



KOREA TODAY

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Juche 103
(2014)



Golden Samovar and Jug

Gifts presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran in May 1997.

KOREA TODAY

Monthly Journal (692)

Printed in English, Russian
and Chinese



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Front Cover: A view of the Munsu Water Park

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: Rimyongsu Falls

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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New Year Address

DPRK SUPREME LEADER Kim Jong Un made a New Year Address greeting in the new year 2014. The Korea Today editorial board introduces excerpts:

Dear comrades,

Dear service personnel of the Korean People's Army, all people and other compatriots,

Having seen out 2013, a year in which we left a remarkable footprint on the road of the sacred march of the Juche revolution, we are seeing in the new year 2014 filled with confidence in the future and revolutionary self-respect.

...

Last year was a proud year in which the entire Party, the whole army and all the people waged an all-out offensive in support of the Party's new line of developing the two fronts simultaneously and thus achieved brilliant successes in building a thriving socialist country and defending socialism.

Last year our service personnel and people, firmly rallied behind the Party, exalted the brilliance of the ideas and cause of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il and strengthened the political and ideological might of our revolutionary ranks all the more.

...

Last year we consolidated our capabilities for self-defence and achieved a brilliant victory in the acute showdown with the imperialists.

...

Though the circumstances were harsh and complicated last year, our service personnel and people, by pooling their efforts, achieved great successes in the struggle to build their country into an economic giant and improve the people's standard of living.

An upsurge was brought about in production in several sectors

and units of the national economy, and the foundations of the self-supporting economy were further consolidated. The officials and working people in the agricultural sector in particular made innovations in production even under difficult conditions and unfavourable natural climate and thus contributed to improving the people's standard of living.

The service personnel and other builders set up numerous monumental structures for the prosperity of their country and well-being of their fellow people and ushered in a heyday of construction.

...

Also, the sector of culture, including sports and education, made fresh strides last year.

True to the Party's intention of building our country into a sports power, a strong wind of conducting sports swept the country, and our trustworthy sportspeople won gold medals in international competitions and thus highly exalted the honour of their motherland. Preparations for enforcing a universal 12-year compulsory education were successfully promoted, many achievements made in the sector of science and technology, and up-to-date medical facilities introduced for the improvement of medical services for the people. The sector of musical art created many famous works of our times, inspiring loyalty in all the service personnel and people and encouraging them to wage a dynamic struggle and perform great feats.

...

Comrades,

The new year 2014 will be a year of grandiose struggle, a year of sea changes, in which we will raise a fierce wind of making a fresh leap forward on all fronts of building a thriving socialist country and thus usher in a golden age of Songun Korea.

...

"Let us raise a fierce wind of making a fresh leap forward on all fronts of building a thriving country filled with confidence in victory!"—this is the militant slogan our Party and people should uphold this year.

This year we should ensure that the sectors of agriculture, construction and science and technology hold the torch of innovations in the van and the flames of the torch flare up as flames of a leap forward on all the fronts of socialist construction.

This year is a meaningful one that marks the 50th anniversary of the theses on socialist rural question made public by President Kim Il Sung.

We should clearly prove the validity and vitality of the theses by waging the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions dynamically in the rural areas and bringing about a decisive turn in agricultural production. This year we should keep up agriculture as a major thrust of our effort in the struggle for economic construction and improving the people's standard of living, and concentrate all our efforts on farming.

...

We should usher in a new heyday of construction this year. The construction sector should set up world-class structures representative of the Songun era and build many other structures that could contribute to improving the people's living conditions, thus laying firm foundations of the self-supporting economy and providing the people with conditions for a more affluent and civilized life. Construction of power stations in tiers on the Chongchon River, livestock farming bases in the Sepho area, the Kosan Fruit Farm and a waterway in South Hwanghae Province and reclamation of tidal flats and other major pro- ▶

► jects should be stepped up to be completed on schedule. It is important to push ahead with the construction of dwelling houses and dormitories and construction for improving the conditions and environment for education, and set up cultural and welfare service bases on the highest standard. This year, too, the service personnel and people should make concerted efforts to build up Pyongyang so that it is more grandiose, and lay out the provinces, cities and counties so that they sustain their respective local features.

Science and technology are a propellant for building a thriving country, and the happiness of the people and the future of the country hinge on their development.

The scientific research sector should open a shortcut to the building of a knowledge-based economy by solving the long-term problems in developing the country's economy and improving the people's standard of living as well as scientific and technological problems arising in the actual situation and by going beyond the cutting edge. All scientists and technicians should achieve high results by skilfully riding the excellent "steed" provided to them by the Party and giving fullest scope to their talents and enthusiasm. By doing so, they can become true patriots who contribute to building a thriving nation. A climate of attaching importance to science and technology should prevail across society, and all officials and working people should diligently learn modern science and technology upholding the slogan of making all the people well versed in science and technology.

We should raise fierce flames of innovations in the vanguard sectors, basic industrial sectors, and all other sectors of the national economy.

The metallurgical and chemical industries are twin buttresses of an economic giant. Developing these industries is a major guarantee for economic construction and improving the people's stan-

dard of living. These industrial sectors should hold high the slogan of making them Juche-oriented and modern and launch a vigorous campaign for boosting production by relying on our own raw materials and fuels and on the latest science and technology. In this way they should supply sufficient amounts of steel and various kinds of chemical goods that are needed to reenergize the national economy as a whole and improve the people's standard of living.

We should give definite priority to electric-power and coal-mining industries. While taking measures for generating electricity to the maximum at the existing power stations, we should draw up correct prospective plans for radically easing the strain on electricity supply and exert ourselves to carry them out. It is important to produce more electricity with priority given to hydraulic resources and by using wind, geothermal, solar and other kinds of natural energy. We should proactively increase production in coal mines and drastically solve the problem of rail and other types of transport. The electric-power and coal-mining industries and the rail transport sector should make coordinated innovations and thus give strong impetus to the development of the national economy.

We should direct great efforts to developing light industry which plays a major part in improving the people's standard of living. By stepping up modernization of and introduction of CNC technology into their production lines and increasing the proportion of locally-available raw and other materials, light-industry factories should put production on a normal footing. And all cities and counties should produce various kinds of quality consumer goods in larger amounts by developing local industry in conformity with their specific conditions.

The state should take measures to bolster up the fishing sector. The sector should follow the

example of the fishing sector of the People's Army that landed a huge haul of fishes by carrying out the order of the Supreme Commander unto death. By modernizing fishing vessels and implements and launching a dynamic fishing campaign by scientific methods, it should ensure that all ports resound with whistles of vessels returning with full loads. It should also conduct shallow-sea farming on an extensive scale.

We should protect and increase the country's priceless natural resources including underground, forest and marine resources, and conduct an energetic mass-based tree-planting drive to cover all the mountains with thick forests.

All the sectors of the national economy should increase production by tapping all potentials and latent reserves, and at the same time launch a brisk economization campaign...

We should decisively improve the guidance and management of the economy. We should tighten the unified guidance of the economy by the state under the leadership of the Party, enhance the sense of responsibility and creativity of enterprises and encourage all the working people to discharge their responsibility and role as masters of production and management.

We should make a big stride in the construction of culture, including education.

The sector of education should improve the contents, methods, conditions and environment of education as required by the revolution and developing times and bring about a fresh turn in education, including secondary general education. By putting efforts to medical treatment and preventive medicine for promoting the people's health, the public health sector should ensure that the benefits of socialist healthcare system reach the people more closely.

Art and literature are a bugler, a powerful propellant, for the ►

► revolutionary advance in building a thriving country. The sector of art and literature should produce large numbers of masterpieces of the times, which are high in ideological and artistic qualities and touch the heartstrings of the audience keeping step with the advance of our revolution and vibrant realities.

We should raise more fiercely the strong wind of conducting sports throughout the country. We should encourage sportspeople to intensify training with a high ambition to become world champions, and splendidly implement the Party's plan of building our country into a sports power by developing sports science and technology and implementing the policy of making sports mass-based.

We should continue to channel great efforts into building up the country's defence capabilities.

Strengthening defence capabilities is the most important of all state affairs, and the country's dignity, people's happiness and peace rest on powerful arms.

We should further develop the People's Army into the powerful revolutionary army of Paektusan that is unfailingly faithful to the Party, the leader, the country and the people. The main link in the whole chain of developing the People's Army is strengthening the company which is the basic combat unit of the army and base of soldiers' life. We should make all the companies elite combat ranks fully prepared politically and ideologically, militarily and technologically and their dear homes overflowing with brotherly affection. By stepping up political and ideological education among service personnel, we should train them to be strong in ideology and faith and ready to defend the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun and the Party Central Committee unto death. They should intensify combat training and launch a brisk movement for becoming crackshots so as to prepare themselves to be a-match-for-a-hundred combatants with excel-

lent marksmanship, strong physique and a high sense of discipline.

The Korean People's Internal Security Forces should creditably discharge its noble mission and duty of defending the leader, system and people by thoroughly establishing the Party's command system and revolutionary military climate in it, and the Worker-Peasant Red Guards should intensify combat training and remain fully ready for action at all times.

The sector of defence industry should manufacture larger numbers of modern military hardware of our own style that are light, unmanned, intelligent and of high precision to solidify the self-defence capabilities.

We should further consolidate the political and ideological position of our revolution.

...

In this significant year, in which we greet the 40th anniversary of the programme of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism advanced by the great General, we should solidify the Party organizationally and ideologically, train all the members of society to be equipped with Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and cement the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks.

It is imperative to establish the monolithic leadership system in the Party, definitely ensure the purity of Party ranks and improve the militant functions and role of Party organizations. We should intensify ideological education among officials, Party members and other working people to ensure that they think and act at all times and in all places in line with the Party's ideas and intentions with the steadfast faith that they know only the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and our Party. We should ensure that they approach with political awareness even the slightest phenomenon and element that infringe on the unity of the Party and revolutionary ranks and undermine their

single-hearted unity, and eliminate them in a thoroughgoing way. They should wage a vigorous struggle to stamp out any sort of alien ideology and decadent lifestyle which may undermine our system and thus resolutely smash the enemy's schemes for ideological and cultural infiltration.

In order to make the flames of a leap forward flare up on all fronts of building a thriving socialist country, it is crucial to give fullest play to the mental strength of the masses.

The greatest potential for creation and innovation, the fundamental key to miraculous change, lies in giving play to the mental strength of all the service personnel and people. A sweeping ideological campaign for information and motivational purposes should be undertaken to give free rein to the mental strength of Party members and other working people. All of them should make Kim Jong Il's patriotism part of their mental qualities and apply it in practice, and thus become performers of heroic feats in the worthwhile struggle to build theirs into a socialist country, powerful and civilized.

It is necessary to establish stringent revolutionary discipline and order in all domains of the revolutionary struggle and construction work.

This is an important factor in demonstrating the advantages of collectivism of our society and making a success of all undertakings. All sectors and all units should carry out to the letter the policies of the Party and the laws, decisions and directives of the state, and encourage the officials and working people alike to observe laws, regulations and order with full awareness of being masters of our society and citizens of the DPRK.

Officials should make redoubled efforts to fulfil their duty as leading members of the revolution and faithful servants of the people.

They should organize undertakings in a big way with absolute ►

► loyalty to the Party, a high sense of responsibility for their work and fervent zeal, and strive with unflinching perseverance to implement the Party's plans and intentions without fail.

They should regard the people's demands and interests as the absolute criteria for their performance, concern themselves only about doing things as wished by them and to their liking, and do anything in a way beneficial to them. They should be deeply sincere to people's demands and opinions, and live and work as their true servants who devote themselves for their interests at all times.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the date when President Kim Il Sung wrote his last signature on a historic document concerning the country's reunification.

True to the behests of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il, we should make fresh headway in the national reunification movement for this year.

To resolve the reunification issue in keeping with the aspirations and desires of our fellow countrymen, we should reject foreign forces and hold fast to the standpoint of *By Our Nation Itself*.

The driving force for national reunification is all the members of the Korean nation in the north, in the south and abroad; only when we remain steadfast in this standpoint can we reunify the country independently in line with our nation's interests and demands. To go on a tour around foreign countries touting for "international cooperation" in resolving the inter-Korean relations issue, the one related with our nation, is a humiliating treachery of leaving its destiny in the hands of outside forces. The north and the south should uphold the principle of independence which is one of the three principles for national reunification and has been confirmed in the north-south joint declarations, hold fast to the standpoint

of *By Our Nation Itself*, and respect and implement the declarations with sincerity.

We should make positive efforts to defend national security and peace.

The US and south Korean war maniacs have deployed legions of equipment for a nuclear war in and around the Korean peninsula and are going frantic in their military exercises for a nuclear war against the north; this precipitates a critical situation where any accidental military skirmish may lead to an all-out war. Should another war break out on this land, it will result in a deadly nuclear catastrophe and the United States will never be safe. All the Korean people must not tolerate the manoeuvres for war and confrontation by the bellicose forces at home and abroad but stoutly resist and frustrate them.

A favourable climate should be established for improved relations between the north and the south.

It is heartrending to see our nation partitioned by foreign forces, and it is more intolerable to see one side slinging mud at and showing hostility to the other. This will serve merely as an occasion for the forces who are undesirous of seeing one Korea to fish in troubled waters. It is high time to put an end to such slander and calumny that bring no good to both sides, and they should desist from doing anything detrimental to national unity and reconciliation. The south Korean authorities should discontinue the reckless confrontation with their compatriots and the racket against the "followers of the north," and choose to promote inter-Korean relations in response to the call of the nation for independence, democracy and national reunification. We will join hands with anyone who opts to give priority to the nation and wishes for its reunification, regardless of his or her past, and continue to strive for better inter-Korean relations.

All the Korean people in the north, in the south and abroad

should achieve solid unity under the truly patriotic banner, the principle of *By Our Nation Itself*, and turn out in the nationwide struggle for the reunification of the country. By doing so, they should open up a new phase for independent reunification, peace and prosperity this year.

Last year, in the international arena, the imperialists persisted in interference and war moves threatening the independence of other sovereign states and the right of mankind to existence.

Especially the Korean peninsula, the hottest spot in the world, was in a hair-trigger situation due to the hostile forces' manoeuvres for a nuclear war against the DPRK, which posed a serious threat to peace and security in the region and the rest of the world.

Nothing is more precious for our people than peace, but it is not something that can be achieved if we simply crave and beg for it. We can never just sit back with folded arms and see the dark clouds of a nuclear war against us hovering over the Korean peninsula. We will defend our country's sovereignty, peace and dignity by relying on our powerful self-defensive strength.

Holding fast to the ideals of our foreign policy—*independence, peace and friendship—our Party and the government of the DPRK will, in the future, too, strive to expand and develop relations of friendship and cooperation with all the countries that respect our sovereignty and are friendly to us, and safeguard global peace and security and promote common prosperity of mankind.*

The tasks facing us are gigantic and difficulties stand in our way. However, our revolutionary cause is sure to emerge victorious as we advance under the great banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Let all of us strive for greater victory in the new year filled with high ambition and unwavering confidence and firmly united behind the Party with a single heart. □

Kim Jong Il's Wish



Chairman Kim Jong Il gives on-the-spot guidance to the newly built Pothongmungori Meat and Fish Shop in September 2011.

“FRANKLY SPEAKING, I WISH TO BRING flowers bloom even on the stone if the people want to see it, and thus bring honour to them.” This is Chairman Kim Jong Il's statement. His wish was to make sure that the Korean people live an equally rich life, lead a blissful life and have the most civilized life to the admiration of all other nations in the world. To bring his wish into reality he worked devotedly all his life.

In the 1990s socialism collapsed in some countries and the offensive of the imperialists was focused on socialist Korea. In the rigorous time

Kim Jong Il's care for the people's living condition remained as it had been. While continuing his way of Songun-based revolutionary leadership in order to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation he often visited Jagang Province which is a far-off region from the capital city of Pyongyang, and taught how to improve the living standard of the provincial people. When the local people built minor power stations and began to benefit from it, he was so happy that he travelled a long way through the snowstorm to come to the province. He then encouraged the whole nation to learn the experience of the



Efforts are put in sturgeon farming.



- ▶ people in Jagang Province. On his way of frontline inspection he conceived the idea of land realignment and made sure that even the military personnel were mobilized to reshape tiny patches of paddies to standard sizes. Under his auspices the seed revolution and the double-cropping campaign were inaugurated.

Keeping it a sore memory that the people had to go hungry during the years of the “Arduous March,” he was once very pleased to know that a certain kind of high-yielding crop newly bred by a Korean People’s Army unit would be able to bring about a radical change in solving the food problem of the people in several years if it was cultivated across the country. Necessary measures were taken according to his instruction.

When he was told that a chicken farm went online newly to bring benefit to the people, he was quite satisfied that the people were pleased with it. Once when he looked round newly built dwelling houses in a farm in the northern region of the country he saw the farm workers were happy with their electric floor heating; he was satisfied over the fact, and said he felt happiest when he heard that the people were leading a happy life.

His first consideration in approaching all things was for whom they were in service; he judged them good only when the people had access to them in

reality. One day he visited the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory when he heard from accompanying officials that even high-ranking officials had not seen the Kungangsan- and Nowana-brand cosmetics. He said sternly that it was wrong that such nice cosmetics were exported without being supplied to the local people. Later he stressed that the reconstruction of the Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory was intended to supply cosmetics to the local people instead of exporting them to foreign countries. “We shouldn’t sell the Pomhyanggi-brand cosmetics to foreign countries,” he told emphatically to officials. This is how the department stores and other shops around the country were supplied with high-quality cosmetics to be sold to the people.

One day in June 2002 the leader visited the Taedonggang Beer Factory. Saying that he had had a taste of the beer produced by the factory some time before and that he had learned it was not so good, he admonished officials concerned, saying, “You shouldn’t feel satisfied at simply supplying much beer to the people. You have to supply sweet beer to

► the people as well as giving them a sufficient amount.” Later when he had a taste of the beer produced by the factory by a new method he was rather satisfied with the taste and asked to further improve the taste and quality of the beer by referring to the people’s opinion.

A certain fish farm that succeed in growing sturgeons in 2009 is also what was initiated by Chairman Kim Jong Il during the time of the “Arduous March” to provide for the future. At the time nobody dared to suggest such a construction project as the nation’s economic situation was very difficult. But the national leader proposed to build a large fish farm and later inspected the construction site several times, asking encouragingly to work hard to help the people have sturgeons and caviar as soon as possible. Visiting the farm in June 2009 he stressed that he was working to provide his people with the richest life in the world and that his people ought to be provided with such world-famous delicacies like sturgeons.

When the Central Zoo was under reconstruction he gave an advice that laying it to meet the people’s emotional needs be adopted as the most important standard; when he visited the renovated Taedongmun Cinema House he took a seat to see if it was made comfortable and asked to make sure that the

people had no inconvenience at all.

And when he was at the Kaeson Youth Park amusement ground, he made it clear that what is essential in operation is to ensure the people’s health and safety, and urged that amusement facilities and games should be arranged in a scientific and rational way to suit the people’s ages, occupations and health conditions. And looking round the newly installed amusement facilities he said the people would be pleased very much and that the people’s enjoyment was his worth of life.

It was Chairman Kim Jong Il’s cherished desire to provide the people with the happiest life in the world. Now the Korean people are sorely yearning for him, and they sing of their longing for him like this:

*I wish he would come again to see apple blooms.
I wish he would come again to
see vinalon pouring.
All the people of his are anxious
To have him return.
... ..
Our hearts are burning with yearning for him.
We’ll support the Party leadership
true to the father’s will.
We’ll have Kim Jong Il in high esteem for ever.
Infinite is our longing for him. □*

A view of the Kaeson Youth Park amusement ground.



Kim Jong Il and CNC (3)

Introduce CNC and there'll be no reject!

ONE YEAR, ON FEBRUARY 14, Chairman Kim Jong Il visited a machine-building factory. He asked the operator of a machine, "What is the percentage of the rejects?" "It's five percent." At this, a cloud passed over the face of the Chairman. He said, "Five percent is too much. Steel is produced with difficulty. So, there must be no reject." Turning to his retinue, he went on to say, "With old techniques they cannot avoid rejects. This is the CNC era. CNC should be introduced without fail. Only then will there be no rejected products."

The sampling stage

One day he was holding a field discussion with officials at a factory about the introduction of CNC. He said, "Told to introduce CNC, all are coming out for it. But I think we can't go with equalitarianism. So, we should fix trial and model units concentrating investments on them and generalize their experiences. In this way we have to create trial and model units. We can surely get through it. As we have a powerful sci-tech force, we can tackle it fearlessly." With this, he looked round at the officials present, uttering in an undertone, "The point is which factories we should set as trial units." All the officials were brooding over the question, when the Chairman resumed, "I think we'll do well to start with this factory. The introduction of CNC will make it possible to raise

the quality of the products while saving labour. It's profitable in many ways."

"Oh, yes. We'll do it briskly," exclaimed the officials of the factory in delight that their factory was designated as the pioneer.

In deep retrospect on the path traversed by the Korean machine-building industry, he went on to say, "Presumably, it was between the late 1980s and the early 1990s that the CNC technique caught global attention. In former days our technicians who saw CNC machine-tools had little interest in them or did not think them marvellous. But after experiencing hardships during the 'Arduous March' and witnessing the social trend of the IT era, they became awakened to the need of technical modernization."

This was a plain analysis and estimation of the past and present reality of the Korean mechanical engineering.

After a while he said with a smile, "So, we are now in the sampling stage."

Sampling stage!

The practical stage

Kim Jong Il rushed forward for a bright future without any hesitation. Now the sampling stage had to pass into the practical stage. Here are some simple facts that show how the early days of the progress of the introduction of CNC went by.

July 18, 2002

He said to a senior official, "That factory has set up the general direction office in it, but it is of little use in its production con-

trol. Looking around the factory today, I thought I would say a word about it to the managing staff of the factory, but seeing that they were working hard to rebuild their factory, I withheld it. That office is only to keep up appearance. They should go about CNC."

February 4, 2003

"Dear Chairman, we have installed a CNC turning lathe and a CNC vertical lathe and they work admirably."

"Good. You go ahead expanding your achievements along that line."

July 3, 2003

He had a talk with the general manager of a machine-building factory.

"Dear Chairman, this is an electric-wire discharge machine."

"I've seen 'Ryonha machines' in other factories, too. You've done well. I'm now convinced that we are fully capable of doing everything with machines of our own make."

December 10, 2003

He gave a phone call to a senior official. "What about the re-equipment of the factory?"

"Dear Chairman, the general manager of the factory says they would manage to introduce CNC with the factory's own funds."

"We can't wait until the factory makes enough money to replace its equipments. Let's make necessary investments in the factory."

Chairman Kim Jong Il devoted all his energies to the modernization of the industrial establishments across the country along CNC lines. □

Lasting Feats

ONE POLITICAL CHANGE AFTER ANOTHER is taking place in the international arena. The developing countries, in particular, are waging a dynamic struggle for independence with the conviction that the only way for mankind to live is for all countries to make national progress while exercising equal rights.

Chairman Kim Jong Il performed immortal exploits in the struggle to realize the progressive people's wish to enjoy a new, independent and creative life. In his classic work *On the Juche Idea* and many other writings he suggested scientific tasks and methods to be done and applied in the modern-day struggle to achieve national liberation, class and human emancipation and defend global peace and security by checking the imperialists' moves of aggression and war. On the basis of accurate understanding of the ever-changing trend of the international situation and the development of the times he clarified all matters of principle, tasks, strategies and tactics for development of international relations based on the principle of independence—including the matters of forming the driving force in the struggle for global independence, maintaining the revolutionary principle and preserving the Juche character and national character, achieving independent development of the developing countries, strengthening the non-aligned movement, abolishing the outdated international order and establishing a new, equal one. The works of the Chairman were an encouragement to the progressive people in their struggle for sovereignty, independence and socialism, and became the revolutionary banner leading the way ahead to be followed by them.

Over the last 20-odd years many publishing houses, political parties and public organizations in more than 100 countries have published as many as 60 writings of the Chairman in forms of complete collection and booklet. His works, issued in some 40 national languages, have been distributed across the world, inspiring the political and public circles around the world. The people aspiring to live in a new world independently and peacefully have carried out campaigns to study great ideas and theo-



The Juche idea is studied and disseminated in Africa.

ries contained in his immortal classic works. International, regional and national seminars on the Juche idea took place very often with large attendance, including the international seminar on the Juche idea on global peace and independence and the African regional symposium on the Juche idea on the building of a new, independent society.

Now the world's progressive people regard Kim Jong Il's works as textbook of their life and struggle, and are carving out their destiny independently and creatively. The process of regional integration in Asia, Africa and Latin America is being accelerated while the cooperation among the developing countries is getting closer. This is an eloquent demonstration of the validity of Kim Jong Il's theories. The African countries have chosen south-south cooperation as an important approach to many-sided development and integration of developing countries. They have achieved political integration of their region and are now solving problems arising in the continent by themselves. Latin America, which used to be called "quiet backyard" of the United States, is turning into an anti-American backyard. The ALBA member states are building up their defence capabilities through united and cooperative efforts and endeavouring to cope with the imperialists' undisguised intervention by force of arms and implementation of their collective defence strategy. ▶

For the People's Welfare

His view of happiness

ONE DAY IN DECEMBER 1998 CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il had a talk with the officials close to him. "The officials' joy lies in doing something good for the people. My pleasure always goes with the people's welfare. I give on-the-spot guidance to various sectors including army units, factories and other enterprises almost everyday, and it is just for the sake of the people's happiness. Never once have I thought of my field trips as trying. Whenever I hear of people better off, I forget my fatigue and feel my spirits rise. My pleasure is in the people's pleasure and my happiness in the people's happiness. You officials should be aware of my thoughts and work hard with me for the people."

The best news

One April day in 2001 Kim Jong Il visited a fish farm. Looking round the terraced breeding ponds of the farm in a valley, he acquainted himself in detail with the yields of fish and all other things. Every fishpond teemed with rainbow trouts. Surveying the charming scene of the farm, he beamed with delight. One of the farm's managerial staff told him they had supplied rainbow

trouts to the people in the district to their great joy. He was so pleased at this that he said over and over again that it was the best of all latest news to him.

His determination

One day Kim Jong Il visited a village of newly-built modern dwelling houses at a cooperative farm in a province. He entered a house and stepped into a room, where he personally touched the floor to see if it was warm and then let an attendant to switch on the TV to know whether it was in good order. After inspecting all parts of the house including the wide kitchen and hallway, he said contentedly that the house was well built in all respects.

Back from his visit that day, he said warmly to officials that his desire and determination was to help all our people live in as good houses as the ones he saw that day, equipped with all necessary facilities including electric-heating system, and that leaving the village, he made up his mind over again to carry his determination into effect at all costs. Listening to him, the officials made a firm resolve to support solidly the noble intentions of the Chairman who, identifying the people's growing welfare with his own pleasure, wanted to bring about a better future for them. □

► Such political changes in the international arena clearly show that the time of the imperialists' domination of the world politics has gone for good and that the only way for mankind to follow is for all countries and nations to make their own progress with equal rights. The honorary chairman of the Finnish National Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea said, "Kim Jong Il led the cause for global independence to victory with the Juche idea. His revolutionary life will go down in history of humankind, encouraging the progressive people." An

official of the African Union Commission said, "Kim Jong Il was a great leader respected by not only the Korean people but also the African people. His exploits for the independent development of the African countries will go down for ever."

Indeed, Kim Jong Il's immortal exploits for the cause of global independence are shining brilliantly along with the world progressive people's struggle for independence, peace and friendship against imperialism.

Choe Chol Nam

Dreams of the People Come True

THE SONG *PAEAN TO MOTHERLAND*, created on the occasion of the 65th founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is now on everyone's lips in the country. One of the verses goes:

*Everlasting will our national flag be in the sky
True will all our dreams come in this land.
I will be thy devotee for ever.*

The dearest wish of the Korean people, who regard their country as their dear home and the base of their fortune, is to have all their desires come true in this land under their sky. From of old they had a humble dream of having even a simple straw-thatched house and seeing their children go to school.

In recent years they were exposed to a dire threat to existence posed by the tenacious anti-socialist schemes of the imperialists. The Workers' Party of Korea defended their socialist country and safeguarded the nation's destiny and dignity by means of Songun politics. That is enough to make the Korean people feel obliged to the WPK and eulogize it.

Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Party, has another idea, though. He is determined to help the

people enjoy all socialist benefits as soon as possible as was wished by Chairman Kim Jong Il. To this end he administers the people-centric politics, and this is what he finds his worth of life in. He once said, **"It is the firm determination of our Party to ensure that our people, who are the best in the world and who have remained faithful to the Party in the face of all manner of difficulties, do not have to tighten their belts again, but enjoy all the benefits of socialism."**

One day in October 2010 Chairman Kim Jong Il told officials that they should make the amusement park and wading pool—to be built on Rugna Islet—as the ones good enough to reach the world's standard as they were projects for the sake of the people, although they would need a colossal amount of money. "We should build the amusement park as an edifice of lasting value that will remain admirable even in the distant future," he admonished.

Early in 2012 Kim Jong Un instructed that a ►



The Munsu Rehabilitation Centre.





The People's Open-air Ice Rink.

► modern aquatic complex and an amusement park should be completed on the best possible level on Rungna Islet as instructed by Chairman Kim Jong Il. He even drew pictures in his handbook to teach how to develop the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground excellently and named it as it is.

Now the ground has got a dolphinarium as well as a wading pool and an amusement park. Following the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, there appeared the People's Theatre, the People's Open-air Ice Rink, the Ryugyong Health Complex and others while the Mangyongdae Funfair and the Taesongsan ►

The Rungna Dolphinarium.



► Pleasure Ground were renovated into better recreation centres for the sake of the people. Many public service facilities went up including the Mansugyo Meat and Fish Shop and the Mansugyo Café. Last year the Munsu Water Park and the Mirim Riding Club were built wonderfully while the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital were erected equipped with latest facilities. These establishments are associated with warm loving care of national leader Kim Jong Un for the people. During the days of their construction he often visited the sites, sometimes at midnight and sometimes in

the Munsu Water Park were presented he gave guidance for their perfection as many as 113 times. His care for the people can be felt even in miscellaneous things in the park, like the large clocks hanging in different places, pleasant and cheerful music, looking glasses and hair-drying machines in the changing rooms and a stepping board by the slide. The Okryu Children's Hospital which was named by the national leader is decorated attractively by more than 1 700 articles of fine arts, so you are reminded of an art gallery for the children when you look in the hospital. The children are not registered in the list of



The Mirim Riding Club.

the early morning, making sure that they were built as edifices of lasting value which would be admirable even in the distant future. In particular, he inspected the construction site of the riding club many times; looking round the dirt track, he asked to take a measure to prevent the track from being dusty when people had horse-riding and to set mounting facilities at different places along the track so that people could get on horseback easily. At his advice there were fixed railings for the protection of the children, sand was spread on the floor of the outdoor basic training ground and additional railings were set up. The leader studied riding garments closely, asking to make the clothes in different styles and colours to suit ages and sexes. When plans of the formation of

diseased cases alone. Their names are also registered in the roll in classrooms. This means they benefit from the free education system and the free medical care system altogether. All this came into existence thanks to the idea and plan of national leader Kim Jong Un.

Today the Korean people have realized their desires to live a worthy life as masters of their destiny befitting human beings and to be free from any worry about the future of their children. So, they are filled with a great pride and a determination to turn their socialist country into a thriving one with their own wisdom and efforts by building on their own natural resources.

An Song Duk

Light Industry Makes Headway

IN RECENT YEARS THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been putting efforts into developing light industry to improve the people's standard of living. This is bearing a good result. In this connection a Korea Today reporter had an interview

industry, machine-building industry, vinalon industry and metallurgical industry, the nation has simultaneously carried on with the campaign of building new light industrial bases and updating production processes in order to put the production of

number of light industrial factories were renovated or built newly last year; a typical example is a new process that went into operation at the Hamhung Woolen Textile Factory in the fourth quarter of last year to produce a large amount of knit-



Workers of Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill make innovation in production.

with Sin An Son, deputy director of DPRK Cabinet Secretariat No. 1. Excerpts:

I'd say the DPRK has already laid a solid foundation for the development of light industry, regarding it as the supreme principle in state activity to improve the people's welfare.

That's for sure. My country has pursued the improvement of the people's living as the top priority task and paid close attention to the sector of light industry. While pushing ahead with the modernization of the defence

light industrial goods on an advanced level. The Pyongyang Daily Necessities Factory, the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, the Pyongyang Aromatics Factory and other similar enterprises have been modernized in a short span of time with their equipment refashioned anew. A lot of light industrial factories have undergone facelift. Last year the Pyongyang Condiment Factory's production process was modernized, which is a solid foundation to improve the quality and increase the quantity alike. A large

ting yarn.

I hear that in recent years the state has paid greater importance to the field of light industry with the result that the kinds of goods and quality have increased considerably.

You're right. Early last year our national leader Kim Jong Un pointed out in his New Year Address that it was necessary to reenergize those sectors and units that are directly related with the people's living and boost production. A national light industry conference took place in ▶



The Sonhung Foodstuff Factory.

► March last year. In accordance with a state measure the factories and enterprises concerned with light industry including the February 8 Vinalon Complex, are duty bound to supply materials needed in production of light industrial goods on a preferential basis. Amidst the nationwide

enthusiastic drive for making an industrial revolution in the new century, light industrial factories are forcefully pushing ahead with technical renovation for development of popular products while scientific research centres are engaged in a dynamic effort to substitute imported materials

with domestic ones in light industry. Commercial media like the Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 Goods Show are utilized effectively to arouse the public interest in and enthusiasm for light industry. This has facilitated the endeavour to make smart articles of light industry as befits the trend of the time. Numerous kinds of goods have become popular trademarks; some typical ones are *Sorikkot* tooth brush, *Okryu* tooth paste, *Chol-jjuk* hosiery, *Kalmaegi* underwear, *Unbangul* chewing gum, *Rungna* bread and *Pombbit* bread which are famous for their excellent quality and taste. The Sonhung Foodstuff Factory alone produces as many as 400 kinds of foods with the trademark of *Sonhung*. Many of them were appreciated at international expos and exhibitions. ◻

The 7th Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 Goods Show held in December 2013.



People Who Advance the Future



A GOOD ARRANGEMENT of cosy and clean houses and public buildings, sounds of singing and laughing from the house of culture, well-equipped service facilities—this is a panoramic view of Migok-ri, Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province. With the passage of time the community has changed beyond recognition both in people's mentality and landscape. Go to the place where Hukbosan fertilizer is produced as part of the preparation for the farming, and you'll see the workers filled with determination to make another rich harvest this year with confidence and optimism. Go to the residential quarters, and you will see dwellings which are no less good than those seen in urban districts.

The people in Migok-ri say that the changes in their community are not a few years' effort. They did even a small job by pooling their wisdom and strength with the sense of responsibility that they are in charge of supply-



Advanced farming techniques are assimilated.

ing the nation with grains. The managing officials stood in the van of difficult and laborious jobs calling on the workers to support the country faithfully by doing farming and laying a more solid material and technical foundation by themselves. This was a great encouragement to all the farm workers. In the morning tractors fully loaded with manure ran to the fields and different kinds of farm machines worked with pleasant buzz.

The farm set a high target to introduce a new farming method and conducted the relevant work forcefully. Officials and techni-

cians, in close contact with agricultural scientists, busied themselves with the task. Regarding it as one of the important affairs in adopting a proper farming method to improve the technical knowledge of the workers, the officials paid primary attention to the job.

It was an annual practice that the early condition of the rice growth failed to lead to good condition in the later stage of the growth. Making analysis of the fact, they knew it was because the roots were short of oxygen supply in the wetland fields and the harmful gas in the soil retards the



Priority is given to science and technology.

► growth of the roots. Now they did farming jobs considering the condition of the roots, unlike in the past when they studied the surface condition of the rice in farming. Based on the desire of the mass of the farm workers who are well informed of the locality, the farm management could organize proper farming jobs.

Waterways were dug deeper, curved channels were straightened, and sluices were set to lower the level of water. Considering the farm's condition, the time of applying the fertilizer for stimulating the rice roots and the

time of draining the field in the middle of the growth were set newly and priority was given to how to grow strong roots of rice. However good farming methods and techniques are, they cannot be helpful to good harvest if they are applied randomly without any consideration of the regional features. Well aware of this fact, the farm carefully assimilated new scientific and technological achievements to suit their soil.

As a result the Migok Cooperative Farm, Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province, became a leading farm of the nation by winning the Three-Revolution Flag title three times which is given to model units. One of the factors of the successful farming of the farm is that technicians who have had professional training work functionally as managers, leaders of workteams, competent technical instructors and workers. There are hundreds of engineers and associate engineers in the farm.

The villages of the farm have gone through facelift and the people's level of cultural attainments has also grown considerably. The farmers are good performers on the artistic stage, sports stars in the athletic meet, and well-informed technicians and skilled workers in farming jobs.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country* (issued on February 25, 1964) the farm's workers look back on their history with pride. Officer of the farm management board So Yong Ho says, "We farming workers are obliged to help build a thriving nation by bringing the rural theses into reality completely. We will turn our farm into an ideal socialist one in keeping with the requirement of the time."

Thanks to their efforts to advance the future, the farm will surely develop into a better socialist rural community.

Kim Yong Gil

Masters of the Factory

THE HAMHUNG WOOLEN Textile Mill has produced blankets and cloth for scores of years, and it is increasing production by modernizing the equipment these days.

Last year, in particular, the plant renovated lots of its equipment along modern lines with their own efforts.

The workers of the mixing workteam reshaped the mixing process in July last year, thus

increasing the production markedly. It was not an easy job for them to modernize the equipment while carrying out the monthly production plan. Moreover, none of them had been trained to solve technical problems arising in remaking the equipment. And there was no authoritative demand to do it. But the workteam members pooled their efforts to work out a plan to establish an adsorption-style pipework and

successfully introduce it into practice. With this the workteam became more honourable as the leader in fulfilling the production plans in the factory.

The workers of the wool carding workshop boosted the thread production by modernizing roving machines. Convinced that they could raise the production of thread as they wanted once they reshaped the roving machines, they succeeded in finding out the rational number of teeth of gears which would reduce the thread-supplying speed of the roving machine and increase the spindle-revolving speed to the maximum.

In addition, the factory laid a new knitting yarn production process, with which it can turn out thousands of tons of yarn a year. The products have increased also in kind.

The factory's effort to modernize its equipment and production process is going ahead dynamically.

Sim Hyon Jin



Untiring Efforts to Attain a High Goal

THE MICROBE RESEARCHERS of the Faculty of Life Science of Kim Il Sung University have gained a lot of successes in solving scientific and technical problems, making contribution to the improvement of the people's living standards.

In the past they completed the research task to improve the efficiency of fodders and enhance the rate of fattening and egg laying in stockbreeding using lactobacillus. The composite bacillus code-named "Ryongnamsan 07" is in wide use in stockbreeding. An eel farm increased the living rate of eels by applying the bacillus.

Without resting on their laurels, the researchers set a target to culture a kind of enzyme by using materials which is abundant in Korea instead of using the expensive material of trypsin, and pushed ahead with the project. "It was really a consuming task," recalls the head of the research team Kim Yong Jo, Doctor and assistant professor, who is a department chief of the university. The researchers delved into a huge amount of documents and references but could find no way out. *Why don't we choose our own way instead of following others'*

examples? They asked themselves. Now they started all over again. Above all they conceived a new idea. They knew protein was contained in eggs, milk, meat and other materials, and that it is most stable in feathers. If they found a bacillus that dissolves feathers it would mean they got what they wanted. This was their principle of research. They rummaged stockbreeding farms across the country, sorting out piles of waste feathers into some 2 000 kinds, and began to culture the most active species. In this way an active bacillus was developed successfully through a bio-engineering method. This made it possible to achieve a bacillus-feeding material from local sources. The material helps the bacillus grow very fast and its cost is half of the foreign ones, so the profit is enormous. The bacillus-growing method and enzyme won a state patent in 2005. Five years later the researchers produced the enzyme in an industrial way by making a dry enzyme-

producing bacillus.

Recently the research team developed a multi-amino acid and honey and a calcium peptide, which are health-promoting preparations, by means of protease. The multi-amino acid and honey is a nutrient food for restoration of general physical functions which is prepared by mixing honey with materials which are essential to the body like multi-amino acid, calcium, iron and zink. It was highly praised at the ninth Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair last year. The calcium peptide received good comment for its function of promoting absorption of iron, zink and other substances in the milk.

"Keep your feet firmly planted on this land and look out over the world! This is our motto in our studies," says Kim Yong Jo. He swears his team will always be the leader in both instruction and research work.

Rim Hye Gyong

Researchers endeavour to develop new products.



Sustainer of the Nation's Agricultural Development



Dr. Kye Ung Sang.

KYE UNG SANG WAS A world-recognized geneticist and silkworm researcher. He disclosed the falsehood of the theory of environmental inheritance



which had been regarded as an absolute formula in the development of biology and in the practice of agricultural production, and thus rendered a great service to defending and adhering to the theory of heredity. He presented his theory to an international seminar on biology held in Budapest, Hungary in August 1956. Biologists of many countries present at the seminar appreciated his exploits, saying that it was a scientific theory striking the world of biology with wonder and that the

colour cocoons developed by Kye was a valuable treasure which justified the heredity theory.

In the early years of his career Kye was a dean of the sericulture faculty of the then College of Agriculture, and performed feats in the education of the rising generation. His spirit is inherited by the lecturers, researchers and students of Kye Ung Sang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University in Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province, who are making strenuous efforts to know and study things Korean.

Sincere approach

The college has a room dedicated to exhibition of successful scientific researches carried out by its lecturers and researchers for scores of years. It typically shows a mobile thrashing combine, an ultra-high-frequency device for processing seeds and

a general soil treatment machine *Migok-1*. All these machines are favourite with agricultural workers for their operational efficiency. *Migok-1*, for example, helps do farming jobs easily, and it is easy to handle. It has found its way to many farms in South and North Hwanghae provinces, and other regions.

A new technology the college developed to increase the yield by sowing rice seeds directly in the field helps increase rice production in a safe way, so it has been applied to over 50 farms. The college bred a new species of mulberry silkworm and mulberry tree suited to the climate and soil of the country, and introduce them into farming. Likewise they work hard to develop good species that yield more at lower costs and introduce them across the country. In particular, a research paper on the history of the species formation of the Korean Phungsan Dog and its biological properties was praised at an international scientific seminar held last year.

All achievements displayed in the room are associated with the strenuous efforts of the lecturers

Agricultural talent are trained.



▶ and researchers to defend and glorify the things Korean in their research and study.

Teaching practical knowledge

In his lifetime Kye Ung Sang once said that genetics should be studied generation after generation, and gave priority to the education work though he was busy with research and administrative affairs. Now the teaching staff of the college are conducting their work keeping Kye's intention in their hearts.

Without confining instruction to the lecture, they have diversified it so as to give practical knowledge to the students as required by the reality. Meanwhile, they have introduced IT into education and solved urgent problems such as those arising in organic farming and establishment of recycling production system, and combined theoretical information with practice. On the other hand, teaching methods have improved to develop the creativity of the students at the

practice farm. The college advanced problems for better management of soil and ecological environment in the present time, and encouraged the students to find new solutions to this end.

Along with this, they have developed computer programs by applying economic and mathematical methods widely used in cultivating intelligence and teaching major subjects; this has led to enlarged teaching content.

All the faculties of the college have found proper contents of instruction and teaching methods for their mission and widely used them in lectures.

The college is well known as the one with high ability. Nearly 30 of its graduates have become Heroes. The college is working hard to train students into reliable pillars of the country.

Kim Won Sik



Sons of Ryongnamsan

AN INTERNATIONAL Internet programming contest took place from July to October last year. Having appeared to meet the need of the era of IT industry, the contest is still young, but is recognized as a high-level intellectual competition worldwide. The winner of the contest has been students of Kim Il Sung University for three consecutive rounds. The winners belong to the circle of information science of the university.

Decision of a young scientist

Jong Kwang Byol, a 29-year-old instructor of the circle, is a man who earned fame in his university days. When he was a senior student he went to cooperative farms and developed a farming support system, a gigantic project that involved an agricultural experience system and a farming affairs treatment system. His program turned out to be enormously helpful in farming.

Buoyed at the success, Jong decided to make contribution to farming by designing an agricultural management examination system and an agricultural optimum simulation system. He made untiring efforts to find out a simulation method which was not announced worldwide. Of hundreds of factors, he chose those of major importance like planting proper crops in a proper land and planting proper crops at a proper time, and developed a method of simulation calculation. But its precision reached no more than 80 percent. Then, talking to farm workers, he learned that he had failed to take into consideration the possible correlations among factors. Now he knew there were numerous kinds of possible factors. He set a new target. By making careful studies he successfully developed a new system

of locating correlations.

His pride also comes from the fact that he participated in national students' programming contests on behalf of his university throughout his years at university and won every contest, the fact that he received a registered program certificate and a software patent certificate at a national programming contest of the educational sector and a national program exhibition, and the fact that he was honoured to attend the international academic seminar in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of Kim Il Sung University.

After he was assigned as an instructor of the circle of information science of the university in 2011, he successfully led his team to win a number of Internet programming competitions at home and abroad. He says, "We've just started our career. We'll crown our career with credit."

Debut

Kim Kwang Chon, Cha Kwang Song, Jo Kyong Min, Choe Jang Su and other students are members of the circle of information science of Kim Il Sung University. Kim Kwang Chon says, "Our circle launched into global Internet programming contests by participating in the Codeforces competition organized by Russia in July as one of the most authoritative online competitions in the world. When we first posted our name of Ryongnamsan online, we were certainly apprehensive of our ability. But we entered the contest with a resolution to make a daring effort with the pride that we are sons of Ryongnamsan, that is, Kim Il Sung University."

Another member of the circle Choe Jang Su says, "The contest Kim mentions is one of the three highest-level Internet competi-

tions in the world participated in by thousands of programming teams from 68 countries and regions around the world, including Russia, China, the US and Japan. Of the presented five problems we solved the first four within an hour, but the last one was really a challenge. Referring to the fifth problem, there was posted an article on the Internet calling it 'the lethal fifth'. We failed time and again, but never yielded to the failures. Through a painstaking effort we found the answer of the question two minutes before the contest was over and thus won the victory."

This may have been the debut of the circle members in the world to display Kim Il Sung University's attainments in the field of information science.

Challenge to Codechef

The circle members decided to take part in the Indian monthly challenger contest called Codechef, one of the online programming competitions, in August, September and October last year. Jong recalls, "Our team attended the contest in July last year for the first time. We led the struggle towards the final stage but lost to the Chinese ACRush at the last moment. We knew the Chinese were a group of programming experts working for Google in Washington DC. They had long attended the competition and never failed to win it. So it was almost a fait accompli that no one could destroy them at the contest."

The circle members were undaunted, however. Making an all-round analysis of the code of the ACRush, they learned certain lessons and experience, and finally defeated all the 3 500 teams from over 80 countries and regions in the August challenger

► contest.

But the most difficult match was held in September. An Sung Chol tells about his experience in the September contest, “The Chinese team that attended the July round did not appear in the August round. But they returned to the contest in September, which was quite an obstacle to us.”

The September contest was really a tough one as it was participated in by most of the world’s strongest teams like the Chinese ACRush that was holding the top place in total at the challenger contest along with its nickname of “Coding Emperor” and the Romanian Mugurelionut team that was the runner-up in total at the contest. In the first stage the Korean team solved all the questions except the challenger problem before the noon of September 8, that is, two days after the contest began. Ri Un Song tells the story, “On the last day the competition was fierce enough, as if it was just begun, and national flags rose up and down incessantly. The Chinese ACRush, having built up its

potentials watching for a chance for ten days, posted an overpowering code three hours before the end of the contest—perhaps they were assured of their win. Thus they stood on the top ranking. At the same time there appeared articles like the one titled, ‘Who Could Defeat the Emperor?’”

The Korean team, having got good information of the Chinese through the July round, made a strong code enough to vanquish the ACRush by assembling powerful algorithms in ten days. At 6:15 pm, September 16, 2013, the critical moment when the world was almost certain of the result of the contest, the Koreans sent their solutions, overwhelming all their opponents. The Coding Emperor disappeared from the top place and the title of Kim Il Sung University and the DPRK national flag rose up to the top place.

After the contest was over, an authoritative program expert of a foreign country sent the following message to Kim Il Sung University on Internet: “I worked hard to retain my championship against

thousands of the world’s strongest programming masters. I finished two colleges and have rich experience. You are not experienced experts but students. But you have demonstrated your amazing power to me, my team and all the programming professionals around the world. Your university is truly an A-class university of the world.”

Kim Jong Chol says, “When the contest was over many competitors of the world sent congratulatory messages to us Kim Il Sung University team. An article was titled, ‘Long live the Kim Il Sung University team!’”

At the next month’s competition the Korean students retained their title by struggling with resolution on behalf of Juche Korea and Kim Il Sung University.

The circle members say unanimously that their victory is ascribable to the wise guidance of Jong Kwang Byol, their instructor. The victorious students are all in their early 20s.

Sim Yong Jin

Students who attended international online programming contests and their instructor.



Okryu Children's Hospital

NOT LONG AGO WE visited the Okryu Children's Hospital newly built in the Munsu district on the picturesque Taedong riverside. Its six-storey building resembled a pyramid-style tower piled up with toy bricks, displaying architectural beauty catering to the children's mentality. Standing face to face with the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, it was reminiscent of a baby nestling cosily to its mother.

We entered the hall by the

automatic door. The floor was finished up with superb materials, the walls decorated with pictures probably from a comic book, the chandelier was of bright colour harmony, and the windows were patterned peculiarly. With its elegant and refined colour scheme, the interior of the hospital looked more like a palace of a fairyland. There came merry laughing voices of children from somewhere above, which, together with all other scenes, con-

fused us to wonder if it were really a hospital where we were. Lured by the laughter, we went upstairs. The playroom on the first floor was full of amusement apparatuses and various kinds of playthings. There was a wading pool too, where children could play with varicoloured balls; a slide and a sliding way for the children to slide down on a toy car; and trailer bicycles. Children were lost in plays, forgetful of their own illness. It was indeed a kingdom of children.

Kim Chun Hwa, a guardian of the place who looks after the children, said, "Children will play even when they are sick. Their animated spirits gained from playing can often be changed to courage. Yesterday Chol I from the Changgwang Kindergarten who hated injections more than anything came up to the nurse with his sleeves tucked up at his time for injection and asked her to give him the injection in a hurry because he was busy with pulling ▶



► his loaded trailer bicycle, sending the people into a roar of laughter.” She added that the medical staff came to learn from their daily experience that cheerful children were willing to get treatment and quick in recovery.

Then we looked around various treatment rooms, test rooms and sick wards up to the sixth floor. The treatment rooms were equipped with many diagnosing devices such as multi-purpose X-ray and CT and MRI apparatuses. In the departments of resuscitation and intensive treatment there were real-time monitors to observe the life indices of sick infants and report them to the general observation desk, and open incubators to automatically measure and control the temperature of babies under one month. The director of the hospital said that the treatment of children is subdivided into departments, and the inpatients undergo all necessary examinations. Now we came to a ward and entered it. On the walls of the room we saw pictures from famous fairy tales, which brought a smile to our lips.

Doctor Ri Sun Im in charge of the ward said, “These pictures please children who are fond of fantasies and old tales. The little ones whimpering with pain after getting treatment would often be restored to good humour and forget pain when their favourite pictures meet their eyes. This hospital differs from others in that its sick wards have only a few beds. This has been so arranged in consideration of the fact that when one child cries, other children will follow. When you go to the operation room, you’ll see its ceiling has been done likewise to please the fancy of children. All this has been effected according to the instructions of our national leader Kim Jong Un. A paedia-



trician all my life, I cannot but marvel at the benefits of the treatment environment created by his instructions.”

We went on our round of visit through the hospital—the classroom for inpatients, the room for telemedicine, helipad for transporting patients without

delay from the far-off provinces, dining hall and outdoor playground. Leaving the hospital, we felt as if we were seeing the happy looks of many more children treated and restored to health in this marvellous hospital.

Kim Un Jong

Sports Enthusiasm Grows Ever Higher

RECENTLY A KOREA TODAY REPORTER talked with Ri Chi Ung, deputy director of the Department of Mass Sports Affairs of the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports about the nation's achievements in the sporting field. Excerpts:

Recently a strong campaign is going on nationwide in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in an effort to build a sports nation. In particular, ordinary people are actively joining the campaign with greater interest in physical training and sport.

You're right. In retrospect, my country worked hard to encourage the general public to engage themselves in sporting activities and physical training and make it a daily routine to do exercise. This helped a great deal to the work of developing everyone prepared for both labour and national defence. In recent years the public interest in sporting activity has grown much higher. Every one regards sporting as an essential part of their life. You can easily determine the extent of the public interest in sport simply by visiting schools, factories, enterprises, farms, public resorts, parks and pleasure grounds where modern athletic and sporting facilities are installed and set up nicely. People's knowledge of sport has improved noticeably. With their kinetic

quotient growing, they join games and contests readily and intentionally. A typical example is the national inter-provincial games that took place in October last year. The contest was participated in by nearly 1 000 people from all provinces and municipalities. The basketball game went between provincial sports teams, and the rest events took place involving workers, office workers, youth and students selected by provinces. The events were volleyball, table tennis, national sporting games of tug-of-war and *ssirum* (wrestling), and amusement games of running with balls on the head and in the sides, pushing the opponent off a single-log bridge, dribbling a ball with an elephant nose-shaped viewfinder fixed on the eyes, a 7 m free kick, and a relay race. Just look at the kinds of events, and you can see the games were intended to involve many people in the sporting activities.

The whole process of the games showed that the competitors in mass-involving events were highly skilled in managing the matches.

You know all the contenders in the events other than the basketball game were amateurs, but they were no less skilled than those from national teams in handling the games. The volleyball team of North

Scenes from the inter-provincial games held in the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.





methods of *ssirum* like belly throw, inside leg reaping and leg snatching, while gripping the thigh band firmly, the crowds of spectators raised roars of cheers, congratulating the winners heartily. The climax of the recent games was the tug-of-war. As it is a game involving dozens of people of both sexes on each side, you can hardly win it unless you exert great teamwork in one mind and body. The roars of exertions and cheers shook the stadium and it seemed to be displaying the staunch spirit of our people who are dashing forward for the building a thriving nation.

I'd like to know what kinds of measures are taken in Korea this year to develop sport and physical culture.

The enthusiasm for sport and physical training is rising high wherever there are people. If the enthusiasm is to be promoted continuously it is necessary to arrange a good condition and environment for exercises and sporting activities. To the end our government is concentrating on setting up places of mass-based sporting activities in different parts across the country while increasing the number of sport-related technical service centres. Institutions and enterprises and factories are encouraged to have good sport facilities and conditions and make good arrangements for all their members to join sport games and exercises by choosing proper events. Sports contests are to be organized frequently on different occasions including the Sports Day, centring on those events that involve many participants, like the group race. This will elevate the public atmosphere of physical training and sporting activities much higher and thus cause a greater desire to join sporting activities among the people. □

- ▶ Hamgyong Province, for example, was made up of women workers of the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and builders of the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station. The main attacker is Kim Kyong Sun, a 39-year-old statistics worker of the complex while the organizer is a service worker at the power station construction site. The players, different in age and occupation, honed their skills and talent to their heart's content while on their jobs. All other teams had similar histories. Spectacular were all the games and particularly so were the finals. The women's volleyball finals took place between the South Phyongan Province team and the Nampho City team. You could hardly guess which team would win while seeing the scores rising vyingly. Different methods of serves, hard blows and smart tips were combined skillfully. The *ssirum* wrestlers of the North Phyongan Province and the South Hamgyong Province in the finals demonstrated their special skills well, evoking great applause from the spectators. When they unfolded spectacular scenes by employing diverse tactics and

Tears on the Awarding Platform

SOL KYONG FROM THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea won a gold medal by overpowering all her opponents by a great margin (mostly by wazaari and ippon) in her 78 kg category of the 2013 World Judo Championships in Brazil in August last year. She was held in admiration for her diversified and attractive techniques in each of her matches. Seeing her struggle, many of the judo experts and enthusiasts said unanimously, "It's really amazing. We never expected Sol Kyong from the DPRK would defeat all the world-famous rivals in a heavy weight category. She has got diversified techniques. Her fight was technically perfect. What's admirable is that she carried out technical movements that are difficult even to men."

Her win was by no means anything she got easily. Born into an ordinary family as the eldest daughter, she liked to do exercise from childhood. In her primary school days she learned short-track speed skating at the Sosong District Juvenile Sports School. Later when she was 11 years old she was guided into the world of judo by Jo Il Yong, her first judo coach. Her parents knew that their daughter had an athletic aptitude, but would not allow her to join the judo world for the reason that judo is a tough event even to the men. Nevertheless, without any idea of how difficult judo is, Sol Kyong joined the judo world despite her parents' opposition. She used to be cheerful but soon the cheerfulness and pleasant manners began to disappear gradually. The physical burden of rising up and down hundreds of times a day was quite a difficulty to the young girl. She was of a disposition of seeing it through once she decided to do it. But now she was dubious of her choice. Shouldn't she let up her way halfway as her parents demanded? She found herself vacillating in her determination. Time and again she dropped out from drill. At the time her coach admonished that an athletic career could be successful only when one had an adamant will and survived the difficulties. But, to her regret, her coach died in the training ground while teaching her proper techniques for her consti-



Sol Kyong wins her 78 kg category at the 2013 World Judo Championships.

tution. This left a great impact on her mind. Now she bid farewell to her past and renewed her determination. Her character of being modest, humble and cheerful returned, and she often made jokes and sang songs while playing the guitar or accordion. That was perhaps the reason why there were many people around her. But once she was in the training ground she became as tenacious as the boys. In the spare time she liked to hear stories of excellent judoists about their experiences and lessons, and built on them when she entered the training ground. In the course of this her technique and skills developed considerably and soon she became a focus of attention of the judo experts. She got rid of her shortcomings and attained advanced techniques one after another. Thanks to her strenuous efforts she won a number of international contests. Without resting on her laurels she honed her skills further which led to her victory at the world judo championships recently. When the national anthem of the DPRK sounded and the national flag rose up she became tearful, touching the heartstring of the audience. The tears were the expression of her gratefulness to those who had trained her, and they also meant her determination to retain her title.

Song Kum Chol

At a Recuperation Home

THE CHEERING CHANT reverberated around the Pyongyang Bearing Factory when I was there for my coverage. Hypnotized by the sound, I went to the ground of the factory's recuperation home. There workers were having a close volleyball game. I met Sin Yong Ok, head of the home. Enjoying the game with a smile, she said, "All of them are having a rest at my home. We accept some 60 workers at a round and they are all innovative workers and sports masters. The present round of fifteen days is almost closing. Now is the time when the stayers are full of energy and the playground is filled with animation."

Ri Sung Ryol, after finishing the game with a smash, said, "I'm still a greenhorn. I've worked here only a year. There are many workers who have worked for more years and performed more feats than me. So, when I was asked to go for recuperation, I felt embarrassed at first. Then, my workshop leader said I had worked hard to finish my task, and that everyone has the right to have recuperation. After rest, I'll work harder."

The pleasant sounds of recreation and cheers led me to cosy and clean rooms of the home where women workers were having a *yut* game. Whenever *yut*

sticks were thrown, there arose a roar of cheering. The people around the *yut* board looked like a happy family. "The game we play here is much more interesting than the one we have at home. All of us stayers carry out our assignments without fail before coming here in the evening to have a good time playing amusement games like brothers and sisters. Here we're relieved of all fatigues and sometimes have good ideas to solve technical problems," said Han Chun Hwa, a grinding worker of Workshop No. 1.

After calling in at the garden with animal houses and resting places, I looked in the kitchen. Head cook Ri Kyong Hui, who had been busy preparing a meal, said, "The workers comment favourably upon our dishes. They say we

have a good cooking hand and that what we make are all delicacies. We hear this comment almost everyday like a greeting, but this makes us have another idea. In retrospect the state supplied enough provisions to the stayers of my recuperation home even in the difficult time of the 'Arduous March'. We are afraid we may fail to satisfy the workers for lack of our sincerity, when the state is so concerned about the stayers."

Leaving the recuperation home late in the evening, I could hear merry sounds of singing from almost all the brightly-lit windows.

*True will all our dreams come
in this land.*

I will be thy devotee for ever.

Chae Kwang Myong

Workers of the Pyongyang Bearing Factory have a good time at a recuperation home.



Visit to Munsu Water Park

IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR the Munsu Water Park was newly built on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River. Some time ago I paid a visit to the park that was enjoying ever-growing popularity among the people. The front gate was shaped like waves breaking on the seashore as befitting an entrance to the world of water, thus making every visitor have an urge to throw themselves into that world as quickly as possible.

Passing under it, I headed for the indoor wading pool together with the people who were finding their way like waves. Placed courteously in the hall was a colour plaster statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il. Looking at the

people who were making bows before the statue in a solemn posture, guide Choe Un Sim said in a mist of tears, "It is said that during his lifetime the Chairman was very anxious to build a comprehensive water park for our people." The indoor wading pool through which the sun was shining dazzlingly was made up of two storeys and the main water tanks were all found on the ground floor. Because of natural lighting the clear and blue sky looked as if it had turned into the roof of the indoor wading pool. It felt spacious and refreshing as like in the open air. Besides, sounds of music resounding there were making the people more cheerful. A variety of water slides

stretching up as high as the ceiling while curving around white pillars presented a grand spectacle. In addition, various kinds of "natural rocks," "coconut palms" visible here and there and such toys as dolphin and jellyfish suspended from the ceiling of ball truss style were well in keeping with the flavour and assortment of the water park. People were running about from this to that water tank, and we could hardly mark off grownups from children. Whenever they were sliding down the water slides, there was produced even an illusion as if spirits appearing in a legend were flying down in search of an aquatic palace.

There were many sorts of ►



▶ water tanks, including those used for swimming, those shaped like waves breaking on the seashore, those used for ultrasonic therapy, those containing sea water, etc. According to keeper Jong Un Ha who looks after these water tanks, the open-air wading area has more water slides and water tanks of various kinds. If the open-air wading area is in operation in summer no small time is required even when making single use of every facility and trying to get into every water tank.

I addressed one of the people, Ri Sun Ju by name, who came from Munhung-dong No. 2, Taedonggang District. She was teaching her little child how to swim in a pool for mothers and children. She said, "This water tank is well arranged for us mothers—meticulous about our children—and children with an innocent frame of mind. As times

this tank looks like a comfortable cradle that nurses our children's dream of becoming a conqueror of the sea."

Then I turned my steps toward the gymnasium where a variety of sporting activities are said to be conducted. The spacious hall that reminded me of a full indoor stadium was seething with the people's enthusiasm for sports. In addition to diverse and comprehensive wading facilities, the gymnasium was sufficiently furnished with facilities needed for various sporting events. On one side a volleyball game was going on and on the other side basketball and badminton games were taking place. The ground for clambering up a rugged cliff was also conspicuous.

Kim Yong Il, a worker at the Pyongyang Steel Works, said, "Taking physical exercises after playing in water gives unusual pleasure. This is my fifth visit

here. Whenever I clamber up the cliff after having a water slide, my heart becomes filled with a feeling of pleasure and conviction and it seems to me that there no longer exists such a word as impossible for me."

I got out and went round the sauna section. Visible there were rooms of sauna using different medicinal materials. Every sauna room had its own peculiarity.

Cha Myong Su, a lecturer at Kim Chaek University of Technology, getting into a room after enjoying himself in a pool, told me that those sauna rooms are all incredibly good. "You can choose one to your own taste and constitution," he advised. "The sauna rooms are all made of rare and precious materials good for health. I prefer this sauna room. When I take a sauna in this room after enjoying myself in water, I feel relieved of mental fatigue." Enjoying the sounds of merry- ▶





► making I went upstairs. Seen on the first floor were a network of service facilities including a room for face treatment, a room for massage treatment, a barber's, a beauty salon, a room for ultraviolet treatment and a souvenir shop, a bakeshop, and branches of famous restaurants including the Haemaji Restaurant and the Mujigae Restaurant were to be seen in many different places.

"Playing in water is certainly good, and enjoying the sight over drinks here is also something great," said waitress Ri Un Hyang in the cosily-built Haemaji Coffee Shop. When we looked down as she said, everything that had been seen partially before was in sight like a picture. The intersecting water slides that looked like a rainbow clung to the sky, or beautiful rolls of silk undulating under the sky, and bright varicoloured decorations of electric lights that dazzle the eyes illuminating the inside. The whole view was suggestive of not a water park but a fascinating stage. People were all completely enraptured, oblivious of the passage of time, as if they were staying in the world of juvenile stories. An official of the park said, looking at them, "That's an eve-

ryday sight, but neither we become tired of it nor we see it carelessly. Every nook and cranny tells how hard our national leader Kim Jong Un worked to bring happiness to our people. Over the period of the construction, he visited the construction site repeatedly and paid deep attention to all matters, ranging from equipment to be installed to dresses and badges of the workers, thus providing our people with a splendid water park as seen today."

Then, she added: "The open-air wading section is furnished with more multifarious and original facilities for water and other sporting activities. In a warm season it's really a spectacle. I want you to visit our water park again in that season."

It was very cold outside, but I enjoyed a panoramic view of the open-air section—pervaded with people's joy—with my mind's eye, walking out of the park.

Chae Kwang Myong



Blessed Family

SIM TONG SU AND HIS FAMILY LIVING IN the First Flat, the Second Floor, the First Entrance, Neighbourhood Unit No.1, Mansu-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, have dozens of diplomas and certificates, including an invention patent, the Certificate of October 8 Model Teacher, the Certificate of Registered New Teaching Method, cards of participation in sci-tech exhibitions and seminars. They belong to Sim Tong Su, his wife Han Un Sun, his daughters Sim Son Yong and Sim Hye Yong. Sim is a lecturer at the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, his wife a teacher at the Pyongyang Tongdaewon Senior Middle School, his first daughter a teacher at the Pyongyang Saesallim Senior Middle School and his second daughter a teacher at a branch of the Phyongchon College of Technology which gives study-while-working courses.

Sim Tong Su has been teaching at his college for more than 30 years; over the years he has engaged himself in education, research projects for modernization of equipment of factories and enterprises and the application of his successful researches into practice. More recently he developed a novel method of manufacturing steel and iron bearings by means of sulfuric-chrome-based gilding. He has dedicated his all, energy and knowledge, to the effort to give practical knowledge to his students. There goes an episode about his enthusiasm for his instruction. Days after he got married, he did not return home for days. When he appeared at the doorstep at last his wife asked, "Do you think you're still single?" At the moment Sim replied that the teacher should always keep his feet on the ground. It has been his invariable maxim. Many of his students have become inventors and are now working as senior officials of important factories and enterprises. This is credited to his steadfast principle of instruction.

His wife Han says she married him attracted by his inexhaustible enthusiasm. Some 30 years ago Han used to be a teacher at the then Pyongyang Tongdaewon Boys' Senior Middle School. One day she visited a national exhibition of teaching aids. Looking round the exhibits she stopped in front of the stand of the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering. There a young man, holding up a part of a machine, was making an explanation with ardour. The people around were all wrapped in admiration for him. He was so proud of his work and so enthusiastic about his explanation that Han found him more than attractive. That was probably the occasion of her falling in love with him. Some time later they got married when they promised to live all their life as teachers.

Han has been working as a teacher at the Tong-

daewon Senior Middle School for over 30 years since she finished the Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. Teaching physics she has become an October 8 Model Teacher. And she is renowned for her many ingenious conceptions and devices used in education.

The children are also proud teachers. The first daughter Sim Son Yong has already earned prestige as a master teacher by producing a number of teaching aids although it is only several years since she began to teach. The second daughter Sim Hye Yong used to enjoy respect from the students already during her college days because she presented a valuable thing she conceived and developed by herself to a national exhibition of youth's sci-tech achievements.

Sim's family often holds academic debates. Though they major in different subjects, they share their experiences and lessons pleasantly. The discussions are vyingly joined by the eldest daughter's husband who is an engineer and the second daughter's husband who is a college student. Such meetings are quite helpful in solving problems arising in their instructions.

Sim's family received double blessing: After they moved into a new apartment in the marvellous Changjon Street, national leader Kim Jong Un called on them in their flat. Learning that Sim and his wife and two daughters were all teachers at college and middle school he praised them as a family of teachers, saying that the family of teachers who deserve highest respect and public priority in the Korean society were fully eligible to live in a new apartment and that Sim's family was the one of patriots who were conscientiously devoting themselves to the nursing of the future of the country.

Sim's family is now known to the whole country as family of teachers and family of patriots.

Ri Sun Nyo



Visiting Athletes' Apartment

RECENTLY I VISITED THE Athletes' Apartment that had gone up newly on the bank of the Pothong River meandering through the heart of Pyongyang. Counting the number of floors I felt dizzy, and somewhat awe-stricken. A particular attraction about the apartment was that the downstairs floors are occupied by service facilities like a dispensary, a restaurant and a shop. Entering the porch of the apartment, I stood there for a while, thinking which door I should knock at for my coverage. At the moment Pak Kum Song, senior coach of Sol Kyong who had won the women's 78 kg category of the 2013 World Judo Championships, came in. When I introduced myself and told about the purpose of my visit there, Pak gladly asked me to come to his home.

His flat was on the second floor. When the bell rang, the door opened immediately as if it had been expecting him every moment, and his wife and two children welcomed us in. When I was struck with admiration for the spacious drawing room furnished with a complete set of furniture and all kinds of things for every-

day life, Pak told me a story. He said, "I was born into an ordinary worker's family in Paegam County, Ryanggang Province. The first sport I chose was volleyball. But I was asked to learn judo as I was tall and big. So, I moved to the Amnokgang Sports Team and began to learn judo. Later I participated in many international contests. Since I finished the Korea University of Physical Education I have worked as a judo coach. The country allotted luxury flats to Sol Kyong and me after she won a gold medal at the World Judo Championships in August last year."

Hearing him I looked at the great many medals Pak had won during his active days as sportsman. At the moment a heated voice was heard from the living room. We approached the room and looked in. In the room Pak's two sons were engaged in hot discussion making energetic gestures. I was a little embarrassed at the sight, but Pak was wearing a smile. Pak's wife, Nam Hye Suk, came out of the kitchen with wet hands and asked them, "Can't you stop arguing tonight?" At last the sons let up their discussion. I

couldn't know what it was all about until Pak told me. According to him, his eldest son Pak Ju Myong, 18, and his second son Pak Ryo Myong, 14, are both engaged in judo training, the former at Pak's team and the latter at the Tongdaewon District Juvenile Sports School. "They are both quite competitive characters," Pak said to me.

His wife told me with a smile that such unusual discussions had taken place under Pak's guidance and that now the boys had enthusiastic discussions whenever they were together at home. She added, "They like to talk about judo in their spare time asserting that they will be far better athletes than their father. Earlier I was simply proud of them, but these days I find myself often fall into deep thought. I am determined to do my bit as their mother to help them train themselves as honourable athletes who will be able to win international contests and fly our national flag."

In the evening recreation time overflowing with a family feeling, Pak and his wife admonished their sons to train themselves harder and thus repay the country's care for them by winning gold medals, before they sang a duet, which goes:

*They wished I would be
A hero of my country
By bringing glory
to the nation.*

I went out of the apartment. From each of the flats were heard similar melodies. They seemed to be symbolic of the National Anthem of my country which would be ringing at international contests sooner or later in honour of their victories.

Song Kum Chol



Honourable Costume Designer

NOT LONG AGO WHEN WE WALKED INTO the Ryugyong Health Complex, we came to a halt at a grandmother's voice of admiration at the livery of a girl attendant who looked like her granddaughter. Taking her by the hand, the old woman exclaimed cheerfully, "Your dress goes so well with this fine complex." The girl's attire suited to her slender figure added to the comfortable atmosphere of the place. There we met Kim Ok Gyong, who had designed the costume of the complex. She was there in the complex at the moment to know the people's opinion about the girl attendants' uniform dresses.

After graduation from Pyongyang University of Fine Arts with honours in 1999, Ok Gyong became an instructor of the university. In her university days, she had realized that education of the younger generation was more important than artistic creation for her own fame. Nevertheless, her creative passion was irrepressible even in the days of teaching.

Her major being textile and dress decoration art, a branch of industrial art, she could not remain indifferent to the people's aesthetic and emotional demand and the developing reality of the country. Amid the busy life of giving lectures and writing teaching plans, she found time for drawing design. But she did not think that her designs would be printed on fabrics and dresses.

In 2012 when the Ryugyong Health Complex was under construction, she was excited to hear that the complex started a prize contest for the dress designs for its girl attendants. The complex nearing completion with its unique architectural grace inspired her with rich creative designs. Though busy writing a degree thesis and textbooks, she made up her mind to enter for the prize contest. In designing, she kept to the idea: "Faultless livery for the attendant of the magnificent health complex."

It was not an easy job. In some case, she found the service dress of her designing, though good for some individual persons, unfit as liveries for the collective of the girl attendants. In another case, the material she had thought suitable to activity turned out to be out of keeping with the reality. She often went to the construction site of the health complex to elaborate her plan about how to design an excellent service dress to fit in with the environment of the grand modern amenity centre, meeting the



aesthetic bent of people and convenient for the service work.

Several months later, in June 2012, her efforts bore fruit. The service dresses designed by her as liveries for the girl attendants were adopted formally with the completion of the complex. The dresses won a praise that they set off the fair figures of all the girls in the service of the complex. However, she did not rest on her laurels. Amusement centres were going up in many other places. She set herself a higher goal. She wanted to design the uniform dresses of the attendants at all amusement establishments newly built in answer to the needs of the new times. She devoted all her energies to the creation of uniform dresses for the employees of those establishments which meet the requirements of modernity and collectivism while conforming to their individual traits and the developing aesthetic tastes of the times. In these days she created many costume designs including the one for the attendants of the mini-golf course of the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground and the design of the school uniform for the pupils of primary school. So she came to be widely known to the people as "costume designer with an unerring eye."

After watching for a while the girl attendants with a smile who were greeting and seeing off customers, Kim Ok Gyong said, "In fact, in comparison with the designers of huge structures, what I'm doing is just a trivial thing. But I feel proud, because costume designing is a creative art contributing even a bit to meeting the people's needs."

Kim Chol Ung

A Great Pride

By Kim Hae Song

(Continued from the last issue)

QUITE A FEW SENIOR technicians who had spent 10 to 20 years studying high-quality light-burned magnesia held an opposite opinion or raised doubt, but higher were the voices of admiration for the “ingeniously-conceived idea.” Moreover, as the chief engineer who was the factory’s authority with great ability was an active supporter of the idea, the opponents could not come out openly against it.

As a matter of fact, Jin Hak might have met with strong opposition but for his uncle’s backing. His uncle helped him with his rich experience in handling fire and gave him every care. As Jin Hak felt himself assured of his uncle’s patronage he would leisurely enjoy playing volleyball with younger members of his research team even when the fate of his new idea was hanging in the balance.

Now a consultative meeting took place with the participation of all technical staff of the factory and the research institute. It began with a debate on the merit and demerit of the new method of calcination. The logical and assuring argument of Jin Hak brought all of those present to see the validity of his idea. The atmosphere of the meeting tended towards considering that it would be mean to throw cold water on the creative idea of a young researcher who had just turned thirty. In the end, it was almost agreed to invest funds and build a test kiln. At that moment a woman who had been sitting quietly all the time stood up. Her face was a little brown as if sun-

tanned, and the corners of her eyes were finely wrinkled, making it difficult to decide if she was single or married. Unlike her gentle appearance, she began to speak in a firm voice, drawing the attention of the whole assembly. “I too appreciate the innovative worth of the test kiln. Yet I would like to ask if we wouldn’t feel guilty when we use the precious state-allotted funds for building another kiln. You know there are kilns out of operation since the days of the ‘Arduous March’ because of their unprofitability. You will think twice if you have to build it at your own expense. I think it is a sin to leave those kilns to stand idle which had been built at the cost of stupendous national finances. To tell the truth, we can hardly say those kilns are outmoded. I believe we’ll be able to introduce the supplementary heating system if we remodel the fire chambers of the idle kilns. And if we introduce computer control, they’ll be as good as new kilns. So, what’s the need of building new kilns? I can hardly understand it.”

The female engineer’s speech was not long, but it left a tangible impact on the audience. Some even nodded approval.

Jin Hak bit his lower lip feeling himself insulted. It came as a challenge nobody had ever dared to make to him. He could swallow an insult levelled at himself, a young man, but could never stand anybody being rude to his uncle, the chief engineer, who was the promoter of the new kiln. He rose to his feet and burst out, “Indeed it will save a considerable amount of money if the existing kilns are remodelled, but we’ll lose time instead. It will be disadvanta-

geous in every respect if we give up the design which is based on the most reasonable calculation and begin a new remodelling project. It will be difficult to get expected heating efficiency if we refashion the huge kilns. Establishing a computer-controlled continuous firing process by using the existing facilities will also be a problem. It is clear that setting up new kilns is rather a shortcut than spending time trying to transform the existing kilns. The new kilns will bring greater profits at a much less cost. We’ll be able to make up for the expenditure of construction before long.”

Jin Hak stole a glance at his uncle who was sitting in his seat with his eyes shut. His uncle’s bare forehead looked unusually pale.

“It’s a matter of common knowledge,” Jin Hak went on, “that it’s necessary to make investments boldly if we want to develop technology in consonance with the trend of the new century. The trouble is not the want of money but the stand of seeking only immediate economic profits. But for the shortsighted view, we would be able to make greater progress.”

As Jin Hak’s voice sounded sharp-edged, the uncle opened his eyes unpleasantly. His thick eyebrows wriggled.

When Jin Hak sat down, there arose some unpleasant murmurs. Amidst the clash of disagreements the woman engineer dropped her head with her shoulders shuddering—as if offering a challenge again by means of tears which are often a weapon of the feminine gender.

The consultative meeting ended at midnight. Returning ►

► home together with his uncle, Jin Hak asked, “Who is she on earth?”

“She works in an industrial laboratory after finishing the study-while-working college course,” his uncle replied. “She has been working desperately to refashion the dying kilns of her own accord—to this day when she is 29. She hasn’t made any success worth mentioning yet, but I say her intention is praiseworthy.”

Then, it seems like a frog in a well wields his foreleg against an eagle flying in the sky, Jin Hak told himself. His pride raised its head, giving vent to his angry voice, “The girl seems shameless—she blames others unreasonably under their nose. She even talks about sin.”

“Engineer Sun A’s right. It’s a big sin,” the uncle said, and Jin Hak was embarrassed at his sudden change of mind.

Kuk San was walking with a heavy heart. Earlier the bureau—which supervises the operation of factory—had suggested the introduction of a foreign method as the problem of improving the quality of the light-burned magnesite was an urgent task. As far as the foreign method was concerned, it was a mysterious one of an “advanced style.” But the introduction of the foreign process would necessitate the purchase of a complete set of equipment at the expense of a vast sum of foreign currency. That was quite a cause of irritation to Kuk San, so he had been overcome with the desire to erect a new kiln without delay.

“I must have been so excited,” he said, “that my vision of the reality has become blurred. You know the tree cannot grow and bear fine fruits if it fails to strike its roots in a good soil.”

The heavy voice of the uncle plummeted on Jin Hak’s mind. He was angry with his uncle who seemed to be receding from his position at the critical moment.

“I’m sorry you’ve got a dull

mind, uncle,” Jin Hak argued. “We won’t be able to reach the world’s advanced level if we are simply based in the actual condition of the factory alone. We have to choose as fast a way as possible.”

“You mean the easiest way, not the fastest one,” the uncle said rebukingly, “without any consideration of the country’s economic situation. When you advanced your new idea of building a supplementary heating-based kiln, I used to be pleased, feeling that you had done well at college. But now I’m afraid you failed to have a correct training at college.”

Me? How could he say I didn’t have correct training when I finished college with top honour? Jin Hak told himself angrily.

The uncle went ahead in reproof, as if stabbing Jin Hak relentlessly. “In the old days the water carriers from Pukchong toiled and moiled to afford schooling for their children alone. But how could you compare their pains with the parental care of our state that has given schooling to all the children in this country, tightening the belt, however difficult the economic situation was? Do you think your college expenses came from Heaven? I’m sorry you learned technological information alone without nursing the mind of caring for your country. You’ve got to have a good view of the ground if you want to have your feet on the ground. Only then can you stand on your own feet.”

The uncle was so serious that Jin Hak could hardly make any further argument. He felt disappointed to think the wings of his desire to fly freely in the realm of science and technology were broken, colliding against the precipice of the factory’s condition.

In the next room the grandma’s storytelling was going on pleasantly like the flow of a stream. “Paeg-u’s son worked

hard at his studies, often far into the night, trying not to waste the money his father earned with desperate efforts. Grudging even the time at table, he read books while eating, so he often lost his foods to the cat in the lodging.” Some of the children giggled.

The grandma’s voice sounded like an echo from a distant mountain. Squatting in the corner of his mind were the words his uncle had said on the phone, “I hope you’ll keep it in your mind that manly courage is needed to admit your mistake and make up for it.”

That’s Okay, I’ll show him manly courage, Jin Hak screamed in his mind, putting on his clothes. He took the roll of designs and went down to the next room, when the grandma stopped her story and asked, “Where are you going? Your uncle is expected here at any moment.”

“Uncle has no idea of his birthday, grandma,” Jin Hak babbled. “He thinks he can do all the things of the factory by himself. I’ve got to go to the factory, too.”

When Jin Hak trotted out in haste, the old woman Jo shook her head, lamenting, “They’re peculiar characters.” She knew her children inherited the hereditary disposition of hating to be on the losing side more than dying, which caused her to be sometimes happy and sometimes worried. The flames of strong rivalry flared uncontrollably sometimes or caused fierce burning when collided with another fire.

The grandma was looking out of the window fixedly. Jin Hak stepped out into the night street and began to make forceful strides to the factory whose chimney was letting out glaring fumes. The factory seemed to be breathing in and out forcefully even in the sea of nightly darkness. As if encouraged by the breath of the factory, Jin Hak hastened his steps.

(To be continued)

Sinphyong Kumgang



SINPHYONG KUMGANG IS a natural scenic spot in Sinphyong County, North Hwanghae Province. Located in the Ahobiryong Range, it earned its name from its similarity to Mt. Kumgang, one of the most celebrated mountains in Korea, in scenery. Earlier the district was called Tohwadong for its beautiful sea of peach blossoms.

Typical of the natural beauties of the locality are the views of the ravines. The ravines' beauty is characterized by the fresh and clean qualities reminding you of a shy, soft and graceful girl. The ravines are mostly narrow; the peculiar scenes are enhanced by the clear water flowing down for all seasons. Among the ravines, Jinju, Kumgang, Jangsubong, Okryudong, Kuryong, Manmulsang, Tohwadong and Chungsojong ravines make up the Eight Ravines of Sinphyong Kumgang.

In the Okryudong Ravine the stream of clear water raises a thick fog forcefully into the sky, and thick forests spread along the stream on both sides like a wall, with branches stretching out across the stream as if grasping

hands together. Here you feel as if you were in a legendary world described in fairy tales because you can hardly distinguish whether the stream flows between forests or whether the forests hang over the body of water as a whole.

An ecstatic view you have at a place is replaced with another wonderful scene if you climb up just some steps. Climbing up the ravines you may sometimes think there would be no more scenic beauties upward, but you soon have another marvellous sight. Such a dense distribution of natural beauties and varied topographic features present you with natural wonders you have not enjoyed elsewhere. In the narrow Kuryongphokpho Ravine there are found magnificent Kuryong Falls, Panga Falls (which reminds you of a water mill), Idam Falls, pools, Puongi Rock (which looks as if it would fly at any moment), and Saja Peak—which make up a fantastic scenery altogether.

Different from the Kuryongphokpho Ravine, the Kumgangphokpho Ravine features differ-

ent shapes and sizes of waterfalls: Kumgang Falls stands 30 m tall, Aegi Kumgang Falls lies just under Kumgang Falls, Jinju Falls looks as if beautiful pearls were falling in a stream, Pidan Falls cascades down as if a roll of silk cloth were drooping down, Onui Falls looks like brother and sister standing with a big rock in between, and Hyongje Falls drops in two similar streams going in harmony with each other.

The Tohwadong Ravine is attractive for its fantastic rocks like those shaped like the bear, hare and tiger. In the ravine is Kumgang Pool, the biggest of the kind in the area. Waterfalls and pools of different sizes and shapes in Okryudaegol consist in a beautiful picture. The fresh and clean Chonyo Pool, Samhyongje Pool, Tanphung Pool, Okryu Pool, Samdan Falls, Okryu Falls and Sonnyo Falls add to the scenic beauty of the ravines in Sinphyong Kumgang. The area has now developed into a wonderful resort of the people for cultural enjoyment.

Song Yong Sok

Illustrious Patriotic General Jong Mun Bu

JONG MUN BU WAS active as commander of a volunteer army in the period of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) when Japan invaded Korea. At that time Jong, an aide to the chief military officer of Hamgyong Province, organized a volunteer army together with Ri Pung Su, Choe Pae Chon and other officers and fully displayed his ability as a brilliant commander in the battle against the Japanese aggressor troops who had made an inroad into his province. In particular, he skillfully applied ambush, surprise attacks and coordination of cavalry and infantrymen, leading the volunteer army

to victory at all times. In the battles fought in the Kilju, Jangphyong and Sokhyon regions in October 1592 his unit wiped off a large enemy unit and encircled the Kilju Fortress. Some of his unit routed a large number of enemy soldiers in Ssangpho (Kim Chaek City at present) in December that year. In January 1593 his unit stamped out enemy forces at Paekthap (Sangso-ri, Kilju County at present) that had come to rescue their remnant forces besieged in the Kilju Fortress. With this the aggressors were completely mopped out in the Hamgyong Province area.

In the process Yun Thak Yon, a temporary government official

appointed to organize nationwide military actions successfully, invented a lie that Jong had antipathy against the government, and informed the authorities against him. This led to his dismissal from the post of commander of the volunteer army. Later, though, he was put to his position again thanks to the strong protest lodged by his subordinates. After the termination of the Imjin Patriotic War he was engaged in literary work, working as governor of several counties, such as Onsong and Kilju. His book *Nongphojip* offers valuable materials pertaining to the period of the Imjin Patriotic War. □

Lunar New Year's Day and *Jongwol-daeborum*

SOME TIME AGO A reporter of the Korea Today had an interview with Dr. Kye Sung Mu, researcher of the Folklore Institute under the Academy of Social Sciences.

Lunar New Year's Day has long been observed as a folk festival by the Korean people. I'd like to know about the origin and tradition of it in detail.

From olden times the Korean people have kept it as their New Year's Day. Our ancestors who pursued crop farming from the Neolithic era, calculated the calendar with their rich astronomical knowledge from time immemorial. They applied it to farming and other productive pursuits as well as to fixing the holidays.

In Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) people gathered by the rivers and played lively games like ducks and drakes and snowballing. The functions of the New Year's Day celebration developed in contents and forms during the feudal Koryo and Feudal Joseon dynasties. On New Year's Eve people cleaned up their houses in and out, prepared gala dresses and dainty dishes for New Year's Day and hang ten decorative longevity pictures of pine trees and cranes on the doors of wall-cupboards and on the folding screens to enhance the festive mood. And they would newly procure some farm implements in hopes of a bumper harvest in the New Year. In some cases New Year greetings would be offered to the seniors of the village on New Year's Eve.

New Year's Day celebrations began from the early morning. After ancestor-memorial services, New Year greetings were offered to seniors, followed by feasts and folk games. The typical dishes were rice-cake soup, glutinous rice cake, steamed rice cake, non-

filled rice cake, pancake, confectionery, fruit punch, sweet drink from fermented rice, grilled meat, fruit and liquor. People considered rice-cake soup indispensable to the holiday table. Usually the breakfast of the New Year's Day would be taken in the parental house. Folk games made the festive mood more cheerful. The popular games were *yut* (four-stick) game and Korean chess, and children's games such as kite flying, sleigh riding, top spinning, shuttlecock playing and pinwheel turning.

The lunar New Year's Day remains one of the most festive holidays for our people.

I think *Jongwol-daeborum* is also one of our folk holidays. Would you tell me about its origin and the custom related to it?

It comes after the lunar New Year's Day, and it has been observed as a grand festival for a long time in our country. It covers the 14th and 15th of the lunar January, the former called Minor Full-Moon Festival and the latter Major Full-Moon Festival. On the 14th, people set up a pole hung with ears of rice, kaoliang, millet, foxtail millet and other grains, and in the areas where cotton was cultivated, cotton bolls were fastened on the top of the pole and under them a flag inscribed with letters wishing a bumper harvest was hung. The day was dedicated mainly to functions announcing the beginning of farmwork and, in addition to erecting the pole symbolic of a grain stack, there was a custom of carrying manure out to the fields in the early morning. On the night of the 15th, or the full-moon night, people used to go outside to greet the moon and do torchlight play. It was believed that the first person to see the rising full moon would enjoy good



luck that year, and people would forecast a rich or poor harvest of the year from the look of the full moon. On the day people used to build a small hut called moon hut and burn it when the moon rose, put a stone amidst the branches of a fruit tree wishing it to bear plenty of fruit and women would go out to draw water from a well before others in the early morning wishing for a bumper harvest. After enjoying the full moon, young people made torches with stems of bush clover and hemp and played with them burning the weeds in the fields. This play was to rid the fields of mice, grasshoppers' nits, noxious insects' pupae, barnyard grass and seeds of weeds.

Special dishes of the 15th of lunar January included boiled five grains (rice, barely, foxtail millet, bean and millet), sweet-flavoured glutinous rice mixed with dates, chestnuts, pine-nuts and sesame oil, laver-wrapped rice and salad of dried greens. And there was a custom to "bite and cure a blotch" meaning people biting chestnuts, walnuts, ginkgo nuts, pine nuts and other kinds of medicinal nuts in the early morning of the day. Today our people spend the day cheerfully celebrating it with colourful functions. □

Struggle to Achieve the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (5)

The Proposal for Founding the DFRK

IN HIS REPORT TO THE Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the work of the Party Central Committee on October 10, 1980, President Kim Il Sung clarified the cardinal problems concerning the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea and made a new proposal for reunifying the country by founding a single federal state, that is, the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo (DFRK), by uniting the north and the south of Korea. The proposal was that in the situation where different ideas and systems exist in the north and the south, the country should be reunified into a single state by federating the two autonomous governments with their institutions left as they were, on the principle of co-existence that neither of the two sides trying to conquer or overpower the other.

The President illuminated all problems relating to the establishment of the federal state and put forward the ten-point policy to be implemented by the DFRK in the fields of politics, the economy, culture, military affairs, the people's living conditions, foreign affairs and so on. He said that the DFRK would be an independent, democratic, neutral, non-aligned and peace-loving state. The proposal for founding the DFRK and the ten-point policy of the reunified state advanced by the President were correct and practical reunification programmes

which precisely reflected the common aspirations and desires of the entire Korean nation.

The WPK and the government of the DPRK turned out as one to establish the DFRK. In November 1980, the political parties and public organizations in the northern half of Korea held a joint conference, at which a proposal was adopted for forming a preparatory committee for founding the DFRK, as a joint consultative body of the nation, with appropriate number of representatives of political parties, social groups and all classes and strata of society in the north, south and abroad, and it was also suggested that a preliminary meeting of public figures representing all walks of life in the north, south and abroad for the purpose. Consequently, the representatives of Koreans in the north and abroad held meetings many times to discuss the issue of national reunification. In 1989, they held a meeting in Pyongyang for promoting national reunification, at which they discussed the issues relating to national reunification and decided to hold a pan-national rally for the causes at Panmunjom on August 15, 1990, to be attended by representatives from the north, south and abroad.

Kim Il Sung led the dynamic struggle to ease the tensions in the Korean peninsula and create a peaceful climate for Korea's reunification. At a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly in January 1984, he advanced a new

proposal for holding tripartite talks by allowing the south Korean authorities responsible for the aggravated tensions in Korea to participate in a DPRK-USA parley. In January 1984, the Third Session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK adopted an appeal calling upon all parliaments and governments of the world to wage a vigorous international campaign to withdraw the American troops and nuclear arms from south Korea for peace in Korea, Asia and the world. While striving for bringing about the tripartite talks, the WPK and DPRK government took positive measures to improve inter-Korean relations in keeping with the prevailing situation. Between late August and early September of 1984 when hundreds of thousands of south Korean people were suffering from a flood disaster, they sent 50 000 *sok* of rice (one *sok* equals 4.9629 bushels), 100 000 tons of cement, 500 000 metres of cloth, and large quantities of medicines for their relief. This compatriotic aid fostered a climate of national reconciliation and unity, inter-Korean contacts and dialogue. As a result, the inter-Korean Red Cross talks which had been suspended for 12 years were resumed, along with other channels of dialogue. Visits by Red Cross art troupes and home-visiting groups were exchanged between two parts of Korea to mark the 40th anniversary of the country's liberation.

Meanwhile, as a step for alleviating the tensions and promot- ▶

Confrontation Leads to Nothing Good

IT IS NEARLY ONE YEAR since the present ruler of south Korea took office. At the beginning she claimed that her approach to the north (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) was a "third way" different from the one of her predecessor regime that had sought confrontation alone, and advertised that she would improve the north-south relations on the basis of "trust". Directly contrary to her early argument, the inter-Korean relationship has gone from bad to worse all along. From March last year the north-south confrontation got more malignant, causing a touch-and-go situation. Later a phase of dialogue and negotiation opened thanks to the sincere efforts of the north, but it was shattered totally in October. The mutual relations are becoming more distrustful as the days go by. This

shows that the trust vociferated by the regime of south Korea means a policy of confrontation to make a fool of the world.

Much, much earlier, the north and the south of Korea issued the July 4 Joint Statement and historic north-south joint declarations, making a convincing promise to respect each other's ideas and social systems and refrain from slandering each other and pursuing confrontation. This was the first step and the major premise in building mutual trust.

Talking of her northern policy, Park Geun Hye told earlier that if she took power she would promote trust building and dialogue preferentially on the principle of separating politics from economic affairs. And while campaigning for presidency she once became a public attention by making a statement that she would recog-

nize the north-south declarations. But as soon as she was sworn in, she revealed her confrontation-oriented intention by saying that her policy of "building trust on the Korean peninsula" was in no way that of "appeasement" and was built on "the military deterrence based on alliance with the US." She went so far as to openly announce that she would "mercilessly deal with the north's provocations by cooperating with the US." To make matters worse, she drove the situation in the peninsula to the brink of war by conducting frantic north-targeted war rehearsals hand in glove with the US, like the Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian. Since the present regime entered its reign, different kinds of latest American equipment for nuclear war and means of strike—typical of them are the

► ing national reconciliation and trust between both sides, the Fourth Session of the Seventh Supreme People's Assembly called in April 1985 sent to the National Assembly of south Korea a letter proposing to hold parliamentary talks between both sides in order to adopt a joint declaration for mutual nonaggression, containing detailed suggestions for it. The south Korean authorities, however, took to an unwarrantable position in the dialogue, and then, from February 1986, resumed Team Spirit joint military exercises of 200 000 troops with the US armed forces, aggravating the situation in the peninsula and calling off different channels of dialogue with the

north.

Then in December 1986, President Kim Il Sung put forth a proposal for high-level north-south political and military talks at the First Session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly. But the south Korean puppets looked the other way, and in mid-May of 1987, the south Korean Minister of Unification came out espousing "unification under the liberal democratic system," against dialogues and peaceful reunification. The DPRK government took a series of positive steps to bring peace to the Korean peninsula: it made a proposal for the phased reduction of armaments and several reasonable overtures for negotiation and peace. It then

made strenuous efforts for their realization.

In order to turn the situation in the Korean peninsula in favour of national reconciliation, unity and détente, President Kim Il Sung, in his 1988 New Year Address, proposed to convene a north-south joint conference to be attended by representatives of the government authorities, political parties, social organizations and people of all social standings from both sides. Nevertheless, the south Korean puppet clique rejected the proposal and went in for the 88 Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States, stepping up its moves for confrontation, war and separation. □

▶ nuclear-powered carriers Nimitz and George Washington, the nuclear-powered submarine Cheyenne, B-52 strategic bombers, B-2 stealth strategic bombers and F-22 stealth fighters—have busied themselves over and around south Korea playing with nuclear fire and turning the region into a pavilion of American nuclear weapons and arena of frantic actions. When the predecessor Lee Myung Bak regime drove the favourably developing north-south relations to catastrophe asking the Americans for expansive deterrent which means an American nuclear umbrella, the Park Geun Hye regime has adopted the so-called tailored deterrence strategy that envisages a preemptive strike against the north, and is joining in the American scheme of setting up an MD system. Meanwhile it newly worked out a plot to enlarge a local battle in the West Sea of Korea into a total war to be participated in by the GIs and has been aggravating the situation to the extreme, talking about the need to “attack the source of provocation and the supporting and commanding forces”. Arguing that it would refuse to have any

“dialogue” in which it might have to follow the north’s argument, and that it would “adhere to its own principle,” the puppet regime ruptured the inter-Korean authorities’ talks that had been arranged with difficulty, and orchestrated the crisis of the Kaesong Industrial Park—which the preceding regime had not dared to. Through an unprecedented racket of “thorough purge of the north-following forces” and “McCarthyism” it cracked down on the south Korean pro-north, pro-reunification forces and attempted to extinguish the existence of the forces radically. It even did such a rash act of opening the minutes of the north-south summit meeting to the public to stamp out the historic significance of the summit meeting. It also removed the October 4 Declaration-related clauses from the “second master plan for the development of the north-south relations.”

After Park’s assumption to power the danger of a nuclear war reached the climax in the Korean peninsula. Even Uncle Sam, Park’s master, was gladly surprised to see her policy of “building trust on the Korean

peninsula” tough unexpectedly, and gave a pep talk to his pet. In the final analysis, the south Korean puppets are trying to detonate a war in the peninsula in collusion with the outside forces and drive the nation into a nuclear holocaust.

The Korean people want to put an end to the foreign forces’ nearly-70-year-long oppression and intervention and achieve national reunification and peace and security in the peninsula. Nothing can check their will to end once and for all the history of division and build a reunified and prosperous state by accomplishing the North-South Declarations as soon as possible.

If the south Korean regime shuns the nation’s desire and seeks confrontation against the compatriots in the north with the backing of the outside forces, it won’t get anything and incur its misfortune alone.

The Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea will continue to join hand with anyone who wants national reconciliation, unity, peace and reunification, without reference to their past records.

Kim Il Ryong

South Koreans hold a demonstration demanding withdrawal of the puppet regime.



Dangerous US-Japan Alliance

NOW THE UNITED STATES and Japan are making a fuss of “threat” from a certain nation while calling for the strengthening of their alliance. Arguing that the environment around Japan is becoming further insecure, they claim they should improve the capability of the US-Japan alliance, particularly the role of Japan, in order to secure “peace” in the area. This is not an unprecedented event. The US and Japan have called for the strengthening of their alliance “in consideration of the situation” around Japan. Spreading the theory of a certain “threat” that was not in existence, they made a propaganda of an “incident” that might break out at any moment in the Asia-Pacific region. On this absurd pretext, they beefed up their military strength, mouthing the strengthening of the alliance. However, the situation in the area used to go from bad to worse just thanks to them. The US-Japan alliance is a dangerous one because it is intended to stifle other countries militarily, instead of easing the regional situation.

The United States has been working desperately to realize its Asia-Pacific strategy whose point is power-based domination. To this end, it is advocating the need to strengthen the alliance with Japan while building up its power, and using Japan as its shock brigade. As far as Japan is concerned, it has huge military potentiality and a dirty history of committing war of aggression in the past. Considering its power the US preserved the militarist forces of defeated Japan (August 1945), and brought them back to life and rearmed them. And today, with an intention to realize a unipolar world, it attempts to fish in the troubled waters by helping Japan go overseas on the absurd

pretext of augmenting the alliance.

Japan, availing itself of the US’s Asia-Pacific strategy, is scheming to achieve its intention of reinvasion, and to this end, it takes an active part in furthering the US-Japan alliance. This endeavour has reached the extreme since the inauguration of the present government. The US-Japan alliance is only detrimental to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region; it is nothing but a facility of the two countries to attain their military supremacy in the region. Herein lies the danger of their alliance.

The alliance is falling headlong into dangerous orbit with its aggressive nature becoming naked. Recently the US and Japan began to review the “guideline for the US-Japan defence cooperation” adopted in 1997. The existing guideline restricts the US-Japan military alliance to a certain extent in their joint military operations because Japan is not allowed to exercise the right to collective defence. The Japanese Self-Defence Forces mainly played a secondary role in the US-Japan military operations. As the US is beset by the economic crisis worldwide, it wants to use Japan to maintain its military supremacy, and, in this respect, it actively supports Japan’s attempt at amending its Constitution so that it regains the right to collective defence, despite the apprehension widespread in the world. The Americans’ underhand aim is to bind Japan to greater military responsibility. Hence the US and Japan are going to reform the guideline to the effect that the Japanese authorities extend the role of the SDF as required by the US’s Asia-Pacific strategy. When the guideline goes through revision, the SDF will openly carry

out overseas military activities at any time on the pretext of “cooperation” with the US military.

These days the US troops in the Asia-Pacific region are undergoing reorganization while Japan is hastening its arms buildup and turning itself into a forward military base. On the other hand the US, under the pretext of watching Japan’s neighbouring countries, is planning to deploy a Global Hawk reconnaissance drone in a US base in Japan in addition to P-8 patrol aircraft deployed in December last year. In keeping with the plan Japan is increasing military expenditure while manufacturing and deploying new-type weapons and accelerating its drive for military power. Meanwhile, joint military exercises for integrating military actions between the US and Japan take place frequently.

The powder-reeking US-Japan alliance is causing a formidable reaction from other countries. China expressed its strong apprehension and weariness, saying that Japan intentionally creates tension and confrontation by vociferously arguing on the “threat” from outside in order to make an excuse of its military expansion. Russia too is putting its efforts into increasing its defence capabilities to cope with the arms buildup of the US and Japan. Referring to the US’s support of Japan’s plan for military buildup including Japan’s exercise of the right to collective defence a European media reported that it might have a longer wavelength in that it could shake the foundation of the postwar system which has been maintained in Northeast Asia since the end of World War II.

Choe Kwang Guk

Who Is to Blame for the Anti-US Storm?

NOWADAYS AN ANTI-US storm is raging on the international arena. Who is to blame for it? It is the Americans themselves who are reaping what they have sown. Even now the United States is bent on aggression and war, obsessed by a wild ambition for world supremacy. The war hawks of the US have fixed a colossal sum of war expenditure and are stepping up nuclear arms expansion while viciously carrying on “anti-terror warfares” by mobilizing huge aggression forces, aggravating international tensions. The reckless aggression and war moves of the US are disturbing world peace and security, hampering the building of a new life of the people, checking the independent development of nations and seriously endangering human existence and civilization.

The people all over the world set themselves against the armament expansion and “anti-terror warfares” of the United States and strongly demand the withdrawal of its aggression troops and military bases in other countries. In particular, the wild “anti-terror warfares” of the US are calling forth a violent storm of anti-US struggle worldwide. Prominent public figures and politicians, progressive persons and various news media throughout the world are denouncing the risky “anti-terror warfares” of the US as a crazy act of exterminating mankind and a reckless move to destroy world peace and plunge humanity into terrorist horrors. The demands for stopping the “anti-terror warfares” in Central Asia and the Middle

East, withdrawal of US troops from south Korea and Japan, and keeping its hands off Venezuela and other countries are rising everyday.

Last year the United States refused to issue visas to the heads of state and government of several countries expected to attend the UN General Assembly. The UN General Assembly is an international congress where its members discuss and decide on wide-ranging international and regional problems relating to the peace, security and development of the world. Nevertheless, the US, regarding the UN Headquarters seated in New York as something like its own outfit, willfully discriminated against foreign delegates to it and blocked their way into the country. The US Department of State found fault with the Sudanese President as a war criminal and delayed giving him a visa and, in the long run, denied it to him, so that the President could not attend the UN General Assembly and the

meeting on peace and stability in Sudan and its neighbouring regions held in parallel with the General Assembly. As a result, the people in the countries attending the General Assembly and the area around Sudan expressed their displeasure and reproach against the unwarrantable deed of the United States, fuming at the futility of the meeting without the participation of the country concerned. Further, the US refused to give an entry visa to the Venezuelan delegation to the General Assembly, enraging the Venezuelan government and other Latin-American countries.

This was not the first time the Americans committed such an outrageous act. The US government denied visas to the delegates of different countries to many international meetings due to take place in the US, bringing on much public criticism. It also denied the entry visa to the Iranian national assembly delegation expected to take part in an

Afghans have an anti-US demonstration.





Pakistanis hold a rally in protest against the American military's drone attacks.

► international conference of parliamentary presidents at the UN Headquarters, incurring a protest statement from the attendants at the meeting. And then it was denounced for debarring an Ecuadorian government official from attending a UN forum by refusing his entry into the country, and for preventing the Cuban minister of public health from participating in a conference of the Pan-American Health Organization by denying him visa.

The US President, however, in his address to the American people, said idiotically that the United States is a special nation that is entitled to decide the fate of other countries. This revealed their true colours as imperialist ruffians and their impudence and brazen facedness. They want to make international relations subordinated to their supremacy and change the world into a US-centred unipolar world. This preposterous position of the United States has caused a storm of protests and condemnation across the world. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros denounced the US declaring that it was not the master of the UN. He said

that the US was under obligation to give visa to the Venezuelan delegation and that the Venezuelan government would counter the American hostility with strong diplomatic measures. Bolivian President Evo Morales, in his speech in a session of the UN General Assembly, said that the US was hindering the persons not to their liking from attending the UN General Assembly. He claimed that the UN Headquarters should be moved out of the United States.

The Sudanese foreign ministry stressed in its statement that the United States has no legal competence to interfere with the UN member states' right to attend the UN General Assembly. The statement said that though the US was alleging the Sudanese President as a war criminal, the United States itself was a war criminal state that had started the Iraqi war and committed the acts of massacre. The vice-president of a university in Hanoi, Vietnam, condemned the US President for his address, declaring that there is no special country in the international relations, and that every country on the earth is equal before the law

regardless of the size of its territory and has an equal right to speak in the settlement of international affairs. He stressed that the US has no right to determine the fate of individual nations.

The Snowden case has clearly shown that the United States regards all the world as its enemy. The British paper Guardian disclosed in an article that the US National Security Agency wire-tapped the diplomatic missions to the UN in Washington and New York, 28 diplomatic missions of the EU nations in Brussels, and individual persons. The news scandalized the whole world. Many countries including China, Russia, Germany, France, Brazil and Mexico denounced the US for wire-tapping and demanded explanation and apology from the US. Last year the summit meeting of the EU made a special statement for blocking the wire-tapping by the US intelligence agencies.

Owing to its high-handedness, arbitrary actions and interference in the internal affairs of other countries, the international isolation of the United States is becoming more serious every day. This is by no means a temporary phenomenon, but an inevitable consequence of the bellicose high-handedness, selfish dealing and world hegemony policy practiced by the successive US administrations. The anti-US storm now sweeping across the world is an irresistible current of the times. The more the US takes to its selfish dealing, military intervention and war policy, the deeper it will get into a scrape because of the anger and protest of the people all over the world.

Kim Il Bong

Kumgang Cave and Kumgang Hermitage

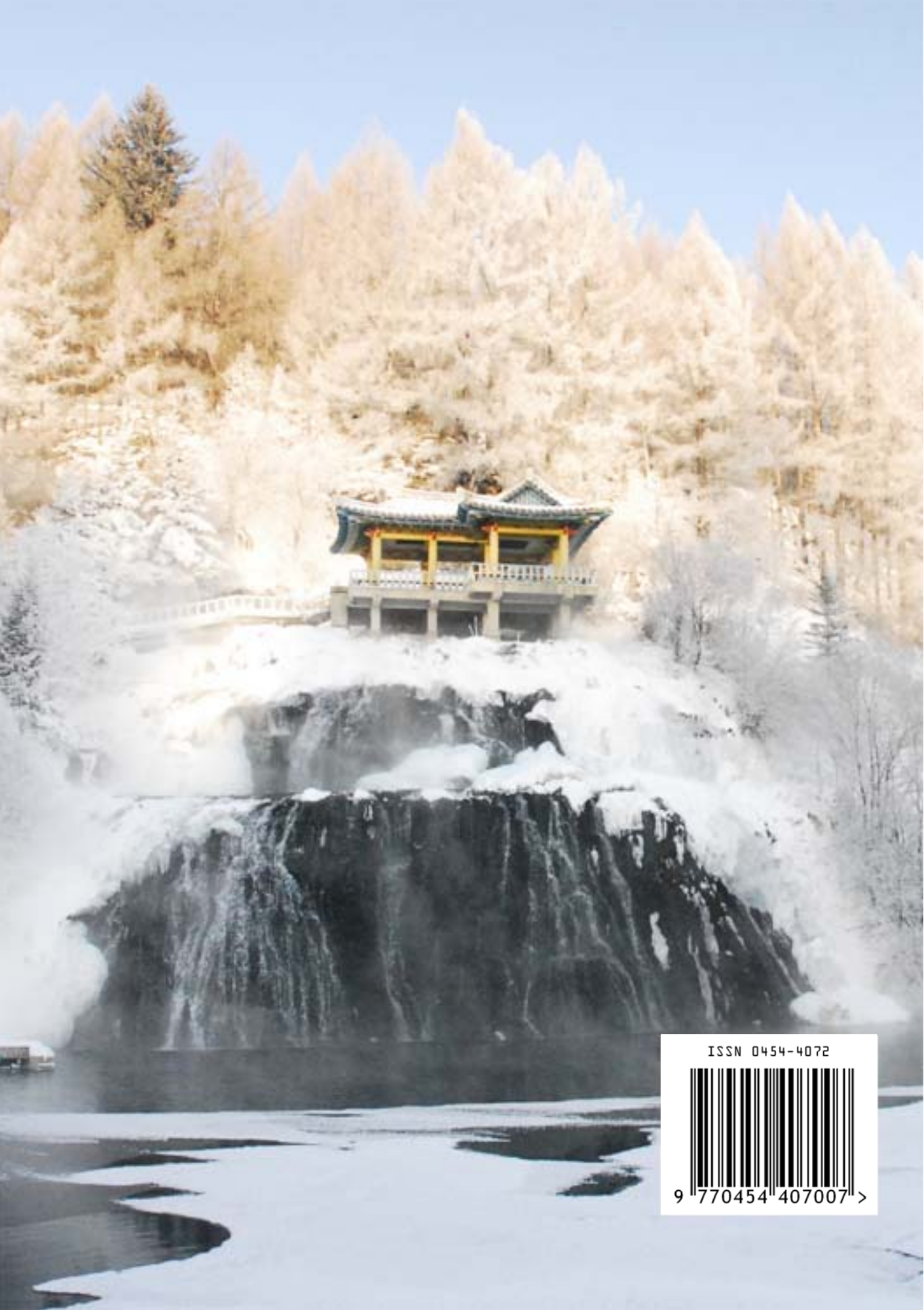
THE KUMGANG CAVE, A NATURAL CAVE, is situated in the Habiro area below Piro Peak of Mt. Myohyang, a celebrated mountain of Korea. It is three metres high, ten metres deep and 13 metres wide. Close to the east of the cave, you will come to a spring called *Myongan-su* (meaning eyesight-clearing water). In this cave stands the Kumgang Hermitage, a curious old building erected in the late Koryo Dynasty. This small building is about one kilometre away from the Habiro Hermitage. Built with the large ceiling rock of the cave as its

roof, the rare cell is 7.15 metres wide and 4.2 metres deep. The room, kitchen and closet are all under the rock and only the verandah is outside the cave.

It is said that during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598), this hermitage served as a temporary abode of volunteers' army commander St. Sosan and other renowned monks of Mt. Myohyang.

Located on a mountaineering route of Mt. Myohyang, the Kumgang Cave and Kumgang Hermitage give easy access to the tourists. □





ISSN 0454-4072



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