



KOREA TODAY

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Happy New Year

DE A R R E A D E R S ,
Greeting in the new year 2014 the *Korea Today* editorial board extend congratulations to all our readers and those who have rendered sincere help to our magazine's activities.

Last year we in the *Korea Today* staff have done all we could to give a wide-ranging and deep-going introduction of all the fields of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to promote friendship and unity among the countries and nations who aspire to independence and peace. By covering the seventh convention of the Korean Children's Union held on the 67th anniversary of the union, the military parade and Pyongyang mass rally that took place in honour of the 60th anniversary of the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards parade and Pyongyang Mass Demonstration in celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK, and other major political events, we gave a description of the ideological and spiritual traits of the Korean people. Our journal also carried articles about the nation's science and technology in rapid progress, ever-increasing production and the fast pace of projects for modernization of production processes which are the result of the Korean workers' creative efforts for the building of an economic giant in a short span of

time. Noteworthy of our coverage is the introduction of the dynamic nationwide campaign to emulate the Masikryong Speed—created by the soldier builders of the Masikryong Ski Resort—which brought about the completion of the projects of the Unha Kwahakja Street, the Lecturers' Apartments of Kim Il Sung University, Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital and Munsu Water Park on an admirably high level in a short span of time. Efforts were also made to give information on the nation's high enthusiasm for sporting activities, Korean wins at international competitions, achievements in education and public health sectors and the national history and culture.

This year we will continue to work hard to let you readers have a better and concrete idea of the Korean people's firm will to go ahead along the road of independence, the road of Songun and the road of socialism in an indomitable spirit. The realities of the DPRK will also be introduced on time in which new miracles and innovations are expected. The Korean people's struggle for independent and peaceful reunification of their country and global independence will be an important part of our coverage. The *Korea Today* editorial board will make every effort to help you have a good understanding. □

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Front Cover: The Chollima Steel Complex is increasing production.

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Hyonmu Gate in winter.

Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol

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Korean Future Viewed From the Perspective of the Year 2013

LAST YEAR THE US AND OTHER SINISTER forces intensified their aggressive and oppressive moves against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as never before. Despite the obstructive attempts, the Korean people achieved unprecedented successes in their socialist construction. Over the days they harboured deeper confidence in Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK, and got firmer conviction of the bright future of their country.

Through a daring offensive

The anti-DPRK stifling campaign of the US and its vassal nations that had begun with the DPRK's launch of a satellite for a peaceful purpose in December 2012 got further frantic with the beginning of the year 2013. Labeling the satellite launch as a "launch of a long-range missile" and a "savage violation of the UN resolution," the hostile forces instigated the UN Security Council to make up another preposterous resolution on sanctions against the DPRK in January 2013 while conducting in south

Korea a number of joint military rehearsals against the DPRK in succession, including those code-named *Key Resolve* and *Foal Eagle*. These drills involved notorious means of nuclear warfare such as B-52 strategic bombers. The Korean peninsula fell into a touch-and-go situation where a nuclear war might break at any moment.

Coping with the situation Kim Jong Un called a number of meetings and conferences like the enlarged meeting of the WPK Central Military Commission, the March 2013 plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee, and the fourth conference of the Korean People's Army company commanders and political instructors, and indicated tasks and ways to implement them in order to strengthen the army and safeguard the nation's security and sovereignty. Meanwhile, he inspected KPA units and prepared the service personnel for practical warfare by teaching them how to work out operational and tactical plans and supervising their drills. It was his adamant determination to handle the hostile forces' hard-line policy with a harder-line policy and answer their aggression war with a great war of national

An evening gala of youths and students *For My Only Motherland* in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.



► reunification. As part of his resolute actions, he inspected the Jangjaedo Defence Unit and the Hero Mudo Defence Unit—which are located in the hottest area—in March last year when he ordered them to deal an immediate and annihilating blow to the enemy if they fired even a single shell to the land or water area in which the DPRK's sovereignty is exercised. Thanks to his energetic Songun-based leadership the DPRK's defence capabilities were augmented considerably and the Korean people could hasten the socialist construction successfully last year despite the touch-and-go situation.

By building on the people's exertions

Amazing upsurges erupted last year in all fields and at all units of the national economy, boosting the production as a whole in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War and the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK. In particular, a dynamic drive to create the Masikryong Speed swept the whole country, bringing about wonderful things nationwide. The Chollima Steel Complex successfully introduced the high-temperature air combustion technology based on the gas from anthracite which is abundant in the country, and thus it is now able to produce far more rolled steel than before. The Ryongsong Machine Complex successfully carried out an application test of large-capacity geothermal facilities it had developed and

thus created a material and technical guarantee for the harnessing of geothermal water. The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex erected a plant in a short span of time which can produce 60 million square metres of functional three-fold PVC film for greenhouse covering on a yearly basis. The Pyongyang Condiment Factory appeared as a good model of unmanned plant fed with domestic materials. A vitamin C plant went up newly.

Kim Jong Un's energetic guidance was the source of the courage with which the entire nation wrought miracles and made innovations despite the ever-worsening danger of war. In order to arouse the Korean people to the effort to make upsurge in production Kim Jong Un uninterruptedly visited factories and enterprises around the country in different fields of the national economy, including the Ryongsong Machine Complex, the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, the Kosan Fruit Farm, the Ryongyon Offshore Fish Farm and the Pyongyang Condiment Factory. Last year was the one of his field guidance; the units he visited in May and June alone number over 60, even when counted according to official announcements. Looking round factories and enterprises, he gave detailed advices to technicians and managers concerning modernization of production processes and looked after the workers' living conditions in a profound manner, helping them spread their wing of great innovations. He initiated the campaign of creating the Masikryong Speed which





Supreme national leader Kim Jong Un attends the Worker-Peasant Red Guards parade and Pyongyang Mass Demonstration held in celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK in September 2013.

► spread across the country quickly. One day in May last year he, visiting the Masikryong Ski Resort under construction, saw ski runs of more than 100 000 metres long in total that had been laid by soldier builders with an indomitable spirit in less than one year since the beginning of the construction. The next month he issued an appeal to all the working people around the country to make great innovations and upsurges on all fronts of socialist construction by learning after the soldier builders. With this as momentum the drive to emulate the Masikryong Speed spread nationwide exerting an immeasurable vitality. The year 2013 was the one of clear manifestation of Kim Jong Un's method of leading the masses.

Highest tempo and best quality

The DPRK that is aspiring after the building of a civilized socialist country erected a good many edifices last year which could be symbolic of the efflorescence of the socialist civilization in the 21st century. All those monumental structures are associated with Kim Jong Un's careful guidance and energetic leadership. For instance, the Munsu Water Park, which went up in no more than nine months occupying an area of 109 000 square metres, was completed under his guidance given to all the stages of the construction ranging from designating the site and forming the building forces to ensuring the quality ►



The grinding workshop of Concentration Plant No. 3 of the Komdok Mining Complex.

- ▶ and tempo of the construction. Sometimes he visited the construction site in the depth of night, and sometimes in early morning, to give concrete instructions regarding details of the construction project. Plans of formation of the water park completed with his advices number as many as 113.

His idea is that things for the sake of the people should be done at the highest speed and on the highest level of quality, and his intention is to help the Korean people lead the most civilized cultural life in the world. His idea and intention developed into reality: the Ryugyong Dental Hospital, the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Mirim Riding Club, the Unha Kwahakja Street and the Kim Il Sung University Lecturers' Apartments were built—nicely enough to meet the world standard—in a short span of time while the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium was admirably refurbished.

The enthusiasm for sporting activity grew fiercer nationwide under Kim Jong Un's deep concern. He went to see the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships, the men's football finals of the Mangyongdae Prize Games and many other sports events, and made sure that a sportspersons' apartment was built on the highest level for the winners of important world games.

A heyday is being ushered in in all the cultural sectors including science, education, public health and the arts.

For the Korean people, the year 2013 was a significant one when they overcame rigorous ordeals courageously and successfully and gained the conviction that they would surely win the final victory.

An Song Duk





The refined oil packing process at the Pyongyang Condiment Factory.

The Munsu Water Park is inaugurated in October 2013.



The Spirit Is Alive

IN THE 1950S THE Chollima Steel Complex (formerly Kangson Steel Plant) wrought the miracle of turning out 120 000 tons of steel billets with a blooming mill whose estimated annual capacity was no more than 60 000 tons. Years ago they set up a UHP electric arc furnace, thus initiating a new revolutionary upsurge in Korea. Their miracle-working tradition still survives.

Kangsonites

Early last year the complex was given an additional task of producing steel billets for a certain project in 140 days. An emergency meeting of the management was held, and the technicians and workers discussed how to fulfil the task. The managers and workers alike resolved to produce the additional amount of steel ahead of the set time by solving the problem of lacking raw materials and other materials by themselves. Chief engineer Ji Jong Ho and other technicians and workers of the Steel Workshop, by pooling their wisdom and strength, cut the melting time of the UHP electric arc furnace by two hours. The time of feeding raw materials and replacing electrodes was also reduced and five consecutive charges of molten steel were put into the continuous ingot-moulding machine instead of the old convention of three charges.

The workers of the Main Raw-material Workshop and the Preparation Workshop, too, turned out as one to carry out the additional task. The technicians and workers of the Main Raw-material Workshop applied rational methods in selecting, loading and conveying of scrap iron despite the biting cold weather and increased the amount of raw material fed by 1.5 times. Those of the Preparation Workshop made a nice ladle even with broken

bricks. Thanks to such strenuous efforts the additional assignment was fulfilled 90 days ahead of the schedule while production results rocketed eight times higher as compared with the same period of the previous year.

Ri Chang Hyok, a worker of the Steel Workshop, says, "We'll continue to carry out any task. We know we are Kangsonites and we have a good tradition."

Effective anthracite gasification

In February last year the complex established an anthracite gasification process and a heating furnace which is equipped with the high-temperature air combustion technology by its own efforts. The process of anthracite gasification is based on a flow line—from feeding raw materials to crushing, moulding and drying—and is monitored and controlled by computer. The new heating furnace uses anthracite gas for fuel to heat materials to be rolled.

The workers and technicians of the Gas-generating Workshop tried hard to be skilled in handling the process as early as possible. Head of the workshop Jong Jong Ho made a scrupulous arrangement for the workers to improve their technical attain-

ment in order to increase production on the strength of their good understanding of the technological principle of the process. Competent technicians gave technical lessons to the workers through multimedia with the workshop or workteams as unit, and the technicians and workers pooled their creative wisdom on the shop floor. As a result, a rational method of production suited to the specific conditions of the workshop was introduced into production. Thus the amount of gas per ton of anthracite has increased and its quality improved considerably as compared with that in the initial time of the operation. And the equipment is in full operation.

The workers and technicians in charge of the aforesaid heating furnace do the technical maintenance of equipment under a scrupulous plan and send well-heated materials to the rolling process. Since its inauguration of the heating furnace they have been producing more rolled steel than they did using heavy oil. Proper heating leads to a higher production rate in rolling and to a better working environment.

Now the complex is increasing steel output thanks to the heating process which no longer relies on imported fuel.

Kim Yong Ok





Key to Growth in Production

THE PYONGYANG RYUWON Footwear Factory has attained a sustained growth in production for 25 years. When we asked General Manageress Kim Yun Sil about the key to its growth, she said, "When my factory went online it had a floor space of some 8 000 square metres and produced only injection-moulded sneakers. Now its total floor space amounts to 17 000 square metres and the variety of shoes, such as synthetic sports shoes, slippers and physical training shoes, and their output are continually on the increase. The secret of increase in variety and output lies in the fact that the managers and all other workers are making efforts to closely combine production with science and technology."

The contrivances made, initiatives taken, inventions produced and new techniques introduced by technicians and workers at this factory total well over a hundred items in number. Such contrivances and initiatives and inventions are aimed at making shoes suited to the people's tastes and at bringing about the qualitative improvement of their shoes. Ju In

Nam and other technicians of the department for technical progress and the workers of the shoemaking shop, pooling their wisdom and strength, manufactured an EVA complex sole indicator, thus making it possible to raise the quality of synthetic sports shoes. Besides, they made a printing plate by themselves, which prints patterns of five colours on the uppers of shoes, improving the appearance. In particular, the PVC trademark invented by technicians rendered it possible to afford a guarantee for the products and show better the decorative effect of footwear. Along with this materials for new silver-coloured ink were developed, which help shorten the time for putting together the sole and the outer rim while doing no harm to the outer rim.

The factory simultaneously pushed ahead with the technical research work for lowering the cost and increasing the volume of production. The crusher of worn-out shoes contrived and introduced by Choe Myong Il, a worker, is of great help in improving the quality of recycled articles. On top of that the newly

manufactured gum stirrer reduced the time of gum stirring by more than eight hours and increased the adhesive strength remarkably as compared with the old stirrer. The head of Sewing Workshop No. 3 Kwak Myong Ae and maintenance worker Pak Kwang Gon enabled the workers to economize on much time and labour in the outer rim furling process by making a hitting-style furling device based on the use of the sewing machine.

The factory now produces various kinds of footwear, including the EVA footwear and athletic shoes. Until recently, the factory had no experience in production of athletic shoes and was lacking in technical knowledge. Technicians and workers including Chief Engineer Kim Se Chal found out a rational method in the process of research into shoes and several experiments. They gave trial products to sportspeople and consulted their opinions. Some defects emerged, which were made up. Research works pertaining to various technical problems were pushed forward vigorously.

The products were highly commented upon in many goods shows including the national consumer goods show held in April last year. Later in August the certificate of first-class article was awarded to 9 kinds of athletic shoes and to 20 kinds of synthetic sports shoes and ink materials of silver colour for footwear production took second place at the meeting for public presentation of scientific and technical achievements registered in the footwear industry sector. Without resting on their laurels, the technicians and workers are making unabated efforts to raise the quality of products and increase their output.

Footwear with the trademark of Ryuwon enjoys considerable popularity with the public.

Kim Yong Sun

Efforts are made to develop new kinds of products and improve quality.



Great Opportunity for Cooperation

THE NINTH ROUND OF the Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair took place in Pyongyang in September last. It was a significant

occasion in promoting friendship and unity, energizing multifarious and wide-ranging economic and trade transactions, introducing different kinds of goods

and hastening scientific and technological exchange among different countries around the world. So it left a deep impression on the participants.

I Hope for Still Broader Exchange and Cooperation

Though ended, the fair gave me a deep impression. The Korean people have shown great interest in the fair and have been friendly and good neighbourly in every aspect. During the fair, we met representatives of the DPRK's KCC and many companies from various countries of the world. Our speciality being IT development, our company has reached agreement with them on matters of mutual benefit. Taking advantage of such opportunities in future, our business intends to strengthen the ties with IT companies of Korea and many other countries and achieve co-prosperity with them. As Turkey is far away from Korea, it is hard to participate in the two fine fairs held annually, but we'll come once a year by all means. I hope for still



broader and beneficial exchange and cooperation.

*Cafer Gercek,
software engineer
of the Mert Bilgi
Islem Ltd.*



It Was a Gratifying Economic Get-together

At the fair this time, we put on display goods made by the application of bioengineering techniques, including microbial agrochemicals, medicines for cancer and natural nutritious pills. I was really delighted to see that our goods were in great demand and that people came to our show room with friendly feelings. Not only in the fair but also in every aspect of the changing city of Pyongyang, we saw that the Korean people are on the road of good economic development. Cuba and Korea are subjected alike to blockade and sanctions by the United States. Seeing the realities of Korea today, I have come to think a lot. Though far away from

Cuba, Korea remains always the nearest country to our hearts. Provided that we support and cooperate with each other and further expand exchanges in future, I don't think the day of our two countries' flourish and co-prosperity is very far off. This is our first participation in the fair, but we gained a great deal in many ways. So, I would rather say it was really a gratifying economic get-together. I hope many Korean companies will participate in our Havana trade fair and achieve successes. Long live Korea! Long live Cuba! Long live the friendship and unity between Cuba and Korea!



*Guana Navarete Mendosa,
head of the Cuban
Rabiofam Group*



All the People Under Arms

KOREA, OWING TO ITS geo-political situation and its abundant resources, has been the target of the imperialist powers' persistent invasion.

The thousands of years-long history of Korea records not a few cases of foreign invaders repulsed by all-out national resistance. The historical facts show how great the patriotic ardour of the Korean people was in defending their country, irrespective of age, sex and social status. But early in the 20th century, they fell under the military hooves of the Japanese imperialists because they did not have a great leader.

In the 1930s Kim Il Sung organized and waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle illuminating the truth of fighting against the armed enemy with arms, and called out the whole nation to all-out national resistance to defeat the Japanese imperialists who were armed to the teeth. In 1933 the Japanese imperialists turned the spearhead of their offensive to the Xiaowangqing guerrilla zone where the headquarters of the Korean revolution was located and hurled over 5 000 troops consisting of the rabble from the Kwantung Army, the puppet Manchukuo army, police force and self-defence corps upon the zone.

Against this, Xiaowangqing was defended only by two companies of the Anti-Japanese People's

Guerrilla Army.

Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century* (chapter 8, volume 3):

“We chose to fight to the last. According to the principles of guerrilla tactics, the best thing to do was to avoid a showdown. But if we did not fight, the enemy would swallow up the guerrilla zones on the Tuman River in a single gulp. If we did not defend these zones the revolutionary masses who had been enjoying genuine equality and freedom under the care of the people's revolutionary government would be frozen, starved and shot to death in the dead of winter. Furthermore, the people would no longer look up to us.”

According to his adroit tactics, all the people in the guerrilla zone including the old, women and children took up guns, swords or even clubs to counter the enemy. Women carried ammunition and foods up to the embattled hills under a rain of bullets and old men came up to the steep hilltops and showered rocks over the heads of enemy men. The hunters came up and fought with their matchlocks. Even the members of the Children's Corps shot the Japanese soldiers with their self-made pistols and sounded bugles causing confusions in the enemy lines. At last, the enemy's “punitive operation” was checked and the guerrilla zone was defended although they had de-

scended on it frantically by the sheer force of numbers and heavy equipment.

The spirit of resolutely defending the guerrilla zone displayed in the anti-Japanese war was carried on after national liberation in August 1945. The People's Self-defence Corps organized in counties, sub-counties, villages, factories, enterprises, organs and on the 38th parallel line smashed the enemy's subversive acts and sabotages in the country, safeguarding the gains of the revolution and the people's life and property. When the huge forces of US imperialism and its 15 satellites, Japan and south Korea attacked their young Republic, the Korean people hit back with strong army-people unity and all-people resistance. During the war the Kuwolsan people's guerrillas performed heroic feats mowing down the enemy troops that invaded their home towns and villages, the women of the Namgang village carried shell boxes on their heads up to the hills under showers of bullets and shells, and people in Kungang County took the lead in helping the soldiers on the battlefields. So the war produced many moving episodes of the courageous Korean people.

After the war the Korean people did not lay down their arms so as to protect their dear motherland and their happy life. So they organized the Worker-Peasant Red Guards in January ►

► 55 years ago. It was an armed group inheriting the fighting spirit of the preceding generations who had liberated and firmly defended their country with do-or-die all-people armed resistance. The Red Guards, holding a gun in one hand and a hammer, a sickle or a pen in the other, stoutly defended the two fronts of socialist construction and national defence. Setting out on the unique Songun politics, Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that not only the regular army but also the militia were further strengthened in the 1990s when the country had to cope with severe difficulties. Whenever war clouds approached this land, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards got ready

for instant action and increased production further, thwarting the imperialists' moves to stifle their country. Today it has developed into an invincible revolutionary force capable of crushing any aggression. The parade of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the mass demonstration of the Pyongyang citizens held in the presence of national leader

Kim Jong Un in celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September last year showed fully the Korean people's determination to rout the invasion of any enemy on the strength of all people under arms.

Ri Kum Chol

Scenes from the Worker-Peasant Red Guards parade and Pyongyang Mass Demonstration held in celebration of the 65th founding anniversary of the DPRK.



Kim Jong Il and CNC (2)

Ushering in the dawn

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL'S PLAN TO usher in the dawn of a thriving nation was being ripened along with the three letters of CNC. He decided that to put the nation's machine building industry on a new phase was a matter of critical importance in the building of a thriving nation. Inspecting large and small machine factories around the country he keenly felt the need to renovate the country's machine building industry in keeping with the demand of the new era. In the DPRK the machine industry was founded from scratch only after national liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military rule in August 1945. It rose up again in the ravages of the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) and years later successfully produced 10 000 machine tools. It went through technical renovation in part in the 1960s and 1970s, but the machines and equipment were far lagging behind the demand of the times. Understanding the situation Kim Jong Il told officials concerned that the nation could hardly make a step forward without rebuilding the machine industry and that the basic task in refashioning the industry was to introduce the CNC technology on a full scale. His idea was that Korea should be a thriving country, that building an economic giant was of great importance in the effort, that the CNC technology should be introduced across the country, and that only when the national economy was put on a CNC basis would the nation be able to produce more material wealth by less resources, less manpower and less energy. From 1998 he suggested special directions and tasks for the CNC project while inspecting different machine factories. The gist of his instruction was: Proper stages should be fixed if the CNC project is to be successful in the near future; it is important to properly fix the units to be equipped with the technology; it is necessary to properly fix the model unit of the introduction of the technology and expand the project by generalizing the experience; it is necessary to build up the staff of the unit that will assume the function of looking after the effort professionally and improve its role steadily.

The car running through the snowstorm

One day Kim Jong Il got on his car, shut the door silently and told his driver to start. The snowstorm was howling outside, and inside he was engrossed in deep thought. "What about the nation's treasury?" he asked himself—a heart-breaking question he repeated to himself. He had decided to spend what little was left in the national treasury for the CNC project of the nation.

Later he recalled, "At the moment I remembered what President Kim Il Sung had said when the country was engaged in the postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction. When factionalists were arguing the nation could not earn bread from machinery, the President confidently stated that they could earn bread, clothing and whatever they wanted from it. Remembering his words I decided to be adamant about my determination to allocate the valuable fund to the CNC project."

One July day in 2010, a dozen years after he took the decision of crucial importance, he told the story to some officials, saying, "In our country Jagang Province was the first to introduce the CNC technology. Chollima was born in Kangson, and the CNC project came from Jagang Province."

His journey to the province through the snowstorm was followed by a new event. On August 31, 1998, an artificial earth satellite *Kwangmyongsong 1* was launched. It went into orbit precisely carried by a multi-stage delivery rocket. All the parts of the rocket were impossible without CNC-equipped machines. High-performance multi-axis CNC machines instead of general-purpose standard ones were needed in their processing. Korea's CNC technology had close links with *Kwangmyongsong 1*. With the launch of the first man-made satellite the country's high technology made a big stride forward. The Korean-style CNC technology underpins the launch of the satellite which laid a new orbit of development for the nation with a 5 000-year-long history. Likewise, the socialist economy of Korea is steadily getting on the footing of the CNC technology. □

In the Scientists' Mind

ONE DAY IN EARLY October last when I was on a visit to a farm in a harvesting season, a worker said to me, "We've benefited a lot from the compound fertilizer this year. Look at these good rice grains." Studying sheaves of rice, I saw the grains fully ripened. Ears of rice were hanging heavily. Now I decided to meet researchers who had developed the fertilizer. But I couldn't meet them easily, for they were far away from the research centre for field studies.

Only recently could I meet them, who are working at the Central Experiment and Analysis Laboratory under the State Academy of Sciences. One of them is Professor and Doctor Pak Yong Hyop, a veteran researcher of the centre. The elderly man is a strong-willed person who sees it through once he decides to do something. He told me the following story.

The Central Experiment and Analysis Laboratory was established in December 1983. As an official analysis centre of the country, it is engaged in making physical and chemical analysis in the scientific research, education, public health and other sectors

and solving scientific and technical problems arising in inorganic and organic chemistry, analysis of minerals and other natural things and appraisal of environmental effects, and other fields of industry and agriculture. Recently it has been making basic studies of effects of Kumgang Medicinal Stone (salband) whose deposit is abundant in Korea, and its usage in developing fertilizers, animal fodders, health foods and light industrial goods.

The Kumgang Medicinal Stone research section (Pak Yong Hyop works with the section) succeeded in making drugs for human health from Kumgang Medicinal Stone. Several years ago the stone deposit was located in South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces. The local people's long life in good health on average attracted the attention of the researchers of the section. The researchers decided to disclose the secrets of the stone and got to the task. Investigation into the localities and studies of the stone found out that the stone-washed water contains a lot of microelements which are quite helpful to human health. Then a process was established to make relevant

medicinal water by an industrial method. At present the public demand for the Kumgang Medicinal Water is great all around the country including the capital city.

The researchers have successfully developed a kind of amino acid-microelement compound fertilizer—which is effective in farming—from Kumgang Medicinal Stone. Years ago they came across an idea of making a fertilizer from the microelements contained in the stone. Supported by the laboratory, they made studies, carried out experiments and applied their product in actual farming and finally succeeded in making a fertilizer which is quite effective in growing industrial crops as well as grains and vegetables. The new fertilizer was first applied in a cooperative farm in Anbyon County, Kangwon Province, which turned out very successful. Other farms had the same results. Farmers named the fertilizer Kumphung meaning the stone-based fertilizer brings about a rich harvest.

The researchers of the laboratory also developed a portable soil-analyzing appliance badly needed by farms. The apparatus helps you make analysis of soil at any place at any moment without any other appliances. The test application of the apparatus in Rihyon-ri, Sadong District, Pyongyang, Yonan County in South Hwanghae Province, Yonsan County in North Hwanghae Province and other places met with favourable comments from the farm workers.

The deputy director of the laboratory in charge of scientific affairs says, "My researchers have carried out a lot of successful projects. Most of them are directly related with the effort to improve the people's living standards. What's in our mind is that we should make studies of substantial profit to the people's living."

Ri Sun Nyro

Engrossed in a new research work.



From a Simple Clue

THE UIAM NATURAL MATERIALS Technical Exchange Centre managed to find sulphurous mud which was thought nonexistent in Korea and successfully extracted effective substances from the mud which are important materials in manufacturing different kinds of goods conducive to the people's health and the nation's economic development.

The centre staff was interested in the sulphurous mud a long time ago. One day at the end of the 1980s a grey-haired professor talked about sulphurous mud to the audience in an auditorium of the doctors' refresher course at the Pyongyang University of Medicine (today's Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University). Explaining how good an extremely small amount of sulphur is to the human body when it is applied, the veteran professor who had worked as a military surgeon during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) said sadly that Korea had no sulphurous mud resources alone although it had rich deposits of medicinal materials. Jong Hwi Mun, among the audience, found herself quite dubious of his statement. *Sulphurous mud is usually formed thanks to salt water, and how could it be that our country has no sulphurous mud when it is faced with sea on three sides? The old professor himself admits that he found everything in our country—whether it is water, grass, tree or earth—effective in medical terms.*

Some time later a survey team was organized again at her initiative. Its mission was based on the argument that Korea could hardly be devoid of sulphurous mud. The team found different kinds of mud used in medical treatment in different places, but the kind they were looking for would not come into their sight. The survey continued for nearly 20 years—

along the coast of the East Sea of Korea and the West Sea of Korea. Their painstaking search into bays and tideland finally located a deposit of sulphurous mud in a village in South Phyongan Province on the west coast. But there was still a long way to go until it would become a helpful material in the people's life. A practical examination was needed to verify the medical effect of the mud. Hwi Mun volunteered to do the task herself. First she carried out experiments using animals and plants to know the mud's physical, chemical and biological actions and other remedial merits before she launched into a practical test of medical application. The initial application—into the treatment of gynaecological diseases—turned out successful, and following wide-ranging treatments for bone fracture, scars and bruises, hepatic diseases and other surgical and internal problems brought a handsome profit, demonstrating undoubted medical effects of the mud. Years of their studies of the mud confirmed that it is a high-grade remedial mud that accords with the world standards.

Now the sulphurous mud made appearance as a substantial health material, but their research work did not finish. The public demand for the mud was increasing as its effect was widely known, but it could not approach the everyday life of the people closely for its disadvantage of being a dirty material. The researchers decided to develop different kinds of popular goods using the extract from the mud. Now all their efforts and enthusiasm were directed to the manufacture of mud goods. Thanks to their endeavour more than 60 kinds of goods have been developed including medicines, remedial appliances, drink and food additives, health foods, growth stimulants, fodder additives and functional cosmetics. These products of natural substances were highly praised at the recent 28th national sci-tech festival and are now favourably commented upon by the users.

Jong Hwi Mun, nicknamed "Mud Grandma" for her dozens of years' spearheading of the research project, says, "There are a lot of successes we've achieved, yet there is only one truth in them. If you're not burning with patriotism, you can hardly find a thing even if it is there in existence."

The mud researchers are redoubling their efforts to develop more popular products that are conducive to the people's health.

Sulfurous mud products.



Chae Kwang Myong

Devoted Efforts Bear Fruit

IN THE GROUNDS OF PYONGYANG PRIMARY School No. 4 in the central part of Pyongyang stand many willows and persimmon and ginkgo trees.

Teaching is highly IT-based in the school. The general control room of the school connected with the state computer networks makes it possible to get necessary data for reading and using in class. Two-way lessons are available between e-reading and lecture rooms and classrooms. Besides, teachers have developed over 900 teaching multimedia and 200 reference media conducive to the cognitive development of the pupils, and they put them to the



utmost use in teaching.

Through the distance-learning system and TV networks in the school, the teachers steadily improve their qualifications. Last year over 30 teachers were awarded the title of October 8 Model Teacher and eight teachers were praised highly at municipal demonstration lessons. Meanwhile, the IT-based administration of school

affairs has been established. All office rooms including the headmistress's and section rooms are connected in a single network that all matters such as the teachers' work programs and their implementation, the state of guarding, the pupils' attendance rate, examinations and marking are administered in a unified and scientific way.

The quality of teaching and the pupils' achievement are improving as the educational environment is changing. Recently ten pupils of the school won Our Classroom Literature Prize, some took first place in the 36th and 37th Jongilbong Prize National Swimming Contests consecutively, and the members of its dance circle gained the top award at the 50th National Schoolchildren's Art Festival.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of Headmistress Kil Kum Sun and teachers, the educational environment of the school is improving with each passing day and its pupils are growing well like the exuberant trees in the school grounds.

Kim Il Bong

IT-based education helps improve pupils' abilities.



In the Hub of Studies

NOT LONG AGO WE PAID a visit to the library of Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University that was newly built in July last year.

“My library is completely IT-based—from the collection and classification of data to the service of information. We have electronic reading rooms, online lecture rooms, computer lecture rooms, rooms for interview and scientific exchange, etc. Through the wire and wireless computer networks the teaching staff and students of my college have now free access to data in this library necessary for their scientific research work and studies,” said Chief Librarian Choe Rye Gun, conducting us into the hall on the ground floor.

Seen on the front wall of the hall was Chairman Kim Jong Il’s famous statement which reads, “Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University is the pedigree college of medical science and technology.” Indicating the TV on the right wall the chief librarian told us that the visitors receive 3D picture service necessary for the reference of card-index catalogue, scientific and technical symposiums, lectures, multimedia service, electronic reading, perusal and book-lending service. Guided by the chief librarian, we stepped into the electronic reading room on the ground floor. Saying that that is a students’ reading room, he said that through homepage the room renders services of teaching materials and reference books.

We quietly approached a student who was absorbed in his studies. When we introduced ourselves, he said that he was Wi Thae Bong belonging to the faculty of basic medical science, and added: “When lectures are over, I usually come here and go over my

lectures. In this room I get additional information regarding what I have obtained in the lecture—through electronic teaching materials and reference books and dedicate time to scientific research. Whenever I come here I am unaware of the passage of time.”

Ruminating upon his words, we went upstairs to the first floor, following the guide. To be found on the first floor was an electronic reading room and rooms for scientific exchange and interview, and so on. When we entered the electronic reading room, our guide said, “This room is used by teachers, researchers and office employees. In this room they are given service for IT-related materials needed in their educational and research work and are widening their range of information.”

We left there quietly in order

not to disturb them in their studies or research work. The room we stepped in next was the one dedicated to scientific exchange. In the room a foreign scholar of medicine was delivering a speech. The guide told us that in the scientific exchange room with 90 seats international symposia take place including short courses of World Health Organization and invitation lectures of famous scholars of medicine, to say nothing of national medical symposia. Having conducted us to one of the rooms for interview, he said that the room is intended for medical scientists at home and abroad to have exchange of their experience and conference on the matter of joint research work. We went past the information service hall where materials are printed for the students and the teaching staff and where program and consultative

An external view of the Pyongyang Medical College library of Kim Il Sung University.





Students search for data.

An e-reading room.



► services were given as well, and went up to the second floor.

On the second floor, too, there was an electronic reading room for the students, a computer lecture room, an online lecture room, a multimedia lecture room and so on. When we stepped into the computer lecture room, the image of an aged scholar was also to be seen along with many people. Looking at him, the guide said to us that the library gives lectures concerning the IT knowledge to the teaching staff, researchers and especially aged scholars in a planned manner and that when necessary, it gives lectures pertaining to computer knowledge, such as how to use computers and how to code programs. When we entered the multimedia reading room opposite the computer lecture room, multimedia materials put out at home and abroad related to ultramodern medical techniques including a 3D anatomical chart and a complete book concerning internal medicine were on service. The room was fixed so that multimedia could be offered collectively or individually according to varying necessities.

When we got into the online lecture room next to the multimedia reading room an online lecture for the students of a provincial medical college was under way. When we asked about the online lecture, the guide said: "Recorded online lectures and real-time online lectures are given in the online lecture room furnished with the 3G online educational facilities. In this room lectures and refresher courses are given to

the teachers and medical personnel, and long-distance consultation of health workers is also possible. In particular, thanks to the lectures given through the online educational network, the ardour for scientific research is growing higher among the working people who are enrolled in the study-while-working system." Wherever we went, we found everything connected with the word *research*.

Ruminating on the meaning of this word again, we went up to the third floor. Seen on that floor were reading rooms where the teaching staff and the students could have access to bibliographical books and an archive of Korean writings. A librarian of the archive informed us of the fact that it keeps medical books and various kinds of books of different sectors written in Korean amounting to nearly 180 000 in number. To be seen on the fourth floor was a room which preserves the books Chairman Kim Jong Il sent to this college. In addition, there is a foreign-language book rooms where are preserved various kinds of more than 100 000 technical books, and magazines related to medical science published in English, Russian, Chi-

nese, German and Japanese. Also to be found are rooms that have teaching materials on over 100 subjects including social sciences, basic and clinical medicine, and the like.

Finally, we went round the room for the diffusion of science and technology which keeps hundreds of articles on successful research projects of the college—drugs, experimental apparatuses, teaching materials, reference books, etc. There we met a student who said that he was a fifth-year student Jon Chun Ho belonging to the basic medical faculty. Looking at articles put on display there, he told us that he would devote his whole life to scientific research to make a contribution to the development of medical science. Then he said that this library is a comprehensive base for the dissemination of science and technology, that it nourishes not only his dream of research but also the dream of all the students, teachers and scientists and is the centre of information of medical science.

Concluding our visit to this library we looked back at it once again.

Jo Yong Il

Note of Visit to Ryugyong Dental Hospital



strong teeth meant one of the Five Blessings to you from of old. Five Blessings is synonymous with the desire of the Korean people for having a rich life free from any worry for ages. My hospital intends to give part of the Five

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR A new dentist's went up in the Munsu area in Pyongyang. The Ryugyong Dental Hospital is now rendering service for improvement and protection of the people's health on a high level. It is equipped with all necessary dental facilities like universal dental chairs numbering scores, multi-purpose dental cameras and prosthetic appliances—which are latest models. Meeting me one of these days, the deputy director for technical affairs said, "Having



Blessings.”

I addressed a woman, named Jo Ok Hwa, who was leaving the hospital. Resident in Pipha-dong No. 1, Moranbong District, Pyongyang, she explained her 13-year-old daughter's irregular set of teeth and unpleasant fitting between the upper and the lower jaws had been corrected admirably through the micro-implant anchorage treatment at the ►

► hospital. Now I headed for the indoor playground on the first floor, where a woman said she felt relieved to leave her child playing there while she was receiving treatment.

In the hospital people are informed of a good deal of health tips about dental troubles. In each waiting place are fixed boards of health advices which tell what

favourite with anybody who visits the hospital.

It was thanks to supreme national leader Kim Jong Un that the hospital was erected as an excellent health service centre. Having initiated the building of the hospital, he went to the construction site to have an understanding of the design and see how the project was going on. On

the spot he called for fixing dental facilities and furniture and other appliances on the highest possible level so as to make the free medical care system more beneficial to the people. In September last he went to the construction site again when it was in the corner of its completion and suggested calling it Ryugyong Dental Hospital.

Looking round the hospital, Tomiyama Eiko, head of the delegation of the New Socialist Party of Japan on a visit to the DPRK in October last, said, "This is quite a good hospital. It's really wonderful to have medical care free of charge in this hospital equipped with latest facilities. I'm particularly impressed to find a children's playground in the hospital. In the past I used to have great trouble when I was in hospital with my children. I feel national leader Kim Jong Un is really scrupulous." Struck with admiration, she remarked that the Koreans would be more handsome and beautiful when they went through tooth correction in the hospital.

Song Yong Sok

kind of disease you are exposed to and what the cause of your trouble is and what kind of treatment you have to get. For this, the visitors to the hospital say that they feel they have attended a college lecture in the hospital and that the hospital is excellent from the beginning to the end.

There is also a store in the hospital, which has things needed for dental care on sale. It is



Four Hours in Emergency Department

ONE OF THESE DAYS WE VISITED THE Emergency Department of the Pothonggang District People's Hospital in Pyongyang. The department was given a dozen certificates of new medical appliances including a flexible fixing device used for various kinds of fractures and a manual inhaler. Several medical papers they had written were appreciated at a medical sci-tech festival last year.

We met head of the department Kim Yong Su and began to have a talk, when an emergency case was rushed into the department. It was Pak Won Sop, a war veteran, resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 20, Sinwon-dong, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. The 82-year-old had been registered in the hospital as a case of cerebral apoplexy. Immediately a medical consultation took place, diagnosing him as a case of cerebral thrombosis on the analysis of his clinical symptoms. Doctors buckled down to the treatment in the resuscitating room. Relevant drugs like vasodilator, antihemolytic agent and fibrinolysin were injected and other troubles were also dealt with. It took about 20 minutes. Our eyes were attached to a young doctor taking necessary measures ceaselessly and very confidently. The head told us that though he had a two-year-long career, the doctor was able to make exact judgments, had high medical techniques and thus was liked by his patients very much. He added, "Generally speaking, only when the doctor has rich clinical experience and high technical skills can he correctly judge between cerebral thrombosis and cerebral hemorrhage in the case of cerebral apoplexy. Moreover, high medical techniques are needed

in diagnosing the unconscious patient in the acute stage. This is why we pay attention to improvement of the doctors' technical levels."

In fact, the department gives an effort to technical studies for enhancement of the practical levels. Schedules of technical studies are drawn up to suit each doctor's level, and at least two hours a day are spent for studies. Hours of collective sci-tech study are arranged more than once a week, when doctors debate problems of emergency treatment—clinical symptoms of cerebral apoplexy and its treatment, resuscitating and treating methods for various poisonous diseases, reducing and fixing methods for various fractures and dislocations, resuscitating and treating methods for cerebral contusion and basal skull fracture and so on. The department often organizes consultations, clinical workshops and experience presentations which are helpful to the exchange of experiences and lessons obtained in the treatment of emergency cases. Even nurses take part. These activities help to improve tremendously the emergency department staff's abilities. Meanwhile, the department is contributing to the development of medical science by making public papers on clinical techniques and experiences of the treatment of emergency cases.

In recent years a resuscitating room was newly prepared. Formerly, as the Resuscitation Department is some distance away, troubles cropped up in treating emergency cases. With the support of the hospital authorities, the Emergency Department prepared a resuscitating room equipped with necessary apparatuses including a serious-case monitor, oxygen generator and oxygen inhaler, and an operation room for first aid purposes. So, more than 80% of emergency cases survive in the department. Two demonstration lessons were given by the Pothonggang District People's Hospital in 2011, when the participants spoke highly of the department.

I had a talk with the doctors for four hours, when the old veteran came to himself. Over the hours all work of the doctors and nurses had been done like a cogwheel. The patient clasped the hands of doctors and nurses and expressed thanks again and again. Seeing their beaming face, we left the department.



Kim Kyong Ryong

The Zeal for Sporting Activity

PYONGYANG MUNICIPAL People's Hospital No. 1 is well known not only for its plentiful numbers of competent doctors and its kind-hearted treatment but also for its animated sporting activities. It has taken first place in total ranking for eight consecutive years at the annual Mangyongdae Prize games of officials of Pyongyang municipal agencies. Many of the hospital staff are good at table tennis, volleyball, tennis and tug-of-war.

To make sports mass-based and a part of everyday life has been an important part of the work of the hospital. Ko Yong Jun, director of the hospital, taking part in sports games with his staff though he was busy with his work, noticed that some departments were reluctant to join sporting activities on the pretext of their work. So he saw to it that athletic meetings were held by occupational categories and departments on the occasion of major national holidays involving all the members. In the course of this, doctors of the Resuscitation Department and the Pharmacy Department made their appearance on the ground, who had thought that sporting activities were what were open to those people who had spare time or skills. As these "outliers" grew active, others began to follow them. As time went by their zeal for sporting activity rose, and their skills improved as well. The animated sporting activities led to remarkable successes in treatment.

Last year the hospital miraculously saved five colliers of the Ryongdae Coal Mine of the Kangdong Area Coal Mining Complex—who had got 60% of their

body burned to the third degree—with their sincere treatment day and night. They also successfully restored in 58 days a patient 90% of whose body had suffered third degree burn. Meanwhile, Surgical Department No. 5 and the Resuscitation Department actively applied advanced medical science and technology into clinical treatment and thus cured many patients. While learning volleyball skills assiduously Director Ko wrote a number of books including *Diagnosing Heart Diseases in Emergency Case and Their Treatment* and *Derangement Caused by Terrestrial Magnetism*



and *Circulatory Diseases*. Some doctors produced inventions, new devices and appliances for medical treatment by building on their techniques and experience, which brought them honour from the 14th and the 15th national scientific and technological exhibitions in the field of public health. Last year a medical appliance made by the hospital was praised highly at the national exhibition of medical

appliances. Now persons with academic degrees and titles number over 130. Hundreds of scientific research tasks have been carried out in recent years, of which at least 40 of them won state patents.

Head of the Koryo Internal Treatment Department Ri Yong Nam, who leads the hospital's basketball team, says proudly, "Through sporting activities we found out the functional indices of the human body. Using them in the scientific research work we attained some successes." The hospital staff are working with a high sense of responsibility in the

treatment while giving top and absolute priority to the people's comfort in their health service.

Seeing attainment of scientific and technical skills as the guarantee of critical importance, the doctors are making devoted efforts to take the lead in health service while retaining first place in the mass-based sporting activity.

Kim Hyon Ju



The opening ceremony of the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior and Senior Weightlifting Championships.

Stories of Victory

KIM KWANG DOK, CHIEF SECRETARY OF the Weightlifting Association of the Korean Sports Federation, says, "We achieved a lot at the 2013 Asian Cup & Inter-club Junior & Senior Weightlifting Championships in September last year. Most of the wins were made by novices." According to him, the winners were in their 20s with no record of competing in the international arena, but they took first place in total in their categories by lifting the heaviest weights both in the jerk and snatch. Here are some of the winners introduced.

Weight of perspiration he shed

Amidst the playing of the national anthem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea he made a military salute towards the DPRK national flag rising high. That man was Choe Jon Wi from April 25 Sports Team, winner of the men's 77 kg category of the Asian Cup junior weightlifting contest. When asked what he thought standing on the awarding platform, he answered, "I couldn't believe I had won. When I found myself in the stark reality, however, I remembered the image of my coach and what he had said when I began training under his instruction. 'However strong you are physically, you can hardly achieve a good result in contests if you have little perspiration. The more you shed sweat the more



weight you can put up.' Keeping his words in mind I overcame the limit of physical exertions and now I won the competition. Also, it will remain my motto all my life as a weightlifter."

▶ Missing his home village

Jon Myong Song from the Kigwancha Sports Team won the men's 77 kg category of the Asian Inter-club junior weightlifting competition, which was his international debut. Born in a mountain village in Tongnim County, North Phyongan Province, he loved his village very much. He liked to read stories about home villages, and liked to draw pictures of his village at lesson, where he had enjoyed himself in the stream together with his friends during childhood. One spring day when he was five, he planted a pine tree on a hill behind the village, assisted by his father who admonished him to grow strong like the ever-green pine tree and bring honour to his village. As an avid lover of athletic games he decided to become a good sportsman and honour his village by great wins.

When he began to do exercises in weightlifting his villagers gave him pep talks and all the villagers turned out to see him off to the entrance of the village



when he left for a national sports team, as if he had been their own kinsfolk. Myong Song did not forget their images all the time. He thought of his home village when he approached the training ground; he remembered his teacher's advice that he should live up to the expectations of the people of his home village when he was at a break of drill. Sometimes he fell from exhaustion but soon rose up again to take the barbell, seeing his father with his mind's eye who said he should be persistent like the evergreen pine tree. He recalls that he remembered the people in his home village when he was mounting the competing platform. "I felt confident and encouraged, and I said to myself I should satisfy their expectation for me." Seeing his successful performance at the contest, many people put much expectation in his future career. Now he is resolved to live up to the expectations of all the people including his villagers, and is engrossed in training.

Story about a gold medal

Kim Chun Mi who won three gold medals in the women's 55 kg category of the Asian Cup senior weightlifting contest has an unusual story. Her

mother, a good vocalist, planned to train her daughter as an excellent musician. One day when Chun Mi was 14 years old, a man was casting avid glances at her playing in the school ground. Her balanced body



and athletic senses were what attracted the attention of Kim Myong Gil, instructor of Jungsan County Juvenile Sports School in South Phyongan Province. The young girl persuaded her mother to let her enter the weightlifting world. The instructor was quite demanding on her in carrying out the daily tasks of training. He never failed to make sure she went through the training courses. When she fell from the burden, he would demand she stand up by herself, urging, "If you let yourself crumble here at this moment, you would be prostrate all your life. Weak spirit is the taboo in the athletic world. Take up the barbell again right now." Sometimes Chun Mi thought he was too cold-hearted for her to stand, and wished she had chosen a musical career. As if reading her mind, the instructor advised, "Don't be naïve about your decision you have made. Make up your mind to see through what you have decided to do, and you'll be able to see it through. I regard you as my own daughter, so I make demands on you." Thanks to his strict instruction Chun Mi attained remarkable skills and moved to a national sports team.

One month before the 2010 Asian juvenile weightlifting championships she happened to hurt her left arm seriously in training. Staying in hospital she was disappointed. At the time her coach Choe Nong Gyun called on her and said encouragingly, "You'd better not give yourself up. There are many contests. Whether to take up the barbell again or not depends on you." Then he called on her almost everyday and gave her pep talk, conveying news about a number of contests and giving encouragement. One year later Chun Mi appeared in the training ground again and then won the recent contest. She says, "My recent success is inconceivable apart from my coaches. I'd like to offer my gold medals to them."

Kim Kwang Chon

His Only Hope

THE INTERNATIONAL Maths Olympiad in July last year featured Hong Chung Song from Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1 in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He won three straight contests from 2011.

From his days at kindergarten Hong liked to do counting very much. And in his primary school days he once spent a whole night counting stars in the sky inspired by a dream to count all the stars by himself. His father was a painter. One day Hong approached his father at work and studied the drawing his father was making. He abruptly asked his father, "How many lines do you have to make to complete the drawing, dad?" His father had no idea about his child's talent about maths even when he was confronted with such a question.

One day in his final year at primary school Chung Song was busy doing a maths homework. Strolling among the pupils while checking how they were solving maths problems, his teacher stopped in front of Chung Song. Studying his notebook the teacher raised a curt exclamation, for she discovered that Chung Song was boldly trying to solve a difficult problem by a simpler method. She instantly hinted at how to make a breakthrough in

the solution, and gave him another problem of a different style. To her surprise, the boy solved it immediately by applying the method vice versa she had just taught. What was more important was that the pupil had calculated most of the values in his head. The teacher was overwhelmed with admiration for the boy's unusual memory, thinking and creative abilities for his age. The story soon spread to the whole school and the effort to develop his maths intelligence further became a concern of all the



teachers. From the moment on Chung Song lived in the world of maths.

After entering Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1 he brought glory to his school many times by winning a number of national academic contests from his third year at the school. In the days he had been given unstinted help and support from his teachers who exerted themselves to further develop his mathematical

thinking ability, chambermaids and cooks of the dormitory, and many other people. While delving into enigmatic problems through nights, he found himself gaining the daring to launch into the international arena to honour his country with great wins and bring greater pleasure to his teachers and all those who were helping him. Challenging his already tight schedule of learning, he worked harder, treasuring every minute of his life and allowing no idling moment in thinking. In 2011 he made his debut at an International Maths Olympiad and won a gold medal. His zeal to conquer the world of maths did not cool, winning him two more gold medals in the following Olympiads straight.

When he matriculated at Kim Il Sung University after returning home from the last maths Olympiad, he pledged himself, saying, "They say they have a lot of hopes in my age. But I have only one hope—to be good at maths. Yet I know what is more important for me is to repay my country's warm care. In this university I hope I will train myself as a good worker for the nation's CNC technology by building on the knowledge I've accumulated so far."

Ri Kum Chol

I'll Exalt the Honour of the Motherland of Taekwon-Do

EVERY SPORTSPERSON has a dream for championship. And when the dream comes true, words fail to express the feeling. I have a memorable memory.

Something noteworthy is the melody of our national anthem *Patriotic Song* and our national flag that I heard and saw with heart-warming tears when I won a gold medal at the 5th World Taekwon-Do Championships in Greece.

Though over 20 years have passed, the then deep emotion remains in my mind as the happiest moment in my life. Moreover, the gold medal I won was the first gold medal the DPRK team got at the championships which the national team participated in for the first time.

I learned Taekwon-Do at a local secondary school and improved my techniques in the Taekwon-Do Hall. Thinking that Taekwon-Do permeated with the Korean nation's spirit and soul is a sports event worthy of engaging myself in, I entered a training hall. The pride and confidence in our

own thing and the resolution to add honour to the national spirit and courage made me resilient at every critical moment of training.

When I went out in the arena of competition, I remembered the teachers' instruction that in order to become a good Taekwon-Do performer I had to be a true patriot. I only thought that I should demonstrate to the world our martial art that represents the history of the Korean nation and wisdom of the Korean people.

The motherland was so glad at the news that we displayed the honour of the mother country of Taekwon-Do, and set us in a glorious position.

I can never forget the time when we passed streets of the capital city, receiving warm welcome from Pyongyang citizens along the 40-km-long route.

That was not all. President Kim Il Sung visited the Taekwon-Do Hall, and showed a great concern for us by taking us Taekwon-Do performers one by one by the hand and posing for a photograph together with us. The

photo is the pride and treasure of my family.

Living with Taekwon-Do, I felt an unusual national pride. When I worked in a foreign country as a Taekwon-Do instructor for a long time, I was asked a question many times: "I hear Taekwon-Do is very powerful. Where does such a great power come from?"

I used to answer their curiosity about Taekwon-Do by talking about its dynamics and principles of its power. In the course of strong spiritual training and physical training based on scientific principles, one masters the ability to demonstrate to the maximum all the spiritual and physical potentials in his body. Those who were given deep impressions on this desired to learn Taekwon-Do, saying that Taekwon-Do was the martial art systematized in a scientific way. Whenever foreigners came to learn Taekwon-Do I felt a great national pride. Among them were young and old people, professors of universities, Doctors, Members of Parliament and generals. I met ▶

The Taekwon-Do Holy Centre.



The Elderly Volleyball Team

- ▶ some of them at the 17th World Taekwon-Do Championships held in our country.

Though most countries have martial arts representing their national characters, few of them are as famous as Taekwon-Do. Under the deep care of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and First Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission Kim Jong Un, the Korean Taekwon-Do has become the martial art that the world people want to learn even in their dream.

The great leaders saw to it that the Taekwon-Do Hall and the Taekwon-Do Holy Centre were built in Pyongyang, the cradle of Taekwon-Do, and that Taekwon-Do was put on a scientific and mass basis. These gave a powerful stimulus to the development of the national orthodox martial art. Such warm care has helped not only me but also many Korean Taekwon-Do performers add glory to the motherland of Taekwon-Do.

We have been at the top of the country ranking since the 5th World Taekwon-Do Championships.

Whenever we came back to the homeland, the country put us forward as Heroes, Merited Athletes and People's Athletes. The more care and solicitude we receive, the firmer our resolution becomes that we should repay.

At present I work as department director of training of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee. I am responsible for training all the performers of my country to be winners. I am now making strenuous efforts.

By putting all my efforts in the development of Taekwon-Do, orthodox martial art of our nation that regards justice, peace, friendship and unity as its ideal, I'll add to the honour of the motherland of Taekwon-Do.

Ham Chol Guk, department director of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR elderly folks in Pyongyang had sports and amusement games on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons. The volleyball game featured the Central District team on the top of the awarding platform. The team involved former officials of ministries and central organs, former skilled workers, and a man who used to be a coach at a

older people and asked him to assume the role of captain and coach of the team. "The country has recently announced a plan to arrange different sports games of the elderly folk, and many older people in my district have volunteered to participate in the volleyball game. But most of them are strangers to volleyball," the official said imploringly.

Pak accepted to his request,



sports team.

The captain of the team was 71-year-old Pak Yong Il, who had been a volleyball coach of the Kigwancha Sports Team. One day last August an official of the Central District People's Committee came to see him at home. He told that the district was going to form a volleyball team of

for he knew he had no right to keep idling on account of his advanced age when the whole country was afire with the enthusiasm for sporting activities. Recalling the days of training, Pak says, "Over the not so long period of time of training, we felt anew what kind of social system ours is. You know doctors call on older

▶ people regularly for a checkup, but we never expected they would come to see us in the training ground.”

They were not the only visitors. Many people, known and unknown, came to see them bringing a lot of aid materials and giving great encouragement.

One day an old man, Kim Se Chan by name, 72, hurt his leg slightly in a drill. A doctor in charge of his family rushed to the site to look after him and treated him devotedly until he recovered

completely. Now the training time was rearranged in accordance with the physical conditions of the older people, and the district people’s hospital assigned a special doctor to the volleyball team.

As if recovering their youthful vigor, the elderly players put their hearts to the exercises. They helped and led one another forward, and their family members turned out to assist them. Thanks to such efforts the team developed a marvellous mode of playing gradually and their skill improved up to such a level of handling any difficult situation.

Later in the competitions the older people demonstrated as good attainments as the

young people’s—strong serves, forceful strikes and adept defence—and won the contest finally by destroying the Taedong-gang District team 2-0 on October 1, the International Day of Older Persons.

Recalling the day, Pak says that he felt he had regained his youth. “We were all overwhelmed with joy and we hugged one another closely. I can hardly forget it.”

The team is now in assiduous and enthusiastic training to retain their honour at this year’s contest. Standing proud in the training ground, Pak says, “They say even an old tree has blooms, and we feel we are the case.”

Kim Il Ryong



Ours Are the Best Apartments

ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited Unha Kwahakja Street which went up last year. Entering the street I saw wide and straight roads extending crisscross in all directions, lined with multi-storeyed brightly-coloured apartment blocks in good harmony. I heard the buildings house more than 1 000 families. The Unha Health Complex was quite an attraction to my eyes covered with dark-green tiles, and Unha Kindergarten No. 1 and the Unha Nursery were no less admirable. The Unha Restaurant, the Unha General Store and other service centres were of unique architectural style, and the 16 small parks were all filled with children playing pleasantly without any idea of the passage of time. The name of the street was to my liking and its content was well arranged. I was almost mesmerized by the sight. Presently I found myself standing in front of the third entrance of Block No. 15. Over the door hung a board which told the apartment had been inspected by supreme national leader Kim Jong Un. And over the door of Flat No. 1 on the

ground floor I saw another board that says the leader had visited the home. I wanted to meet the family in the flat, so I rang the door bell. The door opened and a little girl, seeming to be 5 to 6 years old, appeared and pulled me inside without any hesitation. When I said she was quite affable, her mother explained that she was born a friendly girl and her friendliness became a good habit as a result of meeting many people who came to see the flat inspected by the national leader. Now I knew the masters of the flat were young scientists O Se Hyok and Sim Myong Hwa. The girl went by the name of O Yun Jong who attended Unha Kindergarten No. 1.

When I told them of the purpose of my call, they guided me to a cosy sitting room and showed me a sofa. The hostess told me, "Our national leader visited my apartment before we moved in and sat on this sofa. I heard he looked after the living condition of the scientists to the last detail so that they would have no inconveniences."

Hearing her I looked round

the spacious room, which was arranged with different kinds of furniture articles to suit the purpose of the room. When I marvelled at the furniture, the host said they had all been provided by the state, and that even the kitchen utensils had been given by high-ranking Party and government officials when they visited their apartment to congratulate them for their move into a new apartment. "We moved in without anything with us, because our apartment was already completely furnished," he said thankfully.

Now we entered a cosy child's room, when the couple told another story. As they were researchers always busy with their scientific researches, their daughter Yun Jong had been growing almost without parental care. So she didn't like to be away from her parents' company once they were at home, and groped for her mother's bosom however late she came home. But the evening they moved into the new apartment, she soon fell into a sound sleep in her room which was arranged comfortably for the children's



▶ living. Looking down at the innocent daughter sleeping soundly with a nice smile, the parents shed warm tears. The host O Se Hyok said, “We are people who have more things to do than we have done. If we have something to say about our mind, it’s that we are filled with a resolution to support the country with successful scientific researches and I’m sure I’ll do it.” And then he continued, “Countries have many streets and luxury apartment buildings each, but I am proud our street and apartments filled with benevolent care for scientists are the best in the world.”



Leaving their flat in the evening, I stepped out to the brightly-lit street and saw many children still playing. Some were singing loudly—and it sounded quite impressive to me for the sentence that goes, “Push back the frontier of science and technology along the road indicated by the General [Kim Jong Il].”

Kim Chol Ung



The Elderly Woman I Didn't Meet

NOT LONG AGO THE Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee's organ *Ro-dong Sinmun* carried an article about Kim Chi Son, living in Samhung-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. It wrote that she was given a sumptuous meal by the country on her 100th birthday. Urged by professional curiosity I visited the old woman one afternoon recently. Fifteen minutes' driving from the terminal of the Pyongyang Railway Station-Mangyongdae tram line toward Ryongsan brought me to a place with a view of snowscape of Mt. Ryongak. On a small hillock nearby is a village of dwelling houses with the Korean-style roof.

Kim's house is not far from the entrance to the village. An old man, who seemed to be in his early 60 years, greeted me, introducing himself as husband of Kim's youngest daughter. Hearing that he was Ri Un Guk, aged 67, I doubted my ears. When I told he looked ten years younger, he smiled a broad smile and said his mother-in-law Kim would come back home sooner or later.

Ri told that Kim had such a good sight as to read newspapers without glasses and even thread a needle. "She not only lives in a regular way according to her self-made routine but also cultivates vegetables in the garden plot by herself," he explained. "Even young people can hardly do as good farming as her."

Although the roof and trees around were all snow-laden, the house appeared to be very cosy. Even a swallow nest could be seen under the eaves. Ri said that in spring the house would be covered with flowers and foliage. Now he told me the following story.

One spring day some ten years ago, the family members and even villagers turned out to find the old woman who did not return home

until late in the evening. It was deep into the night that Kim appeared at the gate together with one of her grandsons (the eldest son's son), a fruit-growing team leader of a farm, bringing knapsacks of fruit tree saplings on their backs. Kim said, "Let's plant these saplings around our house. Days ago I saw on TV they were planting many trees in other villages." All family members joined to plant the trees. As time went by, the trees grew and bore fruits. Eating the fruits pleasantly villagers asked Kim if she had believed she could pick fruits. Then she replied, "Of course, I did. For dozens of years senior officials of the district have looked after me, doctors have visited me almost everyday to give a medical checkup and tonics, and you, my dear neighbours, have taken care of me as the eldest of the village. I'm happy mentally and physically alike."

Now we entered the house and found the rooms neat and clean. Saying that Kim was keen on keeping rooms clean, Un Guk pointed to a photo hanging on the wall, saying, "This is my mother-in-law." The photo, showing all her family members, was taken when they celebrated her 100th

birthday, overcome with gratitude to the country for the birthday feast. I was surprised to see the photo, for Kim looked much younger than her real age.

Un Guk told me about her past life. Before national liberation in August 1945 she was a mean servant of a landlord for scores of years. The hard time rid her face of smile and youthful vigour. Despite the prime of her life she looked frail and senile. Only after liberation could she do farming in her own land to her heart's content and feel happy and satisfied. She was always in the field and good at farming, and thus became a model farmer. In the course of this, she was awarded official commendations of almost all levels and enjoyed respect from her villagers. Far into her 70s she worked hard, giving the local farm a helping hand and breeding domestic animals. She usually said, "In my advanced years, I feel I could do more in such a good society, but I'm sorry I haven't."

Presently Un Guk said seeing the sun setting through the window, "Oh no! I forgot it. You can't meet her today. My mother-in-law has gone to her eldest daughter's house a dozen kilometres away to ▶



Korea—One Big Family

*Kim Hyon Hwan, head of the
Independent Idea Institute in the United States*

(Continued from the last issue)

“Please Go and Have a Look at North Korea!”

NORTH KOREANS WILL never tolerate anyone trying to insult and violate their innate rights as human beings, their philosophy and their sense of value. It is the height of ignorance finding fault with them.

The acute confrontation situation in the Korean peninsula created by the tough “sanction” moves of the United States and the UN Security Council against the north is due, in the last analysis, to their excessive prejudices and malice against the north wide apart from understanding and objective judgment about it. A part of the lecture given in Taegu, south Korea, last year by Sin Un Mi, the author of the popular book *A Korean Aunt Resident in America Visits North Korea*, who studied music in south Korea and now lives in the United States, is interesting. She said, “Born of a conservative family, I’m a Korean resident in America with conservative views. Before visiting the north, I used to think it a land of horned monsters. Yet, during the 40 days of its tour I went on with my husband against my will, I felt the people there had national sentiments in common with us and I was even deeply moved by

their warm humanity ... When I published my article serially on the Internet, I was labelled as ‘pro-north’ and ‘Red.’ If finding national love and humanity in north Korea is pro-north, I would fain be pro-north.”

Her interest during the tour was not in finding out whether the north was rich or poor. To be rich or poor can alter at any time. Her concern was to find out national identity to know if the north and the south could get along amicably in one community. And she discovered that they had more than that in the north, a noble treasure rare to be found in the human world. In this sense, her record of travel to the north in which she shows she understood the true meaning of “Love your neighbours as you care for your body” is a written reflection of her own life, a letter of protest to the countries infested with false politics, and an unbiased guide to north Korea.

At present the demands for social welfare measures like “reinstatement of discharged persons” and “free education” are becoming more clamorous in south Korea and other capitalist countries every day. In the long run, these countries are adopting the same policies as in the north. Compared with the north, they are still in a lower stage, and in

society like south Korea it is hard to expect the fundamental solution of such affairs, but it is obvious that so long as the human beings exist on the earth, they must go the same way as the north is going and they have no other alternatives. It is inevitable that the walls of prejudices petrified by the anti-DPRK false propaganda for scores of years should crumble like an iceberg in the face of the actual facts in the north united as one big family. The extremely hidebound one-sided view of north Korea will evaporate before the bright light of the truth. While launching artificial earth satellites over its beautiful garden of humanity as a political and military power, north Korea is now translating its dream of building an economic giant into reality. It is thrilling to imagine its appearance of the day when its dream comes true.

Fellowmen! What is it man is living for? Is money everything? In contrast to the north, I keenly feel money-ridden society is a jungle society where the stronger prey upon the weaker. I advise you, fellowmen all over the world: When life comes hard to you, don’t go wandering in quest of “Heaven,” but be sure to go and see north Korea! □

▶ help housework.”

When I asked if she could go on a visit alone, Ri answered that she was always looking for what she could do for the sake of society in the rest of her life and felt

happy to help her children do their jobs creditably.

Before leaving the house, I saw again the elderly woman’s photo taken to celebrate her 100th birthday. Though I failed to meet

her, I could hear her sound and healthy voice in my mind uttering that she was blessed without doing anything worth mentioning.

Song Kum Chol

Visit to Folkcraft Exhibition Hall

NOT LONG AGO WE visited the folkcraft exhibition hall fixed up in the Pyongyang International House of Culture in Central District, Pyongyang. Kim Hyon Chol, a staff member, welcomed us, saying that they had many visitors almost everyday. We were ushered into the exhibition. The first thing we saw was the Korean painting *Jangsaengdo*. Kim introduced it is a decorative folk painting showing the desire of people in old times for long life in good health by way of natural phenomena. According to him, the desire was at first represented by paintings of the sun, the moon, cloud, tortoise, deer, pine tree and crane, and later in the 13th century it was comprehensively depicted by the picture *Sip(ten) Jangsaengdo*, which is made up of ten natural things of the sun, cloud, stone, water, pine tree, bamboo, herb of eternal youth, crane, tortoise and



Korean painting *Jangsaengdo*.

deer. *Jangsaengdo* is a valuable pictorial heritage that shows fully not only the then people's folk customs but also their high painting ability and decorative skills.

The hall has Korean paintings, jewel paintings, oil pictures and other art objects as well as several kinds of handicrafts and traditional Korean musical instruments. Ri Hyang Suk, a guide, said that in the greatest public demand are Korean paint-

ings which show the 12 000 peaks of Mt. Kungang, one of the most famous mountains in Korea, with bright and vivid, brief and fine brushwork catching the visitors' eyes by expressing external attributes in simple strokes while portraying power, movement and even emotion well.

Embroideries like *Tiger* and *Pine Tree and Crane* also attract the visitors' attention for their gentle, delicate and graceful ▶



Various kinds of ceramic articles.



The Folkcraft Exhibition Hall is a great public haunt.

► properties. In particular, *Pine Tree and Crane* gives a simple and vivid feeling by depicting pine tree and crane with various colours of thread on the white patternless silk cloth.

“*Chima* and *jogori* (traditional Korean costume) are also a good attraction,” Hyang Suk said and went on: “Various models of *chima* and *jogori* have been favourably commented upon by overseas Korean compatriots and

foreigners. Moreover, in order to implant the Korean soul deep in mind overseas Koreans are enthusiastic about buying the Korean clothes for their daughters. Even foreign visitors buy them as souvenirs. We also provide service to order.”

In addition, there are various kinds of shellwork, dolls, jade and lacquer ware in the hall. Our guide told that the exhibition hall managers and workers work hard

to supply unique articles of the Korean character to their visitors and pay deep attention to making good folkcraft things.

Looking round the exhibition, we could see many visitors. Leaving the hall we felt sure that they would successfully carry on with the work to value and develop the national character.

Kim Il Bong

Korean traditional musical instrument *kayagum* and Korean traditional costumes.



Inventive Cook

OKRYU RESTAURANT, A hip saddle-roofed edifice of modern architectural style in Pyongyang, is situated at the foot of Moran Hill skirted by the Taedong River. Whenever the restaurant is referred to, they are reminded of Pyongyang *raengmyon* or cold noodle. And those who have ever had it get a lasting memory of its savoury taste. The credit of the celebrity of the noodle, one of the famous national dishes and a speciality of the restaurant, goes partly to the effort of Kim Song Il, head of the Noodle Workshop.

Over 30 years ago he was assigned to work at the restaurant as a cook after graduating from a catering school in Pyongyang. On the first day of work his workteam leader said to him, "From ancient times the Pyongyang *raengmyon* was well known as a delicacy for its peculiar stuff, broth, flavoured meat, garnish, vessel, and serving mode. Noodle strings and condiments are important, and yet the noodle broth is no less important as it adds fresh and sweet taste."

Song Il made the broth in the Noodle Workshop. The job made him think how to improve the quality of the broth. At that time the broth was made by a method of putting the boiled meat soup in the cooling container and letting it go through the filter. This method might expose the nutritive content and taste of the soup to deterioration while taking rather a long time. Taking a better approach, however, was a

knotty problem for him as he still lacked for cooking knowledge. Nevertheless, he resolved to tackle it without fail. In order to get more training he went through the correspondence course in the department of foodstuff machinery of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce, and over the time he always deeply thought of his self-imposed task. After finishing the five-year course he buckled down to the research. Based on the experience he had gained in his work and the knowledge he had learned at university he conceived a rational method. He consulted his colleagues for their opinions and discussed his idea with technicians. Eventually, he made a new broth-making facility, which does the heating, cooling and initial filtering of the broth in one cauldron. It improved the quality of the broth while cutting the time drastically.

Later, he, building on the experience, developed a new noodle-boiling device. The device directly heats water when the old one heated indirectly. So it raises heating efficiency, improving the peculiar taste of buckwheat and ensuring the stickiness of the noodle strings. His devices won him state patents. Besides, he made some efficient appliances such as a flowline broth-making device, a mobile counter of supplied noodles and a noodle cutter. Such devices save much manual work and help making better noodles. For the achievements he



qualified as master cook. He became a workteam leader and then a workshop leader; now he is a well-established Pyongyang *raengmyon* expert. Largely thanks to his effort, Pyongyang *raengmyon* of the restaurant took first place several times at cooking festivals and delicacy exhibitions, winning many gold medals.

When asked of the secret of his success, he says, "Pyongyang *raengmyon* is synonymous of the Korean noodles and one of the delicacies representing the national dishes for its taste, appearance and cuisine. I am always proud of our national dishes. Probably this has made a *raengmyon* expert of me and nourished my endeavour to offer better noodles to people."

Last year he updated a kneading machine, thus ensuring a better quality of dough and shortening the time of kneading. Now his exertion for better *raengmyon* is directed at developing an automatic process of noodle making. □

A Great Pride

By Kim Hae Song

ONE EVENING WHEN children in their winter vacation were returning home in haste from ice-skating to see the “Raconteur Grandpa” on TV, Grandma Jo Pok Sim was telling a story to her grandchildren, all secondary school students, in a sitting room downstairs. She was nearing 80 but was still vigorous. So interestingly and vividly she narrated making gestures and facial expressions that the grandchildren were drawn to her, neglecting TV.

“This isn’t a fiction but a real story,” the grandma started the tale. “A long time ago, that is, before national liberation from Japanese rule, the city of Seoul was short of drinking water. It was a crowded city with a population of hundreds of thousands. That underground water was all contaminated and even the river water was polluted. The Japanese built a reservoir up the Han River and did waterworks, but the water supply was so scanty that the Japanese and a handful of pro-Japanese bureaucrats benefited from it. So, it was said that water was dearer than rice in Seoul. Availing themselves of this water famine, many poor labourers thronged to Seoul to make money by carrying water. Among them, water carriers from Pukchong were well-known for their tenacity. As they had been influenced by the anti-Japanese patriots and the anti-Japanese guerrillas, that is, the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army active around Mt. Paektu, they were unusually pa-

triotic minded and had a strong national spirit. One of the Pukchongites dressed in white was known as Paeg-u meaning White Ox for his strength and diligence.”

The grandma had been living here in Tongchon since her marriage. She was a good talker. Her story reached the ears of Jin Hak, her grown-up grandson, who was sitting on the edge of the bed in the next room. He had already heard the story more than once in his boyhood, but still it interested him somehow. He must have been hypnotized by her magic art of narration. They say that the young live on hopes and the aged on memories. That was why, perhaps, the grandma liked to tell old stories to her grandchildren. As a small child, Jin Hak liked to hear her stories. But now he found himself trying to get the philosophy of life in her stories rather than enjoying their plots.

“Paeg-u had an 18-year-old son, who was staying in Seoul preparing to take an entrance examination for a college. In order to earn money for his son’s admission fee and for the living costs of two of them, he was on the run from early morning whether it was rain or snow.” The grandma was describing vivid scenes of the hardship-ridden life of the lower-class people in the quiet room.

On a small hillock in suburban Seoul there was a floricultural garden with an unusual signboard reading “Pretty Kangnam.” It consisted of a few small greenhouses in a small garden with a

snug little restaurant. As it was riotous with rare, beautiful flowers all seasons grown by its owner, a gardener well versed in floriculture, it had no end of visitors all the year round.

Paeg-u’s job was to supply water to this garden and the owner’s household. As the garden needed clean water to grow flowers instead of the river water polluted by industrial waste water, the quantity of water to be supplied was too great a burden for him. He got up before daybreak and went to a gorge eight kilometres away, pulling a cart loaded with two 100-litre casks. On getting back he carried the water on his back up to the garden on the hillock. In the evening, after three or four round trips a day, he was dog-tired. Sometimes, when his son offered to help him pull the cart, he would roar in anger, “Do you think I want you to become an assistant in my toil and moi? Work hard at your studies for ten hours while other boys study one hour, and that’s the way you really help me!”

He had to spare every penny and tighten his belt to have his son make up his lag in elementary knowledge. Every water carrier was a big eater, so in Seoul people would use the expression “a water carrier’s bowl and table” referring to a clean table after a meal. But Paeg-u, a man of sturdy build, would not eat the evening meal served by the hostess but wrap it up in a piece of cloth to take home and share with his son in the lodgings who was digging into his

► books on an empty stomach. When this was repeated time and again, the kind-hearted hostess arranged to give him two portions of food every evening. Feeling quite obliged, Paeg-u said, "Please don't make me a shameless fellow. If you give me two portions, cut one portion's cost from my pay."

To this, the hostess returned, "Oh, you're so decent and straight. You know my restaurant has large patronage thanks to your trouble, and our garden owes much to you for its prosperous business." She was true. Paeg-u drew clean water from the Chonggye-gol glen, which was so rough that other water carriers hated to go. But, however bad the weather might be, he never got water from any other places. So, the owner of the garden offered to raise his pay, but the man refused to receive more than the others got. Now, the hostess put a big package of foods on the A-frame of the poor man who was standing speechless. "We're all Koreans and I know full well your wish to give education to your son to get the better of the hateful Japs."

Paeg-u could no longer refuse her kindness, and he hurried back to the lodgings.

Jin Hak raised himself at the sound of the telephone and took up the receiver. It was a call from his uncle.

"Is that you Jin Hak?" asked the voice. "You're home early today, eh?"

"Grandma asked me to come back earlier as it's your birthday today," Jin Hak answered.

"What? This is no time for birthday feast," came back the important voice of the uncle. "Today we had an executive con-

ference at the factory."

Jin Hak pricked up his ears. His uncle must have sensed his strain, for he came straight to the heart of the matter. "Instead of your proposal to build new kilns, we've decided to renovate the existing kilns and introduce a supplementary heating system into them."

Jin Hak knew this was an unavoidable outcome, for his uncle was spearheading the opposition to his idea. Yet, hearing of the decision which he had to accept, he felt like a lump of cotton choking his throat.

"You'd better set about the kiln renovation project without delay," his uncle urged. "We've decided to assign an able kiln technician to the team of the supplementary heating. You mark my words. A man needs manly courage to admit and correct his mistake." Chief Engineer Ho Kuk San hung up as if he had nothing more to say.

Jin Hak's eyes fell on the roll of paper on the round table which contained his plan of the new kiln. *Is this the end of my dear and grand creation which now remains simply as a design drawing on a piece of paper?* he asked himself.

He had obeyed his father who was a faculty dean of the Hamhung College of Chemistry and willingly come down to the fireproof materials research institute after finishing Kim Chaek University of Technology. His father had told him, "You know Tongchon is where your grandfather worked as general manager of a large factory. And now your uncle is working as its chief engineer. I hear its people have turned out to bring their factory into brisk operation as instructed by the great

leader Kim Jong Il. I think they may have many technical problems to solve. If you go there and do your bit, I should feel proud before the folks of my home town."

Jin Hak readily complied with his father's request. The Tongchon area with broad vistas of development was an arena for the young people to make a spurt on. After taking his position in the institute he had been living with his uncle who was supporting his mother. He took on the research task of developing high-quality light-burned magnesia with domestic fuel. As it was in wide use in different economic fields the demand for it was growing steadily. So it was expected to be a promising item of export. But the light-burned magnesia produced with domestic fuel was of low quality and so had little demand on the international market. But using expensive coke and heavy oil did not pay off, and dependence on foreign fuels would finally make it a lame duck. Now the young researcher Jin Hak started on the tough march of investigation to make a breakthrough in the development of the factory. He toiled through every document on heat engineering in the Grand People's Study House and went to see all the kilns known for their high heat efficiency. He spent three years groping for a new way of improving the heat efficiency and, at last, after crossing the rugged peaks of heat engineering, succeeded in developing a supplementary heating kiln by applying a new heat engineering method. The product of his tireless efforts made a sensation.

(To be continued)

The Episode of Kite

GENERAL CHOE YONG rendered distinguished services in the struggle against foreign invaders in the late Koryo era. This episode took place when he went down to Jeju Island to drive away the enemy horde. The gang of pirates was entrenched in a walled fortress in the south of the island with the gate tightly shut.

To wipe out the invaders, Choe's men had to climb over the walls unawares, but the rank nettles around the walls hindered them. They had to cut them down before coming near the walls. However, should they find a sign of the stinging plants being cut down, the besieged men would let off a shower of arrows. So, the general was racking his brains about what to do, looking out on the fortress from a hilltop, when an old man came up to him and said, "Pray don't worry too much, General. If you send me 500 soldiers on the evening of *jongwol-daeborum* (lunar 15th of January) next year, I am sure I will cut off and bring the head of the chief of the invaders to you." The general

could hardly believe the old man. When even he, an eminent warrior, was quite at a loss how to go at it, how could the aged man, presumably engaged in farming and fishing, manage it? Nevertheless, the general could not turn him down as the man was so cocksure of success. He agreed.

Days after that, the man began to spend his time flying kites near the fortress with village kids as if he had clean forgotten his promise with the general. Time passed and *jongwol-daeborum* had come. At the request of the man, Choe dispatched 500 soldiers and came down to the island again. The old man told Choe Yong to start the attack when the nettles were burnt down, and with this, he made for the nettles with ten sturdy men. Soon, flames shot up in the nettles and, fanned by the wind, spread quickly burning up all the thickets. Now was the time, and the soldiers climbed over the walls and cut up the intruders.

After the victorious battle, the general asked the old man,

"How did you set fire to the

nettles?"

"I think the thick grass of purple eulalia around the fortress caught fire and the fire spread to burn down the nettles."

"But there was no such grass when I came here last time."

"I sowed and grew the grass and nobody disturbed me."

"You planted and grew it?"

The man narrated his story to the surprised general: After he had met the general, he gathered purple eulalia seeds to burn the nettles. He put the seeds in paper pouches, attached them to kites and flew the kites with children, scattering the seeds over the nettles. The seeds sprouted and the grass grew up thickly among the nettles, paving the way to victory of the Koryo soldiers.

The man's love of the country gave birth to such a wonderful wisdom. When the general was struck with great admiration, the man turned and went out to the beach to draw out his nets set in the previous evening. This episode became known to the whole country making kite-flying more popular after that. □

Hunminjongum

HUNMINJONGUM IS KOREAN ALPHABET created in the 15th century. This year marks the 570th anniversary of its official establishment.

Earlier the Korean nation had relied on Ridu alphabet which dated back to the time of Three Kingdoms. In 1444 an advanced model of Korean alphabet called Hunminjongum was developed. The name literally means “right letters to teach the people.” It was simply called Jongum or Onmun. Jongum stands for the intrinsic nature of the Korean alphabet while Onmun denotes a common script used by the public in general.

Regarding the creation of the alphabetic system in January 1444 or December 1443 on the lunar calendar, the book pertaining to December of the 25th year of *Sejong Sillok* (Chronicles of the Rule by King Sejong compiled in 1454) writes, “This month the King personally made the 28-lettered alphabet called Hunminjongum.” As regards the date of the Korean alphabet’s birth, Jong Rin Ji (1396–1478) wrote in the book *Hunminjongum Haerye* (1446) that the King made 28 letters of Jongum in the winter of the year Kye, which means December 1443 on the lunar calendar.

The new alphabet was invented collectively by Jong Rin Ji, Choe Hang, Pak Phaeng Nyon, Sin Suk Ju, Song Sam Mun, Kang Hui An, Ri Kae and Ri Hyon Ro (or Ri Son Ro) under the personal direction of King Sejong who reigned from 1419 to 1450.

Hunminjongum was made as a succession to the ancient Korean alphabet called Sinji Letters. At first it was made up of 28 basic letters. It was supplemented by combining basic letters or adding certain marks to the basic letters.

As the most advanced alphabet the modern Korean script has a number of special merits. Its primary advantage is that it is a complex of consonants and vowels, a most advanced style of script. It is the most functional means to write the Korean language which is based on a balanced combination of consonants and vowels. It also can make notations of most of the lingual sounds in the world.

Another feature may be that the new system of



alphabet can put down all the vocal sounds heard at the time while joining the phonetic system with the alphabetic system. As Hunminjongum was made by taking the sounds of the Korean language with the intrinsic phonetic system into deep consideration, it can write most of the independent sounds with basic letters, and denote even the disappearing and incoming sounds.

The new writing system is also special in that it is based on a unique principle of modelling after the shape of the pronouncing organs. Basic letters of Hunminjongum were made after the shape of the pronouncing organs like the tongue, lips, teeth and throat. Building on the basic letters, the rest of the Korean letters were made by adding strokes or combining two or three letters according to the properties of the sound of words.

The new letters are easy to learn and write. The basic letters number no more than 28, the strokes are simple in form and systematically combined. According to the characteristics of sounds each letter is so shaped as to be easily understood.

The creation of Hunminjongum marked a great contribution to the linguistic culture and historical development of the Korean nation.

Sim Hyon Jin

Makkolli

MAKKOLLI IS A DRINK that is prepared by filtering liquids of fermented white rice, wheat and other starch materials. (It also goes by names of *thakju* or *thakbaegi*.) The name of makkolli derives from the fact that it is distilled roughly from fermented malts or that it is turbid wine. It is a long-standing national drink of the Koreans, which is 5–10 percent in alcoholic content usually.

Its history dates back to a long time ago. In the travel note *Pictures of Koryo* Xu Jing from Song China wrote in 1124 after he visited Koryo (918–1392), there is to be found a paragraph which reads, “Koryo people enjoy drinking. Bureaucrats have nice wine. But the common people like cloudy wine that tastes sour. However much they drink it they seldom go drunk.” This is perhaps the first description of makkolli in history. As it was easy to make, common people must have made and drunk it before the time of Koryo Dynasty. The coarse drink was introduced in many records like *Tonggukrisanggukjip* that was compiled in 1241 in the era of Koryo Dynasty and *Tongmunson* that was published in 1478 in Feudal Joseon Dynasty.

Makkolli is not strong or clear but gives a fresh and pleasant feeling for its well-blended sour and sweet tastes, so Koreans usually drank it on festive occasions and holidays. In summer peasants used to make and drink it to escape the sultry day at break of their field jobs.

The tradition is still alive. There is a typical service of makkolli in Songsin-dong No. 3, Sae-dong District, Pyongyang; the Chonghyang Makkolli House is a great public attraction at the moment for its unique taste. Usually people drink a cup at a time but

here in this house they ask for a double measure. Master of the house Kim Kyong Chol says, “Makkolli is usually made at home, but we have a large number of people at my house, and this is attributable to a new flavour of my makkolli. We introduced a new method of preparation in addition to the traditional methods.” He is proud of his makkolli. According to him Chonghyang makkolli is pleasant and refreshing for its sour and sweet senses mixed harmoniously. In particular, it contains carbonic acid gas, so it feels quite refreshing to all people, young and old, men and women. It tastes far better when you drink it in sultry summer and after sauna in winter.

A man who introduced himself as a regular customer of the house, said, “I believe makkolli is the best health drink. I’ve resorted to the drink these days, and I feel I’m free from stomachache.” An analysis of makkolli shows that regular drinking of it is effective in treating diseases like chronic gastric inflammation, digestive troubles, arteriosclerosis, and chronic arthritis and that it is even helpful in improving the

facial beauty. It was proved that linolenic acid known as a material inhibiting diabetes, cancers, senility and different kinds of infectious diseases comes into existence in the drink while it is fermented. At present the house regularly organizes exhibitions, technical lessons and opinion polls.

In recent years studies of makkolli are going profound regarding its functions, adding to the enthusiasm for the drink. Researchers of the Fermentation Research Institute of the Light Industrial Branch of the State Academy of Sciences have recently applied what they successfully developed into Chonghyang makkolli, thus improving the taste further and elevating the quality of the national drink. Section chief of the institute Kim Myong Hui says, “We are going to make deeper studies of national drinks like makkolli and improve the quality so that they will become a favourite with the public around the country, to say nothing of Pyongyang. I know this will help afford the people a more enjoyable life.”

Sim Chol Yong



Mt. Kuwol

MT. KUWOL IS ONE OF THE SIX CELEBRATED mountains in Korea along with the Paektu, Myohyang, Kungang, Chilbo and Jiri mountains. Located in South Hwanghae Province's northwest, the mountain is made up of 99 high and low peaks, including Sahwang-bong (954 m), O-bong (859 m), Jugo-bong (823 m), Asa-bong (688 m) and Sam-bong (615 m). It unfolds sceneries of complex and diversified shapes which are the results of long-standing weathering, erosion and water-caused cutting. The name of Kuwol comes from the fact that its scenery is most beautiful in September (Korean phonetic sound of Kuwol) when it turns golden.

Precipitous rocky peaks and deep forests feature the mountain. The ravines are washed by currents of clear water; rainbows hang in the fog floating over the waterfalls like the Ryongyon and Samhyongje falls, and pools. In the Samsu Ravine up the Hani Stream that flows down the northern slope of the mountain, there are found pools called Puyon, Mayon and Yoyon, and other spots of scenic beauty and in the middle is the famous Sokdam, a pond which is said to never go dry even when there comes a 7-year-long drought. And on the western slope are seen pools like Madang and Kama and in the middle of the slope is a deep-bottomed pond called Kyoyo-yon.

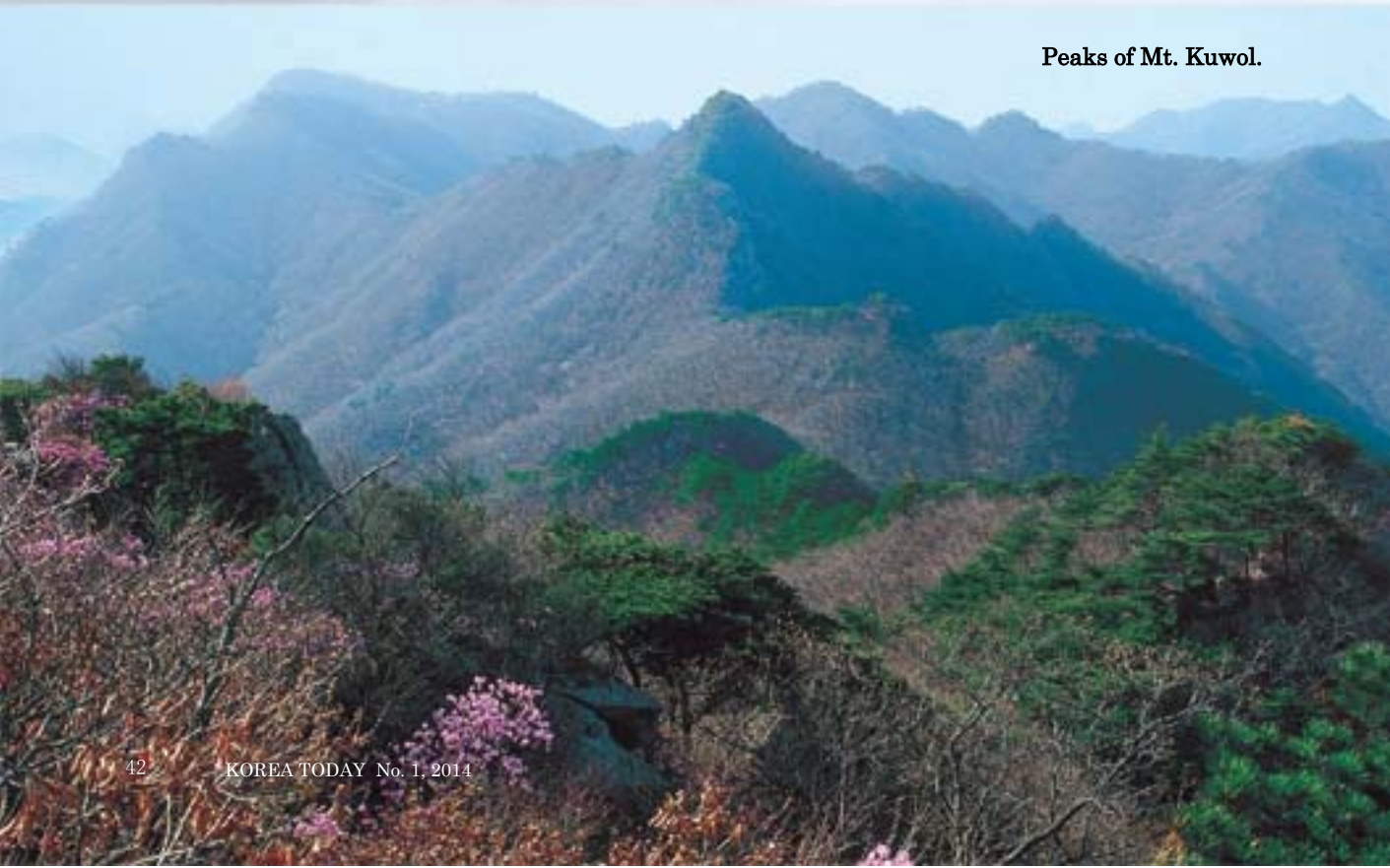
As it is located in the northern part of central Korea, its climate is relatively warm and has a

considerable precipitation. Thanks to such a climatic condition, the mountain area, designated as a nature reserve, is a sanctuary of more than 600 species of plants. Typical of them are pine, nut pine, oak, maple, walnut, camellia, persimmon, jujube and other naturally grown or transplanted trees, and wild insam, astragaluses, forest asiabell, *Schizandra chinensis* and other medicinal herbs. There are also over 30 kinds of wild beasts like roe deer, boar and hare, and more than 100 kinds of birds such as pheasant, oriole and migratory grosbeak. Such rich animal and plant resources go well with the beauties of peaks and ravines, adding to the scenery of the mountain.

The mountain resort is largely divided into districts of Tangundae, Asabong, Wolmyong, Sasondae, Sansong, Sansung, Susampha and Chogyo. From the Obong-gol and Kusong-gol situated in the Tangundae district you can see the Tangundae Rock, and from the Asa Peak in the Asabong district you can see in the west a series of peaks stretching to the southwest of Mt. Kuwol and the West Sea of Korea and in the east a wide expanse of lowland and Mt. Jongbang in the distance.

In the Sasondae district are found Ryongyon Falls which is over 15 metres in height, Pyongphung Rock, Sasondae which is a big cliff that is said to have been a haunt of four Heavenly creatures for ►

Peaks of Mt. Kuwol.





The Jiwonphokpho Ravine in summer.

► their enjoyment, and pools of clean water formed by Jonggok Stream. In the district are also to be seen historical sites like those of Jonggok Temple, Koson Temple, Jangnim Temple, a kiln used to make Koryo celadon and an iron works.

Mt. Kuwol has a lot of historical remains and



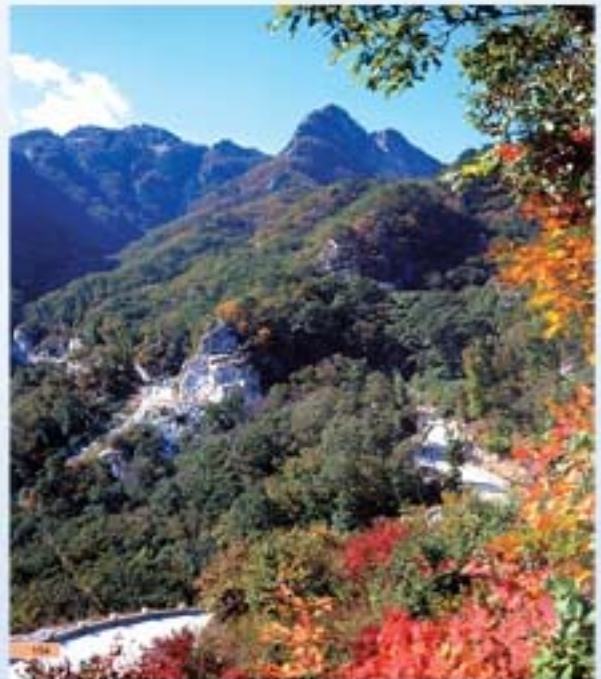
Samhyongje (three brothers) Falls.

once on land, travelled around the human world with Tangun on its back. At the moment Tangun was not on the throne yet. Wandering around the world, the tortoise arrived at Mt. Kuwol in Korea which was a land of morning calm under the bright sun. There in the mountain Tangun trained himself to be king while the tortoise, attracted by the scenery of the mountain, remained there enjoying the natural beauty before turning into a rock.

There also goes a legend in which a serpent, moved by a little girl's devoted care for her sick mother, connected the stream of water rising from a dragon's well on the top of Mt. Taerim to the girl's home. Another one is about a tiger which helped a woman who was devoted to her parents.

The mountain area has been developed into a wonderful public resort. □

Mt. Kuwol in autumn.



relics. Examples are Kuwolsan Fort, Yangsan Fort, Tangun Shrine, Woljong Temple, Phaeyop Temple, five-storeyed pagoda of Wonjong Temple, five-storeyed pagoda in Hongmun-ri, pagoda of Jangbul Temple, Monument to Phaeyop Temple, Monument to Woljong Temple, Monument to Jonggok Temple, and other mountain fortresses, pagodas, monuments and 88 tombs of Buddhist monks.

The natural celebrity is associated with a lot of legends about Tangun who is the founder king of Ancient Joseon, natural beauties, the patriotic struggle of the Korean people against foreign invaders, and beautiful manners and customs of the Koreans. A typical one of them, associated with the so-called Kobuk Rock in Hanwol-ri, Anak County, South Hwanghae Province, goes: Once upon a time the king of an undersea kingdom ordered a 3 000-year-old tortoise to go up to the human world. The animal,

Songun Politics and Global Independence

TO LIVE AN INDEPENDENT life in the world free of all kinds of domination, subjugation, intervention and oppression is a unanimous desire of all nations and countries. But this desire remains unaccomplished due to the imperialists, who pursue an ambition of global hegemony while applying oppression and sanctions to the anti-imperialist and independent nations and even carrying out wars of aggression.

The realities show that you can hardly safeguard your own sovereignty or accomplish global independence without fighting the military tyranny and outrages of the imperialists and dominat-ionists.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been struggling against rampant acts of domination, subjugation, intervention and oppression of all hues under the idea of independence, peace and friendship and has done its bit faithfully for the cause of global independence by defending its sovereign rights securely against the incessant moves of the US imperialists to dominate the whole of the Korean peninsula. In particular, in the 1990s when the US imperialists and their lackeys, taking advantage of the setback of socialism in some countries, were pointing their offensive at the DPRK that was invariably holding fast to the banner of independence and socialism, the Korean people successfully defended and further developed their socialism under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il. At the moment the US, styling itself as the world's sole superpower after the demolition of the Cold War structure, unprecedentedly intensified military moves of aggres-

sion against the DPRK and tried in every way to stifle the country in all fields of state activities—political, economic, ideological and cultural and diplomatic. Now the Oriental nation found itself at the crossroads of defending its people-centric socialism or giving up its independence under the oppression of the imperialist forces.

On the basis of a scientific analysis of the international environment of the Korean revolution and the fast-changing trend of the situation, Chairman Kim Jong Il administered Songun politics on a higher stage. Thanks to him the national defence capabilities strengthened in every way, all sectors of the national economy made a sound progress with renewed vigor and the man-made earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 1 was successfully manufactured and launched into space—all these were miraculous events for the nation.

Daunted by the resolute spirit of the DPRK that was pushing ahead dynamically in defiance of the imperialist allied forces' tenacious oppression and sanctions while shattering their concentrated offensive, the US agreed to publish the DPRK-USA joint communiqué in October 2000 which bound it to the commitment that it would harbour no hostile intentions against the DPRK and that it would make every effort to establish a new relation with the DPRK free from the past antipathy.

The realities of the DPRK gave a great encouragement to all nations and countries that aspire after independence. Ivan Djudakayev, who used to be a deputy to the Duma of the Russian Federation, wrote in his discourse titled,

“Answer to History”: “They say calamities leave lessons behind and that lessons open future. Studying Kim Jong Il's Songun politics that demands giving primary attention to military affairs—the building up of defence potentialities—among all state affairs, I believe his politics is a special sword to open the gate to a future free of any warfare. If all nations hoping to have independence against imperialism become militarily strong nations by pursuing the policy of giving precedence to the development of the defence capability, they will be able to suppress the imperialists on the rampage and succeed in their building of a new, peaceful society.”

The anti-DPRK policy of the US imperialists is still intact, which is the critical factor of the continuously tense situation in the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, the Korean people are advancing along the road of independence, the road of Songun and the road of socialism without any vacillation with infinite optimism about their future under the leadership of their supreme leader Kim Jong Un who is going ahead with Songun politics as Chairman Kim Jong Il did.

Kim Jong Il defended the sovereignty of the DPRK securely and laid a solid foundation for socialist construction by administering the original Songun politics challenging unprecedentedly rigorous ordeals and trials of history. His immortal exploits will go down forever in the annals of the DPRK and the history of the world's progressive people's struggle for global independence.

Kim Il Bong

Struggle to Achieve the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (4)

The Five-Point Policy for National Reunification

THE US IMPERIALISTS and south Korean ruling circles rejected all the fair and reasonable proposals of the DPRK including the three principles of national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—and openly announced a policy of perpetuating the division of Korea.

As a measure for prevention of permanent national division, President Kim Il Sung advanced the five-point policy for national reunification on June 23, 1973. The gist of the five-point policy is to remove military confrontation and lessen tensions between the north and the south, to achieve multilateral collaboration and interchange between them, to convene a Great National Congress comprising the representatives of people at all levels and of political parties and social organizations from both parts of Korea, to institute a north-south federation named the Federal Republic of Koryo, and to enter the UN under this name. The five-point policy is a fair and reasonable policy embodying the three principles of national reunification in keeping with the prevailing situation, and a correct policy for settling the question of the country's reunification in compliance with the will and demand of all the Korean people.

Attaching importance to the convention of the Great National Congress as a way to the settlement of the reunification issue, the President put forward reasonable proposals to this end. In July 1973 he arranged for the 59th Enlarged Meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of

Korea (DFRK) to adopt an appeal addressed to the people of all strata, political parties and public organizations in south Korea and to the overseas Koreans and their organizations for convening the Great National Congress, and in October the same year he saw to it that the Workers' Party of Korea, Democratic Party of Korea and Chondoist Chongu Party sent to the political parties of south Korea a joint letter proposing the convocation of the Congress. At a meeting held in October 1975 in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the WPK, the President called upon everyone who loved the country and the people and aspired after the country's reunification to turn out actively in forming an all-Korea national united front under the banner of national reunification, transcending differences in thoughts and ideals, social systems and religious beliefs. Then, at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in March 1974, he made a proposal for a peace treaty between Korea and the United States in order to smash the manoeuvres of the US imperialists and their south Korean stooges for perpetuating the division of Korea and to create favourable conditions for national reunification. Along with this, he saw to it that the DPRK conducted brisk diplomatic activities in the UN arena to frustrate the evil schemes of the internal and external separatists.

Meanwhile, the international solidarity movement was further strengthened in support of the Korean people's cause of national reunification. The 28th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1973 adopted a resolution on dissolving the "UN Commission for the Uni-

fication and Rehabilitation of Korea," an instrument for the US imperialists' aggression and interference in Korea, and its 30th Session in 1975 adopted a resolution from the DPRK demanding the dissolution of the "UN Command," withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea and replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty. The fourth and fifth summit meetings of the non-aligned nations in September 1973 and August 1976 adopted resolutions extending full support to the WPK's policy of national reunification. In June 1977 the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea was founded, followed by the holding of a world conference in support of the Korean people's struggle for national reunification.

Kim Il Sung made persevering efforts to bring about inter-Korean talks. At the national commemorative meeting held on September 9, 1978 to mark the 30th founding anniversary of the DPRK he proposed wide-ranging negotiations, stating that the DPRK was keeping its doors open for dialogues with the United States and the south Korean authorities and political parties. In 1979 the Central Committee of the DPRK made a statement containing a four-point proposal for hastening the country's independent and peaceful reunification and suggested a new plan of setting up a preparatory committee for national reunification as a preliminary consultation apparatus for its realization. However, the south Korean rulers were dead set against the proposals of the DPRK, breaking off the inter-Korean talks resumed after a long interval.

Pak Chol

Invariable Stand of DPRK

IT IS THE CONSISTENT STAND OF THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea to realize national unity and reunification by building up trust and reaching reconciliation between the two parts of Korea. Thanks to the DPRK's positive effort for achieving national reconciliation, unity and reunification, the working-level talks between the authorities of the north and the south of Korea for the normalization of the Kaesong Industrial Park were resumed, saving it from the crisis of closure and putting it on the track of normal operation .

Such developments after many twists and turns inspired new hope in all the fellow countrymen yearning for the improvement of north-south relations. This shows that when the north and the south give priority to the common interests of the nation and act upon the idea of "by our nation itself," dialogues and relations between the two sides can be successfully promoted without fail.

The question of inter-Korean relations is of importance for the destiny of the nation today and tomorrow. The north-south relations should be developed in conformity with the nation's aspiration and the demand of the times. On all accounts, the goal of dialogue and cooperation is to end distrust and confrontation, promote national reconciliation and unity and hasten independent reunification. And what is important in realizing dialogue and cooperation is that both sides should settle problems by subordinating everything to the great cause of reunifying the country with a firm will to improve their relations by all means. The history of inter-Korean dialogues has proved that when the north and the south dispel distrust of each other and pool their strength and wisdom in an effort to achieve the common cause of the nation, they can settle all knotty problems and develop their relations.

The DPRK has made strenuous efforts to improve its relations with south Korea and achieve peace and reunification and common prosperity in the Korean peninsula. The historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, the landmarks of independent reunification, peace and prosperity, reflect the DPRK's consistent line of reunification for achieving national reconciliation, unity, cooperation and exchange. The basic idea of the declarations is that the Koreans should develop north-south relations by concerted national efforts and go ahead along the road of reunification, attaining peace and common prosperity.

In the days following the adoption of the declarations, the north-south relations which had been gloomy with distrust and confrontation, changed into the relations of reconciliation, unity and cooperation based on the idea of "by our nation itself." Conscious that they were the parties immediately concerned in the settlement of the national problem and the reunification question, the north and the south coped

together with pending issues in keeping with the common needs and interests of the nation, bringing about amazing development in succession. Even according to the statistical data of south Korea, the number of south Korean enterprises benefiting from the mutual cooperation reached 6 000, with over 25 000 jobs created. Their average annual profits reached US\$ 6.12 billion.

Even when the north-south relations sank to the stage of catastrophe after the emergence of the Lee Myung Bak regime hot after confrontation with the north, the DPRK never suspended its efforts to realize national reconciliation and unity, peace and national reunification in accordance with the north-south joint declarations. At every opportunity, it made clear its will to join hands with anybody who, concerned about the destiny of the nation, wished the country's reunification, and put forward various proposals including a proposal for dialogues between the authorities of the two parts for the improvement of their relations amid ever-aggravating situation. If south Korean authorities had showed a positive response to the generous, well-intentioned moves of the DPRK, the north-south relations would have entered upon a new phase long ago.

The endeavours of the DPRK to reject confrontation and promote inter-Korean relations through dialogue and cooperation remain immutable. In June last year the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea announced an important statement setting forth its position that talks could be held between the authorities of the north and the south on the normal operation of the Kaesong Industrial Park and other things including, if deemed necessary, the humanitarian issue of reunion of separated families and relatives. This marked a turning point in the north-south relations which had deteriorated in the previous five years. In spite of some differences, the KIP which had been on the verge of complete closure was reopened and put into normal operation.

Now it is important to advance the inter-Korean relations towards the terminal point of independent reunification and peace and prosperity by expanding dialogue and cooperation. Of course, this may possibly meet with obstacles and difficulties. However, this is a path to be traced by the Koreans themselves in the north and the south by way of removing misunderstanding and distrust and promoting reconciliation and unity. The prevailing situation in the Korean peninsula shows that dialogue and cooperation are the only right way towards reconciliation, peace and nationwide prosperity.

In future, too, the DPRK will strive all along to improve the inter-Korean relations and accomplish the historic cause of the country's reunification by the concerted efforts of the nation.

Kim Hyon Ju

Japan's Future Depends on Liquidation of Its Past

“ADMITTING ONE’S past candidly is very important in building mutual trust,” a former German President said during his visit to Japan. We can say this expresses the bitter lessons the Germans drew from their past when they had started two world wars and plunged mankind into the horrors of war.

Germany, admitting its past crimes, is atoning for them in various ways. It officially acknowledged and apologized for its war guilt in the name of the state long ago, and defined victimized countries and people as entitled to reparation, and has paid large indemnities to them under laws such as the “Federal Compensation Act.” Still now its liability for reparation continues.

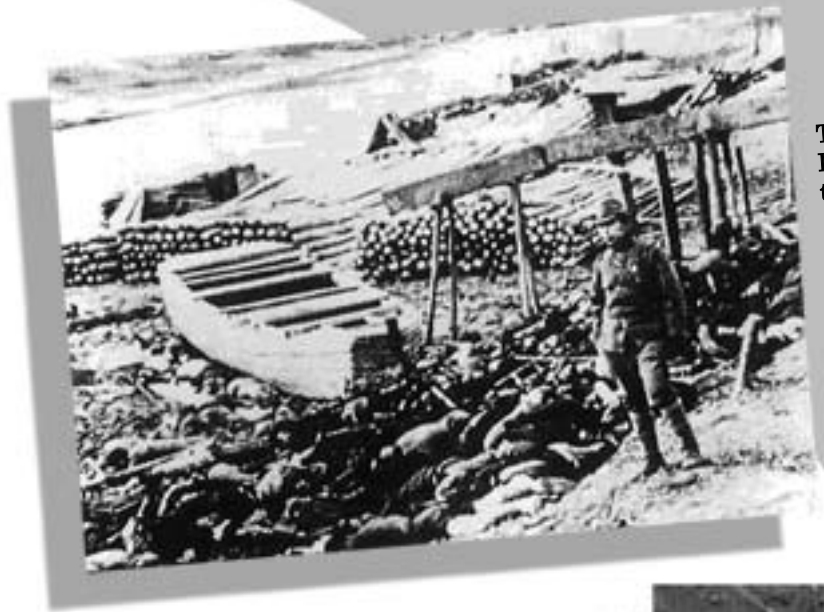
But how is another war criminal Japan behaving? In Japan today, they not only deny their bloodstained history of carnage and plunder, but also are openly justifying and eulogizing it. Japan surpasses Nazi Germany by far in their past sinful acts. In Korea alone, the Japanese committed most heinous inhuman crimes recklessly. They seized Korea and robbed it of its human and material resources without end. The Japanese imperialists kidnapped or forcibly drafted 8.4 million

young and middle-aged Koreans for their war of invasion into the Asian continent, production of munitions and construction of military facilities. These Koreans were dragged out to the battlefields to serve as bullet-shields or were put to merciless slave labour at collieries, metal mines, munitions factories and construction sites of military installations. Over one million of them met with cruel deaths. Moreover, the Japanese abducted or forcibly carried off 200 000 Korean women, teenagers and marrieds, as sex slaves for the Japanese soldiers under the government and military authorities. The hordes of the “imperial army,” taking the “comfort women” along with them over all their battlefields, gang-raped and brutally murdered them in the end. The extraordinary sex slave crime of Japan is a deadly sin never to be forgiven or covered up from the historical or criminal point of view.

The fact remains stark and undeniable. Nevertheless, the Japanese politicians are openly negating the past sex slave crime. No sooner had he took office than the present Japanese prime minister set about disowning the past crime of Japan insisting that there was no evidence of the old Japanese army kidnapping

women and making them “comfort women.” He said that “the issue of ‘comfort women’ should be discussed quietly by historians or by the experts concerned,” and that “it is wrong to make this problem a political or diplomatic issue.” He was followed immediately by the chief cabinet secretary expressing his intention to re-examine the 1993 Kono statement that had admitted the Japanese imperialists’ crime of sex slavery.

The unprecedented barbarism committed by Japan to exterminate the Korean people can never be hidden away despite the transition of history and passage of time. Japan’s headman quibbles that no clear definition has been given as yet to the conception of “aggression” by the academic circles or international community. He goes so far as to talk idly that he would not follow Murayama’s statement that expressed regret and apology for the Japanese imperialist aggression, and that he is now preparing to make a new “future-oriented” statement on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (2015). When he “took office,” he sang the song Kimigayo, a symbol of the late Japanese imperialism, and declared that “this is the first step to restoring Japan.” Then, he ►



The Japanese imperialists drive Koreans to drudgery before killing them at a timber mill.

“Comfort women” are taken to barracks of the Japanese imperialist aggression army.

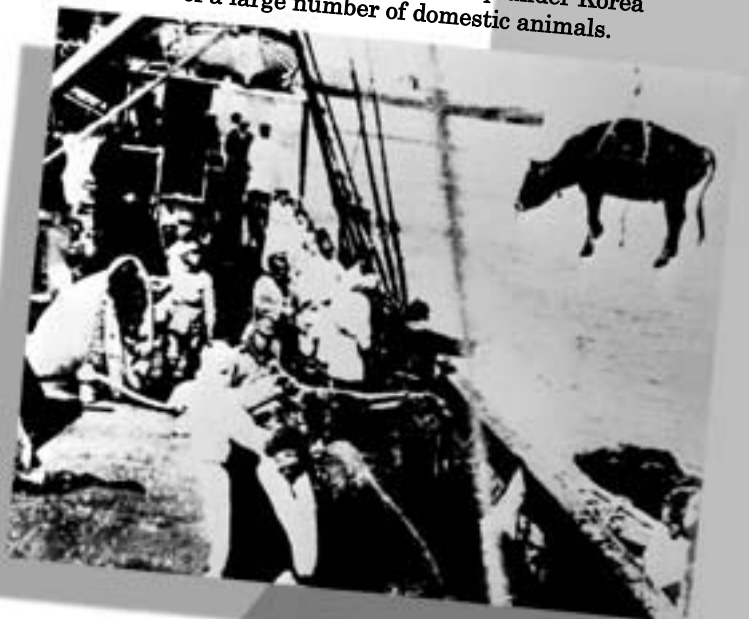
- ▶ decided to revise the defence programme and expand the Japanese armed forces, and took the lead in preparing conditions for overseas aggression. He advocates changing the “pacifist constitution” into a war constitution and has been struggling to raise the Self-Defense Forces to the status of “national defence forces.”

He is an example of the saying “The man who denies his past will repeat it at any time.” After all, the conception of “future-oriented” advocated by the Japanese politicians means a “future” oriented to repeating their past history of aggression and to realizing their old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.” Japan must know that it cannot get out of the dark shadow of history for ever if it refuses to acknowledge and sincerely repent of its sinful past, but keeps on mouthing “future-oriented.”

Choe Kwang Guk



The Japanese imperialists plunder Korea of a large number of domestic animals.



Koryo Porcelain

KORYO PORCELAIN IS one of the Korean people's cultural heritages widely known to the world along with the Koguryo tomb murals. It was produced during the Koryo Dynasty. According to its colours and ornamental techniques, it is divided into different kinds— celadon, white, black, brown, red and inlaid porcelain. It is characterized, before everything, by its peculiar colours. Of its various harmonious colours, jade green is most beautiful. This colour is distinguished by its quiet, mellow and elegant tone. It is obtained by chemical interaction between ground mud and iron of potter's glaze in baking, and this process requires the ceramists' high skills and experience. The porcelain of this colour is known as celadon or jade-green porcelain, which is the synonym for Koryo porcelain. Further, Koryo porcelain is distinguished by extraordinary designs on it. People of Koryo, using various methods such as engraving, inlaying and brush painting, decorated the ceramics with colourful figures of cloud, crane, reed, wild goose, willow, mandarin duck, chrysanthemum, grape, lotus bloom, peony flower and so on according to the shapes of the ceramics. In particular, the beau-

tiful effect of inlaid decorations with delicate patterns quietly seen through bright and clear potter's glaze is the unique quality of Koryo porcelain. In addition, Koryo porcelain is elegant and original in its shapes. Its artistic effect is enhanced by shaping the ware after the figures of animals or plants, or by making their lids, handles or bottoms in the forms of various things. Typical examples are pitchers in the shapes of bamboo sprout, pomegranate, bottle gourd and melon; cups and saucers shaped like flowers; ink-water bottles shaped after pigeon, mandarin duck, monkey, duck or doll; incense burners carved like kylin; and writing-brush stands in the shape of dragon head.

Koryo porcelain shows the wisdom and talent of the Korean people. For its variety and its extraordinary artistic value in colour and shape, it was known to the neighbouring countries as the best attractions of the world, and is even now extolled by all people as precious treasures. In Korea, Koryo porcelain is preserved as a priceless national treasure, and its fine tradition is inherited and developed in all pottery plants across the country.

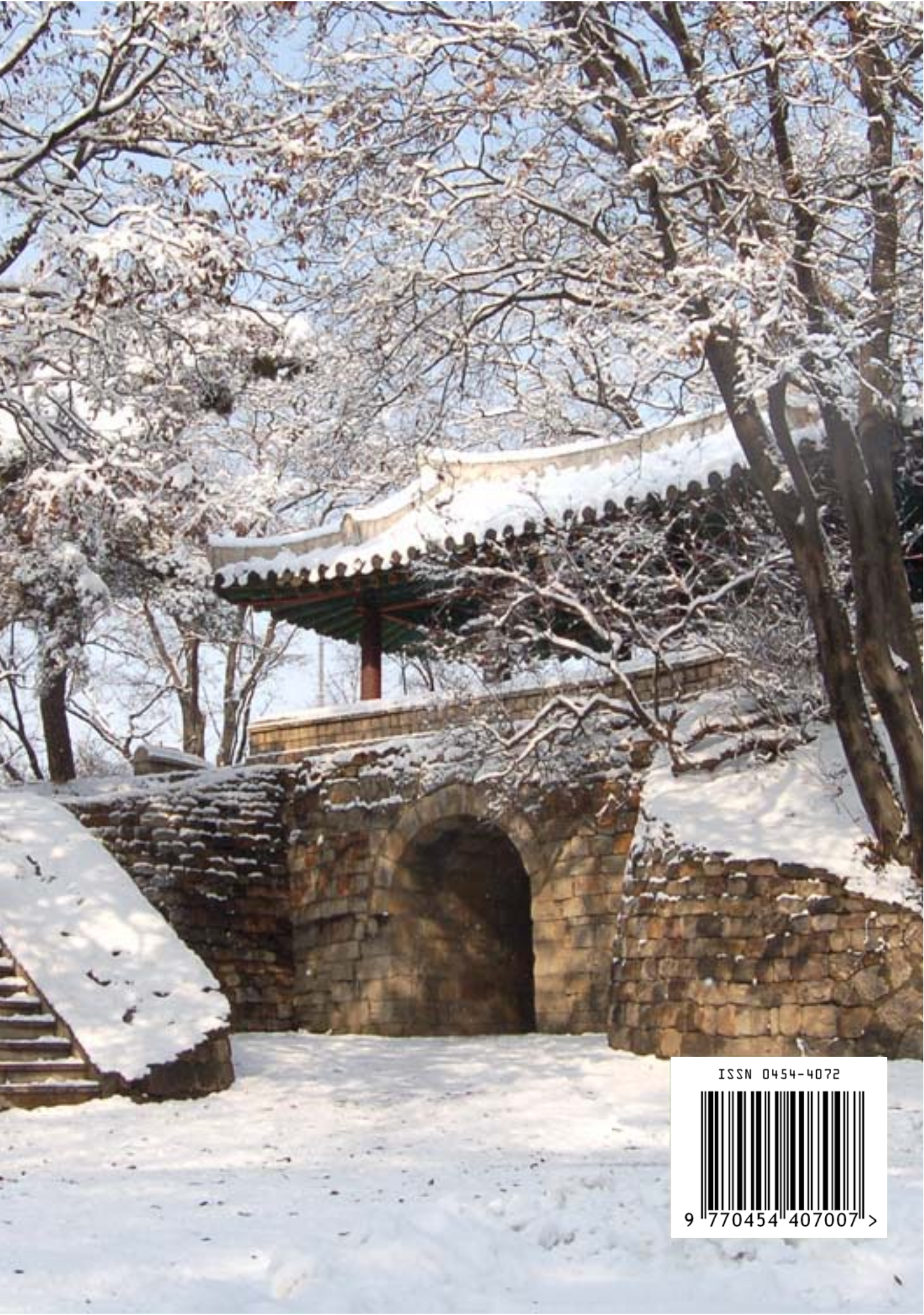


A gourd-shaped celadon pitcher with a lotus pattern engraved.

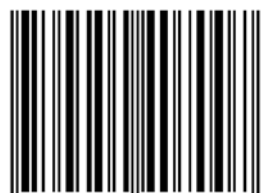


A bottle with an inlaid lotus pattern.

Kim Un Jong



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