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A Commemorative Medal for the 70th Anniversary of the Victorious Great Patriotic War

The national leader Kim Jong Un received a commemorative medal for the 70th anniversary of the victorious Great Patriotic War from Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation, in May 2015.



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Front Cover: A party on a study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt. Paektu area visit the Monument to the Victorious Battle of the Musan Area

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA



Back Cover: The Arch of Triumph

Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol

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*On the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary
of the Workers' Party of Korea*

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August 15 Tells

IN THE FIRST HALF OF LAST CENTURY Kim Il Sung organized and led an armed struggle to liberate his country from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (1905–1945). The method of struggle he set forth to launch an armed struggle in the early 1930s was to combine guerrilla warfare-based activities of the standing revolutionary forces with those of all-people resistance.

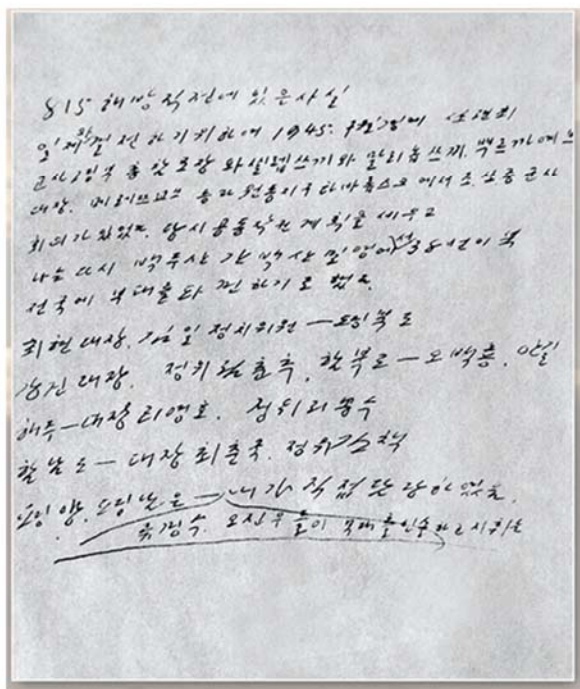
At the time the guerrilla warfare meant almost a bare-handed struggle, as the Korean people were deprived of their sovereignty, territory and natural resources. In such a difficult situation the popular masses were the only reliance of the guerrilla army, and the anti-Japanese resistance would emerge victorious only when all of them were organized in the fight—this was Kim Il Sung's steadfast conviction.

He formulated the policy of laying guerrilla bases, strongholds of the anti-Japanese resistance, and using them to give revolutionary training to the masses and rally them in organizations. In many guerrilla bases and semi-guerrilla zones established along the Tuman River, people were awakened to revolutionary senses and the anti-Japanese resistance forces came to be strengthened with formation and expansion of mass organizations like peasant association, anti-Japanese association and women's association.

Flurried at the intensifying military activities and increasing revolutionary influence of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army relying on the guerrilla bases, the Japanese imperialists committed large-scale "punitive" campaigns against the guerrilla bases. For instance, they mobilized their army over 5 000 strong and even airplanes in November 1933 to make wave-style attacks on the Xiaowangqing base that was guarded by only two companies of the guerrilla army at the time. All the army and people turned out as one to defend their base—women carried ammunitions and meals to the fighters on heights, elderly folks climbed the hills to give showers of rocks to the enemy. And even members of the Children's Corps fired self-made pistols and blew bugle calls to make the enemy fall into confusion. The Japanese laid siege on the base for nearly 90 days and made desperate efforts, but failed.

In addition, the people in other guerrilla bases in Yanji, Helong and Hunchun areas dealt heavy blows to the Japanese imperialists and successfully defended their bases.

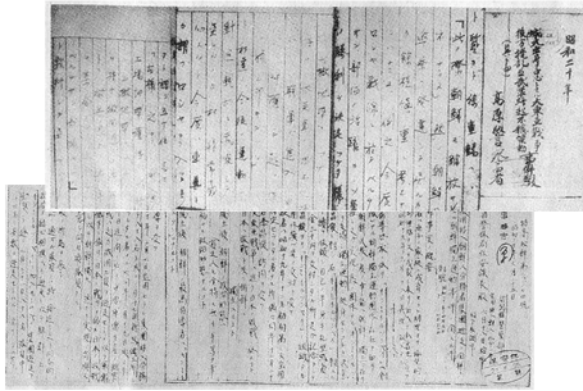
On the basis of the experience in all-people defence, the work of preparation of national resistance forces spread to wider areas with the formation of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland by Kim Il Sung in May 1936. The ARF was the first anti-Japanese national united front body in Korea engaged in the struggle to achieve the country's liberation through general mobilization of the Korean



Commander Kim Il Sung's note on his instructions on the operations for the final assault to liberate the country.

nation under the banner of the Ten-point Programme of the ARF. The programme set the immediate tasks and the ultimate goal for the Korean people to carry out in the struggle for national liberation, including the establishment of an independent political power to represent the interests of the broad sections of the people including workers and peasants, industrial revolution, land reform, army building and elimination of feudal relations. The programme was a declaration of pan-national anti-Japanese resistance to regain the nation's sovereignty and win victory in the resistance through general mobilization of all patriotic-minded people who were against the Japanese, transcending the difference in rank, wealth, faction and religion.

Soon after its establishment, the ARF formed a wide network of organizations and set up subsidiary bodies under various names such as the anti-Japanese association, national salvation association and national liberation association. Along with this, an Independence Army unit active in southern Manchuria joined the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and many religionists became members of the ARF. Thus the ARF developed into a pan-national organization with hundreds of thousands of mem-



An official Japanese document on preparations by patriotic young people in Seoul for an armed revolt and a confidential document of the Japanese police department on the activities of the Kim Il Sung Corps.

► bers. The ARF pushed ahead with the preparations for national resistance by relying on many secret bases established deep inside the country with the Paektusan Secret Camp as the centre and by organizing para-military organizations like workers' shock brigades and production guerrilla units.

The Japanese imperialists unleashed the Sino-Japanese war in July 1937 and mobilized a huge amount of human and material resources of Korea for the war while bringing harsher pressure upon the Korean people than ever before. In such a situation, Kim Il Sung appealed to the Korean people to turn out as one in the anti-Japanese struggle for national salvation confidently, no matter what the situation might be. Small units, groups and underground political activists of the KPRA were sent not only inside the country but also to Manchuria and even Japan to restore and maintain the ARF organizations, actively publicize among the people the line and strategy and tactics of the Korean revolution and the Ten-point Programme of the ARF, make people know the inevitability of the Japanese imperialists' ruin and join the final campaign against the enemy. Many resistance organizations were formed the country over, and various kinds of anti-Japanese and anti-war struggles were launched in parallel with active harassment operations of the KPRA units behind the enemy.

In the first half of the 1940s, there were a lot of resistance organizations including the Kim Il Sung Corps which was organized in Kyongsong (Seoul at present) and extended its influence as far as to Jeju Island and other parts of homeland and Japan, the Paektusan Association which was organized in Songjin (Kim Chaek City at present), North Hamgyong Province, the National Liberation Corps which was organized in the Pyongyang area, the secret association in the Nihon Iron Works and the association for armed revolt formed in the Kyongsong area. The Japanese imperialists claimed that they had ferreted out more than 180 anti-Japanese underground organizations within Korea in 1942,

whose total membership amounted to 500 000.

Similar organizations were formed even in the Japanese aggression forces. In the 30th division of the Japanese army stationed in Pyongyang young Koreans formed an anti-Japanese armed corps of student-soldiers and planned to join the KPRA en masse.

In those days there were built various forms and sizes of provisional secret camps in not only alpine areas in northern Korea including the Hamgyong Mountains, Puryong Mountains and Rangnim Mountains, but also subalpine regions in central Korea including the Puktaebong Mountains, Aho-biryong Mountains and Thaebaek Mountains. They developed into politico-military strongholds for national resistance, helping improve unified guidance to the national resistance forces. Based on such a full preparation, Commander Kim Il Sung of the KPRA ordered all the KPRA units on August 9, 1945 to start the general offensive to liberate the country. The units which were stationed in the Kanbaeksan Secret Camp for the final campaign launched operations to take different provinces in collaboration with small units and groups of the KPRA and national resistance organizations that had been active in the homeland. In response the KPRA small units, groups and underground political activists who had already been sent into the homeland mobilized the people's armed units, armed-revolt organizations and broad sections of the people for national resistance. They attacked the Japanese forces and police stations, thus harassing the enemy in the rear, and gave active support to the KPRA units advancing into the country. The Rajin People's Armed Corps and other people's armed corps formed in the Kyonghung and Unggi areas in North Hamgyong Province put up fighting against the Japanese aggressors to facilitate the KPRA units' actions from the beginning of the final campaign; the Kkachibong Armed Corps destroyed the remnants of the enemy in their retreat and liberated Hoeryong with their own efforts. The resistance organizations in the Sinuiju area occupied the provincial police headquarters and government office by themselves and disarmed the remnant enemy troops in a local airport. Many other organizations in South Phyongan Province, the Pyongyang area, Cholwon and Poptong areas in Kangwon Province, Yomju and Sakju areas in North Phyongan Province and North and South Hwanghae provinces gained control over the local enemy forces.

Unable to sustain the KPRA's ferocious attacks and widespread revolts of the nation, the Japanese imperialists surrendered unconditionally on August 15, 1945 a week after the start of the final campaign. With this, Korea was freed from the Japanese military occupation.

The national resistance movement that brought national liberation under the wise leadership of Kim Il Sung was securely based on the idea of great national unity, which the Korean people consistently maintain in their vigorous effort to achieve independent, peaceful reunification of their country.

Jo Song I

The Triumphal Return

THE KOREA TODAY EDITORIAL BOARD introduces excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences **With the Century** (Continuing edition) on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation from the Japanese military occupation.

With Japan's surrender, the Second World War, which had thrown mankind into immeasurable miseries and agony, resulted in the victory of the anti-fascist forces.

When our sworn enemy Umez signed the instrument of surrender and drank the bitter cup of defeat, we were preparing to return home as the heroes who had triumphed in the anti-Japanese revolution and made a new history of national liberation.

Our people's enthusiasm for national salvation, which had been displayed in national resistance, was converted into enthusiasm for nation-building with the liberation. From the viewpoint of both the immediate task of the Korean revolution and its ultimate objective, the situation was very optimistic.

However, we could not relax in the least.

Though the Japanese imperialists had been de-

feated, the reactionaries did not give up their offensive against the revolution.

The stationing of the Soviet and US armies might turn our country into an arena of confrontation between socialism and capitalism, and our national force was liable to be split into left and right, patriots and traitors to the nation. If factional strife prevailed and factions conspired with foreign forces it would end up in the ruin of the country.

In these circumstances, we had to strengthen the motive force of our revolution in every way in order to defend the independence of our nation and speed up the building of a new country.

By the motive force of our revolution I mean the force of our own people.

Since the first day we set out on the road of revolution, we made every effort to educate, organize and mobilize the people who were to undertake the anti-Japanese revolution. Millions of people in the ranks of resistance who took part in the final battle for national liberation were not people who turned out spontaneously to the battlefield but the organized masses whose forces we had built up for many years.

Just as our people had carried out the anti-Japanese revolution by their own struggle, so they had to build a new country by their own efforts. We resolved to build the Party, state and armed forces, and also the national economy, education and culture, and develop science and technology by relying on our people's strength. In order to rouse the people to build a new country, we needed the staff of the revolution and state power which would educate, ►



The soldiers of the KPRA and the Soviet army cheer their victory.

Japanese soldiers lay down their arms.



- ▶ organize and mobilize them, as well as an army which could protect the building of a new society with arms.

With this in mind, I convened a meeting of military and political cadres of the KPRA at the training base on August 20, 1945 and set forth the three major tasks of building the Party, the state and the armed forces—new strategic tasks for strengthening the motive force of our revolution.

We discussed the specific ways and methods for carrying out these tasks, and made necessary arrangements. We formed small teams for implementing these tasks and designated the places where they would be sent.

When returning home, the KPRA units took different routes.

It is still fresh in my memory that my heart throbbed strangely when I gazed at the boundless ocean over the side of the ship. I remembered the day when I was crossing the Amnok River at the age of 13. It seemed to me that the Amnok and innumerable other rivers of the homeland frozen by the sorrow of the ruined nation were being melted by the hot wind of liberation into this vast expanse of water.

As I was returning home after 20 years, leaving my blood relations, friends and comrades buried in a foreign land, I was overcome with mixed emotions of joy and sorrow, which were beyond words.

In the homeland, too, I worked mainly among the people, among the masses. While visiting factories, rural communities and streets to meet people on the one hand, on the other I met various visitors from home and abroad in my office and lodgings, sharing bed and board with my comrades as I had done on Mt. Paektu.

After visiting the Kangson Steel Works on October 9 and founding the Communist Party of North Korea, I gave my first address to the people in the homeland at the Pyongyang City mass rally to welcome me.

When I mounted the platform the shout “Long live the independence of Korea!” and the cheers of the crowd reached a climax.

As I listened to their cheers, I felt the fatigue that had accumulated for 20 years melting away. The cheers of the people became a hot wind and warmed my body and mind.

Standing on the platform amidst the enthusiastic cheers of more than 100,000 people, I felt happiness that defied description by any flowery language. If anyone asked me about the happiest moment in my

life, I would reply that it was that moment. It was happiness emanating from the pride that I had fought for the people as a son of the people, from the feeling that the people loved and trusted me and from the fact that I was in the embrace of the people.

I have regarded the love and support of the people as the absolute standard that measures the value of existence of a revolutionary and the happiness he can enjoy. Apart from the love and support of the people, a revolutionary has nothing.

Bourgeois politicians try to lure the people with money, but we obtained trust from the people at the cost of our blood and sweat. I was moved by the people’s trust in me and I considered it the greatest pleasure I could enjoy in my life.

The gist of my speech that day was great national unity. I appealed to the whole nation to build a prosperous independent state in Korea, united as one—



those with strength dedicating strength, those with knowledge devoting knowledge and those with money offering money.

The crowd expressed their support with thunderous applause and cheers.

We can say that the mass rally was the start of a great march of our people towards building a new country.

The 40 years it took to win back the lost country and the 20 years it took me to regain my native home seemed too long.

That the sovereignty of a nation lost in a moment ▶



Kim Il Sung makes a speech at the mass rally held in Pyongyang to welcome his triumphant return in October 1945.



- ▶ could only be recovered in a thousand years was an important lesson I had learned during the 20 years of the revolution against the Japanese. I mean that it is easy to lose a country, but difficult to win it back. It is a grim reality of the world that it takes decades or even centuries to restore a country which was lost in an instant.

That is why I frequently tell the young people that a ruined nation is as good as dead, that if they do not want to be a stateless people, they must go all out to defend the country, and that in order not to end up as slaves they must make the country more

prosperous and collect even one more piece of rubble to build the defences higher.

That night I slept in my home for the first time in 20 years.

At that time the under-floor heating was under repair and the door was not yet fitted. We covered the half-dry floor with wheat and rice straw and spread a straw-mat over it to sleep on.

Looking back upon our traces on Mt. Paektu and the snow-covered plains of Manchuria, I imagined the faces of my comrades-in-arms who were not able to come back with me. I thought about the people to whom I owed much, recalled my childhood and planned the future of the country.

That night at Mangyongdae, which I spent in the liberated homeland after 20 years' absence, was a peaceful night indeed. Two months after the end of the Second World War and the liberation of the country, the 30 million Korean people were still intoxicated with the joy of liberation.

None of these people, however, imagined that the liberation of the country would end in a territorial division and national split, resulting in a great national disaster lasting over half a century. □

Stable Cornerstone of the Korean Revolution

IT WAS NOT UNTIL Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, chose to take a new path of the Korean revolution that the working class and other people of the country had any revolutionary tradition. Although they waged a vigorous struggle for national independence and social emancipation from before the Japanese imperialists' occupation of their country, they suffered bitter failures and twists and turns alone with no unity of their ranks, because all the social movements in those times were seldom guided by proper strategy or tactics and were devoid of the guiding intellect for their unity, which are provided by a wise leader. Therefore, the movements had no tradition worth mentioning as the historic roots or valuable wealth of the revolution.

The Korean working people were provided with the brilliant traditions of revolution only after Kim Il Sung came to the fore of the revolution and founded the guiding idea of the revolution and successfully applied it in the unprecedentedly arduous and complicated anti-Japanese warfare for as many as 20 years, thus bringing the war to victory.

In the course of the struggle against the Japanese aggressors, there were created the Juche-oriented ideological system and revolutionary spirit, the immortal revolutionary exploits and fight-

ing experience, and the revolutionary work method and popular work style; these are the constituents of the brilliant traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Juche-oriented Ideological System and Revolutionary Spirit

By way of founding the immortal Juche idea and organizing and leading the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, Kim Il Sung established the Juche-oriented ideological system. The revolutionary idea he fathered constitutes the kernel of the revolutionary traditions, and is the ideological and theoretical source of the traditions. Soon after he set out on the road of revolution in his early years, he created the Juche idea which maintains that man is the master of everything and decides everything. He expounded the principle of the idea at the Kalun Meeting held on June 30–July 2, 1930. The foundation of the Juche idea ushered in the era of Juche, a new one in history, and the idea became a true guiding idea in the Korean revolution.

On the strength of the idea, Kim Il Sung achieved the unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks and made sure that the Korean revolution as a whole went ahead under the banner of the idea. In this way he established the Juche-oriented ideo-

logical system, which constitutes the core of the glorious revolutionary traditions of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Regarding the establishment of the Juche principle as the matter of critical importance in the revolution, he held fast to the independent and creative stands throughout the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, solving all problems concerning the struggle in an original way with the mobilization of the internal forces. He put firm trust in the resourcefulness of the masses of the people and emphasis on the work of elevating their role when he put forth revolutionary lines and policies. Meanwhile, he steadfastly followed the line of independence in the Korean revolution and rejected big-power chauvinism, flunkeyism and dogmatism. In the course of the bloody struggle against the Japanese imperialists, the Juche-oriented ideological system came into being in which the Korean revolution was carried on with Kim Il Sung's Juche idea as the sure guideline, the unity of the revolutionary ranks was achieved with Kim Il Sung as the centre, and the revolutionary struggle as a whole was organized and waged only under his leadership.

Kim Il Sung made a valuable model of the noble revolutionary spirit that the revolutionaries of Juche type should acquire, as well as the Juche-oriented ideological system. The revolutionary spirit ►

► consists in infinite loyalty to the Party and the national leader, confidence in victory, revolutionary optimism, indefatigable spirit, self-reliance, revolutionary comradeship and sense of obligation, socialist patriotism, proletarian internationalism, and so on. The revolutionary spirit epitomized by the leader was the source of indestructible force that brought about the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory along with the Juche-oriented ideological system; it is also great revolutionary wealth that guarantees ultimate victory of the cause of Juche.

Immortal Revolutionary Exploits and Fighting Experience

Kim Il Sung opened a new era of making a revolution for national liberation under the banner of independence and brought the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle to victory, thereby winning the nation's independence and laying solid foundations on which to make steady progress in all fields of the revolution and construction.

What is important of the solid foundations of the revolution and construction laid by the leader is: experience and achievements in building a party and conducting party activities, building the people's government, building the revolutionary armed forces, organizing mass-based organizations, launching a united front movement and developing culture.

While spearheading the revolutionary cause of Juche and fighting to achieve the historic

cause of national liberation, Kim Il Sung performed tremendous exploits and gained rich experience which are of great importance in accomplishing the cause of national liberation, class emancipation and human freedom to provide independent and creative life to the masses of the people. The revolutionary exploits performed and experience gained by Kim Il Sung are of rich contents and universal significance as they are not only reflective of the specific features of the Korean revolution but also fully consistent with the needs of the changing times.

Revolutionary Work Method and Popular Work Style

Underlying Kim Il Sung's revolutionary work method and popular work style are the revolutionary mass viewpoint and mass line. Believing that the basic method of making a revolution should be to champion the interest of the masses of the people and mobilize their creative ability and inexhaustible strength, Kim Il Sung, during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, always put trust in them and relied on their efforts in the revolutionary struggle, and encouraged them to turn out in the sacred warfare against the Japanese imperialists.

Whatever he did, he gave priority to political work by which to persuade and educate the masses of the people to enlist their exertions, and shared the weal and woe with them. Also, he conducted all things in a creative,

bold and big way, and developed an accurate, Juche-oriented method of mass guidance by which to concentrate on the main link in a chain of work and closely combine general and specific guidance.

Kim Il Sung was always humble and modest towards his revolutionary comrades and the masses of the people, set models of human generosity and cultural training, and bore the brunt of the arduous and difficult jobs. In this way he set up the most innovative and popular method and style of work that demand taking respectful, loving care of the broad sections of the people and relying on them in pushing ahead with the revolution.

As seen above, President Kim Il Sung established the Juche-oriented revolutionary traditions, thus laying a sure guarantee for accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche aimed at freeing the working masses from all manner of fetters of society and nature once and for all.

Thanks to the revolutionary traditions of Juche the Korean people could build their Party, State and armed forces in good time soon after their August 1945 liberation despite the complicated and difficult situation and win the fierce Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s against the armed invasion of the US imperialists, and are now moving ahead forcefully to achieve the ultimate victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Jong Kyong Bok

Legends Go down in History with Mt. Paektu

SINCE HE RAISED THE banner of the anti-Japanese revolution, Kim Il Sung was respectfully seen as the sun of the Korean nation and the lodestar of national liberation among the Korean people. After declaring the anti-Japanese revolutionary war the Commander of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army set Mt. Paektu as a strategic base of armed struggle and annihilated the vicious Japanese imperialists in a protracted war, thus achieving the liberation of the country. Now Mt. Paektu distinguishes itself as witness to history telling the immortal revolutionary idea, exploits and noble traits of the Commander who led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory; it is a sacred mountain of the revolution having many legends about him.

Mystery Footprints

One day there was a lecture at a unit of the Anti-Japanese Allied Army in northern Manchuria. The commander of the unit Zhou Baozhong stood on the rostrum. He told what he had personally experienced before:

Commander Kim Il Sung was leading a march with only his Guard Company of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, when there came a report from

the rear patrol of the company that a company strong enemy force was pursuing the unit. After finding the footprints of the Guard Company the enemy was closely following up the rear of it. At that time Zhou who was trekking with the Commander, made forceful steps forward, expecting that the Commander would give an order to destroy the enemy at any moment. After a meditation the Commander said, **"Comrade Zhou, why don't we wipe out an enemy battalion?"** Zhou was bewildered, and replied, "I hope so but how..." He couldn't make out what it was all about. **"Well, then, let's fix it that way,"** the Commander said in a resonant voice and unexpectedly ordered the unit to stop a night.

Zhou was confused. Obviously, it was a company of the enemy that was following up the KPRA, and he had no idea how the Commander could sweep the enemy's battalion. Still more surprising was the Commander had ordered camping. The company bivouacked as was ordered, and resumed marching the next day. From the morning, however, the enemy who had been doggedly chasing on the heels of the Guard Company, seemed depressed and hesitating to come up—God knows why. They cautiously followed at some distance lest they

should lose the traces. The Guard Company slowly marched about 12 kilometres and camped by flaring campfires, but the enemy spent a cold night making no bonfires and staying far away from the guerrillas. It was repeated the next day.

On the fourth day before sunrise the Commander ordered to get on with the march soon after breakfast. The unit covered 20 kilometres at a breath and ambushed stealthily on the spot favourable for attacking the enemy. After they were fully prepared for the battle and had some rest, the enemy troops appeared along the trails of the KPRA, and they looked miserable: some were staggering out of breath while others were carelessly shouldering their rifles as a piece of firewood. In a word, they seemed to be out of mind. To Zhou's surprise, the enemy was a reinforced battalion. When the enemy got into the ambush range, Commander Kim Il Sung ordered fire. The powerful gunshots of the Guard Company rent the air. It came like a bolt from the blue. In an instant all the enemy toppled down to death, along the footprints of the guerrillas.

The Commander had made sure that the trails of the guerrilla company increased to the scale of a battalion when the unit ►

► first camped. Frightened, the enemy called in troops of a battalion size. This time the footprints of the KPRA decreased down to the scale of a company again. Seeing those footprints the enemy was elated to think that they outnumbered the KPRA unit. In an attempt to “destroy” the guerrillas by overtaking the KPRA at a run the reinforcements hurried a long way and rushed 20 kilometres again without having a break. Now Zhou understood the Commander’s words, and was struck with admiration.

Marching Hundreds of Miles at One Go

In the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle the Japanese “punitive forces” lamented that “the tactics of the guerrilla army is ingenious enough to make even the God wail.” Those words were rumoured abroad as one of the public topics. And it was associated with the legend-like true story.

In the spring of 1937 Commander Kim Il Sung arrived at the forest in Xiaotanghe on his expedition to Fusong, which he made, leading the main unit of the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army, to facilitate the advance of the army into the motherland [Korea]. At that time the command of the Japanese “punitive forces” was determined to drive the KPRA main unit into the valley of Xiaotanghe and destroy it completely so as to make

up for their failure in their “winter punitive operations.” Attaching much significance to the imminent battle, the enemy mobilized huge armed troops. Moreover, it invited a group of journalists and diplomats from several countries, because they were certain that they would win the battle, and wanted to give wide publicity to their “brilliant results.”

The battle went all day long. When the night came, the valley of Xiaotanghe spanning a dozen kilometres was a sea of campfires surrounding the KPRA unit manifoldly. At the sight of the campfires the KPRA officers and men made a grim resolve to meet their end on the heights of Xiaotanghe.

Looking down across the valley, which was ablaze with campfires, the Commander racked his brains to think of a way to break through the encirclement. Assessing the enemy strength Kim Il Sung learned that the enemy’s rear would be almost evacuated and that the enemy’s encirclement on the side of high road was relatively loose. So he chose to move down to a populated area and march along a high road. Recollecting those days Kim Il Sung later said: **“I was confident of success because the risk was accompanied by our unbreakable offensive spirit, which was quite capable of changing adversity into a victory by switching from defensive to offensive. I also had faith in our ability to calculate scientifically just when**

to take full advantage of the enemy’s weakness.”

When the Commander spoke of his decision, the guerrilla officers looked up at him in astonishment. It was beyond their expectation to move to an inhabited area and march along the road at a time when a large enemy force was all around them. The marching column glided noiselessly towards the high road avoiding the campfires of the enemy. The road was completely deserted. The KPRA ranks quickened their steps. All of them were high-spirited. They moved as swiftly as an express train through several villages toward Donggang. In this way the main unit of the KPRA disappeared nowhere.

The Darkest Place Is under the Candlestick

When the dawn of Korea’s liberation was breaking, an episode got around in the northeastern area of Mt. Paektu. “Commander Kim Il Sung marched through Laotougou in broad daylight with his Korean soldiers. When the Japanese chased, the guerrillas vanished like smoke into the forest in Sifangtai.” This legend originated from the real story of the Commander marching 250 miles from Antu County to Wangqing County.

One day in the summer of 1941 Commander Kim Il Sung arrived at the vicinity of Laotougou in Yanji County along with some

► of his soldiers. As it was one of the strongholds of the Japanese “punitive troops,” it was dangerous to pass through it. But without passing it, they could neither reach the mountain that led to the forest in Sifangtai nor go to the destination as early as possible. So, the Commander boldly decided to try to pass through it. The Commander-led unit made haste along the road throughout the night. They were in the Japanese military uniforms. But to their misfortune, the day broke before the unit could pass Laotougou. As the enemy patrolled at any time, the guerrillas couldn’t continue to march, and the surrounding hills were almost bare, providing no place to hide. The guerrillas were only anxiously gazing at their Commander.

The Commander, in a calm and composed manner, looked around, and said to his soldiers that they should have a rest there in the daytime and continue to march again at night. Then he slowly approached a cottage that stood facing the road. “Comrade Commander, isn’t it dangerous?” the soldiers asked. **“We should stay in that house as it is dangerous,”** he replied. He said that the darkest place is under the candlestick, and that they should act all the more bravely as the enemy was under their nose. The soldiers entered the house with him. When the day broke, the road was swept by waves of Japanese troops. The guerrillas looked worried, peeing out of the window,

when the Commander asked them to lie down and have a rest. And he himself leaned against the wall.

It was past the lunch time, when the door was flung open, revealing the head of the Concordia Association and his stooges with their pistols in hand. They had been ransacking the village to catch the KPRA men. Caught in such a critical crisis the guerrillas were at a loss what to do. At this juncture a thunderous voice roared in the house. **“Who are you?”** A young, tall man [the Commander] glared fiercely at the intruders. The enemies were crestfallen instantly, saying, “We have come to this village on receiving a report that Kim Il Sung’s unit is around here. We have made a mistake. Please forgive us.”

“We are the KPRA,” the Commander declared striking terror into the enemy.

The dusk fell at last, and the Commander told the enemy to go back to their headquarters after the guerrilla unit left the village, and report that they had met Kim Il Sung’s Unit. Then, he ordered march. That night a large number of the enemy troops came and went along the road but none of them knew the small unit in the Japanese military uniforms was the KPRA led by Kim Il Sung. The next morning the enemy knew it, but too frightened at the Commander’s courage and unusual wisdom, they dared not chase the guerrillas. □



The Blizzards in Mt. Paektu



In the Days of the Anti-Japanese Warfare

Overcoat Given to Old Man

ONE DAY IN EARLY January 1936 a Korean People's Revolutionary Army unit on the second expedition to North Manchuria during the anti-Japanese armed struggle was having a rest after giving a deadly blow to an enemy "punitive unit." The fighters made bonfires and invited those who they had rescued from the enemy's hands to the fire for warmth. The 20-odd young people had been forcibly drafted by the enemy to carry their supplies.

Around the midnight there came an old man in haste to the camping site, looking for someone there. He explained that his son had been forcibly mobilized for the transport of materials of the Japanese troops, that he had heard volleys of gun reports soon after his son had gone into the forests, that he was there to find even the body of his son if he had been killed, and that he had seen the fire while roaming in the wilderness. At the moment a young man by a fire sprang up and ran up to him to hug him hard in his arms. Having found his son alive, the old man felt tearfully happy. Then, supporting his son's resolution to join the KPRA, the old man put off his padded winter clothes and offered it to his son. But as he knew well that it was the only padded winter clothes for his father, the young man refused to accept it.

Kim Il Sung, Commander of the KPRA, happened to see it by the side. Now he approached the young man and said to him that although it was worn out the overcoat was associated with the deep parental care and that he would not be able to become a good revolutionary fighter if he forgot the kindly care of his fa-

ther. Then the Commander took off his own overcoat and put it on the old man. Feeling embarrassed in the unexpected situation, the old man argued that it would be unworthy of him, a member of the nation led by General Kim Il Sung, to take his only overcoat.

The Commander, however, was so kind as to put the overcoat on the old man after all.

The Pay for Potatoes

One day during the warfare Kim Il Sung was told that two guerrillas who had been to a community under the enemy control for the purchase of food had brought some potatoes from a plot that belonged to ordinary people.

The story went: The two guerrillas who had been sent to obtain food failed to get it because of the strict cordon of the enemy. Finding it hard to go back empty-handed to their company comrades who they knew were awaiting them anxious to get food, the guerrillas decided to go to a potato plot where the peasants had harvested the crops and glean potatoes if any. There they happened to find a potato pit, and looked for the owner of the plot. Now deciding it futile to try to find the peasant, they took a bag of potatoes each and returned.

Having learned the story, the Commander called in the guerrillas and said that he certainly understood them when they had brought the potatoes without any pay for them because they knew they had to help their starving comrades and, particularly because they could not find the owner of the plot, and that there was, however, a strict discipline for the guerrilla army to observe in whatever the difficulty, that it was the revolutionary discipline over treatment of masses of the

people, and that it could hardly be said that they were the army for the sake of the people and revolution if they took any of the people's things simply because they were in need of food. Then he asked them to go to find the owner of the potato pit and pay profusely for the potatoes after making apology.

In this way the two guerrillas met the owner of the potatoes, sincerely apologized for their mistake and produced the money for the potatoes. Then, the peasant flatly declined the offer of the money, saying it would be absurd to take the pay from the guerrilla army instead of helping them. Now the guerrillas said, pushing the peasant to receive the money, "This is the discipline of the guerrilla army set by Commander Kim Il Sung."

Money Left with the Innkeeper

Advancing into the homeland in March 1933, Kim Il Sung had noodles in a pub together with some people. Leaving the place he thanked the innkeeper again and again, when a girl stepped into the room. She was a daughter of the keeper, and she was almost in rags, her elbow-worn jacket and patched black cotton skirt too small for her probably because she had worn them for years.

When the Commander asked her to his side she made a bow politely, and would not come up to him chewing her lips. It seemed she felt ashamed of her clothes though she was a little girl.

Learning that the keeper was assisting the revolutionaries sincerely although he was unable to clothe his dear children properly, Kim Il Sung offered him a sum of money, asking to buy some clothes for his children.

When the keeper refused to

For Global Independence

BASED ON THE JUCHE idea that man is the master and the shaper of his own destiny President Kim Il Sung rendered great service to the work of building a new, independent world.

The independence of the exploited and oppressed working masses should be realized if they are to be the master of the world and their destiny to the true sense, freed from all forms of fetters of nature and society. And the only road to this end is to liquidate imperialism which tramples and violates the independent rights of the working masses and the oppressed peoples in their colonies.

In the early 20th century the President made public his classic works *Let Us Overthrow Imperialism* and *Young People Must Follow the Road Indicated by the Advanced Idea*. Then in the 1950s he published his works entitled *Proletarian Internationalism and the Struggle of the Korean People* and *Our Righteous Joint Struggle Is Victorious*, while fighting to repulse the armed invasion of the US imperialists. In his works released in the 1970s and 1980s such as *The Revolutionary Peoples of Asia Will Win in Their Common Struggle Against US Imperialism* and *Let Us Shatter Imperialist Moves Towards Aggression and War and Safeguard Peace and Independence*, he called to fight to the last against the US imperialists, the ring-leader of world reactionary camp and the chieftain of aggression and war. By putting up the slogan

Let the World's People Advocating Independence Unite! the President encouraged the people around the world aspiring to independence to get united and develop friendly and cooperative relations.

In the beginning of the 1990s the moves of the US imperialists to split the world revolutionary forces were getting ever more vicious. At this juncture, Kim Il Sung published his works entitled *Enhancing the Role of the Popular Masses Is the Guarantee for Victory in the Cause of Independence and Non-aligned Information Services Must Contribute to the People's Cause of Independence* to resolutely frustrate the US's attempts. From the latter half of the 1920s to the first half of the 1990s he put much emphasis on firmly maintaining the revolutionary principle of independence against imperialism under whatever circumstances and achieving unity of the world people championing independence.

The President remained truly faithful to the noble comradely friendship with and obligation to the revolutionary peoples of the world and gave both material and moral assistance to the peoples in socialist countries, imperialist colonies and newly-independent states.

Since Korea was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists in August 1945 he had met a large number of foreign delegations and figures of all strata on their visit

to the DPRK and discussed with them on the matter of global independence till the last period of his life (July 1994). He vigorously conducted external activities visiting socialist nations and different countries in Asia and Africa. In his lifetime he met a total of over 70 000 foreign guests including heads of state and government of 136 countries and more than 400 party leaders, and paid visits to 16 countries on 106 occasions, travelling 522 000 kilometres.

When socialism was frustrated in East Europe in the 1990s, President Kim Il Sung put his heart and soul in rebuilding the socialist movement and pushing ahead with it, holding high the banner of Juche. To this end he made strenuous efforts to bring about a turning point in rebuilding socialism. On April 20, 1992 the Pyongyang Declaration titled *Let Us Defend and Advance the Cause of Socialism* was adopted. The charter for rebuilding socialism was signed by delegates of 70 parties from across the world including 48 party leaders who were staying in Pyongyang in April 1992 to congratulate President Kim Il Sung on his 80th birthday. The number of signatories to the Pyongyang Declaration reached 215 in July 1994 and over 260 in 2003, and it is steadily growing.

The invincibility and might of socialism as science are becoming more evident as the days go by.

Kim Chong Sop

► accept the offer, Kim Il Sung apologetically asked him to understand his situation when he could do no more than offering such a small pay. Then, he said

that although they could not clothe or feed their children properly at the moment, they would be able to send their children to school and give them nice clothes

when a good world came in the future. He appealed to all those present on the occasion to rise up in the struggle to hasten the day of happy life. □

Succession

PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG is credited with the origin of the Songun-based revolution in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In October 1926 he organized the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU), proclaiming a death-defying struggle to overthrow the Japanese imperialists. At the historic Kalun Meeting in 1930 he clarified the principles of the Juche idea and the Songun idea, and in December 1931 set forth the slogan "Weapons are our life and soul! Arms for arms!" On April 25, 1932 he, after full preparations for an armed struggle, declared the founding of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (the then Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army) to the world. By

leading the anti-Japanese armed struggle to victory Kim Il Sung accomplished the historic cause of Korea's liberation in August 1945.

After liberation the President, regarding the gun as the essential means to safeguard the country and the people and protect the cause of building a thriving nation, paid primary attention to the military affairs to ceaselessly strengthen the revolutionary armed forces and the independent defence industry so as to ensure the victorious advance of the revolution and construction all the time. Consequently, the Korean people repulsed the armed invasion of the US-led allied forces of imperialism in the Fatherland Liberation War

(1950–1953), and defended their national sovereignty with credit.

In the 1960s the Korean people turned out as one in the work to establish an all-people, nationwide defence system under the slogan of "Rifle in one hand and hammer or sickle in the other!" true to the President's strategic line of simultaneously carrying on the building up of the economy and the defence industry, solidly consolidating the defence capabilities of the country. Thanks to the wise leadership of the President the Korean People's Army and the Korean people could reliably defend their socialist country and the gains of the revolution when black clouds of nuclear war hung over the Korean peninsula due to all sorts of joint military ►

In Mt. Osong: KPA soldiers pledge to defend their national leader with their very lives.



► exercises of the US imperialists in collusion with south Korea in the 1970s–the 1990s.

Chairman Kim Jong Il took over the revolutionary idea of Songun and the exploits of President Kim Il Sung. The unexpected demise of the President in July 1994 was the greatest loss to the Korean nation. When the people saw out 1994 in tears of blood and greeted in the new year, the Chairman visited the Dwarf Pine Post of the Korean People's Army on the New Year's Day. That day, he said that he would be the Supreme Commander sharing the sweet and the bitter of life with the rank and file in combat units. His words meant an important declaration that he would complete the revolutionary cause of Juche following the road of Songun invariably.

The Chairman visited lots of KPA companies and posts, suggesting specific tasks and methods to increase their combat efficiency, and paid close attention to their economic and recreational conditions. He assigned the KPA tasks of both national defence and socialist construction and led them wisely so that they could perform great feats in such difficult projects as construction of mammoth power plants, large-scale land realignment and waterway construction.

From the viewpoint that it was impossible to build a powerful nation and defend the country without a strong defence industry, the Chairman gave priority to the development of the defence industry. In the 1993 confronta-

tion between the DPRK and the US over the nuclear issue he manifested the independent stand of the nation by taking a decisive measure of quitting from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Later, he led the anti-imperialist, anti-US confrontation to victory through the DPRK's withdrawal from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its complete withdrawal from the NPT which had been temporarily frozen to take effect.

On December 30, 2011 the national leader Kim Jong Un was appointed Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army. In 2012 the Supreme Commander visited the KPA Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division as the first of his field inspection of the year. Since then he has continued the Songun-based revolutionary leadership without letup, securely defending the country, revolution and socialism. He made public the immortal classic work *Let Us Add Eternal Brilliance to Comrade Kim Jong Il's Great Idea of and Achievements in the Songun Revolution*, confidently expressing his will to invariably maintain the exploits of the President and the Chairman in the Songun revolutionary leadership. He integrated Kim Jong Il's revolutionary idea and Songun idea and put forward a new line of simultaneously carrying on the economic construction and the upbuilding of the nuclear forces.

The Supreme Commander visited Kim Il Sung Military

University and many other KPA units one after another, asking them to study harder the strategies and tactics of the President and the Chairman and thus perfect the modern art of war and operational and tactical plans based on their studies. Whenever he visited KPA units he acquainted himself with the state of their ideological work, and made sure they adhered to the key point of the Party work of preparing the service personnel strong in idea and faith while ensuring better conditions and environments for the ideological education of the soldiers. Giving field guidance to KPA units' tactical attack drills combined with firing practice, flight exercises, landing drills of paratroopers and shelling drills of the artillery, he instructed that more efforts should be put in updating the military equipment while steadily perfecting tactics to suit modern warfare.

Kim Jong Un, regarding the KPA service personnel as revolutionary comrades with whom he is determined to carry through the revolution, leads them by dint of absolute trust in and love for them. When he visits KPA units and subunits, he earnestly asks the officers to take care of the rank and file like their older brothers and sisters would do, befitting their true comrades-in-arms. Now the Korean people are full of conviction that victory and glory are in store for Songun Korea as they have Kim Jong Un as their supreme leader.

An Song Duk

The WPK and Building of Thriving Nation

THE STRATEGIC GOAL OF THE WORKERS' Party of Korea is to build a great, prosperous and powerful socialist nation whose national power is enormous and where everything thrives and all the people live as happily as any one in the world. This was a noble policy and desire of President Kim Il Sung who founded and led the WPK, and Chairman Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the WPK.

From his early years Kim Il Sung kept the idea of "The people are my God" as his motto. He set forth the building of a state as the main objective of the revolution when he embarked on the road of revolution, and accumulated valuable experience in building the people's power in the flames of the struggle against the Japanese imperialists who occupied Korea militarily early in the 20th century. After the country's liberation on August 15, 1945 he pioneered an untrodden path spanning half a century since Korea entered into the building of a new society; he built the socialist Korea independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence, thus laying the eternal groundwork for a thriving socialist nation.

Inheriting the President's idea of devotion to the

country and the people Chairman Kim Jong Il opened up a new road of Songun-guided advance for the building of a powerful nation by carrying forward and developing the President's idea of state building and his exploits in the respect.

The mid-1990s was the most critical period in the Korean revolution. When socialism collapsed in several countries one after another in East Europe, the US-led imperialists and reactionaries advertised the termination of the Cold War and the "end of socialism," gleefully arguing for the "advent of a new era of peace." The then US President George Bush overtly asserted the need to establish a "unipolar world" under the control of the US, claiming that a "long-cherished opportunity" came to establish a new world order. In an attempt to attain its aim the US mobilized its reactionary lackeys to persistently impose vicious political and military pressure upon the DPRK, applying economic blockade and making ideological and cultural infiltration for disintegration. Earlier it simply tried to put the DPRK under its control by military means, but now it began to pursue moves to permanently eliminate it in all terms—political, military, economic, ideological and

The Chonji Lubricant Factory.





A construction campaign is making headway for the facelift of the country.

► cultural—by completely isolating and suffocating it. The WPK and the Korean people were faced with the task of safeguarding their socialist country from the moves of the imperialists and bringing the advantages of socialism into full play. At this juncture Chairman Kim Jong Il conceived the plan for building a powerful socialist country that would constantly make development and achieve prosperity in all fields of politics, defence, the economy and culture. He clarified that the country whose national power is enormous and where everything thrives and the people live as happily as anyone else in the world is none other than the thriving socialist nation, and illuminated the inevitable course and method to be adhered to this end. He saw to it that the People's Army played the leading role in socialist construction on the strength of its political and ideological merits, and that the defence industry was developed in a big way so as to secure the military guarantee for the building of a thriving socialist nation.

The Chairman ushered in a new heyday in building a political and ideological power. He saw to it that an independent stand was thoroughly maintained in all aspects of politics, the economy, defence and culture and that everything was done in the Korean way in keeping with the specific condition. He also brought about a great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction by believing in and relying on the people. He set forth the economic strategy suited to the requirement of the developing reality, which comprises the economic construction line in the Songun era whereby to give priority to development of the defence industry while simultaneously developing light industry and agriculture, and vigorously encouraged the entire nation to this end,

thus laying the firm material and economic foundation for the building of a thriving nation. When the US imperialists were making ceaseless moves to stifle and suffocate the DPRK, laying manifold hardships in the way of the DPRK, the Chairman energetically organized and led the work to develop all fields of cultural development including science, education, arts and literature, public health and sport, so as to bring about a new efflorescence of the revolutionary culture in the Songun era.

First Secretary of the WPK Kim Jong Un, faithful successor to the ideas and cause of the President and the Chairman, is now devoting his all to the realization

of their instructions. He believes that the Party, power and army are all needed just for the people, and that he should pluck stars from the sky or grow flowers even on the rock if the people want them. With this view on the people the supreme leader maps out lines and policies on the principle of giving absolute precedence to the people's interests and ►

Catfish production goes up.



► convenience and leads the revolution and construction in the spirit of loyal service for the people. At the historic starting point of the new century of the Juche era he presented a classic proposition that single-hearted unity and invincible military might plus the industrial revolution in the new century constitute full qualities of a thriving socialist country.

He also put forward the permanent strategy of going straight along the road of independence, Songun politics and socialism, the line of economic construction whereby to build up the economy and the nuclear forces simultaneously and the line of hastening final victory through a revolutionary ideological offensive, encouraging the entire nation to turn out as one in the building of a powerful nation, firmly united around the WPK. The Speed of Masikryong, the new Korean speed, the Pyongyang Spirit and the Pyongyang Speed were created amazingly, and eye-openers were made in all sectors and at all units thanks to the wise leadership of the national leader. The work to put the national economy on a Juche-oriented, modern, scientific and IT basis has made progress, and many factories and modern production bases were built as models and archetypes of industrial facilities in the new century.

In the drive to boost the fishery a new Korean speed was created, and tangible successes were made in the campaign to bring about a decisive turn in solving the food problem of the people including the construction of stockbreeding bases in the Sepho area. The science and technology of the country as a whole have risen onto a higher stage by virtue of the wise leadership of the national leader who puts forward sci-tech as one of the three mainstays in the building of a thriving nation. Cutting-edge sci-tech successes are made profusely, consolidating the country's ability to manufacture and launch artificial earth satellites, and retain nuclear weapons. The all-people campaign to learn science and technology is making wonderful successes in sci-tech researches at factories and enterprises. The monumental edifices in the Songun era including the Mirae Scientists Street are going up in the campaign to make a facelift of the country.

The Korean people are now advancing dynamically towards the final victory in the building of the thriving socialist nation, which they are sure will come under the guidance of the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un.

An Chol Ho

The Sun

THE KOREA TODAY EDITORIAL BOARD introduces excerpts from a note written by *Jiancarlo Elia Valori*, chairman of the board of directors of the *Mediterranean Development Bank* and concurrently chairman of the board of directors of the *General Investment Group, Italy*.

1

I'm in the twilight of my life now, and yet I feel my heart thrilling whenever I hear the song *O My Sun*, a world-famous folk song of Italy, which sings of the feeling of affection for the lover. Listen to it, and you'll be able to sense the fervent worship of us Italians for the sun. Since the sun gives light and heat to all things in the universe, you'd be nothing without the sun. People all worship the sun, and sing of their priceless love by referring to it as the sun. After all, to man the sun means the object of absolute worship.

The sun I hold in admiration, however, is President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who are highly praised by all the peoples for their foundation and development of the first ever man-centric idea and their establishment of an ideal society of mankind by means of politics of devoted care for the people on this planet which has existed since time immemorial.

Once my mother was honoured to meet President Kim Il Sung, and then she made a meaningful remark. Overwhelmed with gratitude for the President's deep care for her—both during her stay in Pyongyang and in later years—she said that he was the Saviour and the sun that all believers in the world ought to put their faith in and follow. She said Korea was a true land of the sun and a wonderland she had dreamed of.

My mother was an honest and upright woman who loved to help her neighbours and other people. A devout believer in Catholicism, she had kept an illusion about Christianity and the "land of God" where she believed she would be enshrined after her death. It was quite remarkable such a serious devotee openly declared that President Kim Il Sung was the Saviour and the sun of this world. This was probably because she had found her spiritual mainstay in this world, instead of that world.

Anyone who is interested in literature knows the romantic fiction *The City of the Sun*, authored by our Italian writer Tommaso Campanella in 1602. The book carries the desire of the contemporary people ►

Shines for Ever and Ever

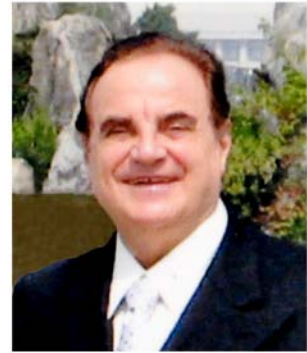
- ▶ for an ideal community in which everyone works and lives happily. It enjoyed great popularity when it was released, like *Utopia* written by the British writer More in 1516. It is far more than 400 years and nearly 500 years respectively since the issues of the two famous fictions. The ideal world mankind has wished to get over the years has taken shape in reality now. It is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

By the early last century the country used to be a miserable colony of the Japanese imperialists. It began to rise from the ruins when it had as its leader Kim Il Sung, son of the nation and legendary hero of the anti-Japanese warfare.

Many of the readers of this note may be unaware how the august name of Kim Il Sung came, which arouses infinite reverence among the people. While reading a number of full and short biographies of the President and other books that describe his immortal life and revolutionary activities, including *Kim Il Sung Biography* issued by the Calendario del Popolo Publishers, Italy, I came to know that his name just meant the sun. It was made so by the Korean people hoping that he would be the sun to save them from the rule of the Japanese imperialists.

Bearing the name of the sun, President Kim Il Sung engaged himself in politics for half a century. His career as statesman simply means the years after he liberated his country by waging the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle he started in his teens. He is praised as veteran statesman the world over for his miraculous achievements.

All things in the universe follow the sun because it gives light, and people worship a great leader because his idea is great. President Kim Il Sung, early in his teens, got the idea of independence, or the idea of Juche, which specifies the motive force of the Korean revolution lies in the Korean people and demands that the Korean revolution should be, in all respects, made with the Koreans' own efforts to suit the country's specific condition. He originated the Juche idea, a genuine man-centred idea approved by the entire mankind, which clarified for the first time in the world that the popular masses are the master of everything. His lifelong struggle was under the banner of the idea. For scores of years thereafter, he followed the line of the Juche idea, thus establishing the impregnable socialist country which is independent in politics and self-reliant in the economy and national defence.



Once a philosopher famously said that a great idea can fill up the immense universe. Today the Juche idea is a bright beacon in the struggle and march of the progressive people, and the word Juche is a universal word in the era of independence which needs no translation in foreign languages.

Indeed, Kim Il Sung is a great man of the 20th century, who lived a life of the sun befitting his own name.

I still vividly remember the day in 1975 when I visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the first time in my life and met the President. Wearing a bright smile, he hugged me warmly, saying that he felt familiar to me when it was our first meeting. His image felt like that of the sun. He was all the attraction itself. On the occasion he told me that this is the time when independence is needed, and that man could hardly live a life befitting man without independence. Then he gave an explicit explanation about important points of the times, the intrinsic needs of the human being and the way to meet the needs. Listening to him, I thought I learned the rules by which to distinguish right and wrong about anything in the world.

I was completely captivated by him at the first meeting—I don't mind how the readers might think of it. I was born and grew up in Italy that is proud of its time-honoured culture and tradition, so I had been unusually proud and convinced of my view, and they might call me a European chauvinist. When I had been busy travelling all over the world and talking to quite a few high-ranking figures of many countries and regions for the sake of society and justice, I had never yielded or given up my self-respect. Nevertheless, the moment I saw President Kim Il Sung, I strongly felt as if I were meeting the Heavenly saint my mother had often told me. The appearance of a Heaven-sent man bearing the spirit of Mt. Paektu that is the ancestral mountain of Korea, the roaring voice of an impregnable military commander, the fascinating smile—all those qualities of his convinced me that he was really the sun. He is rightfully No. 1 of the heroes and the greatest of the great personages of the 20th century for his idea, leadership, personality and achievement. He is to be likened to the sun alone in the universe.

(To be continued)

Vanguard in the General Forward March

IN HIS CONGRATULATORY message to the participants in the national celebrations of Youth Day last year and all other young people in the country, the national leader Kim Jong Un expressed his trust in them, calling them vanguard in the general forward march that dynamically advance straight forward after the Workers' Party of Korea. His message serves the Korean young people as guideline in their life and struggle. Upholding the slogan "Go through the thick and thin in response to the call of the Party!" they not only securely defend their country but also play a great role in the nation's effort

to build a prosperous country.

In 1998 when the country was having a hard time dubbed as the Arduous March and the forced march, Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, initiated the project of laying a road from Pyongyang to Nampho. Young people the country over turned out in the construction.

But laying the road bed was far from a pleasant thing. In a section the bed collapsed as many as six times which they had piled and hardened through the winter. But the young people did not yield to the baffling difficulty; they were determined to see it

through even by piling the bed a hundred times again, if necessary. Such a resolute spirit brought about the laying of the

bed after all obstacles by carrying 95 000 m³ of earth mostly on the back of the young people.

Kim Jong Il was proud of their work. He said that the young builders had turned out as one in response to the appeal of the Party and laid the road bed successfully although they had been short of machines and other equipment and suffered all sorts of difficulties as the country was in the hardest economic situation in its history. He remarked that anyone could see what kind of idea and spirit the young people had at the site of the Pyongyang-Nampho road construction if they visited there. Then, he suggested the Presidium of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly issue a decree on naming the road "Youth Hero Road" which was completed on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Party.

The young people's vanguard ►



Young people press on with the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station project.



► role is also associated with the railway that spans 100 km from the famous port city of Wonsan to the scenic spot of Mt. Kungang, and with the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works which was the first to be set up in the east coast of Korea.

A lot of young people went voluntarily to work at collieries, mines, farms, forestry stations, fishing stations, power station construction sites, iron and steel plants and other difficult workplaces. A huge number of young people, including those in mining, farming and scientific research sectors have performed laudable exploits at their jobs. Regarding their workplaces as their battle site, they have made charges for production displaying the merit and spirit befitting the Korean young people who love to engage themselves in innovative and enthusiastic efforts. Their role has been prominent in all fields of the national economy. Many of the new railways, fishing farms, stockbreeding farms and monumental edifices that the Party proposed to build for the sake of the people have all been the epitome of the young people's leading role. Some of the typical monuments are the Grand People's Study House, the People's Palace of Culture, Kim Il Sung Stadium, May Day Stadium, Changgwang Health Complex, Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, Changjon Street, Kanggye Youth Power Station, Youth Hero Road, Open-air Theatre of the Youth Park, Pleasure Ground of the Kaeson Youth Park, and the Paektusan Songun Youth Power Station.

Nor is that all. Young people successfully launched artificial earth satellites into space with their youthful vigour and wisdom, and initiated the enthusiasm for breaking through the sci-tech frontier by succeeding in CNC projects in the machine building industry. Wherever they work, they play the core role, engaged in war of brainpower or war of technology.

The other day Chairman

Kim Jong Il praised that the State Academy of Sciences had got many able young scientists. They produce a good deal of valuable results in their researches which contribute to the sci-tech development of the country. Many of the awards at the national exhibition of young people's sci-tech achievements find their way to the young scientists at the academy.

The students at Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, the University of Sciences and many other colleges are also making a lot of successes in their researches which are of great academic value, with an ambition to become a Doctor in their 20s or 30s. The number of winners of the Student's Scientific Research Prize is growing.

In recent years the nation has grasped the control of the CNC technology and won noteworthy achievements in all technological spheres including the nuclear, space development, information, nano and bioengineering ones. This is partly attributable to the endeavours of young scientists and technicians.

Many of the young sportspeople have contributed to the accomplishment of the Party's policy of building a sports power. At the 30th Olympic Games An Kum Ae, Kim Un Guk, Om Yun Chol and Rim Jong Sim won gold medals in judo and weightlifting. At the 6th International Gymnastic Federation Challenger Cup tournament of heavy gymnastics Ri Se Gwang won the gold medal in the long horse event by performing a smart movement again—which the IGF named Ri Se Gwang Movement—to the wonder of all the spectators. Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong defeated all their rivals in the mixed doubles at the 52nd World Table Tennis Championships of the International Table Tennis Federation in France. The Taekwon-Doists exalted the honour of their country, motherland of Taekwon-Do, by winning four trophies, 21 gold medals, four silver medals and three bronze medals at the

18th World Taekwon-Do Championships. (The achievements placed their country at the top of the total national rankings at the championships.)

The young service personnel are keeping their posts secure and doing good things a lot for the civilians under the slogan "Let us take upon ourselves both national defence and socialist construction!" When the US imperialists and the traitorous south Korean regime committed extra-villainous acts of smearing the supreme dignity of the DPRK young people of both sexes got so infuriated that they volunteered to join or rejoin the Korean People's Army to take revenge.

The young people are overcoming ordeals and difficulties bravely, singing songs like *March of the Korean Youth, For the Revolution, We Are Successors to Revolution, I'll Exalt Thee, My Country* and *Flare up, Bonfire*, which sounded vehemently in the decades of the arduous revolution, including the age of Chollima and the time of resolute defence of socialism.

On a visit to the DPRK, the leader of an Indonesian youth delegation expressed himself, "Now the young people in some countries pursue their own comfort, without any regard to the interest of society and the collective. But in Korea they have a noble trait of sacrificing themselves for the sake of society and the collective and socialist construction. What has moved me most is their indomitable revolutionary spirit. The Korean young people regard it as their sacred duty and honour to carry forward generation after generation the revolutionary cause pioneered by their national leaders."

The Korean young people are faithful to their mission as vanguard in the general forward march, with a conviction that they will be able to build a socialist civilized nation without fail as they are wisely led by their national leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim Kwang Myong

Heroic Spirit Inherited

THE KALMA LOCOMOTIVE Corps of the Wonsan Railway Bureau went online soon after Korea was liberated from the Japanese military occupation (August 1945). It fulfilled important tasks of transport for all sectors of the national economy in the periods of the Fatherland Liberation War, the postwar rehabilitation and great Chollima upsurge and other stages of socialist construction. Particularly, it produced three wartime Heroes including Choe Ki Ryong and An Song Guk who carried out their tasks with a sense of responsibility during the war, and two Labour Heroes after the war. What is more, the corps played a leading role in the realization of the universal electrification of railway transport in the country.

The corps is proud of its vet-

eran drivers, whose sons are also working with them, and many faithful skilled workers who have been devoting themselves to the repair of the locomotives for scores of years.

A good maintenance shop is laid to raise the speed and quality of repair and maintenance. As a result the number of locomotives in operation is increasing. In addition, meticulous arrangements are made in marshalling yards so as to cut down the round-trip time and reduce the stopping time.

In 2013 the country launched the Masikryong Ski Resort project. It was of a gigantic scale;

ten trails and about 60 buildings had to be constructed. So the amount of goods for the project was enormous. Kang Yun Chol, Rim Tok Mo and other managers of the corps appealed to all engine drivers to turn out in the campaign of transport, saying, "We are keeping the arteries of the country, and if we shrink back before obstacles, our country will develop so much slowly." In ▶



► hearty response to their call all the drivers volunteered to take charge of the task. In consonance with their enthusiasm the corps managers made sure that a proper repair and maintenance system was first established and that spare parts were prepared in time for normal operation of the locomotives while fixing the traffic control system boldly. In addition mass technical innovation was properly planned and new conceptions and technologies

were actively introduced. As a result of the normal operation of the locomotives the corps successfully ensured the transporting of goods. Today people of all walks of life from across the country enjoy themselves in the Masikryong Ski Resort, and this is associated with the sincere efforts of the engineers of the Kalma Locomotive Corps. When a railway station was laid exclusively for the campers of the Songdowon International Children's Camp, the corps

contributed to the speedy construction of the station by transporting huge amounts of goods in hearty response to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea to bring the dream of the children into reality.

The managers and drivers are going steadily along the railway as ever to advance an animated and vibrant future of civilized life as early as possible.

Sim Yong Jin



By Relying on Their Own Efforts

AMONG THOSE WHO ARE leading the development of science and technology of the country are the researchers at the information science and technology research institute of the State Academy of Sciences.

They were once given the task to make lots of mechanical calculations in a short period of time, including the one of efficiency of a hydroelectric turbine, needed in many sectors of the national

information science and technology are making breakthroughs, we cannot ensure speedy economic development simply by introducing techniques from other countries. We have to break through the cutting-edge of IT by our own efforts and wisdom—this was just their opinion and determination.

Now the institute set a plan to develop and study new management and application systems of

you think that it would be easy to make a cutting-edge? A dozen years ago when we were establishing a parallel system, we were lack of knowledge and technical data, but we succeeded in developing all programs necessary for different fields with our own efforts. I think nothing is impossible if we have confidence in our own efforts and technique.” Jong encouraged them to display their indomitable spirit.

Section chief Ho Won Ju and his team soon started to make new configurations and the whole research institute was bubbling over with enthusiasm for the work to install a better rational system.

Their devoted efforts brought the setup of a new parallel system which is of high technical and economic efficiency in computing capacity, calculating density, extension potentiality and so on. In this course a number of programs and systems they developed won the top place over ten times at the national program contest and exhibition, the national exhibition of inventions and new technologies and other events, and in February last over ten researchers including Jong Kwang Ryong received diplomas of February 16 Sci-tech Prize.

Jong says, “The successes that we have achieved have convinced us that we can do anything if we are determined. In the future, we will further improve our parallel application system based on our own operating system which will contribute to the development of the national economy.”

Jo Yong Il



economy. It was almost impossible to fulfil the task in time if they adopted conventional methods.

Jong Kwang Ryong, chief of the institute, and other researchers had a discussion to solve this problem. Some had the opinion of buying new equipment and a computer system from other countries, but most of them argued that they should develop programs and systems of their own. *Needless to say, it is important to introduce advanced science and technology. Considering the situation, however, when the*

the parallel computer while carrying out other tasks, and gave specific assignment to each of the researchers. Jong volunteered to design a system.

All researchers had to bear double or treble heavy burdens, but they were convinced they could do it. They devoted their zeal and efforts to assignments. Finally, they completed preparations to introduce new systems, and made a calculation for test. But the result was far from their expectation.

At the time Jong said, “Did

Forty Years in Teaching

PEOPLE SAY KIM OK HUI HAS GOT A successful career. Now she is rector of the postgraduate school of Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce, and concurrently chairwoman of the academic thesis deliberation committee of clothing engineering. Her husband also teaches at Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and her children are playing a big role in their special sectors after learning at university. She is really a blessed woman both in the public and in her family. A few days ago I had a talk with her.

Mother

Kim, a woman of small stature, looked intelligent. She said, "I became an orphan when I was two. My parents and two sisters were all at once killed in the US imperialists' bombing raid during the Korean war (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953) started by the US aggressors." Ok Hui and only one of her sisters survived. She often heard from her sister how much her mother had loved her. And yet it sounded like a legend. However hard she tried, she couldn't remember the image of her mother.

Though orphaned, Kim went to school without worry. She was distinguished in mathematics and enrolled in the maths faculty of Wonsan University of Education as she had wished.

On the first day of the university, she was provided with new uniform from the State. She couldn't get to sleep. So she wrote a diary, "No parents I have, but I am studying without any worry—in new school uniform. My sister tells that my sisters had a single skirt for them so they had to put it on by turns before national liberation (August 15, 1945). Even if my mother had been alive, she couldn't have provided me with new uniform. The uniform is quite to my liking. The State provides such uniforms to all the students, not only me. What a beneficent country it is! It is our mother, indeed."

Kim struggled to learn as much as possible and finished university *summa cum laude*.

Source of Enthusiasm

After university she had many good choices for work. But having keenly realized the necessity of maths, the basis of all natural sciences, in the clothing field, she volunteered to go to Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce to teach maths. And while teaching, she went through the postgraduate course of the university.

Attending the postgraduate course, she understood that she had to get well-informed about clothing engineering to put the clothes designing on a scientific basis and produce lots of clothes to suit the people's types by applying mathematical principles.



Kim Ok Hui (second right).

Now she delved into the clothes-making field.

After finishing the postgraduate course, she went to many clothing factories in Pyongyang and other local areas like Hamhung and Sinuiju and conducted a research work, thus achieving lots of successes that rendered a benefit to the State.

In this course, she got tens of certificates for patents, technical introductions, sci-tech achievements, inventions and programs, and wrote over twenty reference books and textbooks in maths and clothing subjects. Having explored the fields of maths and clothes making alike, she has become an authority in both fields; she is Professor and Doctor.

Kim has been working as chief of the university's postgraduate school for 20 years since 1995. More than 150 people with academic degrees and titles trained by her are now working hard as faithful servants of the people in the sectors of light industry and commerce. Jang Jong Hui, head of clothes designing department of the clothing faculty, and many other teachers of the university are her disciples.

Kim says, "I am entrusted with an important task to train talents in the fields of clothes industry, public catering, service and logistics. The responsibility for education of the rising generation makes me an enthusiast." Her words are to be proved by the fact that she has mastered four foreign languages. Especially, she began to learn the Chinese at the age of 64. Now her command of the Chinese is as well as the experts.

She says, "This year, too, the State provided varieties of newly designed uniforms for all seasons, bags and shoes to all the students across the country. The children must be of the same mind as me. They are pupils and students now, but they will be national talents in the future and live happily. I will devote myself to their bright future."

Whenever her children ask her to retire, she says, "I feel at ease with the students," and gets on the way to work with his husband.

Rim Ok

Strenuous Efforts into Education

NOW THE PYONGYANG AGRICULTURAL College of Kim Il Sung University is acknowledged as one of the leading colleges in training agro-technicians in the country. Many conceptions and inventions of the students and graduates of the college were highly appreciated at several sci-tech exhibitions held in recent years for their practical values. Those successes are attributable to the strenuous efforts of the teachers.

One day five years ago Jong Ho Song, deputy head of the college for general affairs, fell into deep thought after attending a lecture given by a department as an observer. The lecture itself was perfect—the whole process of it passed interestingly by way of question and answer and the teacher and students

were well cooperative. However, when Jong asked the students some varying questions based on what they had in the lecture, few students answered. Jong also remembered students had been perplexed about what to do in the field for practice, though they were well versed in characteristics of growth of certain crops and the index of their manuring and cultivation. *The teaching content should be rid of the stereotyped formula*—he decided.

Immediately, a campaign to solve the problem was launched. First of all, emphasis was put on revolutionizing teaching plans in keeping with the global trend of development and the specific condition of the country. In this process, the teaching plans of most of the subjects went through innovation. Some of them were amended several times when there were difficult problems the students had encountered in the experimental plot.

Meanwhile, the college frequently organized discussions where the teachers can freely express their

A breeding experiment.



► experience and assertions regardless of their career. As a result, many ingenious ideas were presented which are conducive to improvement of cognitive capacity and application ability of the students. The most important idea was to build an intranet in the college so as to give visual instruction while reducing unnecessary explanations of the teachers on one hand, and to reflect practical contents in the teaching plans on the precondition of the wide-ranging knowledge of the teachers while cutting the introduction and summary on the other. To this end, the college equipped nearly all the classrooms with IT facilities with its own effort. It also organized contests of the teachers on a large scale several times a year, giving rise to a dynamic emulation of improving attainments. This resulted in the increasing number of teachers who were awarded the certificate of the Model Teacher and the certificate of New Registered Teaching Method in recent three years.



A new teaching method is discussed.

The teachers of the college made the latest experimental apparatuses for the students' experiments and practical training. Last year a PCR developed by Ri Yong Rok at lower expense took first place at the national educational experimental apparatuses and teaching aids exhibition, where the college was awarded a certificate which is conferred on those which register good successes. And a graduate of the Agrobiolgy Faculty developed a new photorespiration regulator which can raise the crop and vegetable harvests by 7-8% and 15-20% respectively. Ri Hyon Il, head of the faculty, says, "We've still got a lot of things to do. We know our strenuous efforts will bear due results."

Ri Kum Chol

Students observe grafted fruit trees.



Atlas of Meridians and Acupoints



Prof. Kim Sok Gyong.

THE SCIENCE OF acupuncture and moxibustion appeared in Korea thousands of years ago as a simple means of medical treatment. In the course of steady development, it has become a branch of systematic studies. The Korean people first made stone noodles for treatment of

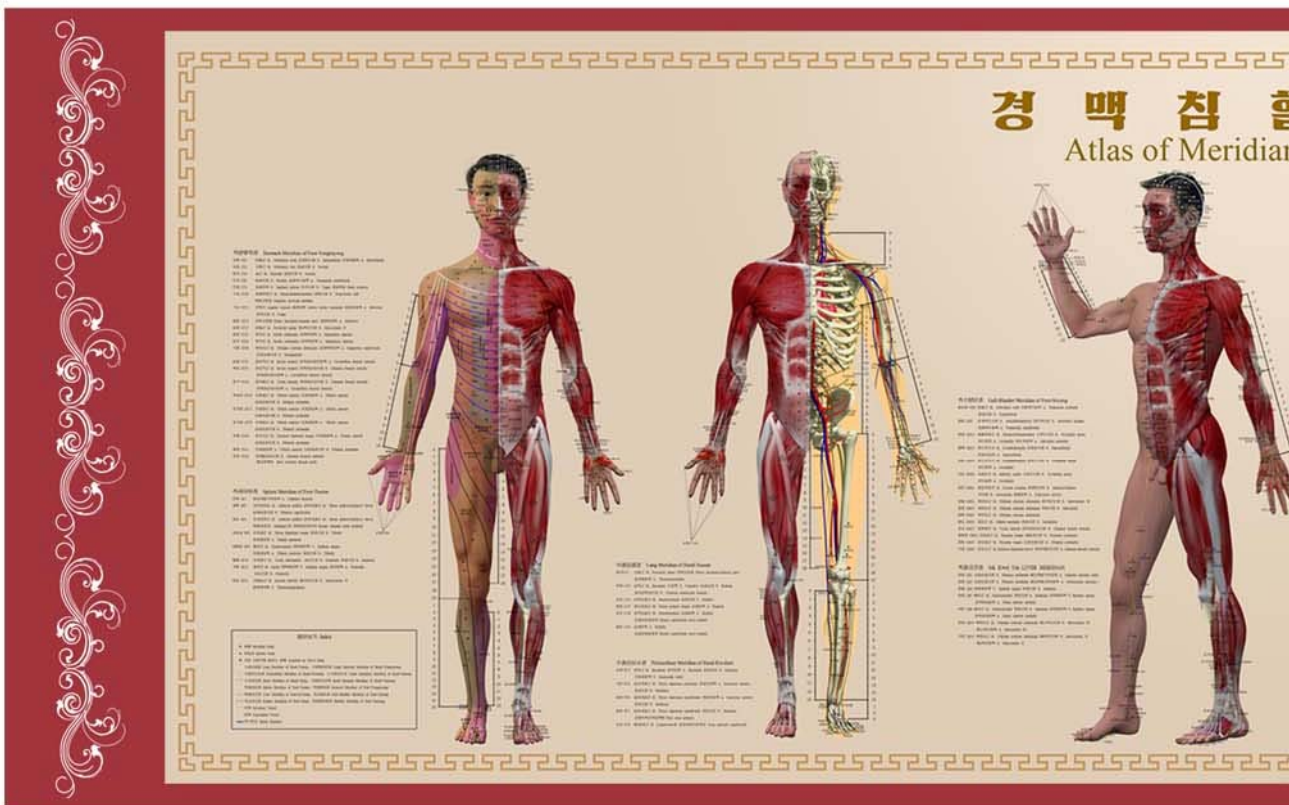
boils in the Stone Age, and that method spread to neighbouring countries. The rapid development of metallurgy in Korea had considerable influence on the development of acupuncture and moxibustion. Medical men went abroad to propagate Korean remedies and even exported needles.

In the first part of *Hyangyak-jipsongbang* compiled in 1433 it gives the position of the meridians and acupoints and explains methods of acupuncture and moxibustion according to the diseases, and *Uibangryuchwi* in 1445 and *Tonguibogam* in 1610 introduced the methods of acupuncture and moxibustion treatments. And *The Book of Experience of Acupuncture and Moxibustion (Hoimchimgugyonghombang)* in 1644, which specializes in the

science of acupuncture and moxibustion, is one of the valuable old books about Koryo medicine which presents basic theory on the science of acupuncture and moxibustion and the relevant treating experience. The book shows an aspect of the early development of the science of acupuncture and moxibustion in the country, and rendered great service to its development later.

The study of the theory of meridians and acupoints which is the basis of the clinical application of acupuncture and moxibustion has been conducted since long ago. *Tongindo*, a chart made in 1027 which depicted physical meridians and acupoints, was widely introduced. Later, when ever new theories on meridian points were published, the chart

The atlas of meridians and acupoints.



► of acupuncture and moxibustion points was also revised. The 1415 version of *Tongindo* was printed with wood block and lithograph, and the chart of acupuncture and moxibustion points published by Ho Jun in 1610 showed acupoints and meridian lines little different from modern ones.

As the study of acupoints got intensified from the anatomical point of view in the 1970s, the chart of 14 meridian channels which reflects skeleton, viscera, blood vessels and nerves was made, and this was followed by the publication of the chart of meridian muscles which depicts muscles in the anatomical model of human body and 361 acupoints. In the 1980s the chart of meridian nerves was made on the principle of innervation of the segments of spinal cords and the peripheral nerve distribution of human body. Most of those charts were based on pieces of paper where the model of human body was shown

in lines along with meridian points. The meridian points on those charts could not show the correlation between certain formations of the human body, so the physicians and researchers needed a better chart for treatment.

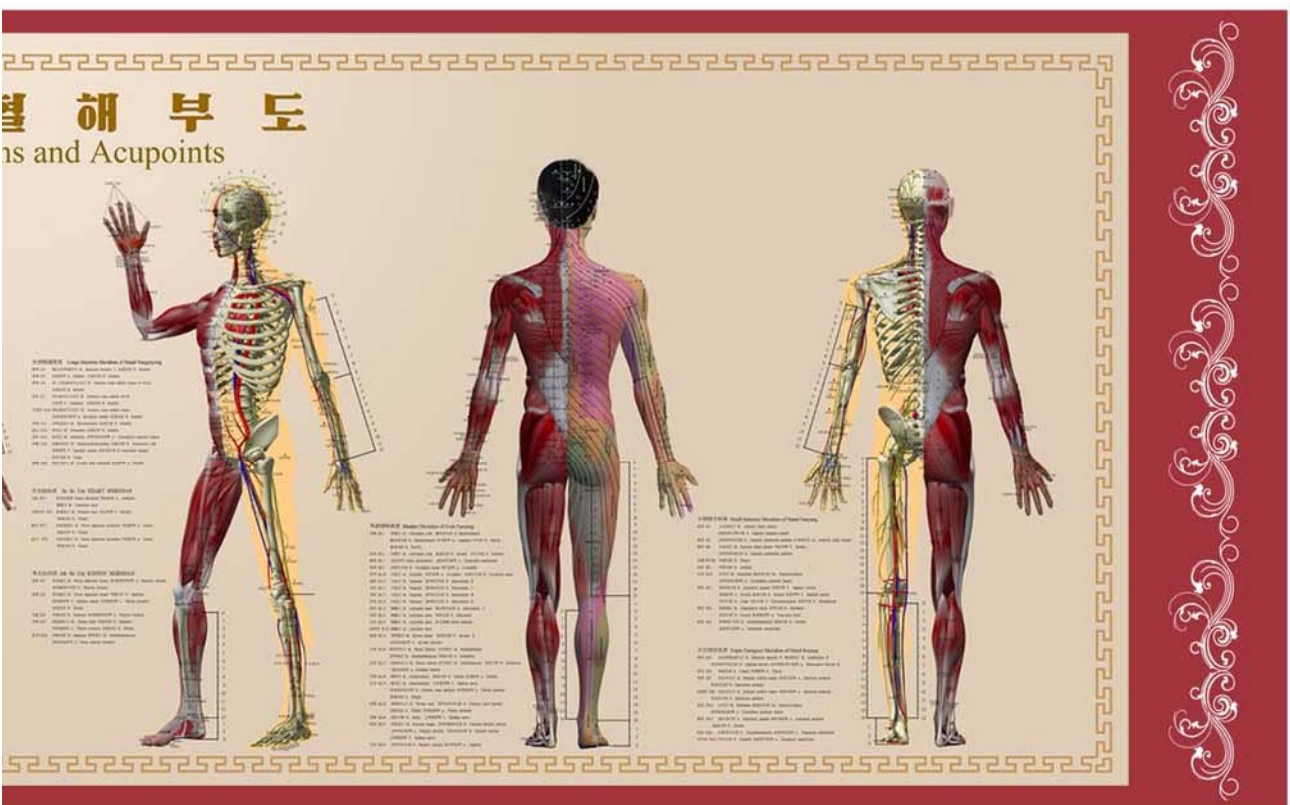
Prof. Kim Sok Gyong, head of the Department of Koryo Medicine of Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University, keenly felt the need while teaching for long years. So he buckled down to the research with several medical scientists. First of all, they made an anatomical model of the standard Korean body and then marked on it scientifically the contours, positions, travelling, distribution, contiguity relation and skeletal relation to ensure substantial utility and three-dimensional effect. It was a laborious work to describe them from skin to internal organs according to the muscular system. Finally, they successfully made a 3-D

anatomical model.

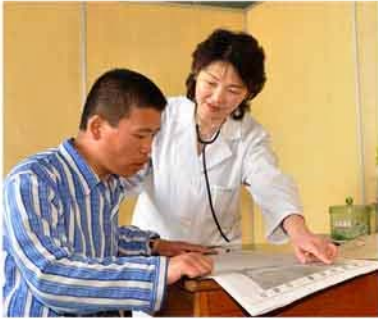
On the basis they made the atlas of meridians and acupoints which shows 361 points on 14 meridian channels and 28 other points that are used very frequently in clinical treatment. The chart explains the relations between given acupoints and muscles, motor point, artery, vein, peripheral nerves and bone. The chart helps doctors, teachers and students learn where to pierce the needle to cure certain diseases. And it is conducive to other research works. At present the Academy of Koryo Medicine and hospitals specializing in Koryo medicine in Pyongyang and other provinces give scientific treatment using the chart, thus winning public favour.

The atlas of meridians and acupoints won a DPRK certificate of registered sci-tech achievement, and a DPRK patent.

Yom Song Hui



After Eight Years



HIS NAME IS RI SONG Chol, aged 34. He returned a disabled man from military service nine years ago. A serious cerebral contusion took his sight. But now he walks freely with a bright sight which he regained at Kim Man Yu Hospital.

Hands Clasped Firmly

One day in September 2014 Kim Jong, a neurological physician at Kim Man Yu Hospital, was in deep meditation. Her ears were still ringing with what Han Kyong Hui, who used to be an official in Haksan-dong, Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang, had said to her during the day: "I'm worried about one thing I've failed to finish before I resigned from public service for an illness. That's my promise to Song Chol. I had promised that I would help him regain his sight at all cost." Then she said that she still remembered how she had felt at his home one day: "Sitting lonely in his yard with a walking stick in his hand, he said he wished to see even the shape of things." Han went on to say that she had often heard inhabitants in her dong speak highly of Kim Jong whenever she paid a sick call on them

at the hospital. "Will you please look after him?" she asked earnestly.

Ri's loss of sight was due to his diseased central nerve system. Kim knew it was a critical case. The CT-based examination showed that even a long stay in hospital might not bring sight back to him. Some people had voiced their apprehension that the possible failure in his treatment at the hospital would have a negative effect on his psychological condition.

Kim Jong thought hard, and decided that she should see the matter in light of conscience of a doctor who is responsible for the care of people, instead of the sense of duty of a doctor in a certain social position.

Hearing Kim, Han was more than pleased. Holding her by the hands, she vowed that she would do her share for the treatment. (She had already been doing whatever she could to help Song Chol get up from his bed, regarding him as her own flesh and blood.)

His Wish

When she left the hospital in the evening, Kim Jong seldom went home. She habitually visited the e-library of Kim Il Sung University, the Grand People's Study House, local libraries, bookstores— wherever she thought she could get documents and papers on cerebral contusion. Through such a work, she found out the common point in the causes of the pathological symptoms that come from cerebral con-

tusion. She also built on her experience in treating aftereffects of cerebral contusion, cerebral apoplexy, brain fever and similar cases, and her papers concerning those diseases. On the basis, she launched a period of full-scale treatment by applying cerebral metabolic activators and antioxidants to suit the case's physical condition. As Song Chol had been in coma for more than 20 days after he got the contusion, he had a bad memory and thinking ability. Considering it, Kim turned to diversified rehab remedies to improve his functions.

Kyong Hui also worked sincerely as the "nurse" in charge of Kim's nourishment. Though it was a long way from her home to the hospital, she prepared and brought good nourishments to the patient in hospital almost everyday. Thanks to her sincere efforts, Song Chol began to recover.

Days later the physician awoke from her fitful doze all of a sudden to hear Song Chol cry out beside her, "I can see light, doctor. That's the light from the window, isn't it?" Then Song Chol hugged her in his arms. Tears were flowing down his cheeks, which Kim wiped, shedding tears herself.

Later when Song Chol read out newspaper, all the hospital staff were rejoiced.

Remembering the story, Song Chol says, "I had a dear wish—to see the image of our respected leader Kim Jong Un even once. Without the sincere help of the many doctors and friends, I could not have accomplished my wish."

Kang Hye Ok

Taedonggang District Juvenile Sports School

Hub of Training Football Aces

THE TAEDONGGANG DISTRICT Juvenile Sports School is situated in a wonderful place skirted by the Taedong River, where you have clean air and pine woods all around. In the past the school has made marvellous records in the events of football, track and field, weightlifting and field hockey and brought up many athletes who were admitted into different sports teams.

The most noteworthy event for the school is football. Twelve of the 14 People's Athletes and Merited Athletes who came from the school are soccer players. The typical examples are Kim Kwang Min, renowned senior coach of a women's football team, and Ho Un Byol, woman football star. People's Athlete and the DPRK Labour Hero Kim Kwang Min has led the national women's football team to be a powerful team in Asia. Thanks to him they won first place in the women's football event at the 2013 East Asian Cup and the 17th Asian Games held last year. Those successes were partly attributable to Ho Un Byol. She was the top scorer prize recipient at the 2013 East Asian Cup. She often scores decisive goals for her team's win. During her days at the juvenile sports school she was in the spotlight as a promising star for her extraordinary sense of football and tena-

cious nature. Kim and Ho were belonged to the 10 best coaches and 10 best athletes of the DPRK for the year 2014. Senior coach Yun Jong Su is also a graduate of the juvenile sports school. He led his team to second place in the men's football event at the 17th Asian Games.

Principal of the school O Hae Su says, "The days in the juvenile sports school is the time of acquiring the ABC of football. So my instructors are trying to be well versed in the football development around the world so as to introduce more effective training methods and means in keeping with the age and mental qualities of the students. And my school frequently takes the students to football matches, and organizes discussions on experience and tactics, and class reviews. Those occasions become good chances to enable the instructors to improve their practical ability."

Efforts Dedicated to Young Footballers

I found the students and the instructors engrossed in training in the ground of the school. An instructor was passing balls to the students, and his skill hinted that he must have been a football celebrity when he was active as player. It was Pak Yong Chol who has taught at the school for over 20 years. The experienced veteran helped snatch four trophies at

contests of the national juvenile sports schools.

Ascribing his successful career to his zeal and love of students, which comes from his attachment to football, Pak says, "Living my life in this ground from my childhood I have devoted my sweat, wisdom and zeal to it. When I left the sports team of Korea University of Physical Education I felt sorry to leave the ground. But that feeling receded when I became an instructor of this juvenile school after graduating from the university. When my students distinguish themselves at international games I feel as if I were running with them. I was sorry to bid farewell when they moved to sports teams, because I saw them as my own flesh and blood. But I am more than glad when they come to see me and tell their win." Pak is the teacher of Merited Athlete Jong Chol Min and his two sons are also footballers.

Woman instructor Hong Hwa Hyon learned football at this school, and is now Merited Athlete. She played for the April 25 Sports Team and then learned at the abovementioned university. After graduation she has taught at the juvenile sports school with Kim Yang Su, who later voluntarily moved to the Chongnyu Junior Middle School as a football teacher when he knew the school badly needed a football teacher. Saying that she found the genuine profile of educator in him Hong expresses herself, "Teaching is ▶



Faithful Servants of the People

GO ALONG THE BANK OF the picturesque Pothong River in Moranbong District, and you can see the Mansugyo Soft-drink Stand. There people are lost in admiration for neat and tidy appearance of the stand outside and inside and various kinds of bread suited to their palate.

made based on their experience and suggestions for better cooking. Gradually the variety, colour and taste of the foods improved. They made a dozen new kinds of delicious bread. These foods were prized at the 20th Cuisine Festival held in celebration of the Day of the Sun this year.

Visitors there give thumbs up

refreshing drinks on the bank of the Pothong River, a place of scenic beauty.

The stand is an attraction to foreigners as well. After having foods such as hamburger, hotdog and sandwich, they made an entry in the visitor's book. The head of consular department of the Russian Embassy wrote, "I like your drinking water, scenic beauty and hospitality. Thank you very much." The military attaché of the Vietnamese Embassy also wrote in Korean, "I was deeply impressed here in the Mansugyo Soft-drink Stand. The waitresses are kind enough. The beer tastes good. I had a good time. Thank you very much. I have a great mind to come again."

Seeing people praise the building and all kinds of food offered with the kindness and sincerity Pang Ok Hwa always says, "Our customers are all full



Three years ago Pang Ok Hwa, newly appointed manageress, was deep in thought. *The title of true servant of the people is conferred by the people. Only practice will bring the honour.* At the beginning of her work she found only a few kinds of food were offered. She set up a high aim. It was to increase the variety of food to meet the developing demand of the people and improve their quality. She made sure that the workers worked with stress on this aim. In keeping with the task of providing people with bread and tea they frequently had shows of foods they

for the quality of soft drinks served there. War veterans and honoured disabled soldiers, enjoying special service, said that the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War and the US armed spy ship *Pueblo* on Pothong River seen from the stand made them look back upon the time when the US offered the instrument of surrender. They went on to say that they felt like younger after having



of joy here, and we know we are not allowed to feel satisfied with our work for the people."

Ri Chung Ho

► more difficult than playing. I was disappointed more than once while teaching basic techniques to students. At that time I thought my old instructor, too, must have had much trouble to teach me. The more I think of it, the more keenly I feel the importance of

the days of the juvenile sports school."

Hong keeps in touch with parents and teachers of her students to learn about their study, and put much effort in making them possessed of admirable moral traits and wide-ranging knowl-

edge. She says, "Here in this ground my students are dreaming to be world-famous stars. And I know my role is very important in translating their dream into reality."

Rim Sang Jun

When Flowers Are in Bloom

FLOWERS AROUSE DIFFERENT feelings in people. Seeing flowers, some people feel hopeful, some reminiscent of their past, some enthusiastic and some immensely safe and secure. There is another kind of people, who think of the coming season when they see flowers in bloom. Typical of them are the workers of the Taedonggang District Floricultural Company in Pyongyang.

One winter day several years ago the company moved to a new place. As its material and technical foundation was insufficient many of the workers were afraid they could not produce enough flowers for the decoration of the streets in the district in the coming spring.

One day General Manager Ko Yong Hun, while going round some important places to work out a plan of flower stands, stopped near the Munsu Water Park, when he heard a couple of young people talk. The boy said, "It'll be great if this place is filled with flowers in spring." The girl responded, "Sure. Then, we'll have a photograph taken here."

Their hopeful dialogue left an impact on the general manager. He thought, "The aesthetic and sentimental needs are growing day by day. They expect their future even in empty flower stands, and we should not let them disappointed."

On returning to the company, he suggested that they simultaneously grow low-temperature flowers whose growth continues even when they are trans-

planted outdoors in early spring, while pushing ahead with the cultivation of those that are adapted to average temperature. There were some who disagreed, saying that they had not enough period of time to build a greenhouse for low-temperature flowers and grow them. But eventually they all shared the same intention to grow fragrant flowers for the sake of the people.

Their collective intellect produced a good deal of innovative ideas. A worker suggested a very effective method to build the greenhouse at a low cost. Another produced a noble conception for cutting the period of growth by controlling the rate and aspect of sunshine. To realize the ideas the workers visited Pyongyang University of Architecture and Pyongyang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University, obtaining a scientific guarantee. Seeing them working hard to advance the season and bring pleasure to the

people when they were far from professional builders or researchers, the university teachers were moved and offered selfless assistance.

In this way they successfully set up a non-heating greenhouse whose temperature was higher than 7°C even though a spell of severe cold lasted for seven days that winter. Moreover, they managed to establish a system in which to grow white cockscomb even in winter that demands high temperature. Their experience is now learned from by floricultural companies across the country.

Their flowers have won awards at each of the national floricultural exhibitions held annually since 2012. Asked of the secret, Ko says, "We've got nothing special to talk. We have simply worked hard to help people enjoy themselves while seeing the flowers we tend."

Chae Kwang Myong





A TEAM OF DISABLED people from Pyongyang gave performances in the UK and France between February 20 and March 2 last. Earlier, similar events had taken place in China, Nepal and other Asian countries but not in Europe.

Their performances were given at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, the theatre of the Royal College of Music, the halls of Cambridge University and France's State College of the Speech-impaired Youth. The performers staged a variety of Korean pieces including vocal solo *Spring of Home Village*, accordion solo *Ballad of the Eight Scenic Spots of Korea*, *kayagum* solo *Song of the Sea*, *kayagum* duets *Pyongyang Nalpharam* and *We Sing of New Spring*, instrumental chorus of piano, *kayagum*, accordion and violin *Arirang* and Korean folk dance *Dance with Fans*; and the foreign pieces such as dance *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, accordion duet *Polka*, trio of accordion, piano and violin *The Music of the Night* from *The Phantom of the Opera*, solo of the British song *You Raise Me up*,

and accordion and violin concert *Czardas*.

The venues of performance were always filled to the capacity. The performance was opened by a student with locomotive disability, and the *kayagum* and accordion solos by sight-impaired players deeply impressed the audience. In particular, the group dance by the speech-impaired captivated the spectators. Some of the audience could hardly believe the dancers could not hear, so they even mounted the stage after the performance to know if they were really persons of disabilities.

Referring to his impression Oxford University professor Stephan Price said that it was incredible that the disabled could play musical instruments and dance so wonderfully, and that the fact they attained such a high level of attainment even normal people find it difficult to reach testified to the fairly high standard of the DPRK's education of the disabled people. Another Oxford professor Kamila Renya met the hearing-impaired dancers and said that it was alarming that they could do group dance, that it

seemed impossible to give rhythmic training to people without the hearing to jointly perform quick dance movements, that it would be possible for them to do a simple dance or sporting activity individually but not to dance jointly according to a rhythm, and that she could hardly imagine a member of her family with a hearing problem could dance to the rhythm of music.

Edward George, CEO of the Phoenix Travel, said that he had visited the DPRK several times, that he knew well about it, that he, however, had not expected the team would give such a fascinating and professional artistic performance in France, and that he would visit the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled when he was in Korea again.

Choe Jin Bom, 13, who has locomotive disabilities, sang the Korean song *Spring of Home Village* and the foreign song *Danny Boy*. Now he learns at the Munsin Junior Middle School, and his father is a workshop leader of the Pyongyang Municipal Construction Company. He was admitted to the Korean Association of the

Koreans Perform in UK and France



- ▶ Disabled Artists at the age of 11, and a year later he attained a high skill of vocal presentation.

Kang Un Hyok, a 20-year-old man with sight impairment, played the accordion solo *Ballad of the Eight Scenic Spots of Korea*. He lives in Anhak-dong, Taesong District, Pyongyang, and his father works at the Pyongyang Folk Park. He learned accordion at a school for the blind to some extent before being admitted to the association when his talents developed remarkably.

Ju Su Yang, 18, who can't speak or hear, was the heroine of the dances *Dance with Fans* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Her mother is a researcher at the Academy of Koryo Medicine. Ju was fond of dancing from her childhood, but she hesitated to go out as she has the hearing impairment. Thanks to the system of free compulsory education she learned at primary and middle schools and had a training in dancing at the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace after school. She became a member of the association at the age of 13.

Ryu Jin Hyok, 19, who played the role of the prince in the dance *Snow White and the Seven*

Dwarfs, lives in Okryu-dong No. 1, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang. His father is a worker at a construction company. From his childhood he was attached to dancing, and now he has improved his skill of dancing thanks to the association. Most of the disabled performers come from blue- and white-collar workers' families.

Jon Kyong Sim and Jo Kum Ran who are working for the association in charge of artistic training learned at the then Pyongyang University of Music and Dance, and the vocal music instructor Ri Son Yong finished the

college course of the then Kum-song Secondary School No. 1. Building on their high attainments they can share their feelings with the disabled very well. Thanks to the devoted efforts of the instructors the artistic ability of the members of the association improves with each passing day.

Now the members of the artistic circle of the association are working enthusiastically to produce more wonderful pieces to encourage the working people in their vigorous struggle for the prosperity of the socialist country.



Sim Chol Yong



Traditional Dishes of Korea (2)

Dishes of Hamgyong Province

HAMGYONG PROVINCE USED TO comprise today's North and South Hamgyong provinces and some areas of Ryanggang, Jagang and Kangwon provinces. The region is mostly mountainous and bound with the East Sea of Korea. Accordingly, foods made from dry field grains and fish have long history. They are professionally

simple, pungent and fresh, reflecting the characters of the local people who are sparing as well as active and open-hearted. The typical dishes are Hamhung rice in rib soup, frozen potato pancake, noodles with seasoned slices of raw fish, potato starch noodles, *yongchae* (leaf mustard) kimchi, pollack sausage, pickled pollack roes and fermented flatfish.

Hamhung rice in rib soup

Rice in beef-rib soup of Hamgyong Province was well-known, of which particularly the one in Hamhung. It is made of rice in fat-strained beef broth garnished with boiled and seasoned beef slices, boiled beef blood and bean curd over it, and served with seasonings. As the dish is made of beef it is tastier than other similar kinds. It is also widely known for its high nutritive value. The soup made with calf and cow meat were counted as best. The people in Hamgyong Province loved to eat it mainly in spring and winter for recruiting vitality.

Frozen potato pancake

This is an indigenous dish of the present Ryanggang Province which is widely known as a peculiar food. Frozen potatoes were peeled and soaked long before being dried and powdered. Then the powder was kneaded with salt water, and made into thin flat pieces. Finally they were steamed, and dressed with red bean. Frozen potatoes, which were buried in field or kept in pit, are taken out to be dried in the

spring sunshine or wind and powdered so as to give the original taste of the pancake. It is said that the pancake should be taken warm before it cools down, because the cooled pancake loses the taste. The noodles were also made from frozen potatoes. The pancake and the noodles were often put on the feast or memorial service tables in the province.

Noodles with seasoned slices of raw fish

This is a typical dish of the region along with the potato starch noodles. The noodles are made of potato starch. The coil of noodles is garnished with seasoned slices of raw pollack and finally topped with strips of fried eggs and chillis, giving a fresh and savoury taste. Flatfish, cod and squid are often used instead of pollack. Better known are the noodles of Hamhung for the fresh and pungent tastes of sliced raw fish. In North Hamgyong Province they used cool soup water for the noodles, so the dish was little pungent. The soup water was served separately.

Yongchae (leaf mustard) kimchi

Yongchae kimchi is a speciality of the region. *Yongchae* which is also known by the name of *sangat*, *saenggat* and *sangat* in Korean has been largely cultivated in the mountainous area of northern Korea. Trim *yongchae* clean before drying in a warm, well-ventilated room until it becomes yellow. Then it is pickled and mixed with ginger juice, garlic, onion, unsliced chilli, pear and turnip. The pickles are soaked in brine in a pot until they become seasoned. The kimchi tastes hot in the leaves and stalk and gives very peculiar taste and flavour. The local residents served it on the table when they had guests of honour.

Pollack sausage

As there is a large catch of pollack in the Hamgyong Province region, it has an unusual custom of making sausage with pollack. The method of making pollack sausage is to roast flesh and guts of pollack with pork, bean curd, outer leaves of kimchi, garlic, onion and chilli powder to be

Rice in rib soup.



Noodles with seasoned slices of raw fish.



Pollack sausage.



► stuffed in the pollack, and then steam it. Sometimes, milt and liver of pollack mixed with rice are also stuffed in the head to be steamed. They usually ate it as it was, but sometimes dried it for roast later. The dried pollack sausage used to be an important provision in the region, and it was served as a specially-prepared dish. The local people loved to eat sliced frozen or dried sausage with soy sauce mixed with vinegar.

Fermented flatfish

The region is renowned for fermented flatfish. The record of the fermented fish is to be found in documents that were prepared in the middle of the period of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), but probably it goes back a long time. The method of cooking the fermented flatfish is to pickle the trimmed flatfish, keep it for about one day, chop it and mix with boiled millet, garlic, powdered chilli, ginger juice, sugar and powdered malt. Then it is kept in a pot. A few days later slices of radish are added in it. The fermented flatfish tastes rather hot, sweet, and refreshing. Boiled millet is mainly used in making the fermented fish unlike they do in other provinces, because rice grains become soft which spoils taste and appearance. The fermented flatfish of the Pukchong area was well known in the Province. The cuisine of the Hamgyong Province region is further improving in keeping with the developing reality and widely spreads to other provinces.

Jo Yong Il

Fermented flatfish.



Founder of Koguryo

KO JUMONG IS known as the founder king of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the first feudal state of Korea. It is said that he was born a conspicuous and singular figure. At the age of seven, he made a bow and arrows by himself and never missed the targets, even tiny insects you could hardly see. He was named Jumong because they usually called a marvellous archer *jumong* in Korean.

Originally, he came from the aristocratic class, so lived in the royal palace of Puyo (mid-15th century BC–late 3rd century BC). Gradually the prince and bureaucrats were so jealous of his outstanding appearance and talents that they trapped him to reduce him to be a horse-keeper in the royal palace. In the course of contacting the wretched people, he understood the social contradiction to some extent and was determined to establish more reasonable social order.

Subjected to persecution and finally falling into danger of assassination, he escaped from Puyo and went south to Kuryo (mid-15th century BC–early 3rd century BC), one of the ancient countries of Korea, to carry out his ambition. On his way to the south with friends, some more people

joined his ranks.

He settled down in a northern part of Kuryo and laid his politico-military foundation under the patronage of the local squire. He won the hearts of the local people by defeating a neighbouring tribe who had been harassing the locality, and thus grasped the local power. Attracted by Jumong's fame, the King of Kuryo who was in the crisis in the then complicated situation decided to cast his lot to him and made Jumong his son-in-law. Some time later the king died leaving no son behind, and Jumong became the new king.

In the throne he began to realize his ambition. With the intention to develop Kuryo, a slave-owning state, into a powerful feudal state, he changed the name of the country into Koguryo by adding “ko”—it means *great* in English—to the original name Kuryo. He remodelled the system and order of the country as required by the feudal society in collaboration with the newly emerging forces, and fixed his surname as “ko” like the name of the new country.

Later, Koguryo merged with neighbouring minor countries of the homogeneous nation and emerged as a power in the East. □

Korean Industrial Arts (4)

Ceramic Workmanship

THE KOREAN CERAMIC workmanship was originated by ancient Koreans in the Neolithic era. In those days they made large and small jars, pots, big and small bowls, cups, plates, kettles, etc., with clay. Such earthen vessels were of varying shapes including those with round, tapering or flat bottoms and with or without shoulders, and were engraved in many patterns including those of fir leaves, spots, dotted lines, raindrops, pupae, waves of dotted lines, hank and lightning.

In ancient times there were produced pattern-free earthen vessels, instead of those with engraved patterns, with different usages for meal and storage. What was noteworthy in the development of the ceramic workmanship was the making of chinaware which was used for storage or one of the kitchen utensils.

In the time of the Three Kingdoms (early 3rd century BC–AD late 7th century), the ceramists made porcelains by further developing the techniques of earthenware and chinaware making. The ceramic workmanship of those days can be seen in the articles unearthed in Kiln Site No. 1 in Wonsan-ri, Paechon County, South Hwanghae Province, Tomb No. 7 dating back to the early years of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) in Yonsang-ri, Manpho City, Jangang Province, the Maitreya Temple site, and other sites related to the time of the Three Kingdoms.

The ceramic art in the time of Palhae and Later Silla (late 7th century–early 10th century) was

developed as well, inheriting the traditions. In particular, there is a record that foreigners admired a purple earthenware tub which was an inch in thickness and light in weight though it could contain half a *som* (a *som* is equivalent to 5.12 US bushels).

In the Koryo dynasty (918–1392) the ceramic workmanship developed onto a higher level. Based on the already-achieved porcelain making techniques, the Koryo people created with their skills wonderful porcelains of high artistic qualities like beautiful shapes, mellow and graceful colours, delicate sculpture and cosy patterns. Jade green was the best among various colours of the Koryo porcelains. It is a gentle and beautiful colour representing the Korean nation's emotion that feels like clear autumnal sky of Korea. The colour was counted as the most beautiful in the world.

In the early days of Koryo, as ▶



A vessel patterned with dotted lines in the Neolithic era.



A pot made in Koguryo.

Ceramics of the Koryo dynasty.



꽃문무늬막이 병



꽃모양 잔과 잔대

► efforts were mainly given to the presentation of beautiful colour, jade green celadons were sweeping with no patterns on the surface. After succeeding in development of the jade green, efforts were made to put various patterns suitable for the colours and shapes in order to heighten the artistic quality of their porcelain. In this course, they made a new phase in patterning by developing the inlaying method.

Some examples of the application of the method are the work with a picture showing mandarin ducks and wild ducks playing in the river with drooping branches of a willow tree, the one with clouds and cranes, the one with flowers and butterflies, and the one with bamboos and pine trees. Originated in the late 10th century, the inlaid celadon reached the peak of development in the 11th–12th century.

Koryo ceramicware is not only beautiful in shape but different in pattern. The kinds of pattern ranged from figures, animals, plants and nature, to symbols and letters. The Koryo people applied the beautiful scenery of the coun-



A white porcelain with a cobalt-blue drawing made in the Feudal Joseon Dynasty.



try for the main theme of patterning, attaching symbolic meanings to them. For example, tortoises, peaches and cranes represented long life in good health; pines, bamboos, roses, chrysanthemums, reeds and willow trees meant strong will and fidelity; and mandarin ducks, parrots, butterflies and ducks symbolized love, friendship, happiness and harmony.

The ceramic workmanship was further developed in the time of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). In those days the ceramicware came to have shapes suited to everyday use and clear colours. There were few special formations fixed to the body of the ceramicware and only practical usage was emphasized, so things of the time show dignity and truthfulness. This was a good contrast to the Koryo celadon that has slender curves and beautiful senses.

Porcelain articles of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty are mostly of white colour, so they feel clear, soft and warm. In cases of articles of cobalt blue and crimson col-

ours, their background colour is still white, which, unlike the ordinary shade, has the soft, comfortable and warm tints.

Decoration patterns were also applied in a creative and free way by individual painters or ceramists without caring for any rules or formulas. The decoration designs were symbolic in content. Typical patterns were those of *sipjangsaeng* (ten creatures representing longevity) and *sagunja* (orchid, *Prunus mume*, bamboo and chrysanthemum).

In this period porcelain was regarded as one of people's necessities and increased in its kind.

Following Koryo celadon, white porcelain won fame in the world. Even now, the white porcelain of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty is regarded as the best of its kind in the world, and the ideal beauty.

Ceramics is further developing in depth and width in the DPRK.

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Precedence to Common Interest of the Nation



North and south Korean athletes jointly enter the venue of the opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games.

SEVENTY YEARS HAVE passed since Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, but the Korean people are still in distress this time due to the national division. The tragedy of the split country is the last thing for the nation to stand and tolerate, so the Democratic People's Republic of Korea appealed to the entire nation this year to make an avenue for independent reunification of the country by pooling the efforts of all the members of the nation.

The national division caused by foreign forces gave rise to the birth of different social systems in the north and the south, which have become fixed over the seventy years. Considering the

situation, the DPRK government maintains that if the nation is to be united and the country reunified, it is necessary to avoid regarding the ideology and social system of one side as absolute and forcing the other side to accept it, and achieve the unity of the nation by putting the common interest of the nation in the first consideration. There is a history of the maintenance.

The United States, occupying the southern half of Korea on September 8, 1945 soon after the liberation of the country on August 15, 1945, knew that it could hardly keep its colonial rule of the south by fascist means alone, and attempted to make a local puppet regime and thus establish its control securely. The policy it

adopted for the purpose was to set up a "separate government" in the south.

Now that the country was in danger of division, the central committee of the Democratic National United Front of North Korea proposed to hold a joint conference of representatives of political parties and social organizations in the north and the south in April 1948. As it was aimed at saving the country from possible division and maintaining one Korea, it enjoyed unanimous support from the patriotic parties and social organizations and all other sections of people in the south, to say nothing of their counterparts in the north. The conference showed that they could be united without difficulty in the struggle ►

► for the common cause of the nation even if they had different ideas, ideals and religious beliefs, and that they would be able to make one Korea if they waged a pan-national struggle on the strength of great unity of the whole nation.

Later in 1960 the north side made a proposal for a north-south federation. In 1972 the two sides of Korea agreed on a number of matters related to the effort to push forward independent and peaceful reunification on the basis of the three principles of national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity— and issued the July 4 North-South Joint Statement to ascertain their agreement. These were indicative of the north's intention to achieve reunification of the country by giving precedence to the common interest of the nation.

In 1980 the proposal of founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo was suggested, a most reasonable and realistic one which suits the specific condition of Korea where different ideas and systems exist in the north and the south. It is acceptable to anyone who loves the nation and wants national reunification since it regards the common interest of the nation as the matter of top importance.

The year 2000 saw a great landmark since the nation was divided: the north and south top leaders met and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted, which specifies both sides' commitment to the effort to solve the matter of reunification of the country in an independent way by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation. This clearly showed that reunification of Korea is the very task of the Korean people and that the substantial force for the accomplishment of the national cause lies in the Korean people themselves. The pub-

lication of the joint declaration and the following atmosphere of north-south reconciliation, national unity and reunification were evident signs of the truth that they would be able to make one Korea in an independent and peaceful way by the concerted efforts of the nation once they maintain the stand of national independence and patriotism, even if there are differences in idea and social system between the north and the south.

Here goes a happy story about the 14th Asian Games during the June 15 era of reunification. The north and south athletes joined hands and the south Koreans shared compatriotism with the north's cheering team. This sentiment surpassed the difference in idea and ideal. Referring to the event, one of the south Korean mass media reported, "The great favour for the north's cheering team comes from the anxiety about the split nation and the fervent desire for one Korea, rather than from the beauty of the cheering team. Through the games they learned that the scar and grudge caused by the era of confrontation are in no way a match for the love of the nation, and that the two regions can easily become one if they keep national feelings and generosity whatever the differences between them. That the differences in

idea and system could hardly be the cause of discord and hatred is the truth vindicated by the June 15 era of reunification."

The south Korean puppet regime argues that it is "willing to improve inter-Korean relations," but their acts are contradictory. Obviously, it is necessary to refrain from finding fault with the social system of the other side if dialogue is to be held and the north-south relations are to be improved; moreover, it is essential to discontinue dangerous war rehearsals that push the Korean peninsula to war. Nevertheless, the south Korean authorities absurdly stated that they "don't think the north means it" when it proposed to make a great change in the north-south relations. They went so far as to openly declare their military drills together with the GIs would continue as long as there exists the south Korea-US combined system. The Korean people are angry at the south Korean puppets who are clinging to the policy of confrontation and war regarding their compatriots as their enemy.

The history of the 70-year-long national division stresses the need to give precedence to the common interest of the nation in the endeavour for reunification.

Kim Il Bong

The US imperialists and south Korean warmaniacs run amuck with anti-DPRK war moves.



“Fifty-first State” of the US

THERE ARE OVER 200 countries in the world, but there is no colony of the United States just like south Korea. The south Korean people have been devoid of their sovereignty for 70 years, groaning under the colonial rule of the US.

Soon after the defeat of the Japanese imperialists on August 15, 1945 the US illegally occupied the southern half of Korea in September 1945. Then it proclaimed the enforcement of the “military government,” and forcibly dissolved the People’s Committees, setting up a puppet regime with Syngman Rhee, an American stooge, as its chief executive. When the regime collapsed as a result of the April 19 Popular Uprising in 1960, the US instigated Park Chung Hee to carry out the May 16 Military Coup. In 1979 when the Yushin dictatorship was faced with a crisis, the US mercilessly removed its stooge Park who had been in power for 18 years and made a new military regime headed by Chun Doo Hwan. In June 1987 when a popular uprising broke out, it staged a farce of announcing the “June 29 special declaration,” replacing Chun with Roh Tae Woo’s junta.

All those changes of regime were designed by the US. Evidence: The former CIA Director Dulles confessed that the most successful of the CIA’s overseas operations during his tenure was the May 16 coup. A suggestion was presented in a US Congressional hearing in June 1987 to confer the Nobel Peace Prize on the then Assistant Secretary of State for the east Asian and Pacific affairs for his scenario of the “June 29 special declaration.”

The manipulation of the puppet regimes has continued up until now. In particular, the US overtly poked its nose into the “presidential” election in south Korea in 2007. According to watchdog WikiLeaks it ferreted out private data and political inclinations of the candidates, election strategies of the ruling and opposition parties and the flow of the public opinion, and dispatched dozens of experts to Seoul to mastermind Lee Myung Bak’s election on the spot. During the 2012 campaign the US replaced its ambassador to south Korea with a “pro-south Korea” figure and sent relevant experts and plotters to put Park Geun Hye in “presidency.” By such methods the US helps its stooges take power, and pulls the wire behind the curtain, thus strengthening its colonial rule over south Korea.

The US imposes White House instructions on south Korea through its local instruments like the US embassy, the command of the US occupation forces in south Korea and the south Korean branch of the CIA, and directs, supervises and controls their implementation. The structure of the US embassy in south Korea is so finely shaped as to be called an epitome of the US Administration. It takes a thorough hold of south Korea. Therefore, even south Korean officials concerned readily say that the real ‘residence of the chief executive’ is not the Blue House, but the Jong-dong residence of the US ambassador.

The US, after wresting the military control from south Korea, has turned it to the victim of its policy of aggression and war. It seized the command control of the

south Korean puppet army by forcing subjective and unequal treaties on south Korea, such as the “military agreement” in 1948, the “Taejon agreement” in 1950 and the “mutual defence treaty” in 1953. Moreover, the US organized the US-south Korea “military commission” and the “combined forces command” so as to strengthen its military control of the puppet army. Though it returned the peacetime command control to south Korea in 1994, it still holds the main power to command the puppet army even in peacetime.

In the 2000s the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration was adopted and the anti-US ethos for independence grew sharply in south Korea. Now the US unwillingly agreed to return the wartime command control to the south Korean puppet army in April 2012. No sooner had the Lee Myung Bak conservative regime took power in 2008 than the US prolonged the time of the return to 2015. Recently it made the Park Geun Hye regime postpone it indefinitely. Indeed, south Korea is a colony of the US in all fields of politics, defence and social life from A to Z, and the south Korean regime is nothing but an American tool and puppet serving the latter for upkeep of the colonial rule. Therefore, the media at home and abroad comment ironically that south Korea is the “US’s colony No. 1” or the “51st state” of the US.

Seventy years have passed since Korea’s liberation from the Japanese imperialists, but the south Korean people are still shackled by the colonial rule of the US.

Jong Chi Gon

Obama's Mistake

NOW THE SUPPORT RATE of the US President Obama is falling down day by day and he is getting loudly censured. Because his election pledges were hypocritical ones aimed at throwing dust in the eyes of the masses, and the foreign policies of the Obama Administration have met with many a setback so that the influence of the US is weakening with each passing day.

The DPRK policy of the Obama Administration is a typical example.

In 2007 Obama said that when he was elected President, he would visit the DPRK within a year. Nevertheless, he has not only rejected all channels of dialogue with the DPRK since he took office, but also applied sanctions to it in all fields—political, economic, military and what else—and has brought ceaseless military pressure to bear.

At the beginning of this year, Obama announced new “additional sanctions” against the DPRK through a “presidential executive order,” and on January 22 slandered it as “the most isolated, severed and cruel dictatorial state” crying for “toppling” the DPRK as early as possible. To attack the DPRK unawares the US has conducted nuclear war exercises every year by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of troops and means of nuclear strike. This year, too, it has done large-scale joint military exercises with south Korea ceaselessly in and around the southern half of the Korean peninsula.

In its “quadrennial defence strategy review report” the Obama Administration pinpointed the DPRK as its “worst foe” and declared its plan to “achieve decisive victory” over the latter by force of arms.

Meanwhile, the US and its vassals, refusing to face the reality of the socialist system of the DPRK where all the people enjoy genuine freedom and exercise true right as masters of the State and society, are clinging to “human rights” plots against the DPRK.

It is the US's strategic plan to stifle the DPRK and completely take hold of the Korean peninsula where great powers' interests are intertwined, and based on it, seize the hegemony of the Asia-Pacific region. But the actual reality is not what the US wants to see.

The DPRK declared that it would bring earlier the final ruin of the US imperialists by conventional war of Korean style if they unleash a conventional war against it, through powerful nuclear strikes of Korean style if they ignite a nuclear war against it and by preeminent cyber war of Korean style if they attempt to “bring down” the country by cyber war, and that it would have the final showdown on the US mainland, not in the Korean peninsula, in the 21st century.

The Korean people are all afire with the urge to win the final victory in the DPRK-US confrontation which has lasted for centuries.

In the final analysis, Obama's

policy of stifling the DPRK has helped the DPRK strengthen its own defence capabilities, while endangering the US ludicrously. For this, it is severely denounced even in the US as “completely failed policy”, “the height of folly” and “policy of inviting disaster alone.” This is the due result from the Obama's overconfidence in the US and misjudgment of the DPRK.

As history shows, there are not a few US presidents who had their reputation stained for their reckless approach to the DPRK: The 33rd US President Truman triggered off the Korean war in June 1950, which brought him no more than his ruin; the US President Eisenhower earned the ignominy as the first US President to lose war, although he had declared he would bring the Korean war to a happy end. In the war, the US was incomparably superior to the DPRK in terms of force and military and technical potentialities, but inferior in political and moral, strategic and tactical point of view.

Now the DPRK has made an amazing progress in all fields, but Obama is not realizing that the confrontation with the DPRK is the way to its self-destruction. What a pity!

Obama is advised to reason what a lethal result the US will get and what a disgraceful tag he will earn if he continues to cling to the hopeless hostile policy against the DPRK in the rest of his tenure.

Kim Il Bong

No to Japan's Adventure

THE JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS were more than brigandish. Just 105 years ago they fabricated a treaty aimed at legalizing its occupation of Korea and making it springboard for aggression of the Asian continent.

In 1905 they occupied Korea by means of the forged "Ulsa Five-point Treaty." On August 22, 1910 they concocted the "Treaty on Annexation of Korea by Japan" by mobilizing military threat and blackmail in order to legalize Japan's occupation of Korea. On the very day they deployed a large number of troops in the venue of talks and showed a "bluff" by warships, claiming that it was "necessary to demonstrate the power to win annexation." Meanwhile, they threatened and blackmailed the Korean ministers, thus forcibly railroading the eight-articled treaty. In the treaty the Japanese stipulated that the right to rule Korea "shall be transferred" to the "Emperor" of Japan completely and permanently, and that Korea "shall be annexed" to Japan. By making up the treaty Japan eliminated the Feudal Josen Dynasty to the letter. But it did not make public the treaty in fear of the Korean people's fierce struggle against Japan. The treaty was proclaimed by way of a "decree" of Japan's "Emperor" on August 29 that year.

The "treaty" is illegal and invalid from A to Z. The Japanese used it to further strengthen their

fascist rule over the colony of Korea. During the 40-year-long occupation thereafter they killed over one million of innocent Koreans and forcibly drafted over 8.4 million of young and middle-aged men for slave labour. Besides, they established a sex slavery system of supplying Korean women to their soldiers just like war materials according to the perverted military logic of "keeping up the troops' fighting efficiency," and took upward of 200 000 Korean women for the purpose by forcible drafting, kidnapping and abduction, and violated them as sexual playthings, only to kill most of them cruelly after all.

An armed struggle of the Korean people defeated the fascist Japan and brought about their country's liberation on August 15, 1945. The Koreans' scars are still unhealed, though. The Korean people and the international community have demanded that Japan sincerely admit its extrajudicial crimes and make an apology and reparation for it this year on the 70th anniversary of Japan's defeat. However, the fearful atmosphere prevailing in Japan reminds the Korean people of the bloody history 105 years ago.

On March 26 last the Japanese police ransacked the houses of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), including the chairman and vice-chairman of its Central Standing Committee. It

was lambasted as an illegal and politically motivated act against Chongryon which assumes the role of a diplomatic mission of the DPRK as there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Earlier, on February 22, a farce was held in Shimane Prefecture, Japan to mark the "Day of Takeshima (Tok Islets)," which was overtly attended by a vice minister-level official of the Japanese government. Such a desperate attempt to distort history is now getting more pronounced in its scheme to expand the territory. After the event Japan has distributed a video asserting its "dominium" over Tok Islets in 11 languages. The public opinion comments that it was made on the basis of a report on Tok Islets drawn up by experts of historical and territorial affairs. The reports contain ten items of which the first one "advises" the Japanese authority to concentrate on the propaganda of Japan's claim for the islets to convince the peoples and experts in third countries. Meanwhile, a rightwing media organ of Japan claimed to observe the "Day of Takeshima" as a national event, instead of a local one. Amidst this ambience the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on April 7 issued a Blue Book claiming Tok Islets as its own territory.

Over the past 70 years Japan has craftily avoided the demand of the Korean people and humankind to repent and make repara- ►



Japanese people turn out against the decision on approval of the exercise of “the right to collective self-defence” and the adoption of the unjust bill.

► tion for its sinful past of illegal occupation of Korea and unpardonable crimes. In the Korean war inflicted by the United States in the 1950s Japan dispatched its militaristic forces, asking the US to make a colony of Korea again. Moreover, it made a fortune at a stroke by turning its land as a whole into a logistic base of the US, and, after the end of the war, it has nourished an ambition of reinvasion of Korea in concert with the US. Under the cloak of “laws,” which “ban” resurgence of militarism and ambition of reinvasion, typically the “pacifist constitution” and the “three non-nuclear principles,” Japan has put spurs to preparations for realization of its “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.”

The main obstacles in the way are the DPRK and Chongryon. So, Japan is scheming to deteriorate its relations with the DPRK by breaking Chongryon on one hand and to carry out its ambition of reinvasion of Korea with the help of the US on the other. The target is Chongryon, which represents the DPRK in Japan, and the aim is to hasten its moves to revitalize militarism. Simultaneously, Japan has lifted an embargo on



arms export, trickily perverted the interpretation of the constitution to permit the exercise of “the right to collective self-defence” and drastically increased the defence budget. The Japanese authorities allotted a record high of nearly ¥5 000 billion for defence expenditure in the 2015 budget. With this huge amount of fund it is rearming its Self-Defense Forces with the up-to-date military equipment.

Instead of acknowledging and seriously reflecting on their bloodstained history of aggression and plunder and making reparation for it, the Japanese authorities are embellishing their past crimes and fooling the international law so as to accomplish

their old dream of “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.” The Koreans and other Asian peoples do not forget the brutal atrocities of the Japanese militarists who brought indescribable disasters to them.

Japan, the only and the last war criminal state which has not liquidated its sinful past yet in the world, is now obsessed with strong surges of the old “nostalgia” for war of aggression and suppression of other nations. It, however, should know that it will fall into the abyss of ruin, not defeat this time, if it embarks on the road of territorial expansion again.

Choe Kwang Guk

Liberation Tower

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea there are a total of 12 towers, monuments and cemeteries dedicated to the memory of the Soviet soldiers to hand down through generations the feats they performed in the war against the Japanese imperialists for Korea's liberation in 1945.

One of them is the Liberation Tower. It is 30 metres high and covers a total area of 128 000 square metres at the foot of the picturesque Moran Hill. It was first built on August 15, 1946 and rebuilt on August 15, 1985 on the 40th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

It consists of a wide stylobate, a three-storeyed body and a five-point-star-shaped head. On the stylobate shaped like wide-spread wings, the taper-

ing body stands in a set of 18 monoliths incised with various formative elements, retaining high architectural representation. The tower is also characteristic of bright and dignified modern architecture as it has got a contrast between bronze and red colours in each stage on the bright and clear white background. The balcony-shaped wings of the tower offer a good view, thus ensuring the appreciative merit and substantial utility of architecture.

The thematic and ideological message of the tower is more clearly expressed in various group sculptures that comply with the needs of architectural monument. In particular, the bronze group sculptures of "The battle" (4.5m×3.1m) and "The meeting" (4.6m×2.2m) in the central stylobate, intensively carry the message of the tower.

"The battle" represents the Red Army marching forward to defeat the Japanese imperialists. There can be seen in the centre an officer holding up a sub-machine gun and shouting to make a charge, and a soldier. On both sides of them are to be seen soldiers of different services fighting and dashing forward in lines.

"The meeting" shows several figures symbolizing the DPRK-Soviet friendship on both sides of the images of a Soviet soldier and a Korean worker who are shoulder to shoulder in ecstasy of joy over Korea's liberation.

The tower area is well landscaped with all kinds of trees and flowers. In front of the tower spread a yard, 25 metres long and 50 metres wide. In addition, patterns of laurel leaves and azalea blossoms carved on the pillar of the wings, the five-point star at the top of the tower, the Soviet flag in the façade, the five-point star and the DPRK and Soviet flags carved in relief in the 3rd stage of the tower and other sculptures add to the improvement of the formative and artistic qualities of the monument.

Moran Hill is a great recreation ground and the public interest in the Liberation Tower is great, says a keeper named Ri Myong Hwa.

The visitors are further growing in number on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Korea's liberation.

Kim Hyon Ju



Nyongbyon Chorong Walls

THE NYONGBYON CHORONG WALLS ARE a stone fortification centring on the Nyongbyon town, Nyonbyon County, North Phyongan Province. As a fort erected by carrying over the wall-building techniques of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), it was an important bulwark in the struggle against foreign invaders since the time of Koryo dynasty (918–1392).

The walls are divided into the Pon (main) wall (some 14 km in circumference), the Yaksan wall (nearly 1 km), Sin wall (about 3 km) and Puk wall (around 2 km) which were all erected by taking advantages of the natural formations in the town. The Yaksan and Pon walls were built during the time of Koguryo while the Sin wall was built southwest of the main wall in 1683 during the Feudal Joson Dynasty (1392–1910), and the Puk wall was set up northwest of the main wall in 1684.

The Yaksan wall is a Sanbong-style wall surrounding a plain piece of land on the summit of Mt. Yak which has precipitous cliffs on all sides. The Pon wall is a Korobong-style wall which stretches from the joining with the eastern section of the Yaksan wall and connects the peaks and ridges around the Nyongbyon town. There are many springs and streams inside the walls, which are ample sources of water supply.

The walls usually stand in double lines along the

cliffs. In the rugged terrains roughly cut stone pieces were used to make the wall, and in some sections steep cliff faces were used as the wall itself. On the walls were set battlements, and one gate was made in each of the four directions. (There were other openings in the walls.)

The Nam (south) Gate was the most magnificent of them, which was shaped like an arch and had a two-storied attic on the top. The Puk (north) Gate was set in a northwestern valley of the wall, and, connected with it, three *sugu* gates used to stand across the valley in a rainbow form. An attic shaped like the Puk Gate was built in the opposite side of the valley, and a long attic was built over the *sugu* gates connecting the two buildings. The Puk Gate and the Puk Sugu Gates are no longer in existence.

In the walls were also set up bastions, commander's terrace and other defence facilities. The walls are in comparatively good condition.

Nyongbyon was the hub of the military traffic leading to the northwestern border area of the country, so the Koryo dynasty stationed a garrison there and the Feudal Joson Dynasty regarded it as a point of strategic importance. As the walls were strong they never collapsed in the siege of foreign invaders.

The walls offer valuable materials in the study of the walls in the middle ages of Korea for their merits in using terrains, building walls, installing defence structures and in other aspects. □



