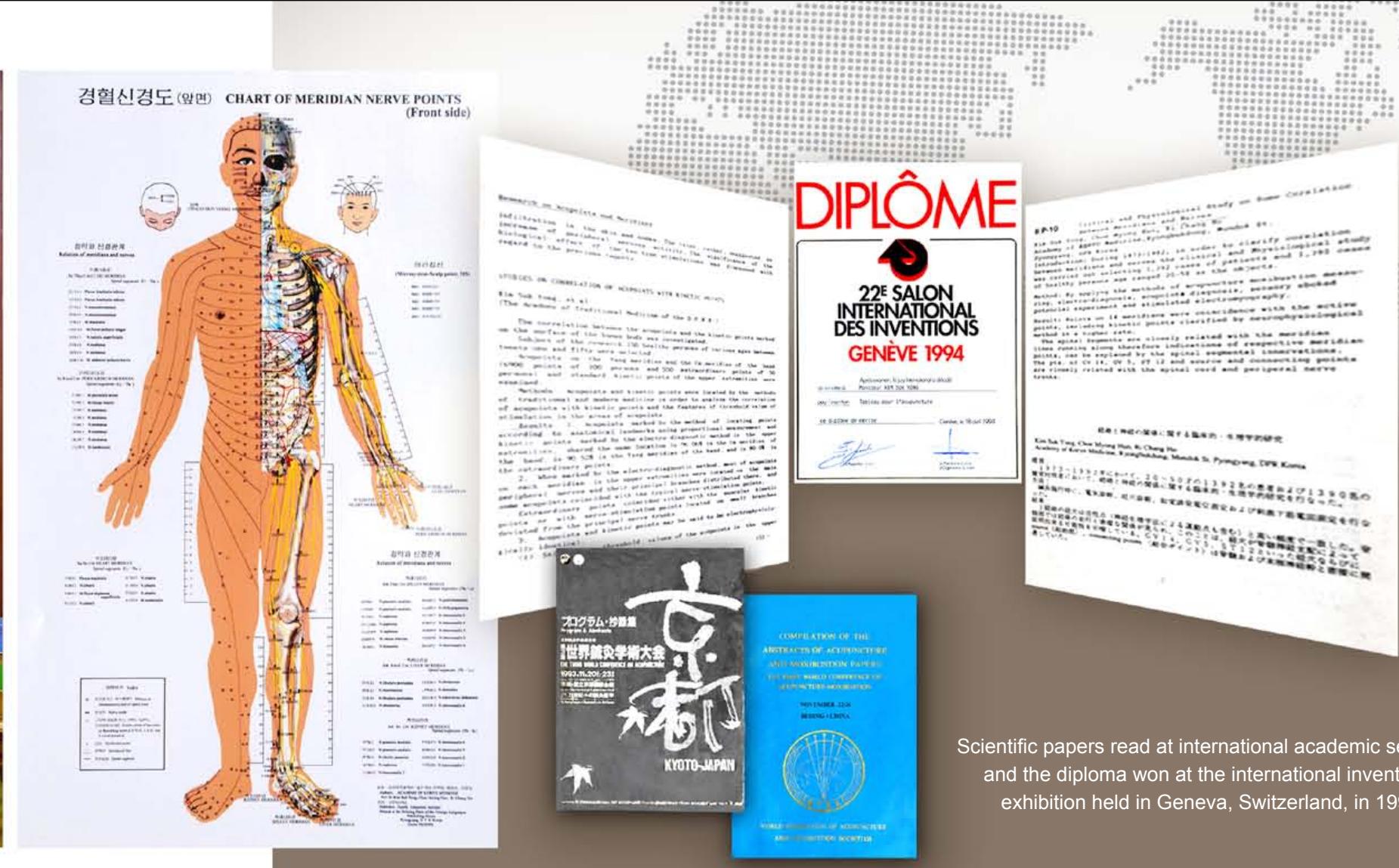
There are many medical workers in the DPRK who devote their intelligence and wisdom to the health promotion of the people. Among them is the research team studying acupuncture at the Koryo Medicine General Hospital, and Kim Suk Yong, People's Scientist, Merited Doctor, Associate Academician, Professor and Doctor, is a member of the team.

Kim, who graduated from the Chongjin University of Medicine in the mid-1960s, gained considerable experience in neuroscience and won acclaim for her profound knowledge and treatment successes already in her early 30s.

Some 50 years ago she believed that the science of acupuncture would play an important role in life science and buckled down to the study of correlation between meridian points in the traditional medicine and nerves in the modern medicine.

After her painstaking efforts for more than 20 years she composed the chart of the meridian nerve points and published it in 1992.

The chart was presented to the 22nd exhibition of international inventions held in Geneva, Switzerland, two years later and created a great sensation.



Scientific papers read at international academic sessions and the diploma won at the international inventions exhibition held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1994



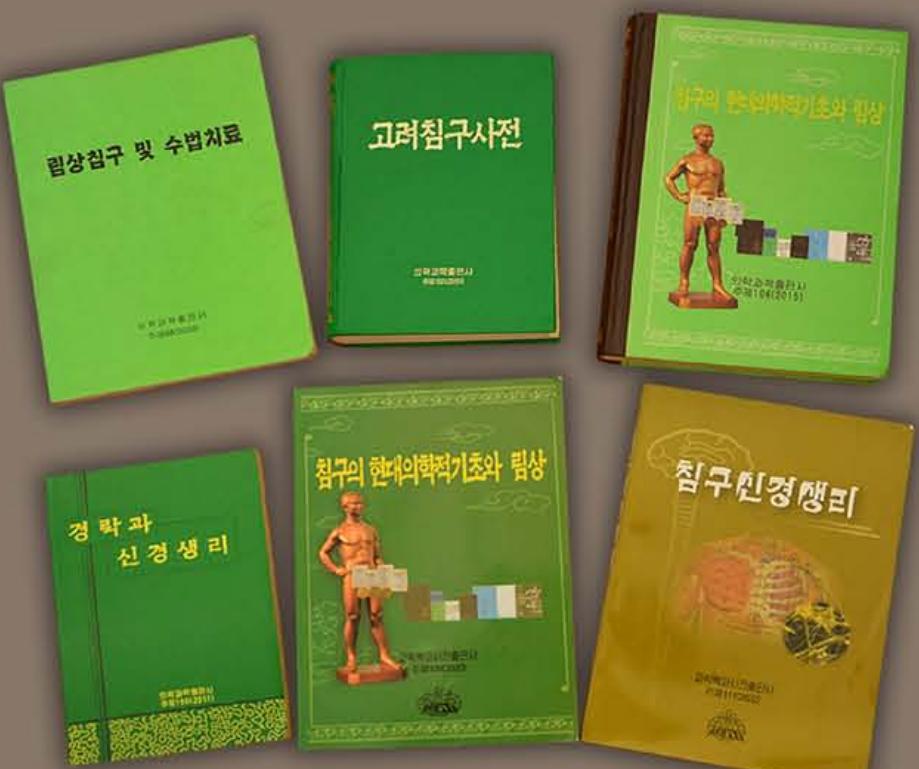


Afterwards, Kim and her research team continued their study and clinical practice to ascertain their research findings and improve the chart.

The chart of meridian nerve points is in wide use in the fields of medical education and treatment at present, and is also disseminated to scores of foreign countries.

It has been reprinted several times.

Kim has authored several reference books and produced tens of academic title-holders.



Some of medical reference books written by Kim



Recollecting the days of research into
meridian nerve points



Kim continues her effort to expand her research findings
through clinical practice

The 80-year-old Kim says, "Be infinitely modest in front of science." This is her lifelong motto, and, cherishing it, she dedicates her life to scientific research without resting on her laurels.

Last year Kim was awarded the title of Associate Academician for her contribution to the development of Koryo medicine and the training of reserves.

Photo: Ra Phyong Ryol
Text: Choe Kwang Ho

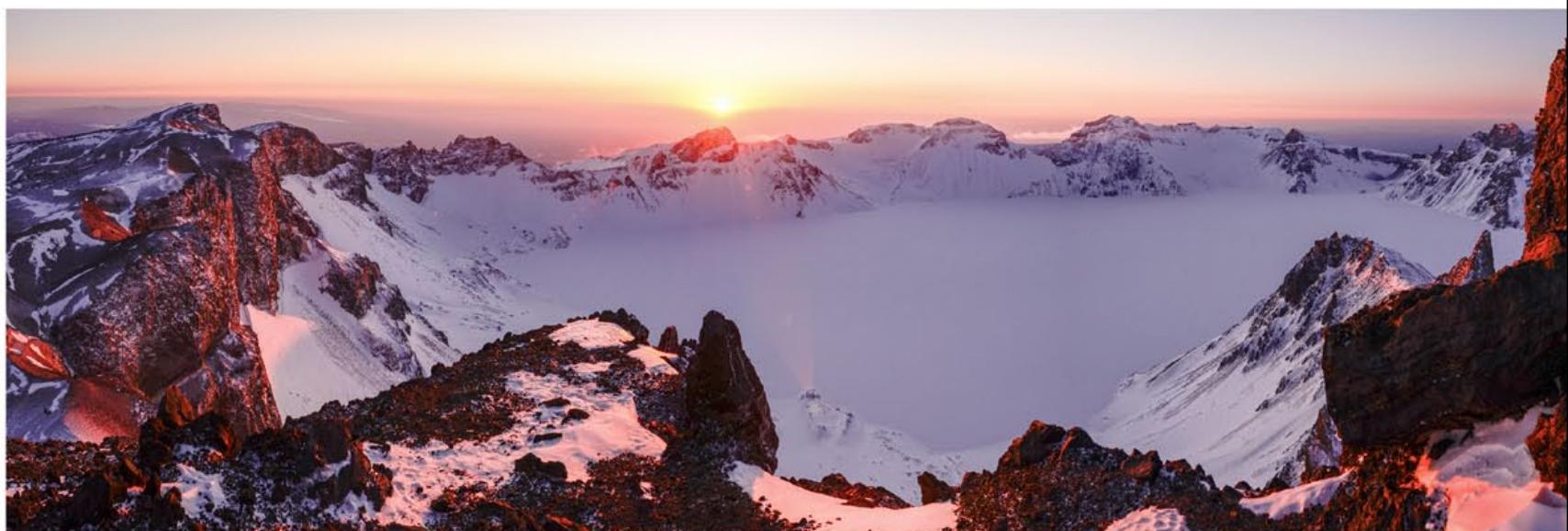


PICTURESQUE SCENERY OF **Mt Paektu**

Mt Paektu, embodying the soul of the Korean nation, ranks first in the six celebrated mountains of Korea.

It offers magnificent scenery with the chains of peaks, including the Janggun Peak (2 750m above sea level), encircling Lake Chon.

Photo: Pyon Chan U







Viewing on the summit of Mt Paektu the sun rising above the sea of dense forests is the greatest delight.

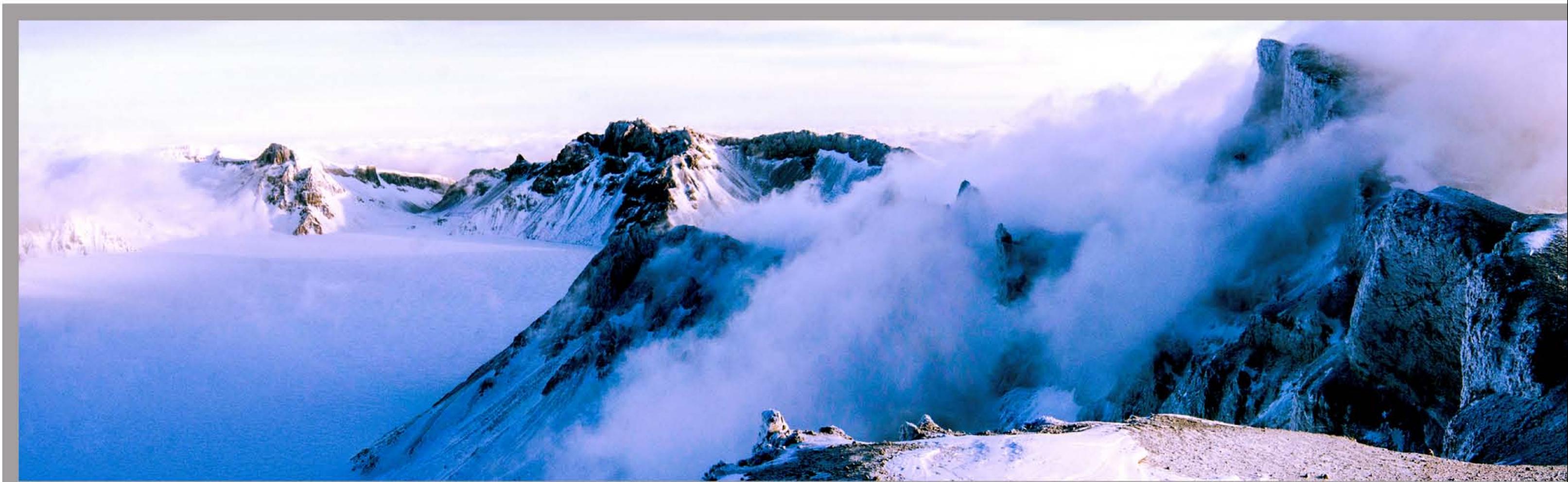


Photo: Choe Chol Min

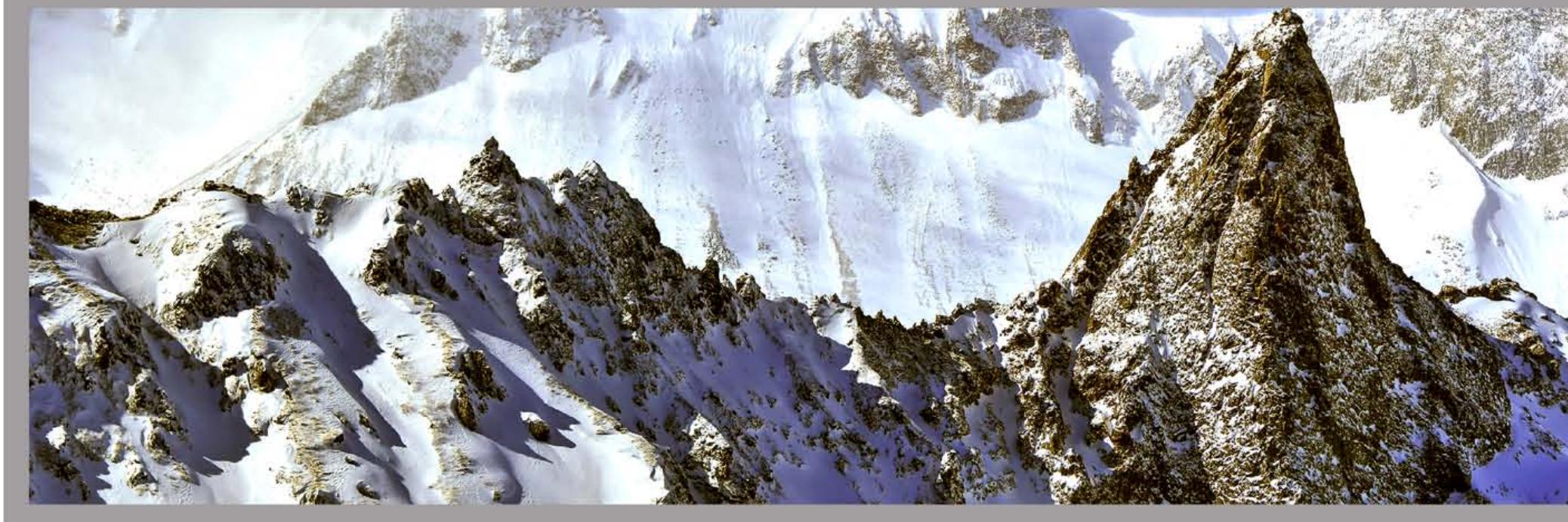


Photo: Kim Song Chol



Photo: Hong Chol Guk



Photo: Pyon Chan U



Photo: Pyon Chan U

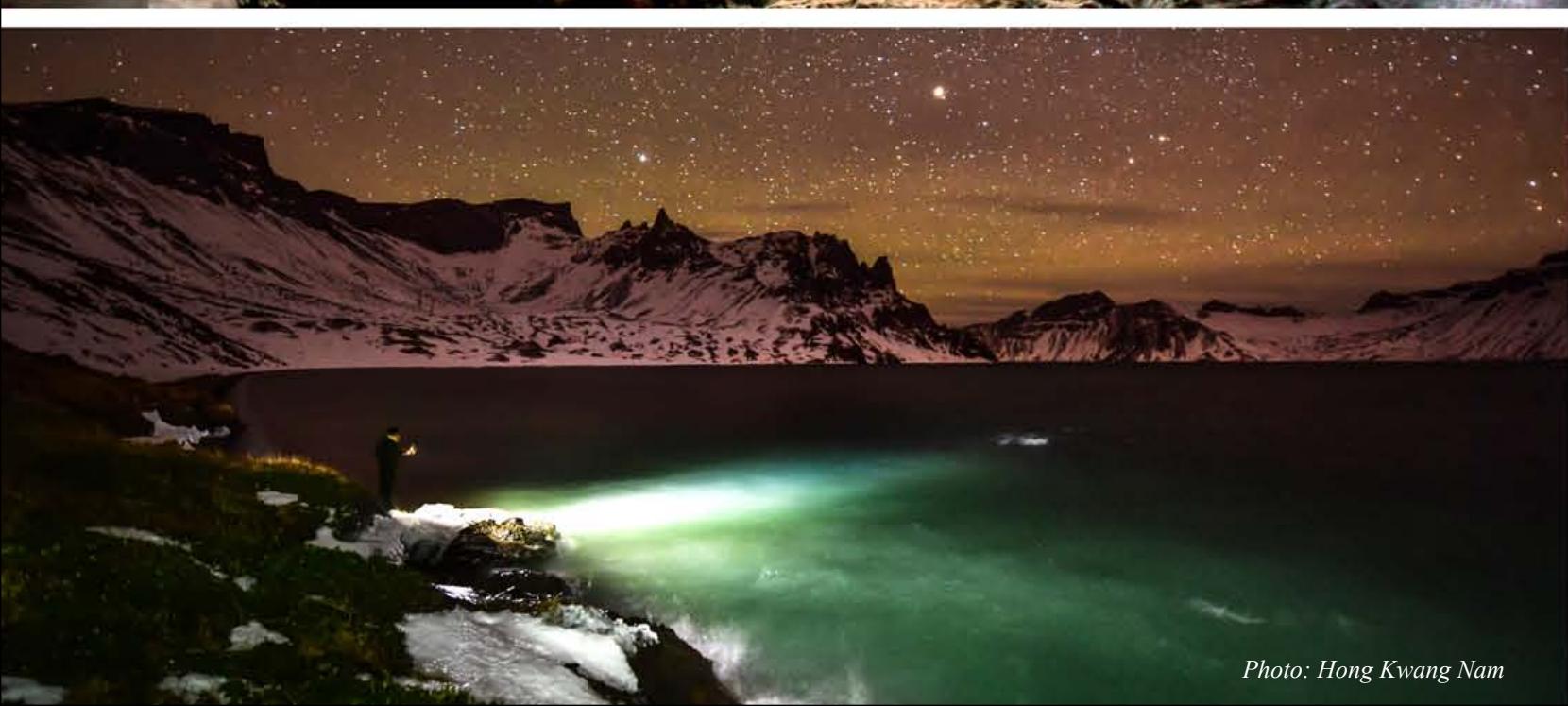


Photo: Hong Kwang Nam

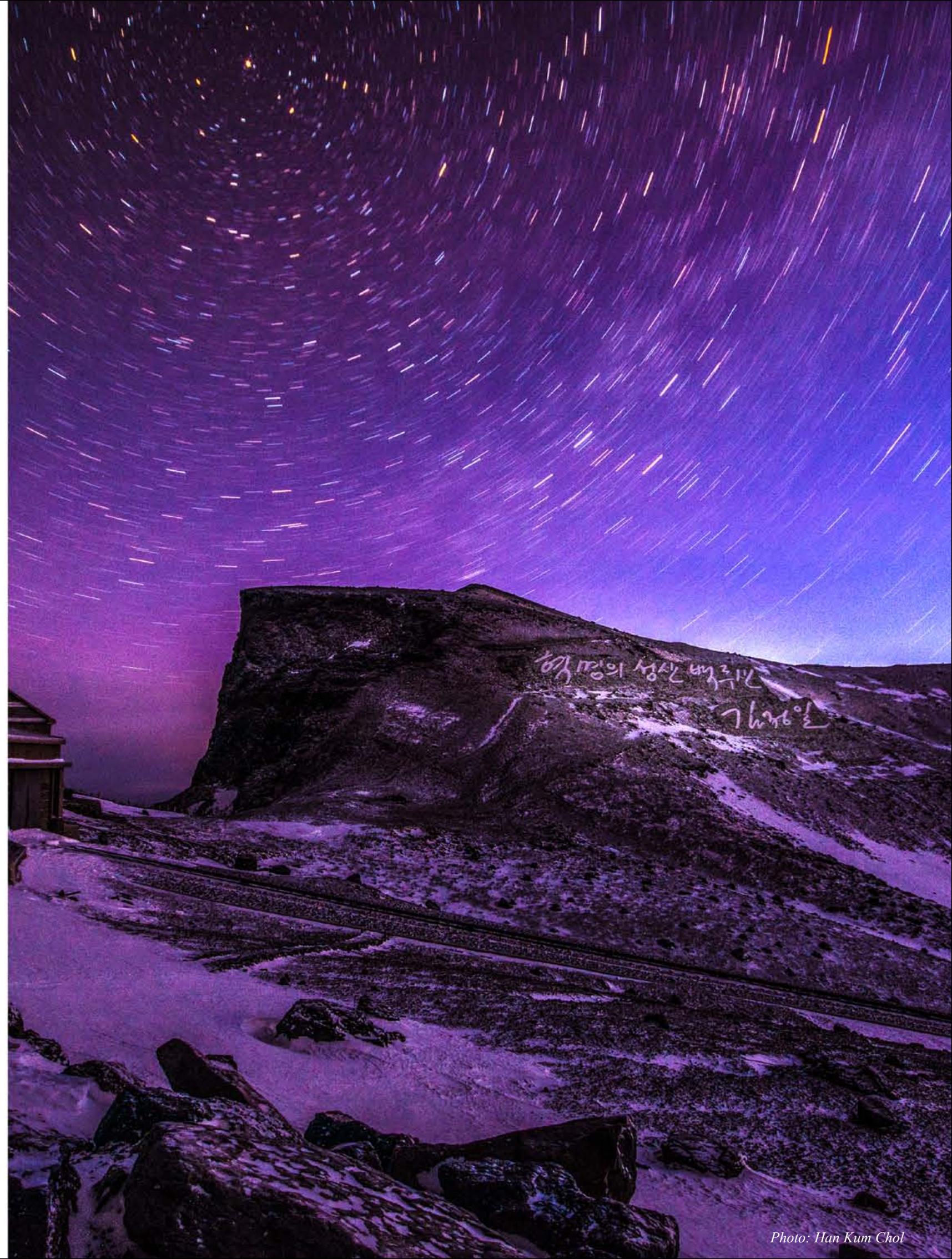


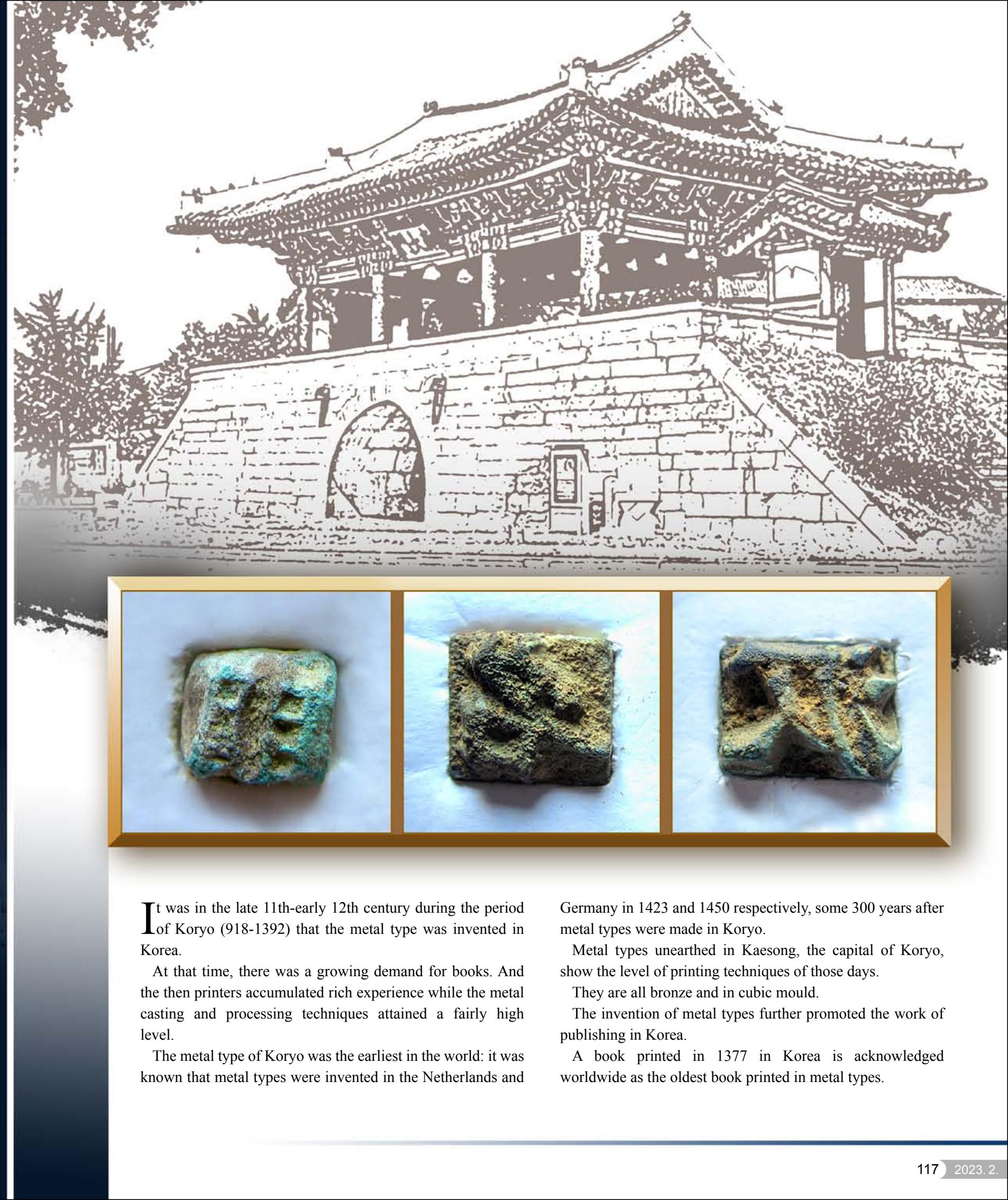
Photo: Han Kum Chol

World's First METAL TYPE



Invented in the late 11th-early 12th century

There was a growing demand for books along with the rapid development of culture in the 10th-11th century. To satisfy the demand, the printing technicians of Koryo (918-1392) invented the metal type by pooling their creative wisdom and effort and based on extensive experience and foundations of printing with wooden blocks and types.



It was in the late 11th-early 12th century during the period of Koryo (918-1392) that the metal type was invented in Korea.

At that time, there was a growing demand for books. And the then printers accumulated rich experience while the metal casting and processing techniques attained a fairly high level.

The metal type of Koryo was the earliest in the world: it was known that metal types were invented in the Netherlands and

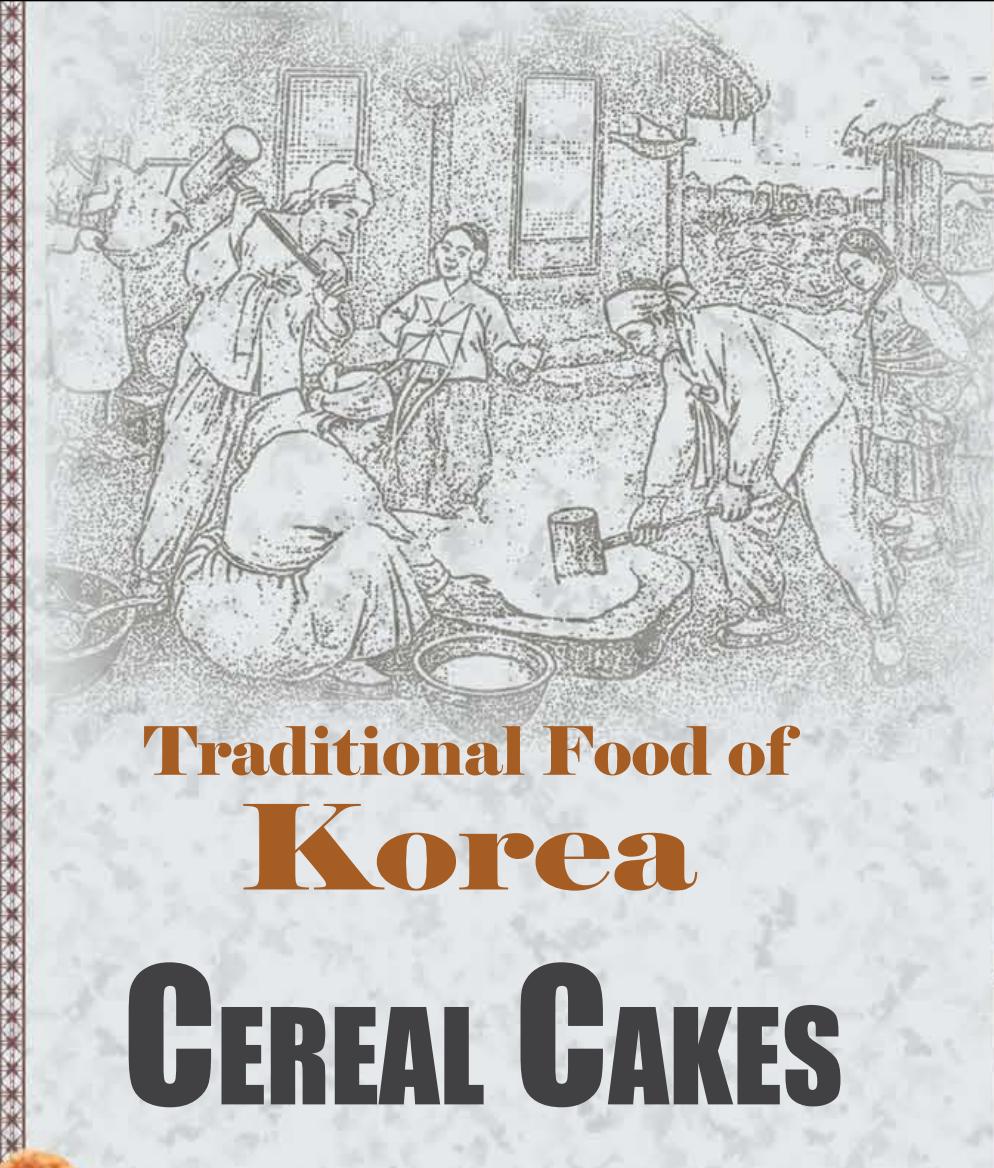
Germany in 1423 and 1450 respectively, some 300 years after metal types were made in Koryo.

Metal types unearthed in Kaesong, the capital of Koryo, show the level of printing techniques of those days.

They are all bronze and in cubic mould.

The invention of metal types further promoted the work of publishing in Korea.

A book printed in 1377 in Korea is acknowledged worldwide as the oldest book printed in metal types.



Traditional Food of Korea

CEREAL CAKES



Koreans have eaten boiled cereals as the staple food and prepared cereal cakes on holidays, birthdays and wedding days.

Remains from the Bronze Age in Korea include earthenware steamers of various shapes, which shows that the making of cereal cakes has a long history in Korea.

Cereal cakes are made in the way of pounding the boiled cereals or steaming powdered cereals. They are very diverse in variety.

Typical cake made of cereals is the glutinous rice cake made by pounding steamed glutinous rice or its flour.

In preparing glutinous rice cake, a moderate amount of steamed material was usually pounded in a mortar, but when a large amount of glutinous rice cake was needed, men pounded the materials on a flat board or stone by wielding mallets.

Pounded glutinous rice cake is dressed with powders of roasted soybean, adzuki bean, sesame, jujube, chestnut, pine nut or the like.

Koreans were very fond of glutinous rice cake and regarded it as a must on the wedding table wishing the bride and bridegroom would enjoy harmonious and happy life throughout their life like the sticky glutinous rice cake.

Other cakes made of powdered cereals are also diverse in kinds, tastes and preparing methods. Typical are *songphyon* (cereal cake steamed on a layer of pine needles), *swiumttok* (fermented cereal cake) and *solgittok* (steamed cereal cake).

From antiquity Koreans entertained their guests by serving cereal cakes, and shared them with neighbours.

The Korean people's old custom of making cereal cakes at home is still prevalent, although various kinds of cereal cakes are produced at factories.

*Photo: Pang Un Sim
Text: Kang Su Jong*

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