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2

Juche 108

(2019)

Grand Medallion of the “Sun of the National Association of Writers and Artistes”



Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Grand Medallion of the “Sun of the National Association of Writers and Artistes” from the National Association of Writers and Artistes of Peru in February 2005.



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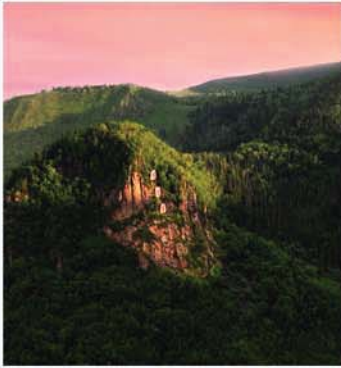
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Photo by Pyon Chan U



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Photo by Pyon Tae Chol

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New Year Address

Kim Jong Un

January 1, Juche 108 (2019)

DEAR PEOPLE AND SERVICE PERSONNEL of the People's Army across the country,

Dear compatriots,

Dear comrades and friends,

Having seen out the year 2018, in which we adorned the history of the motherland, the revolution and the nation with meaningful events leaving another indelible imprint in the history, we are seeing in the new year 2019 full of hope.

As we see in the new year, I extend heartfelt greetings to all the people and service personnel who devoted their all for the cause of socialist construction sharing the same mind and pace with our Party in the eventful days of last year, and wish that homes across the country will brim with affection, hope and happiness.

My warm new year greetings go also to the compatriots in the south and abroad, who shared our will in writing a new history of reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity of the nation.

I wish success in the work of heads of state and other foreign friends who are making efforts for social progress and development and global peace and justice.

Comrades,

The year 2018 was a historic year, in which remarkable changes took place in the internal and external situations and our socialist construction entered a new stage thanks to our Party's line of independence and strategic decision.

The Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee held in April last year constituted an occasion of pivotal significance in developing our revolution onto a new stage and continuing to speed up the advance of socialism on the basis of the great victory of the line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously. Following the road of arduous struggle with faith in certain victory of socialism, our people provided by their own efforts a sure guarantee for defending their sovereignty and achieving peace and prosperity, and became able to set out on a grand revolutionary advance to attain still higher goals for the construction of a prosperous country.

Thanks to our proactive and positive efforts, a peace-oriented current was created on the Korean peninsula and the international prestige of our Republic continued to be raised, and in the midst of this we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the glorious DPRK in splendour with great dignity and self-confidence.

Through the celebratory events held in September, the might of the DPRK, which achieved the ideologi-

cal oneness of the whole society and the single-hearted unity of the Party and the people and which possesses a reliable self-supporting economy and self-reliant defence capabilities, and the ardent will of the heroic Korean people to fight to the end for the victory of the socialist cause were fully demonstrated in front of the eyes of the world.

Last year all the people further consolidated the foundations of the self-supporting economy by turning out in the struggle for carrying out the Party's new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on economic construction.

Meaningful and valuable advances were made in the struggle for implementing the line of making the national economy Juche-oriented. The generation capacity of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex was increased remarkably, the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and other metallurgical works built on their successes in establishing the Juche orientation in production, and dynamic efforts were made to strengthen the independent foundations of the chemical industry. The quality of various vehicles and light-industry products that give us pleasure at sight for the pride of having made them by our efforts, technology and resources was raised to a higher level and their mass production was realized, bringing delight to our people.

The working class in the coal-mining industry, in defence of the lifeline of the self-supporting economy, conducted a do-or-die campaign for production when everything was in difficulty, and the agricultural sector waged an unremitting struggle for increased cereal production, thus producing a large number of high-yielding units and farmers even in adverse weather conditions.

The munitions industry, in hearty response to our Party's militant call for concentrating all efforts on economic construction, produced a variety of farm machinery, construction equipment, cooperative products and consumer goods, thereby giving an impetus to economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards.

Last year the gigantic construction projects, geared to adding glory to the era of the Workers' Party according to the Party's long-term plan and operations, proceeded in a three-dimensional way and on a grand scale. This demonstrated in reality the stout mettle of socialist Korea that never flinches in the face of any adversity but achieves victory after victory by surging forward more forcefully, as well as the inexhaustible potentials of our independent economy.

True to the decision of the April Plenary Meeting ►

► of the Party Central Committee on bringing about a revolutionary turn in science and education, the sector of science and technology presented valuable research findings conducive to accelerating the growth of hi-tech industries and revitalizing the national economy, the efforts to make education modern and scientific gained momentum, and the teaching conditions and environment were updated at many universities, colleges, middle and primary schools across the country.

The sector of art and culture produced and staged a grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance, evoking positive response from at home and abroad and vividly showing the advanced level of Juche-oriented art and its peculiar features and advantages.

Comrades,

Through the struggle of last year, which added a new page of proud victory to the annals of our revolution, we have been convinced once again of the validity of our own cause and the invincible strength of our state. Thanks to our people's indomitable fight against the challenge of injustice, our state's might of self-development has increased on a steady basis and the cause of building a powerful socialist country is progressing at a faster pace.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I should like to extend my heartfelt thanks, once again, to all the people including the service personnel of the People's Army for advancing non-stop along the road of victory indicated by the Party and thus performing feats that will shine brilliantly in the history of our country.

Comrades,

Having grown seasoned and powerful amid the struggle to glorify the new era of the Juche revolution, our Party and people are launching the new year march full of greater confidence and ambition.

This year we are faced with the task of expanding the country's capability of independent development to open up bright prospects for taking a step forward towards socialist construction.

We have the strength and foundations to bring forward a brighter future of socialism by our own efforts, and we have also developed our own strategy and creative methods to this end. When we strive hard with an indefatigable spirit on the principle of self-reliance by adhering to the Party's new strategic line, our country's strength will redouble and our people's dreams and ideals will come true.

"Let us open a new road of advance for socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance!"—this is the slogan we should uphold. We should bring about a revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction by regarding self-reliance as a treasured sword for prosperity, a spirit which has always been a banner of struggle and driving force for a leap forward in the whole course of the Korean revolution.

The might of the independent socialist economy should be further strengthened.

We should rely on our own technical forces and resources and the high creative spirit and revolutionary enthusiasm of all the people so as to succeed in attaining the strategic goals of national economic develop-

ment and enter a new stage of growth.

We should properly plan and thoroughly implement the national operations aimed at maintaining, reinforcing and reenergizing the national economy as a whole.

Strategic measures should be taken to give full play to the potentials of the self-supporting economy and utilize the new elements and driving force for economic development, and the manpower and material resources of the country should be enlisted in economic construction in a cost-effective way. We should focus on the main link in the national economic work, reenergize the other links of its whole chain and promote the long-term development of the economy, so as to push forward its revitalization.

The management method should be innovated to satisfactorily realize the unified guidance of the state over the overall economy and give fullest play to the voluntary enthusiasm and creative abilities of the working people. The Cabinet and other state and economic guidance organs should improve planning, pricing, and monetary and financial management in line with socialist economic law and make sure that economic levers have a positive effect on the revitalization of production and expanded reproduction in enterprises. They should adjust the structures and system of work to raise the efficiency of economic work and to make enterprises smoothly conduct their business activities.

Talented personnel, science and technology are our major strategic resources and weapons with which to bring about a great leap forward in socialist construction.

The state should promote talent training and sci-tech development purposefully and increase its investment in them.

It is necessary to improve the quality of training talented personnel, who will shoulder the socio-economic development, by improving the teaching contents and methods in conformity with the world trend of developing education and pedagogical requirements. We should set a high goal of developing new technologies and concentrate our efforts on the research into core technologies of great practical and economic significance, so as to secure the tractive force of economic growth. We should also take institutional measures so that scientific research institutes and enterprises, in close cooperation, can boost production and technological development and enhance intellectual creativity.

Every sector in the national economy should give impetus to hitting the targets of the five-year strategy for national economic development.

We should direct primary efforts to relieving the shortage of electricity to make a breakthrough in revitalizing the national economy.

One of the most important and pressing tasks in socialist economic construction for this year is to radically increase the production of electricity.

By focusing state investment on the electric-power industry to maintain and reinforce its existing foundation and making maximum and effective use of it to

► renovate and modernize one by one badly needed sectors and projects, we can, for the present, raise power generation to the peak year level.

We should take the problem of easing the strain on electricity as an undertaking of the whole state, step up the construction of hydroelectric power stations including Orangchon and Tanchon power stations and create a capacity for generating tidal, wind and atomic power under a far-reaching plan. Provinces, cities and counties should develop and utilize in an effective way various energy sources available in their local areas.

The coal-mining industry is a primary front in developing the self-supporting economy.

Only when coal is mass-produced can we resolve the problem of electricity and satisfy the demand for fuel and power for different sectors of the national economy including the metallurgical industry.

The coal-mining industry should channel efforts, first and foremost, into supplying coal to thermal power stations so that they can normalize electricity generation without letup.

The whole country should render active ideological and spiritual, material and technical assistance to coal mines, and the state should take stringent steps to provide in a responsible manner facilities and materials needed for coal production and good living conditions for coal miners.

A greater development should be achieved in establishing the Juche orientation in the metallurgical and chemical industries, the two pillars in economic construction.

The metallurgical industry should lower production cost to the minimum by perfecting the scientific and technological aspects of the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making processes and ensuring their normal operation, and work out and implement an operations plan for providing them with full amounts of iron ore, refractories and ferro-alloys to meet their increased production capacity.

The chemical industry should step up the building of the phosphatic fertilizer factory and the establishment of the C1 chemical industry, develop the glauberite and synthetic fibre industries and convert the existing equipment and technical processes into energy-saving and labour-saving ones. This year a nationwide effort should be made to run the chemical fertilizer factories at full capacity and boost production at the February 8 Vinalon Complex.

Rail and other transport sectors should launch an intensive campaign to strengthen discipline and increase their carriage and traffic capacities to ease the strain on transport. The machine-building industry should upgrade designing and processing techniques to develop and produce a variety of modern machinery and equipment in our own way to suit our actual conditions.

Improving the people's standard of living radically is a matter of greatest importance for our Party and state.

The agricultural front, the major point of attack in socialist economic construction, should conduct a campaign for increased production.

The Cabinet and other relevant sectors should give effective scientific and technical guidance for each farming process and supply sufficient amounts of materials needed for this year's farming, thus increasing cereal production decisively. They should respect the opinions and interests of farmers, masters of farming, and meet the demands of the socialist principle of distribution properly.

It is necessary to adhere to the four key factors set forth by the Party for the development of livestock farming, modernize and reenergize stockbreeding bases like chicken farms, and encourage the joint stockbreeding by cooperative farms and the sideline stockbreeding by individual farmers so as to supply the people with more meat and eggs.

The fishing sector should consolidate its material and technical foundations, put fishing and aquatic culture on a scientific basis and protect and increase aquatic resources, so as to open a new path for developing the fishing industry.

The sector of light industry, by consistently upholding the banner of modernizing production lines, obtaining at home everything needed for production and improving quality, should produce and supply various kinds of consumer goods that are favoured by the people, and ensure that provinces, cities and counties renovate the condiments factories and other locally-run plants and maintain their regular operation by relying on the locally available raw materials and other resources.

This year, too, we should push ahead, in a bold manner, with huge construction projects for national prosperity and the people's wellbeing.

The whole Party, the entire country and all the people should turn out to transform Samjiyon County into a model of modern mountainous city, an ideal socialist village, and complete on the highest possible level the construction projects that would represent the present era, including the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area and other new tourist areas. It is important to steadily improve architectural designing and construction methods, and ensure domestic production and better quality of finishing materials, so as to build all the architectural structures magnificently and in our own style and provide our people with a cultured, happy life. With the national-level construction projects underway on an extensive scale, we should build up the capacity of producing cement and other building materials as planned.

We should make proactive efforts to implement the tasks for the second stage of the forest restoration campaign, improve landscaping, urban management and road administration, and take every precaution against environmental pollution.

All sectors and all units should fulfil their quotas of the national economic plan in all its indices by identifying and enlisting every last reserve, possibility and potential and by increasing production and practising economy.

The politico-ideological strength of our socialist state should be increased in every way possible.

It is necessary to unite the broad sections of the

► masses solidly around the Party by thoroughly applying the Juche-oriented view on the people, a people-oriented philosophy, in Party and state activities.

Party and government organs and working people's organizations should give top and absolute priority to the people's interests whatever they plan and whatever they conduct; they should lend an ear to their sincere opinions, prioritize their wants and anything beneficial to them, and strive to translate them into reality without any conditions attached. Anywhere, anytime and under any circumstances, they should make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, direct primary attention to their livelihood, and ensure that everybody benefits from the politics of affection and trust, the one of embracing and taking care of them all. They should intensify the struggle to eradicate both serious and trivial instances of abuse of power, bureaucratism and corruption, which would wreak havoc on the harmonious whole of the Party and the masses and undermine the socialist system.

However the situation and circumstances may change, Party members and all other working people should cherish the principle of our state first as an element of their faith and step up socialist economic construction in our own way. They should glorify the country's great history by working with sincere devotion and a patriotic desire for developing their homeland by their own efforts before the eyes of the world, the precious land of socialism which they have defended from generation to generation.

We should accelerate the building of socialist civilization.

A revolutionary habit of studying and a way of cultural and emotional life should be established throughout society, so that all the people possess versatile knowledge and cultural attainments as required by the developing times. The sector of art and literature should create splendid works including films and songs that reflect the times and reality and touch the people's heartstrings, thus enriching the spiritual and cultural wealth of the nation and giving a powerful impetus to today's grand revolutionary march.

We should ensure that all the people realize the advantages of the socialist public health system by modernizing pharmaceutical and medical appliance factories, upgrading medical institutions and raising the level of medical service. Mass-based sporting activities should be conducted briskly and specialized sporting techniques developed to ensure that the whole country brims over with vigour and optimism and the sportspeople continue to demonstrate the wisdom and might of Koreans in international competitions.

We should launch a powerful drive to establish a socialist way of life and ennobling moral discipline, thus ensuring that no immoral and uncultured tendencies that run counter to our people's emotions and aesthetic view are revealed. By doing so, we can turn the whole society into a large, harmonious family filled with moral excellence and tender feelings.

The national defence capability should be solidified.

The People's Army should reliably defend the Party and revolution and the security of the country and the people and continuously perform miraculous feats at all sites of socialist construction as in the past by consistently holding fast to the four-point policy for developing it into a powerful army. By doing so, it should demonstrate to the full the might of the revolutionary army, the invincible might of the army of our Party.

The Korean People's Internal Security Forces, as befitting the red shield of the revolution, should defend unto death our Party, system and people, and the Worker-Peasant Red Guards should effect a turn in strengthening its combat efficiency in this year of its 60th founding anniversary.

Powerful self-defence capacity is a cornerstone of the existence of a state and a guarantee for safeguarding peace.

The munitions industry should, on the one hand, steadily raise the national defence capacity to that of the world's advanced countries by stepping up the effort for making the defence industry Juche-based and modern, therefore guaranteeing the peace on the Korean peninsula by force of arms, and, on the other, should actively support economic construction.

In order to successfully carry out the militant tasks facing us this year, officials, leading members of the revolution, should make redoubled efforts and struggle with determination and courage.

It is none other than the masses of the people that constitute the motive force and are responsible for carrying out Party policy, and they know actual conditions better than anybody else. Officials should always immerse themselves in the pulsating reality, seeing everything with their own eyes and conducting a comprehensive analysis of how matters stand; they should go deep among the masses, sharing board and lodging with them and motivating them to resolve bottlenecks if any. They should set their ideals and ambitions in keeping with the Party's plans, and steadily improve their practical abilities and widen their horizon; in this way they should become competent organizers and hands-on workers who make persistent efforts to achieve everything perfectly at the standard demanded by the Party. They should throw themselves into doing any challenging task, burn the midnight oil pondering on how to bring benefit to the country and people, and find the worth of their work in the people's happy laughter.

Today young people should play a large part in promoting socialist construction.

With the same spirit and mettle which they displayed in recent years to create legendary tales of the new era in response to the Party's militant appeal, they should honour their title of vanguard at the revolutionary posts where the Party wants them to be. In the present stirring era they should become pioneers of new technology, creators of new culture and pathfinders for a great leap forward; they should make sure that all their workplaces overflow with youthful vigour and stamina.

It is needed to decisively increase the role of Party

► organizations.

Party organizations at all levels should conduct political and ideological work in a progressive manner in line with the requirements of the times and the developing revolution in order to make our people give full play to the strength of their indomitable spirit on all fronts of socialist construction. They should give a boost to administrative and economic officials so that they can map out plans and provide guidance for implementing Party policy in a responsible way, and fire a zeal for collective innovation and competition in their sectors and units. Provincial, city and county Party committees should wage a powerful struggle to bring about a turn in the development of farming, education and local industries.

Comrades,

Last year was a stirring year which witnessed a dramatic change unprecedented in the history of national division spanning over 70 years.

With a determination to usher in an era of national reconciliation, peace and prosperity by putting an end to the abnormal state on the Korean peninsula which had suffered a constant war crisis, we took proactive and bold measures to effect a great turn in north-south relations from the outset of last year.

It is unprecedented that three rounds of inter-Korean summit meetings and talks were held in a year amid great expectations and interest of peoples at home and abroad, and this clearly showed that north-south relations entered a completely new stage.

The Panmunjom Declaration, the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the north-south agreement in the military field, which were adopted by reflecting the firm resolve and will to usher in an era of peace in which war exists no longer on the Korean peninsula, are of great significance as a virtual nonaggression declaration in which north and south have committed themselves to terminating fratricidal war based on force of arms.

While sportspersons of north and south displayed the wisdom and strength of the nation by jointly entering international competitions, artistes came and went to Pyongyang and Seoul to fire the enthusiasm for national reconciliation and reunification.

We took the significant first step towards common prosperity of the nation by promoting cooperation projects in various fields including railways, road, forestry and public health while resolutely overcoming manifold obstacles and difficulties.

The surprising changes which took place in inter-Korean relations last year convinced all the fellow countrymen that when they join minds and efforts, they can turn the Korean peninsula into the true home of the nation, which is the most peaceful and will prosper forever.

Though it was the initial step, north and south pooled intentions and wisdom to surely reverse inter-Korean relations in the utmost extremes of distrust and confrontation to those of trust and reconciliation and make in a short time eye-opening achievements which were unimaginable in the past. I am very satisfied with that.

In the New Year 2019 we should make greater strides in our efforts to boost inter-Korean relations, achieve peace and prosperity and reunify the country on the basis of the priceless achievements we made last year which was wonderfully adorned with unprecedented events.

All the nationals should hold high the slogan "Let us usher in a heyday of peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula by thoroughly implementing the historic north-south declarations!"

It is our steadfast will to eradicate military hostility between north and south and make the Korean peninsula a durable and lasting peace zone.

North and south, as they agreed, should take practical measures proactively to remove military hostility on the whole of the Korean peninsula, including the ground, airspace and sea, as a follow-up to its ending in the areas of confrontation.

Given that north and south committed themselves to advancing along the road of peace and prosperity, we maintain that the joint military exercises with foreign forces, which constitute the source of aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula, should no longer be permitted and the introduction of war equipment including strategic assets from outside should completely be suspended.

It is also needed to actively promote multi-party negotiations for replacing the current ceasefire on the Korean peninsula with a peace mechanism in close contact with the signatories to the armistice agreement so as to lay a lasting and substantial peace-keeping foundation.

All the fellow countrymen should unite as one, being conscious that the master of peace on the peninsula is our nation, in order to wage a powerful struggle to check and frustrate all the moves that wreck peace and incite military tension on this land.

Inter-Korean cooperation and exchanges should be expanded and developed in an all-round way so that national reconciliation and unity can be consolidated and all the fellow countrymen can practically benefit from improved north-south relations.

For the present, we are willing to resume the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt Kumgang tourism without any precondition and in return for nothing, in consideration of the hard conditions of businesspersons of the south side who had advanced into the Kaesong Industrial Park and the desire of southern compatriots who are eager to visit the nation's celebrated mountain.

When north and south join hands firmly and rely on the united strength of the fellow countrymen, no external sanctions and pressure, challenges and trials will be able to hinder us in our efforts to open a broad avenue to national prosperity.

We will never tolerate the interference and intervention of outside forces who stand in the way of national reconciliation, unity and reunification with the design to subordinate inter-Korean relations to their tastes and interests.

North and south should not pass up the favourable atmosphere of today when all the nationals' interest in

► and aspiration for reunification are growing unprecedentedly, but actively try to find a peaceful reunification plan based on nationwide agreement and direct sincere efforts to this end.

All the fellow countrymen in north, south and abroad should further accelerate in high spirits the nationwide advance for implementing the north-south declarations, and thus glorify this year as a historic one when another radical change is brought about in the development of inter-Korean relations and implementation of the cause of national reunification.

Comrades,

Last year, our Party and the government of our Republic exerted responsible efforts to safeguard the peace and security of the world and expand and strengthen friendship with different countries.

The three rounds of our visit to the People's Republic of China and the Cuban delegation's visit to our country were remarkable events in boosting strategic communication and traditional ties of friendship and cooperation among the socialist countries.

Last year, frequent visits and exchanges were made on Party, state and government levels between the DPRK and many countries of the world, with the result that they deepened mutual understanding and confirmed the stand and will to promote sound development of the international community.

The historic, first-ever DPRK-US summit meeting and talks brought about a dramatic turn in the bilateral relationship which was the most hostile on the earth and made a great contribution to ensuring peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region.

It is the invariable stand of our Party and the government of our Republic and my firm will to establish a new bilateral relationship that meets the demand of the new era as clarified in the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement, build a lasting and durable peace regime and advance towards complete denuclearization.

Accordingly, we declared at home and abroad that we would neither make and test nuclear weapons any longer nor use and proliferate them, and we have taken various practical measures.

If the US responds to our proactive, prior efforts with trustworthy measures and corresponding practical actions, bilateral relations will develop wonderfully at a fast pace through the process of taking more definite and epochal measures.

We have no intention to be obsessed with and keep up the unsavoury past relationship between the two countries, but are ready to fix it as early as possible and work to forge a new relationship in line with the aspirations of the two peoples and the requirements of the developing times.

As evidenced by the reality of north-south relations that made rapid progress last year, nothing is impossible to a willing heart, and dialogue partners will reach the destinations that are beneficial to each other without fail if they put forward fair proposals on the principle of recognizing and respecting each other by abandoning their dogged insistence broadmindedly and conduct negotiations with a proper stand and the will to settle issues.

I want to believe that our relations with the United States will bear good fruit this year, as inter-Korean relations have greeted a great turn, by the efforts of the two sides.

I am of the opinion that, while meeting and holding talks beneficial to both sides with the US president in June last year, we exchanged constructive views and reached a consensus of understanding for a shortcut to removing each other's apprehensions and resolving the entangled problems.

I am ready to meet the US president again anytime, and will make efforts to obtain without fail results which can be welcomed by the international community.

But if the United States does not keep the promise it made in the eyes of the world, and out of miscalculation of our people's patience, it attempts to unilaterally enforce something upon us and persists in imposing sanctions and pressure against our Republic, we may be compelled to find a new way for defending the sovereignty of the country and the supreme interests of the state and for achieving peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

The stabilized situation on the Korean peninsula and in the region is never something that has been created with ease, and the countries that are truly desirous of peace have the common responsibility for setting great store by the current situation. The neighbouring countries and international community have to support our sincere stand and efforts for promoting the positive development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and fight against all practices and challenges that wreck peace and run counter to justice.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will continue to bolster up unity and cooperation with the socialist countries and develop relations with all countries that are friendly to us under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

Comrades,

We are beginning the journey of the new year as we brace ourselves once again with the resolve to work devotedly for our country, our motherland, and the happier laughter of younger generations.

What we are convinced of once again as we proudly review the past year when we made rapid progress while paving our way by our own efforts with belief in our own strength in the face of harsh economic blockade and sanctions, is the truth that our state is fully capable of dynamically advancing along the road of development of socialism of our own style by dint of our people's great strength and efforts, without any external assistance or any other's help.

This year, too, we will face constant obstacles and challenges in our progress, but no one can change our determination and will and stop our vigorous advance and our people will successfully achieve their beautiful ideals and goals without fail.

Let us all work energetically and with one mind and will for the prosperity and development of the genuine people's country, the socialist motherland. □

Golden Age of Architecture

View of the People—Absolute Criterion

IN THE GREAT GOLDEN AGE OF ARCHITECTURE ushered in by the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) there are mushrooming buildings of different shapes, sizes and utility. All of these structures, however, are based on one absolute criterion.

The Korean people often use the expression *architecture based on the people-first principle*.

The principle, on which the socialist construction is based in the country, is applied to architecture.

The expression was defined by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Saying that Juche-oriented socialist architecture is, in essence, based on the principle of giving first and foremost importance to the masses of the people, he referred to construction as a worthwhile and important undertaking for embodying the WPK's people-oriented policies.

His idea, in a word, is that the masses of the people should be put at the centre of consideration regarding the country's architecture.

It was during the construction of the Rungna Dolphinarium on the bank of the Taedong River in Pyongyang. At first the designers painted the surface of the performance stage in the building blue like in other countries as they thought that it met the international standards.

During his visit to the place the Supreme Leader said: Although the stage of dolphinarium is painted blue in other countries, there is no reason why we should do as they do. You say that the stage of the dolphinarium here was painted blue to meet the international standards. We should do everything in our own way to suit our own aesthetic sentiments. To do things to suit the aesthetic sentiments of our people—this is just our criterion.

As he instructed, the colour of the stage was changed into that of sand to give the impression that the sand has been washed ashore.

Even something fine is of no value if it is against the people's aspirations and requirements, and anything should be done to the people's liking and for their convenience—this is our criterion. This idea of the Supreme Leader is being brought into reality in the entire field of construction in the country.

The Munsu Water Park can be cited as another example. The formative and artistic beauty combined, it has become multifunctional on the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty. As befits a comprehensive recreation base,

it looks like an architectural exhibition house designed to give a fine, 3D effect, characterized by curved surfaces and streamlined shapes and representative of modern architectural beauty based on a harmonious combination of modern equipment and finishing materials including glass and tiles.

From a distance the water park looks like a large flower basket decorated with flowers of various colours. And inside, it gives a feeling of being in a mountain or in a park. In a word, it meets the architectural aesthetic

requirements so well as to be called a water palace.

In 2017 a dormitory was built for workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill. The dormitory is designed, not in name only but also in reality, to suit the characteristics and requirements of the workers, most of whom are women; the space of halls and the height of storeys were set to their liking, and the walls are painted in cosy colours. When the dormitory was completed, the workers called it a workers' palace and hotel to be found nowhere else in the world.

The same can be said of Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans. The school is designed for the orphans' convenience in their study and life and to meet the pedagogical requirements. Every part of the school is arranged as a place conducive to their mental, moral and physical development and their education and edification.

All other structures are designed and built to provide the highest level of durable, hygienic and cultured environment and conditions with every element of them based on harmonious combination of the Juche character, national identity and originality and formative and artistic quality.

As Model and Standard of the Era and at the Maximum Speed

Making progress day and night and day by day—this is a byword of the present era in the country.

In 2015 Pyongyang witnessed the appearance of ►

► Mirae Scientists Street along the bank of the picturesque Taedong River. With skyscraping apartment houses and sets of other apartments for thousands of families and over 150 service facilities arranged in harmony, the street was built in a year, twice as fast as the construction of Changjon Street in 2012. The construction of this street created a new Pyongyang speed by which ten years are reduced to a year.

In 2017 there appeared Ryomyong Street in the city. The scale of the project was more than twice as large as that of the scientists street, covering an area of over 90 hectares where scores of apartment blocks including skyscrapers and high-rises had to be built. During the project there was created a new legendary tale of construction, the speed of

in perfect harmony, provided with the highest level of formative and artistic beauty. With the application of the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty, the apartments are equipped in such a way as to make effective use of solar heat, terrestrial heat and other natural energies. And power-saving techniques, roof and wall greening techniques and other advanced building techniques are employed to make the street an energy-saving and green one. The street intensively represents the future of Juche-oriented architecture and the level of socialist civilization.

The ground framework of the Sci-Tech Complex on the picturesque Ssuk Islet in the city was completed in 90-odd days. In accordance with the WPK's plan and intention to turn the islet into



A view of the Sci-Tech Complex.

► perfect in formative and artistic quality while being arranged to display their individual characteristics.

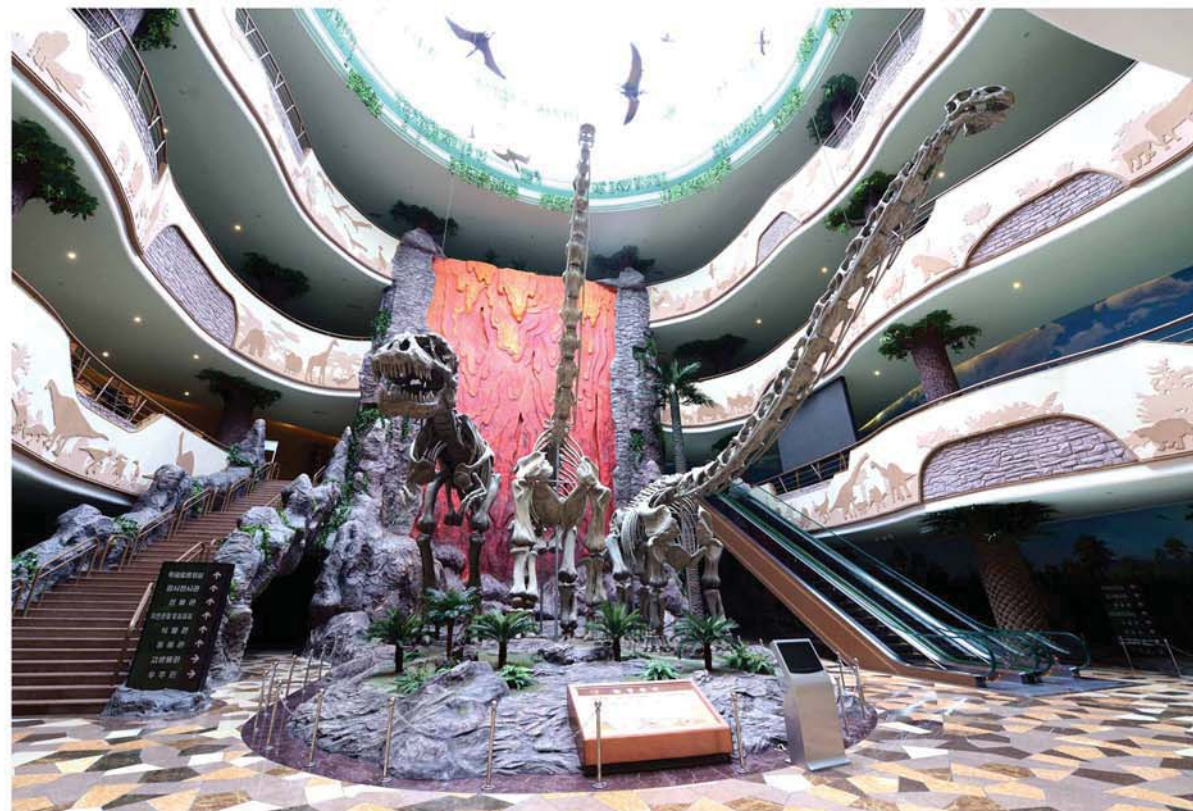
All other structures in the city were built into models and standards of the era at the maximum speed: They include the Rungna Dophinarium that looks like a fish with a wave-shaped roof, the Ryuyong Health Complex whose roof covers two buildings different in function, and the swimming gymnasium of Kim Il Sung University which can host international competitions as well.

Briskly underway now are researches for

intelligent buildings and for designing healthy and green buildings. Architectural festivals and forums on architectural aesthetics take place regularly, and efforts are being made to develop and introduce advanced architectural designs.

Under the slogan "Let us take responsibility for the safety of the project and guarantee its quality for all eternity!" the new time of creation is going on to build monumental structures in the era of the Workers' Party.

Yom Song Hui



A view of the interior of the Natural History Museum.

Mallima: The builders made progress day and night and day by day at such a speed, for example, completing the framework of a 70-storey apartment block in some 70 days and tiling its exterior walls in 13 days. Thus the street was completed in one year as a model and standard of modern architecture and a scenic wonder in the era of the Workers' Party. Groups of nice multi-storeyed apartments and those of skyscraping apartments are arranged

the one of science, a campaign involving the entire Party, the whole country and all the people was launched to build the complex into a structure immaculate in architectural beauty and utility. The exterior of the building is in the shape of a great atomic structure symbolic of the world of science, and its interior structure and style are designed to reach the acme of enchantment and utility. And the sector-specific indoor sci-tech exhibition halls are



A view of Ryomyong Street.



Paektusan Institute of Architecture



THE PAEKTUSAN INSTITUTE of Architecture, established on July 22, 1982, is the largest architectural creation and research institute in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It has four divisions which specialize in the designing of monumental structures, research into finishing materials, green building materials and air conditioners, and improvement of architectural environment.

The designing division participated in the designing of many monumental structures and of their building processes, including the Monument to the Party Founding, Korea Computer Centre, Korean April 25 Film Studio, Ryugyong Hotel, Kim Won Gyun University of Music, Kaeson Youth Park, Rungna Dolphinarium, Munsu Water Park, Ryugyong Health Complex, the terminal of the Pyongyang International Airport, Changjon Street, Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street. It also engages in architectural designing of national importance and comprehensive designing of structure, facility, heating and electrical systems and furniture, gives on-the-spot technical guidance in a responsible manner, and conducts research for creating green, healthy and intelligent buildings.

The division, which specializes in studying hygienic architectural environment and examining green building materials, assesses the hygiene of architectural environment and takes relevant measures, conducts the research for the realization of green architecture, and develops and introduces relevant products. It has adopted as State standards tolerable limits and examining methods in scores of terms of architectural environment and quality of building materials including quality of indoor air for the first time in the country. On

the basis of this it annually conducts over 3 000 examinations of environment and building materials related to 60-odd indexes.

It has a monopoly position in the country in examination of water quality and environment such as genus legionella in water, ion and electromagnetic fields, and in hygienic examination of building materials. It was registered as a national quality examination organization related to green building materials and environment in 2014. In August 2017 it obtained the qualification of a national product authentication organization related to green building materials (healthy and functional).

The building materials division specializes in developing and introducing finishing materials needed for architectural structures of national importance to suit the country's actual conditions. It has a section for domestic production of finishing materials and a functional building materi-



Discussion is under way about architectural design.

als section. They are intensifying research to produce diversified and multicoloured building materials as required by the State's policy in order to maximize the proportion of domestically produced finishing materials, and to actively develop green and functional building materials in keeping with the global trend towards healthy buildings. The researchers have developed multicolour-patterned paint for interior decoration, paint for relief-decorated wall, metallic lustre paint and decoration putty, which are recognized as excellent products for interior decoration of structures including that of ceiling, wall,

floor and column of public buildings and comprehensive service facilities.

The paper-coated plasterboard they developed is widely used in dry construction, and won first place at the 2017 intellectual products exhibition. And their findings of finishing materials research have been adopted and registered as national standards, criteria and manuals, and won gold medals and top prizes and other prizes at different sci-tech festivals. Thus, the researchers are recognized as a promising team of high ability.

The air-conditioning equipment designing division is re-

sponsible for designing and research for domestic production of air-conditioning equipment. It focuses on the research and design for domestic production of modern air-conditioning equipment, geothermal equipment and freezing equipment while ensuring designing, manufacturing and installing of air-conditioning equipment for the architectural structures of national importance. It also exchanges and cooperates with different units at home for the development and production of air-conditioning equipment.

Sim Chol Yong

The construction of such monumental structures as the Pyongyang International Airport terminal, Changjon Street, Ryugyong Health Complex and the People's Open-air Ice Rink is associated with the researchers' efforts.



Shortcut to Green Architecture



Engaged in research.

THE GREEN ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE OF THE STATE Academy of Sciences is conducting research for architectural structures which can provide a living environment similar to nature and a beautiful and cosy, energy-saving and pollution-free living condition. According to Kim Pok Sil, director of the institute, it is doing research to reach BREEAM which it is said leads the world in the "research on zero-energy, zero-carbon and green architecture technology."



Korean-style Heat-bridge Interruption Technique

One of important problems in realizing green architecture is that of interrupting heat energy flowing between reinforcement bars and concrete. This is a matter of crucial importance in keeping buildings warm. The Foreign Architectural Information Laboratory of the institute set a goal of solving the problem by relying on the resources in the country, and began to strive to develop a heat-bridge interruption technique based on domestic resources. In the course of this they came to the conclusion that they could succeed with their own technology. When they were pleased, Ro, head of the laboratory, thought a lot. He knew there were still some problems to be solved as compared to the "evaluation standard for green architecture" and the "standard for designing zero-energy building (provisional)."

Reproaching themselves for being content with their current success the researchers buckled

down to the work to guarantee the efficiency of the technique. At last they developed a heat-bridge interruption technique up to all standards. On a trial basis they applied the technique to the construction of a zero-energy and zero-carbon building on the outdoor exhibition ground of the Sci-Tech Complex, which turned out highly efficient.

Waste Turns into Treasure

It is a trend to save global resources to the utmost in realizing green architecture.

The Green Building Material Laboratory of the institute made a step ahead in the research to turn waste into green building mate-

rials. It has long intensified the research, thus developing and introducing earth hardener in construction in Jagang Province. It also developed various concrete additives, thus making a contribution to realization of green architecture.

It is not long since the researchers of the laboratory decided to make building materials based on domestic resources. To this end, they went wherever there was waste. Stone powder from mines was treasure to them. Setting a goal of turning granite powder mixed with stone powder into green building materials they buckled down to the necessary research. There were failures, but they carried on the research persistently. At last they completed and applied a colour sand coating technique to the construction of a children's traffic park in Unjong District.

Kim Pok Sil says, "Foreign experts, too, say that our standards of green architecture design and its appraisal are on a high level. We will conduct exchange and cooperation with our foreign counterparts in this field."

Their research to open a shortcut to green architecture is ongoing.

Kim Il Bong

Researchers develop measures for keeping buildings warm.



During Development of Korean Architecture

RECORDED IN THE HISTORY OF the development of Korea's Juche-oriented architecture are the exploits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, who cherished a profound creed and sincere devotion for the people, and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who is identical to his predecessors.

Scale Model Revised

One September day in 1978 President Kim Il Sung visited the then University of Construction and Building Materials Industry to examine a scale model of the planned Grand People's Study House prepared by the university.

Studying it in a showplace the President said that it looked like a Buddhist pagoda or temple and that even if it was to be built as a building of Korean style, it should not be modelled after an ancient style as it was. In order to make the building different from a Buddhist pagoda or temple the odds and ends in the centre of the building should be removed so that the building could become an integral whole, he stressed and said: If the stylobate is left intact with its main part and the upper part lengthened as a whole it would not look like a Buddhist pagoda and it would not give the impression that it was all pointed.

In this way the President instantly grasped and corrected the mistakes that the designers of the university had made without a good understanding of the combination of national and modern characters in designing the building.

A few months later a model of the study house was completed based on correct combination of national and modern characters, and the building was erected on Namsan Hill, a fine spot the President had spared for a long time.

Special Measure

On November 5, 1974 Chairman Kim Jong Il received a report on the living conditions of Pyongyang citizens. It read that 1 857 families moved into new apartment houses between September and October and that 1 000 of them had no heating system.

Instantly the Chairman phoned a senior official

in the city to ask if it was true that some people had moved into new apartment houses on Pipha Street without a heating system.

The official falteringly replied that though they had promised the families to install a heating system in their apartments before the cold weather set in, they had failed to keep it because hundreds of skilled workers had been sent to the construction site of the then Nampho Chemical Works.

The Chairman said critically that that meant they were devoid of the spirit of serving the people, and that they should mobilize labour force at once to install a heating system in the houses. And mentioning that they should keep the promise they had made to the people even if the construction of the factory might fail, he had a special measure taken to recall 300-400 of the skilled workers from the chemical plant project.

Accordingly over 300 of the workers returned and launched a campaign to install a heating system in the apartments. By working day and night they finished it in a month and thus warm water found its way into the apartments.

Episodes of Warm Care

One September day in 2013 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the construction site of the Munsu Water Park once again.

Looking round different places he acquainted himself with the progress of the project. Then he suddenly stopped on a spot, and said that a sunshade should be installed there.

While looking up at the skylight-type ceiling of the indoor swimming pool he said it might be very hot there in summer, which even officials concerned had failed to think of. Then he told them to install a blind so that people could have a break beneath it after playing in the water.

Besides, he examined as many as 113 detailed plans for the completion of the water park, and at the dead of one night he carried a large-sized clock in his car to the park to be hung on a wall of an indoor swimming pool.

Numerous are such episodes of his warm care for the people, which are told and retold.

Choe Sol Mi

Kim Jong Il's View of Happiness

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL often said, “I feel happiest when I have done something for the people. My happiness and pleasure lie in the happiness and pleasure of the people.”

The Chairman was ready to bring a flower into bloom even on a stone if the people wanted to see it, and he found pleasure and happiness in working for the sake of the people—this reflected his noble view of the people, and it was a view of happiness he held fast to throughout his life.

He approached all problems arising in the revolution and construction with the idea of attaching importance to the interests of the people.

On July 16, 2003 he visited a unit of the Korean People's Army. A commanding officer told him that the unit had built by itself a catfish farm in the vicinity of a sanatorium. Kim Jong Il said reproachfully that it was wrong to have built the catfish farm there. Mentioning that it was a scenic place easy of access, with a spa and clear water, he instructed that it should be developed into a modern health resort, a recuperation and holiday camp for the promotion of the people's health and their recreation.

In May 2008 the Chairman visited the place once again. Looking round a holiday village built on the bank of the picturesque Onpho River, he said: It makes no sense to use the hot spring water famous in our country in breeding catfish. So I made sure that the catfish farm was removed and that a general service centre using the hot spring

water was built here. Officials always should deal with everything while giving top priority to the interests of the people, and become faithful servants of the people.

One year an official in charge of the sector of light industry was tasked by the Chairman with making various styles of sample clothes with different kinds of cloth produced in the country. He immediately had competent clothing researchers and qualified cutters gather and make sample clothes. Thus they produced the samples in a short span of time. Now the official was praised as an enterprising man of strong executive ability.

Several days later, after examining the sample clothes on display, Kim Jong Il said that the clothes had not been made well and that though made with good material the clothes were extremely rough and unfashionable. He went on to say: Enterprise is good, of course. But it is wrong to set up such a standard for assessment of work done. How much one has done for the interests and happiness of the people—this should be a standard for assessment of officials' work and life.

He regarded it as nothing however much one did if it was against the interests of the people and not conducive to their happiness. He always thought of and worked for the promotion of the people's well-being.

On Sunday, October 19, 1986 the Chairman sat together with officials to acquaint himself with the details of toilet tissue production. The officials reported that shops now seemed to be short of

the tissue as it was not produced because of the lack of some raw materials.

Kim Jong Il anxiously told them to pay deep attention to the living conditions of the people. He said earnestly: As I always say, your first consideration should be the living conditions of the people. The toilet tissue factory was built first because the tissue is necessary for the life of the people. In this sense the production of the tissue must be your primary concern.

On October 13, 1999 he visited the then Wonphyong Seafood Export Company. In the fish processing workshop he saw on display different kinds of fishes, including octopus, flatfish, sunfish and blue shark. Looking round them with satisfaction, he said: How good it will be to provide this much fish to our people. Then they will be able to have a good diet, and their life will be rich.

Later he saw to it that the company was provided with modern fishing boats and large-capacity quick-freezers, and that the word *export* was removed from its name. Thus the name of the company changed into the Wonphyong Taehung Fisheries Station.

In September 2011 Kim Jong Il visited a new fish and meat shop built in Pothongmun Street. He was carefully observing choice varieties of fishes, including sturgeon, leather carp, eel and terrapin, swimming freely in large and small water tanks. An official of the shop told him that the prices of the fishes were fixed at 70 percent of market prices because they



Chairman Kim Jong Il inspects the Kangso Mineral Water Factory in November 2010.

► were rare kinds from around the world. Then the Chairman's face clouded. Noting that the fish and meat shop was a present he gave to the people, he emphatically said that the shop should fix the prices appropriately and reasonably so that everyone could buy what they wanted at the shop.

Thus the prices of fishes at the shop were fixed again.

Even when seeing an opera he thought of the people who had been worried as they were unable to feed their children on rice to their heart's content in the past, and said: Whenever I sit at table I think of the people. I think of them more when I see a special dish. It is my ideal to feed and clothe the people well and have them well off.

When he heard the report that

goods from a plastic daily necessities factory were favourably commented upon by the people, he said with great satisfaction that he was pleased to hear that the people liked them. When he received a letter from a couple—discharged soldiers—who wrote that they were very glad to be able to cook rice with electricity as their unknown remote mountain village of Poman-ri in Sohung County, North Hwanghae Province turned into a cultured socialist rural community with the completion of its electrification, he said that he was most pleased to hear that the people were well off. Then he wrote a reply:

“I'm glad to hear the good news.

**Kim Jong Il
October 10, 2001”**

The life of the people was the most important matter to him, and his greatest pleasure lied in the pleasure and happiness of the people. So in the last days of his great life he visited the Kwangbok Area Supermarket, a commercial service centre for the people, and ratified a document on supply of fish to Pyongyang citizens.

Indeed, the “People are my God” was his lifetime motto, and it was his noble intention and idea to pick even a star from the sky if it was for the sake of the people. This is why he is still alive as the incarnation of love for the people and the true son of the people in the mind of the Korean people.

Kim Son Myong

Even If Mountains and Rivers Change

PY O N G Y A N G Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill is the name my factory was given ten years ago. Until then it had been called Pyongyang Silk Mill. The signboard of the new name inscribed in the handwriting of Chairman Kim Jong Il hangs at the entrance to the factory.

As the Day of the Shining Star, the anniversary of his birth, is drawing nearer, the workers of my factory often gather in front of the signboard unable to suppress their longing for the leader. Whenever I see it, I find myself recall the unforgettable day of ten years ago.

On January 15, 2009, when the intense cold of midwinter was reigning, the Chairman visited my factory after he had been told that we had fulfilled the annual task of production much ahead of the schedule. Earlier he had inspected my factory three times because he attached importance to our position in solving the people's clothing problem in the country.

All my workers had been anxious to see him at our factory, and yet they had never expected him on such a freezingly cold day. When we told the Chairman that we were sorry to have him on such a cold day, he casually said that he did not care about the weather if only he could help provide better clothing to the people.

Looking round the factory he was satisfied that we had fulfilled the annual tasks for years even under such a difficult condition while completing the modernization project of the factory and creating a good hygienic and cultured environment. Things were going well in this factory, and that meant it was under a

nice master's charge, he said and remarked that everything would go well when it was under a good master's charge. Then, he repeatedly spoke highly of the achievements of my factory.

Enjoying the scene of silk threads being reeled out for a good while, Kim Jong Il wore a bright smile as if he was picturing in his mind the future when the people would be happy to have silk clothes as was desired by President Kim Il Sung and the anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

In July 2009, six months after his visit, my factory was re-named Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill in accordance with a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly. We wrote a letter to Chairman Kim Jong Il telling him our unanimous desire to have his autographic signboard of our factory which is closely associated with the guidance of the peerlessly great personages of Mt Paektu. Reading the letter the Chairman wrote an autograph for the signboard and sent it to us.

Proud of working at the factory with the signboard bearing the autograph of the Chairman the workers redoubled their efforts for increased production while looking forward to another visit of his to our factory. We, however, could hardly imagine it was his last visit to our factory.

Our respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected my factory in June 2016. He looked round the room of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's revolutionary activities. There he saw a photograph of Chairman Kim Jong Il who looked quite

unhealthy. After studying it for a good while, he said: That day the great General [Kim Jong Il] gave field guidance to this factory and the Pyongyang Chewing Gum Factory braving the freezingly cold weather. I hear the workers of this factory become tearful when they see this picture of the General in his old quilted clothes. I remember that was the hardest time for the General. You should not regard this picture as something ordinary. The General was in a poor health condition, but inspected this factory because he was determined to implement the instructions of the great leader [Kim Il Sung] who had worked devotedly to solve the clothing problem of our people. His visit carried his great expectation for this factory which is very important in improving the people's living standard to fulfil its duty faithfully.

Hearing his words I gave a fresh look at the signboard of my factory that my workers and I had regarded as our pride alone. It was not a simple signboard. It reflects the benevolent image of the Chairman who worked himself hard for the sake of the people, and the noble spirit of "The people are my God" that he kept all his life. I think the letters of the signboard are just an epic of patriotism that carries his earnest wish. I believe they will remain an eternal banner of victory which calls us to lead the campaign for increased production for the improvement of the people's standard of living. All my workers share my idea.

*Kim Myong Hwan,
general manager
of the Pyongyang
Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill*

Cheers Still Linger

FEBRUARY 8 IS THE anniversary of the day when the Korean people got their own regular revolutionary armed force—the Korean People's Army (KPA)—for the first time in their history. Seventy-one years have passed since then. Cheers of the day, however, still seem to be lingering.

That day, amidst the sound of bugles, a military parade started with the marching of a column bearing the army's first colours on the square of Pyongyang Railway Station.

In front of Pyongyang Railway Station on February 8: "The marchers pass proudly in front of Chairman Kim Il Sung, and they are all filled with the sense of honour. They look up at the Chairman on the elevated platform. The long lasting cheers seem to be breaking the ground with the soldiers marching ahead." This is part of a newspaper article that featured the first military parade of the KPA.

From the early morning of February 8, 1948 crowds of people headed for the then Pyongyang Railway Station Square. A huge number of people gathered in front of the railway station despite the bitter cold of midwinter. They numbered over 400 000 including Pyongyang citizens and suburban people, young and old, men and women all alike.

Nobody called for or pushed them to do so. Why then did they gather there as if prearranged?

They were those who had suffered subhuman humiliation and insult as they were deprived of their country. Among them were those who had made a narrow escape from alien lands where they had been taken as conscripts or drafted workers.

They had keenly felt the sor-

row of a nation without its own army. So they had eagerly waited for the day when they would have their own army. Now they all hurried there to the square out of desire to see their own army without delay and sooner than others.

On the highest places of the square there were hung slogans which read "The Korean People's Army Is the Son of General Kim Il Sung's Brilliant Guerrilla Army," "Long Live General Kim Il Sung, Organizer and Leader of the Korean People's Army!" and "The Korean People's Army Is the Armed Force Defending the Freedom and Properties of the Country and the People."

At 10 a.m. the KPA's founder Kim Il Sung ascended the platform of the square amidst thunderous applause.

Recalling that day, anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Ri O Song wrote in the book *Among the People*: The moment the founding of the regular revolutionary armed force was announced we could hardly repress the swelling emotion. We Korean people got a strong regular army for the first time in our history, and our nation that had suffered the bitter sorrow of a stateless nation became a dignified nation with a full-fledged sovereign and independent state firmly under the protection of a strong revolutionary armed force carrying forward the glorious revolutionary tradition of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. And the revolutionary forces achieved the decisive supremacy over the anti-revolutionary forces in our country. This made it possible to actively push ahead with our Party's struggle for the happiness of our people and the reunification of the country.

At the shot of signal there began the march of columns of infantry, cavalry and various kinds of guns pulled by trucks. After a while fireworks were set off in succession, and the emotion of the crowds reached the climax. There is a story that the cheers from the square echoed as far as to Moran Hill. This shows the extent of the people's welcome to the KPA.

A newspaper of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee, reporting the news of the first military parade of the KPA, quoted what two young workers had said on the square.

"I'm immensely happy to hear the words People's Army. I am eager to join the soldiers to march together while dancing."

"I feel as if I were in a dream to see our army march courageously like that along the very road where the Japanese were swaggering about just four years ago. Now that I have seen the energetic young officers and soldiers with my own eyes, I know I will work hard."

Since the KPA's first military parade lots of military parades have taken place always amidst thunderous cheers of the people out on the square and adjoining roadsides.

In February last year the country significantly celebrated the 70th birthday of the KPA. That day a military parade took place in the presence of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. Seeing the leader standing on the platform of the square, the Korean people were firmly confident that the cheers would continue to reverberate century after century as in the past decades of the revolution as they have him as the Supreme Commander of the KPA.

Sim Yong Jin

FRUIT OF WARM LOVE FOR NATION

UNTIL 2017 THE INTER-Korean relations were in the worst catastrophic state. But now it passed into history. Three rounds of the inter-Korean summits, several rounds of sectional talks, and a reunion of separated families and relatives opened up a new era of pioneering the nation's destiny in the Korean peninsula. This did not come of its own accord.

The stirring days in 2018 tell how the milestone of an era is set and how the era advances. The Korean nation never forgets a passionate patriotic call they heard on the first morning of 2018, which broke the ice of mistrust and hostility.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, in his historic New Year address, set forth a positive line of switching the north-south relations, and then made a broad-minded decision and took consecutive exceptional measures. He proposed that they work together to ease the acute military tension between the north and the south and create a peaceful environment on the Korean peninsula so as to establish a climate favourable for national reconciliation and reunification, and that the authorities of the north and the south raise the banner of national independence higher than ever before, and fulfil their responsibility and role they have assumed for the times and the nation.

His proposal clarified the road ▶

▶ the Korean nation should take, and imbued the fellow countrymen in the north and the south and abroad with confidence in and optimism about reunification. Thus the world as well as the Korean nation began to witness the setting of an atmosphere for national reconciliation and unity on the peninsula. The third north-south summit meeting and talks took place for the first time in Panmunjom, the symbol of the national division, 11 years after the previous ones. This served as a historic opportunity to signal to the Korean nation that the second hand of a reunification clock that had stopped for ten-odd years began to turn again and that a new history of independent reunification, peace and prosperity started.

While witnessing the historic scenes of Panmunjom, the press and experts in south Korea and other countries across the world highly praised Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un for showing his outstanding strategy and art of negotiation surpassing that of other heads of state in the world. They also commented that he drew the attention of the world by choosing Panmunjom, the symbol of division and confrontation, as the venue for the summit, and that he captivated the hearts of the south Korean people and other nationalities with his exceptional and bold proposal beyond imagination, his friendly and modest way of dialogue, and his calm and dignified appearance.

The April 27 Declaration adopted through the historic Panmunjom summit meeting and talks was welcomed and supported by the fellow country-

men as it reflects their desire to reunify the nation by themselves, who are responsible for the reunification.

Another round of similar summit and talks held a month after that produced an important agreement to solve the problems arising in rapidly implementing the April 27 Declaration, thus promoting the inter-Korean relations onto a higher stage.

The fifth north-south summit and talks held in September and the publication of the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration became an event striking the world with wonder. Experts and the press within and without comment that such an event can be brought about only by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who loves his fellow countrymen and has a strong sense of responsibility for realizing the nation's desire.

What he said before making public the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration touched the heartstrings of all Koreans. He said that through the meeting and talks they discussed the detailed way to activate travel, contact, many-sided dialogue and cooperation and diverse exchanges between people of all social standings so as to make the current of national reconciliation and reunification flow steadily in the 3 000-ri land of the north and south of Korea. He also said: The September Pyongyang Declaration reflects the sentiment of the nation full of new hope, the spirit of the fellow countrymen burning their hearts with the strong will to reunify the country and the dream of all of us which will come true before long.

His words reflected his firm will to realize the nation's long-cherished desire for independent reunification, peace and prosperity as soon as possible. So the south Korean people admirably said that "It is not too much to say that Chairman Kim Jong Un's art of strategic diplomatic negotiation is excellent and outstanding enough to surpass the whole world's art of diplomatic negotiation," and that "Chairman Kim Jong Un, through the inter-Korean summit, fully demonstrated that he is a strategic and competent leader who can lead the international order."

The American newspaper *Washington Post* commented that the current atmosphere on the Korean peninsula was achieved by Chairman Kim Jong Un's self-confidence. And the American magazine *Nation* stressed that the Supreme Leader of Korea proposed that they ease the military tension between the north and the south, and sincerely discuss the issue of improving the inter-Korean relations by the Korean nation itself, and that the motive power for dialogue was obviously laid by him.

All the Koreans who have met a new era of carving out their destiny are turning out as one to give full play to the fruit brought about by Kim Jong Un's warm love for the nation. The Koreans in the north and the south and abroad, with a will to build a reunified power with their concerted efforts, are struggling vigorously under the banner of the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration.

Kim Il Bong

Great Achievement



Model workers receive congratulations.

IN 2015 THE HWANGHAE IRON AND Steel Complex succeeded in industrializing the method of producing iron with domestically available anthracite. It was the first method of producing iron without using coke in the history of the country's metallurgical industry.

Since it completed the method called Juche-oriented method of making iron, the complex has stood in the van of putting production on a Juche-oriented footing.

Their effort to perfect the method of Juche-oriented production is going on. One example is that they are producing ferromanganese using domestic material, which people unanimously refer to as a miracle like making gold from soil.

Previously they had to import ferromanganese at a high price, but it became

A view of oxygen plant workshop No. 1.



impossible to import it any longer.

There's no other way, they thought. We must produce it by our own efforts. At that time they did not have any technical guarantee or funds. But the confidence that nothing would be impossible when they depended on their own strength, encouraged all workers of the complex.

They made a bold plan to try and produce ferromanganese with wad from Sohae-ri, Unryul County. They also set up a dressing plant using all latent reserves. This just led to the amazing success in producing high-quality ferromanganese with wad which had long been wasted uselessly.

Not content with this, they buckled down to the construction of a 20-ton oxygen-blown converter. Formerly they needed imported electrodes and scrap iron to make steel for the production of heavy rails but with oxygen-blown converter, they would be able to produce steel without using them at all.

As the converter takes 40~45 minutes for melting, it is highly productive as compared with other steel furnaces, and it is simple in structure and operation methods.

The project, however, was not easy. Though in unfavourable conditions of winter, the workers finished wet construction of more than 20 major objects and cleared an area of hundreds of square metres in a short span of time, and completed the excavation of a hundred and dozen cubic metres of earth and concrete placing for the foundation of an oxygen compressor ahead of schedule, thus making a breakthrough for the completion of the project.

The technicians proposed and introduced lots of new techniques of construction including



The oxygen-blown converter helps increase steel production.

▶ that of assembling trusses on an expansion basis, thus saving labour and materials and finishing the project ahead of schedule.

At last the converter was completed in September 2018, which opened up another new path in the metallurgical industry of the country.

Visitors to the complex often ask about the secret of its achievements. Then even young workers as well as managers and technicians say in unison, "You will not be able to find any technical secret in any technical documents or experience in the history of the metallurgical industry. We, however, have the spirit of self-development. Our victorious advance is thanks to the very spirit."

Chae Kwang Myong

With One Mind

THE TAEAN SINTHAE Joint Venture Corporation, which was established in June 2011, is located in the centre of Taean District, Nampho, a large-size electric machine manufacturing zone. After its inauguration it has achieved many successes in production and technical renovation.

Every one should become enjoyer of modern science and technology and master of business management and production—this is, workers of the corporation say, the secret of the corporation's technical development and progress. Not only technicians and researchers but all the workers are ambitious for learning, researching and inventing.

From its first days the corporation set it as a principle to solve all problems arising in management and production with concerted wisdom and effort of the workers. Especially, it attached importance to opinions of workers, who are directly in charge of production, as well as technicians and researchers in techni-

cal innovation aimed at improving products' performance and increasing productivity. They regarded something even small as a valuable bud when it was helpful to the corporation and to production, and actively developed it. In the course of this a number of technical innovations and proposals were introduced in production—they remodelled a circular leg face into an elliptic type and applied a new-type helical winding, a new mode in winding structure.

In January 2018 the technicians and workers of the corporation turned the external structure of the cooler of a transformer from a drawn-tube type to a corrugated-wing type through their collective research. This was soon followed by improvement of products' quality and increased production. Based on the success the corporation is now producing varieties of transformers and welding machines including power transformer, transformer for furnace and rectifier transformer.

It is a unanimous opinion of

users that *Taeon* transformer from the corporation is safe during transportation and produces little noise during operation. Its power consumption during operation is very low—no-load loss is 50-60% less than before, and short-circuit loss is 15-20% less. And it demands less materials and cost. It saves, on average, 25-30% of copper, silicon steel plate, transformer oil and steel.

Today *Taeon* transformer, which is of great economic benefit and convenient for use, is gaining favour at the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, Mirae Scientists Street, Ryo-myong Street, the Chollima Steel Complex, and other sectors of the national economy. And the demand for the transformer is increasing in different regions of the world.

Now the technicians and workers of the corporation are pooling their efforts to further make progress in production and scientific and technical development.

Kim Son Myong



Varieties of electric transformers are under production.



Relying on Their Own Strength



The main developer Hwang Song Hyok.

RECENTLY MEMBERS of the cosmetic surgery department of the Ministry of Public Health General Dental Hospital have developed a new CAD/CAM program for cosmetic operation, and made and employed an advanced 3D printer in clinical practice to obtain good results.

Three years ago Hwang Song Hyok, who was working with the department, frequently felt uneasy about his work. He would think what it was.

Then, one day when forming the mould of a person's damaged jawbone manually, he remembered a 3D printer he had seen on a visit to a university. He thought that if such a printer was used to make the mould it might produce a better one. Moulds he had seen—those made by a similar printer—were very high in accuracy and precision. *That's it*, he thought. *Face*

can be said to be an essential part of man. Our treatment of face should not be merely treatment itself but delight and satisfy patients.

Now he began to study lots of relevant documents on trends in cosmetic surgery. In the course of this he came to know that a CAD/CAM system for cosmetic operation should be developed first. The system is the one whereby to obtain 3D models of a patient's every tissue from CT images, design with a computer varieties of implants or facial prostheses after the models, simulate post-operation states and make the designed thing by dint of a 3D printer.

He proposed his plan to the hospital, and a research team was immediately formed with him as its head. The team pushed ahead with the research for development of the necessary program by pooling wisdom, and at the same time pressed on with the making of a 3D printer.

After three months of their

painstaking efforts they succeeded in developing the CAD/CAM system for cosmetic operation, and completed the 3D printer, thus conducting the simulation of human skull model. But they failed to obtain an ideal model they wanted. Then some of the hospital staff shook their heads saying that it was premature for the hospital to do so with its own technical force.

Members of the team, however, undauntedly managed to solve problems one by one, and finally succeeded in obtaining the model they wanted from the 3D printer. As it caused little deviation in designing and making implants and facial prostheses, the CAD/CAM system won a diploma at the 17th national public health sci-tech achievements exhibition.

Members of the cosmetic surgery department are striving to put treatment on a better scientific and technical basis.

Sim Chol Yong

Profound discussion is repeated for the completion of a 3D printer.



Note of Visit to Chongjin Art School



In the vocal music practice room.

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR there was held the 20th national schoolchildren's individual artistic contest in Phyongsong. Thirteen students from Chongjin Art School in North Hamgyong Province ranked among the top three places at the contest—it was a wonder.

Not long ago I visited the school to meet the winner students. I found the school as beautiful as a picture surrounded by good species of trees. Inside the school building I met headmaster Kim Song Il and vice headmaster in charge of administration Rim Jung Son, who were just coming out of a classroom after their inspection of a class at work.

When I told them why I was there, the headmaster led me to where the students I wanted to see were learning. On the way he said, "My school was established on November 5, 1975. We train the children with a talent and aptitude for arts in our province. We have classrooms, practice rooms and a dance room along with a dormitory, a canteen and welfare service facilities."

Now we arrived at a room where students in the instrumental music department were training. Amidst the playing of differ-

ent instruments I noted a student playing on the Korean flute the music of the song *The Blue Sky over My Country*. Pointing to the student the headmaster said he was Kum Song who had won at the aforesaid contest. And then he introduced me to instructor Ri Il Guk who was in charge of the student. After exchanging greetings with me, the instructor said, "At first Kum Song learned to play the guitar as his parents wanted. Then I often saw him play the flute among the flute students after he attended the guitar lesson. Now, for several days, I observed him playing the flute, and I found him better at playing the instrument than others. When I asked other teachers about him, they said they, too,

often saw him playing the flute and that he'd better learn to play it instead of the guitar. After discussion we began to teach him to play the instrument. He made rapid progress. And his parents like it."

Mentioning that education should be given in accordance with students' tastes and characters, the instructor told me that I would be able to hear more about it from Choe Song Ran, an instructor of the vocal music department.

With growing curiosity I followed the headmaster to the vocal music practice room where girl students were practising in singing the song *Let's Love Our Country* to Choe's piano accompaniment. During a break I asked the instructor about the secret of her success in having trained talented students. She said, "Students are different in characteristics, so the method of teaching should vary for each of them. For example, student Sin Un Gyong, who won at the contest, was better in voice and respiration than others. But her ABC of music was poor, and she was unable to pronounce artistically for different songs. So I taught her to play the piano in keeping with her taste so that she could have a good ear and a



In the bayan practice room.

▶ good rhythmical sense. On the basis of this I had her listen to songs of famous singers, and while singing together with her I emphasized her merits and corrected her mistakes. In the course of this she became able to pronounce correctly in singing."

Then the headmaster said, "The ability of students reflects that of their instructors. Choe's forte is scientific guidance suited to rich volume of voice and quality of individual voice. She is an October 8 Model Teacher. Some time ago she was awarded a certificate of registered new teaching method." Saying that an instructors' artistry presentation was about to be held, he led me to a lecture hall.

The artistry presentation took place by departments. It started with the instrumental ensemble *Arirang* performed by the national instrumental music department. With the passage

of time the atmosphere further built up. Students enthusiastically applauded whenever every part ended including vocal solo, instrumental solo and instrumental ensemble. I myself was giving a big hand, when Rim said, "Every Thursday individual departments hold an instructors' artistry presentation or discussion. And the school organizes a similar presentation once a month so as to help the instructors improve their qualifications." Ten of the school's old students, he added, received the titles of People's Artist, Merited Artist and Merited Artiste, including People's Artiste Jon Hye Yong who was well known to the public as she sang well from her childhood. And many of them are vocalists and instrumentalists at the Phibada Opera Troupe and other national art troupes, held in affection by the people.

Looking round the school



In the piano practice room.

I knew that the teaching staff were making efforts to give good education as required by the developing reality. I left the school with confidence that it would produce much more talented reserve entertainers.

Pak Yong Il

Progenitor of Kayagum

URUK WAS A FAMOUS musician who pioneered the kayagum-played music in Korea. From childhood he loved singing and was quite interested in different types of sound. To him, even the wind shaking branches of trees meant the sound of music and the merry laughter of women gathering at the well to bring water in the jar on their head was also developed into his musical notes.

▶ Uruk assiduously assimilated the musical achievements of his ancestors while working with all his wisdom to create new things. A greater part of his effort was directed to the making of a new kind of instrument

which could fully represent the beautiful land and the noble life of the local people. Through years of painstaking effort he managed to make an instrument called kayagum.

As it can give a fantastic presentation of the human sentiments through delicate techniques of performance, the instrument is the most favourite one of the Korean people at the moment as well as it was during the Middle Ages. The graceful and enchanting sound attracts the minds of all kinds.

Uruk toured different places from the mid-6th century, presenting his performances. In March 551 he performed in front of the king of Silla at his

invitation, earning his great favour. Later he resided in the present Chungju region, creating musical pieces and training young kayagum players. His disciples like Popji, Kyego and Mandok were talented musicians of the time, who created and disseminated a lot of pieces.

Throughout his life Uruk made as many as 185 musical pieces for kayagum performance based on folk songs and dancing musical pieces of different regions.

As a prominent composer, player and teacher of kayagum, he made a tangible contribution to the development of Korea's national music. □

Sincere Devotion

THE MEDICAL WORKERS of the Chukjon Polyclinic in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, are held in respect as “skilled doctors” and “our family doctors” by the local residents. When asked about the secret Kim Un Gyong, director of the polyclinic, told the following story.

It was when Jang Kum Sun, a section doctor from the polyclinic,

angle glaucoma. Immediately the polyclinic took necessary measures to have her get treatment at the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital. Diagnosed in good time, she had an operation and recovered soon.

In recent years alone the polyclinic has detected diseases of hundreds of people in early stages and took the necessary measures for them.



Ri Ae Ryong (centre) participates in a UNESCO training workshop.

was conducting medical checkup of residents of Neighbourhood Unit No. 51, Chukjon-dong No. 2, she is in charge of. She found that one eye of Ri Ryon Hui, one of the residents, was abnormal. So she asked Ri if she felt a pain in the eye. Ri said that she had trouble with the eye, adding that it was probably because she did her work with the computer.

The polyclinic held a consultative meeting on the checkup result of the woman. In the meeting she was diagnosed as having primary closed-

It regularly inoculates children, and sets up a detailed plan by week and month to actively give publicity to hygiene. Sin Myong Ok can be cited as a model in the work. She puts effort in giving publicity to preventive hygiene to prevent infectious diseases, including new-type influenza, in winter, and does so even in the bus on her way to and from work.

She goes to neighbourhood units several times a day to explain to the residents different diseases and relevant folk remedies, and what is important in preventing



Hygiene information work is conducted among the local inhabitants.

A scrupulous prophylactic treatment is organized.



Preventive check-up is given to children.



Close attention is paid to the health of the elderly.

diseases. Especially, the hygiene information card *Method of distinguishing those diseases having similar symptoms and their treatment*, which she made with painstaking effort, is in favour among the people as it explains in easy terms the diseases people usually had in their daily life.

The polyclinic does routine check-ups of the elderly including war veterans and honoured disabled soldiers in order to cure their diseases in time and provide them with tonics.

Ri Ae Ryong, a department head of the polyclinic, has taken

of her, Ri replied that she knew the condition of the old woman better than anyone else, and that as the old woman said that she felt easy when she was with her, she could not go leaving her behind. The doctor stayed with Pak for a dozen days. Thanks to her devotion the old woman recovered from her disease.

Some time ago a letter came to the polyclinic. It was from a man who had received treatment from Ri when he was in Pyongyang on business and relapsed into illness. In the letter he wrote: I was at a loss at the time because I was a stranger in

care of an old woman, Pak Sun Nyo, who is in the neighbourhood unit she is in charge of, for over ten years.

Several months ago Pak unexpectedly suffered from a severe illness with a high fever. At that time Ri and other medical workers of the polyclinic went to her house and gave her intensive treatment. Thus the old woman passed the critical situation and got better to some degree. Ri, however, nursed the old woman by her side. When her family members said several times that they would take care

the city. Then I was encouraged by Dr. Ae Ryong’s tender care. I completely recovered from the disease thanks to the devoted efforts of you, doctors of the polyclinic, and now I am working at my workplace in good health. I extend my thanks to you.

The polyclinic continues to receive similar letters.

The director of the polyclinic said, “Whenever we receive letters of thanks we feel proud of our work, and are determined to fulfill our mission and duty in the future, too.”

Kim Chol Ung

Combined Mineral Medicine Developed

WORLDWIDE, THE 21ST CENTURY IS referred to as the one of mineral matter. Human body needs protein, carbohydrate, fat, vitamin and mineral, and the last of them plays a pivotal role.

Mineral plays a major role in normalizing metabolism of physiological activators including enzyme and hormone, and regulates all physiological functions of cells. The important physiological function of vitamin is possible only in the presence of mineral.

In Korea research has long been made to use mineral in the treatment of different diseases, resulting in many successes.

Recently the Mirae Pharmaceutical Company has developed and produced different kinds of combined mineral medicines, which are favourably commented upon by the public. After several years of research the research team of the company extracted from natural minerals richly available in the country 50 kinds of macronutrients and microelements and a dozen kinds of rare-earth elements, badly needed for human body, in the state of ion, and succeeded in making them into essence.

In March 2014 the combined mineral essence was analysed and recognized as a strong immunity activator and a highly-efficacious medicinal material with an amazing cell-regeneration ability and a physiological capability by TÜV®, a third-party verification and certification organ in Germany.

Based on this the company developed a com-

Some of the medicines produced by the company.



Medicines are packed.

combined mineral injection that is efficacious in treating acute poisoning caused by various harmful gases like CO. Especially, it removes and prevents such harmful consequences as respiratory disorder and circulatory disorder caused by severe air pollution. And its cell-regeneration ability is strong enough to treat various chronic diseases such as diabetes, lung trouble and hepatopathy. And its efficacy in treating arthritis, one of obstinate diseases in the world, is over 90%.

The company also produces combined mineral capsule and combined mineral wound gauze. The capsule activates metabolism of the human body, improves the action of heart and blood pressure, and has an evident effect on women's diseases. The gauze, which is very strong in resistance to bacteria, kills staphylococcus and Escherichia coli at almost 99.9%. It is a unanimous opinion of users that the combined mineral medicines ensure the normal balance of the body, cure disease by enhancing self-immunity and have no side-effects and sequelae, and that they are very profitable in the economic aspect.

The combined mineral medicines and their manufacturing technique obtained a DPRK patent, and were highly rated at the 16th national invention exhibition held in August 2018.

Han Song Chol, president of the company, says, "We advise the patients suffering from side-effects caused by abuse of chemosynthetic medicines and different chronic diseases, and those wishing for a clear mind, a sound body and longevity to use our combined mineral medicines."

Choe Sol Mi

Distinguished Badminton Instructor



Instructor Ri Kyong Il.

LAST YEAR THERE WAS held the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Junior and Juvenile Games in Vladivostok, Russia, and Kim Ye Chol from Korea won the badminton event of the competition.

At that time Kim was a member of the badminton circle at the Moranbong District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang. His coach was Ri Kyong Il, instructor of the circle. It was noteworthy that the instructor of the juvenile sports school aimed at training reserve players participated as a coach of his circle member in the international game. Ri is attracting many people's attention as the boy took first place in the badminton event.

Ri's career as an instructor is not long, and it was not usual. It was 11 years ago that he began to work as an instructor at the sports school. One year later, he began to produce national winners and has won consecutive victories in national sports contests until now.

His colleagues often say that the secret of his success is that Ri has "special eyes." A few years ago, when he was passing by a school, he noticed a student, Mu Gwang by name, playing in the school ground. He had an unusual sense of pace and was flexible and good at jumping.

"Don't you want to play the badminton?" Ri asked Mu Gwang. The boy readily agreed. But his parents disagreed because they wanted to bring him up into a writer as theirs was a family of famous writers through generations.

Considering the boy's talent and future, the instructor met his parents three times. At last, he persuaded them. Later, as a promising reserve badminton player, the boy was sent to a sports club, and obtained good results in national and international games. When he won the national championship, his parents went to see the instructor, and thanked him, saying, "Indeed you have good eyes."

The badminton circle of the school produces many promising reserves not only because the instructor has special eyes. His forte is to find out reserves with an appropriate constitution and train them into champions.

Kim Ye Chol, too, has grown up into a champion under Ri's guidance. Unusual perseverance, quickness, fast movement and smart dealing of the shuttlecock in a high position were Ye Chol's good points. Ri exerted himself

to teach him basic techniques and forte. Thanks to his tireless efforts, Ye Chol displayed to the full his forte of dealing the shuttlecock in a high place in every game.

Ri has trained each of his charges like this. The circle members who learnt how to play the badminton from him were sent to sports clubs and have grown up into pillars of the badminton world.

In this course, Ri Kum Song, as a member of the circle, participated as a member of the national team in international games in 2010 and 2012. Last year he distinguished himself in the 2018 Inter-provincial Mass Sports Contest.

When the badminton was selected as an event of the contest last year, the Pyongyang Municipal Team invited Ri as its coach. He emerged supreme living up to Pyongyang citizens' expectations, and made a great contribution to the team's win in total in the contest.

Now many students come to learn to play badminton from him. In Ri's family there are eight badminton professionals.

Rim Ok

A still higher goal is pursued.



Sports Village Newly Built

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the Pyongyang Municipal Sports Village newly built on Mo (mother) Islet in the Pothong River.

Going down some distance by the Chongnyu Restaurant, I saw the municipal sports village newly built on the opposite side of Pothonggang Hotel. It was as beautiful as a picture.

At the entrance of the newly built bridge to the sports village, I met Won Kwang Hyok, head of the sports village management station. He said, "Originally there was a small football ground on the islet, but now the islet has changed into a comprehensive mass sports centre equipped with sporting and cultural facilities."

I followed him to a gymna-

sium across the bridge decorated with various flower pots. Saying that the gymnasium was built in the shape of a parachute, he guided me to the porch of the building.

After looking around changing rooms, bathrooms and equipment storage on the ground floor, we went up the first floor where I saw amateurs engrossed in Korean chess and *paduk* (go) games in an amusements room.

Then we went into a contest hall with hundreds of seats. At the time there was a fierce basketball training game of the Pyongyang Sports Club. As I was watching the passionate players of both teams scoring many points in succession, Won said that I might not believe it if he said the gymnasium was built by

a district's own efforts. Then he told the following story.

It was in early November 2015 that senior officials and builders of Phyongchon District began to construct the gymnasium on the islet. The stratum of the islet was made of sand and mud layers and the underground water spouted out after a little digging. They introduced a new construction method and laid the foundations at a lightning speed while struggling against the underground water, and buckled down to the construction of the building. They never stopped the construction even in midwinter, but pushed ahead with the project by covering it with a temporary house and ensuring the necessary temperature with fire in it.

His story made me picture in mind the way they worked day and night to finish the construction in a short period. After looking around a table tennis hall, a physical training room and a *ssirum* (Korean wrestling) hall on the second floor we came out of the gymnasium.

Then my eyes were caught by outdoor sports fields, including an artificial turf-covered football field with seats roofed with shades, a running track, basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton courts and a *ssium* site.

Green turf spread out beside the paved road and resting places and good species of trees and flowering shrubs added to the scenery of the sports village.

Next we dropped in at a four-storey sportsmen's lodgings. On the ground floor was a sporting goods shop. Though small, it was full of domestic products like football, volleyball and basketball. Looking at them, I felt great pride in ours.

Won said that the country provided the shop with various kinds of training apparatuses so that sports fans could use what they wanted, and that it could be referred to as a sample room reflecting the country's policy of prioritizing sports. There were scores of bedrooms on the first and second floors, and the rooms were furnished elegantly.

A football player from the Pyongyang Sports Club said, "Indeed the scenery of this place is very fine and its fresh air relieves my fatigue in an instant. I'm very glad that it has lodgings

as well as sporting apparatuses. In the future, I'll train harder."

Mentioning that there was a sci-tech learning space on the third floor, Won said that sports fans acquire there the knowledge of the sports events they like.

Now I was moved at the thought of the blessed socialist system which spares nothing for sportspersons, sports fans and working people.

Wishing the officials and workers of the station success in their future work, I left the islet.

Sim Chol Yong

Varieties of sports activities are under way.



A general view of the sports village.





Believe in Yourself

(Continued from the last issue)

Sinpho Whirlwind

THE SOUTH HAMGYONG provincial women's football competition of juvenile sports schools started in Hamhung in early August that year. Home and away games took place between city and county teams.

The Sinpho team had its first knockout match with the Hungnam District team of Hamhung, and won it 2 to 1 perhaps because Kim Kyong Hwa played well and all other players ran in harmony. And the team continued to win the matches with other rivals from Sinhung, Hongwon and Pukchong counties in succession. Now they had to have a semifinal match with the Riwon county team. So they went to the county by train.

Inside the Riwon Town stadium they found thousands of local spectators including youths and schoolchildren from the county. It was obvious that the county attached great importance to the match and organized a powerful cheerleading group for its team.

In the first half of the match Kyong Hwa's team launched a fierce offensive. She herself drove the ball trying mid- and long-distance shootings several

times. The ball, however, missed the goal—probably she was too excited and tense.

The opponents were all bent on defence while running about passively.

The first half finally ended in a draw.

During the break instructor Om Myong Chol said, "Don't be hasty or willful. And bear in mind that as it is a team event you should pool your mind in attack and defence."

As soon as the second half started the Riwon County team was the first to launch an attack. But Kyong Hwa tackled the rival forwards in the middle field in a moment.

Once again she drove the ball by herself towards the opponents' goal, and then abruptly and powerfully kicked with her instep some 15 metres away from the goal. The ball landed in the net of the goal.

"Goal in!" Kyong Hwa shouted with joy.

The young people and schoolchildren of Riwon County cheered for their players at the top of their voices, but there was no goal to tie the score. The Riwon team lost.

From then on Kyong Hwa was called young Sinpho Whirlwind.

Her team also won the final match with their rivals from Sapho District, Hamhung, by 1 to 0, thus qualifying for the women's football event of the coming national juvenile sports schools' sports meeting.

Middle school children of Sinpho turned out to warmly welcome Kyong Hwa and her fellow players presenting flowers on their return home from the provincial tournament.

In March of the next year Kyong Hwa, though short, fully played her part in women's football matches of the national sports meeting held in Pyongyang. Her provincial team, whose members were mainly from Sinpho team, beat its rivals from North Hwanghae and North Phyongan provinces and Kaesong City, and went on to the semifinals.

Coaches of reserve women's football teams of national sports clubs and football experts in the city gathered in the venue for the semifinals. They were going to select promising reserve women footballers. They included Kang Ryong Un, the senior coach of the reserve women's football team of the April 25 Sports Club, and Ro Jae Ho, the coach of a similar team of the Pyongyang

Sports Club. From the beginning of the semifinal match between the South Hamgyong Provincial team and the North Hamgyong Provincial team, the coaches were drawn to Ri Kum Suk, Kim Kyong Hwa and Ho Sun Hui.

The South Hamgyong Provincial team beat their rivals 3 to 1 thanks to Ri Kum Suk and Kim Kyong Hwa's good cooperation, and went on to the final. In the finals, however, they lost the match with the Pyongyang team. Nevertheless, it greatly impressed football experts and fans.

The individual movements of Ri Kum Suk, the tallest of the players, and Kim Kyong Hwa, the shortest, won the spectators' favour and attention. Kum Suk had a good sense of shooting and was excellent at taking a position for shooting. Experts paid attention to her also because they saw that she would develop into a master header. And Kyong Hwa drew their attention as she was good at judgment essential for an attack organizer and made them expect that she would develop into a mid- and long-distance shooter. Other coaches, however, shook their heads considering her too short.

But Kyong Hwa was beside herself with joy for her winning a silver medal for the first time at a national sports meeting.

Several days later Ro Jae Ho arrived at Sinpho Railway Station. After checking into the local juvenile sports school, Ro

began to acquaint himself with Kyong Hwa in all aspects.

One day he sent for her.

"Do you want to become a footballer, Kyong Hwa? Will you?" he asked.

"Yes, I do," she replied pluckily.

"Good! But if you fail, what would you do?" he asked again.

"I will try to the end," she insisted.

"But what if coaches refuse to accept you?" he questioned.

"I will do until there comes a coach taking me," she said.

Pleased with her resilient stand, he said, "Good! Tomorrow I'll measure your technical and physical preparedness. You know, seeing alone is not enough."

The following day, as he planned, he put forward indices for measurement of her technical and physical preparedness, and personally examined them.

Though short, the girl managed to carry out almost all that children of her age were expected to do. Of course she had some shortcomings.

The next day he had her do six-minute running, and she failed to run the relevant distance. He concluded that she lacked endurance. Though her instantaneous speed was good, her endurance was not long enough. He, however, judged that her overall technical and physical preparedness was admirable for her age, and that the problem of her endurance

could be solved through training. Now he decided the only thing left for him to do was to meet her parents.

The following evening he went to her home. He could see all that he wanted to—her grandmother, father and mother.

"Mr. Kim," he asked, "you and your wife are rather tall. I wonder why Kyong Hwa hasn't grown tall? Of course I expect that she will grow tall in years."

Kyong Hwa's father said, "My mother and I are also worried about the problem. My wife is 161cm tall, and I'm 170cm."

"I see. I expect Kyong Hwa will surely grow tall," the coach said hopefully. "Then I will take her with me this time."

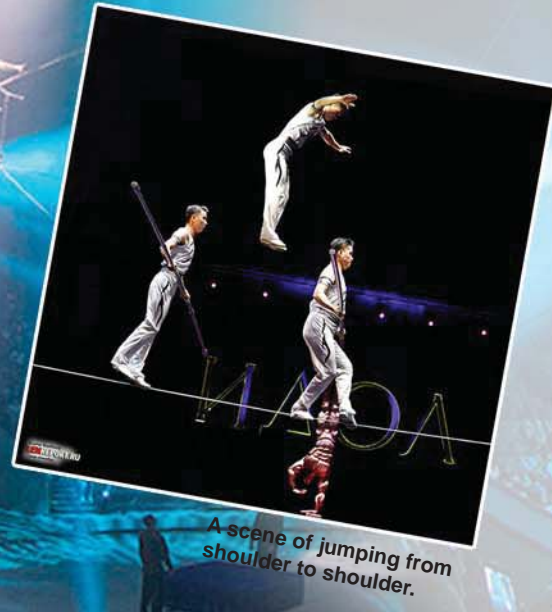
All the family members were beside themselves with joy to hear his words. They felt as if they were in a dream at the thought that Kyong Hwa was selected to go to Pyongyang. It really was a matter for congratulation to the family. Her two elder sisters held her hands congratulating her.

That night the girl could hardly get to sleep with great excitement and at the thought that she would go to Pyongyang she had wanted to very much.

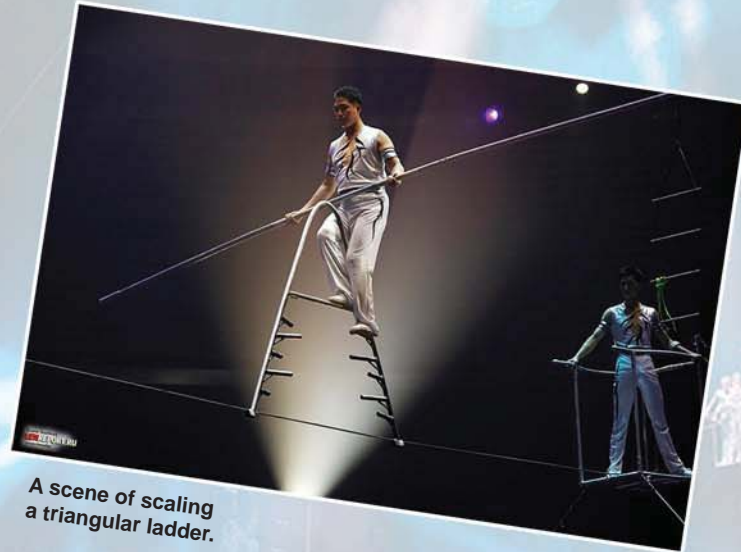
The following day, when the train to Pyongyang pulled into the railway station, she got on it. But thinking that she would miss her family members she became tearful when she said good-bye.

(To be continued)

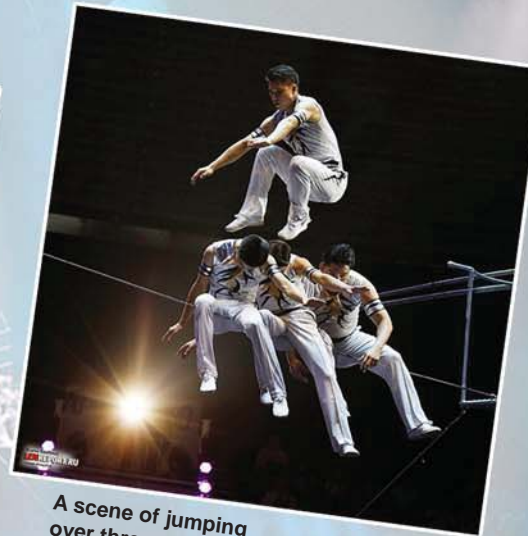
DPRK ACROBATICS ADD FAME TO THEIR COUNTRY



A scene of jumping from shoulder to shoulder.



A scene of scaling a triangular ladder.



A scene of jumping over three persons.



A scene of rope skipping.

“IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ONE acrobatic item is given three gold prizes at a time in the history of the Idol World Acrobatic Art Festival. The DPRK acrobats performed a fantastic miracle,” said Edgard Zapashny, general manager of the Moscow Bolshoi national circus of Russia.

The Idol World Acrobatic Art Festival is a famous acrobatic festival along with the Monte Carlo International Acrobatic Festival and the Wujiao International Acrobatic Festival.

At the Idol-2018 World Acrobatic Art Festival held in Russia the Korean physical stunt Tightrope Walking won the Idol gold prize, the audience evaluation gold prize and the media gold prize. Over 30 acts were presented in the festival, and many of them were those performed by scores of acrobats each. But the Tightrope Walking, performed by four acrobats, took all the gold prizes, the goal of over

130 acrobats from 13 countries, winning sweeping popularity. The act had already won the Gold Elephant Prize at the 7th Gold Elephant Prize International Circus Festival held in Spain in February last year. And in September it set an unprecedented record in the Idol World Acrobatic Art Festival, thus securing its status as a fantastic and perfect acrobatic act.

The act is done by young male acrobats who perform various hair-raising stunts on a tightrope six metres high without a safety net. The nine-minute performance consists of a series of such movements as backward somersault, jumping over three men, jumping from shoulder to shoulder and jumping over a triangular ladder, all captivating the audience.

The act has improved with higher degrees of difficulty than ten years ago when it was created. It

was created and directed by Ro Myong Bok, a former acrobat. He acted in Seesawing, Rope-playing, and Russian Bar and created Stunt Fliers. Now he is the trainer for the aforesaid act.

Rim Un Il, a team leader aged 28, performs in the act movements of high degrees of difficulty such as backward somersault, jumping over three men, jumping from shoulder to shoulder and rope skipping. His backward somersault and jumping over three men, which are his fortes, constitute the most exciting of the act.

Pak Yong Gwang, 20, is the youngest of the four. His father, too, was an acrobat. Pak received lectures from his father at the Pyongyang Circus School. It was six months ago that he was selected as a performer of the aforesaid act, and he honed his fortes in the months before performing in the act. He performs such movements as handstanding on

other’s shoulders, jumping over two men and standing on a chair put on a bar between the shoulders of two men before jumping down onto the bar from the chair. The last stunt is the climax of the act.

The four acrobats have been widely known as rope-walking aces through hundreds of rounds of performance at home. In the course of this they have created the backward somersault and jumping over three men in order to make the act more dramatic with higher degrees of difficulty. In the joint performance with other winners of the Idol festival they performed the thrilling stunts again to the great admiration of the audience.

Now the National Circus of the DPRK is receiving invitations for the physical stunt Tightrope Walking to different international acrobatic festivals.

Rim Sang Jun



Enlivened Exhibition



NOT LONG AGO I VISITED the Kumsangsan Cosmetics Exhibition House in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Welcoming me, Kim Song Ok, head of the house, said, "Cosmetics on display here are those with the trademark *Kum-*

gangsang produced and sold by the Korea Kumsangsan Joint Venture Co. that is carrying on the long traditions of the Nowana Joint Venture Co. and the Pomhyanggi Joint Venture Co." She went on to say that the number of the visitors is increas-

ing recently.

I decided to have a talk with some visitors.

A woman entered the house first. She was Ri Hyon Ju, 47, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 20, Wolhyang-dong, Moranbong District. When I told her that she was the first visitor to the exhibition house that day, she said, "We women always want to keep our complexions as bright as in our youth. Several years ago I obtained and used foreign cosmetics, but they gave rise to ill effects degrading my complexion and making me sick. Later I applied to my face Kaesong Koryo insam lotion, Kaesong Koryo insam milk cream

▶ and Kaesong Koryo insam whitening essence. Then the scar of my face caused by the ill effects disappeared, and wrinkles around my eyes gradually faded. Since then I have been attached to this exhibition house."

O Hye Song, a saleswoman there, explained: The cosmetics on display here are made by a biological reduction method using advanced science and technology and green technology, so they enhance the immunity of the human body, and especially prevent varieties of skin diseases. And referring to the aforesaid woman as a frequent visitor to the house, she said that such visitors were increasing day by day.

Kim Hye Suk, a woman, 38, living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 11, Ryonhwa-dong No. 2, Central District, said, "I frequent this exhibition house. It is for the sake of my husband as well. His complexion was not soft, and early in his forties spots began to dot his face. So I bought milk cream and lotion for him. Then his complexion began to improve remarkably. As I knew later, the lotion adjusts the pH balance of the skin, activates metabolism and softens the skin, and the milk cream makes the skin supple by moisturizing, nourishing and preventing the skin from wrinkling." Thus she became a frequent visitor to the house, she added and happily said her husband was waiting for the cosmetics that day too.

Now a man entered the house. He was Kim Jun Sik, 45, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit

No. 15, Jinhung-dong, Moranbong District. Several days later it would be his wife's birthday, he mentioned and said, "Since I was married I have given a souvenir to my wife on her birthday every year. What pleased her most were cosmetics. I know cosmetics are the best fancy items for women, and I buy cosmetics here in this exhibition house because of their reliable quality. It is said that the cosmetics contain the combination of extracts of rare natural plants from Mt Kumsang and Mt Myohyang, famous mountains of Korea, and biotechnical effective ingredients with the essence of the world famous Kaesong Koryo insam as the main ingredient. So the cosmetics activate the metabolism of the skin retarding its aging and strengthening its elasticity. And they whiten the skin, remove its wrinkles and moisturize it, thus helping keep the complexion fresh. They are widely known as functional cosmetics at home and abroad. So I buy a set of cosmetics for my wife on her birthday like this."

Then I dropped in at a room for dissemination of make-up techniques, where, I was told, women have the skin of their faces examined first. Ryu Yong Ae, a staff member, said, "If women make themselves up without any consideration, it might rather cause adverse effects. The skin of women is divided into unctuous, dry, normal, combined and hypersensitive ones. So women should know what kind of skin they have, and select and use cosmetics fit for their skin. We give the visitors education in the method of using cosmetics, thus helping them always keep their complexions fresh and beautiful, because the beauty of women enlivens all aspects of social life."

While seeing biological nanoselenium cosmetics and multi-functional cosmetics put on display there, I was convinced that the exhibition house would become the closest companion for Korean women in beautifying themselves as the flowers of the era.

Sim Chol Yong



Facial skin is examined.

Efforts are made to put cosmetics on proper display and give good service.



Lunar New Year's Day Customs in Korea



Jang Song Nam (right).

AKOREA TODAY REPORTER HAD AN interview with Dr. and Assoc. Professor Jang Song Nam, a section head of the Folklore Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences.

I would like to know when the lunar New Year's Day began to be celebrated in Korea.

Our people have long celebrated the day. According to the historical data the people of Koguryo (the first feudal state in Korea which existed from 277 BC to AD 668) enjoyed the day playing folk games such as stone-throwing. And in Paekje (a feudal state which existed from the late 1st century BC to 660) and Silla (a feudal state which existed from the early mid-1st century AD to 935) they held royal ceremonies on the lunar New Year's Day. This shows that our nation has celebrated the day from ancient times.

How did they celebrate the day?

As it is the first folk holiday after seeing the old year out and the New Year in full of hope, people paid more attention to its celebrations than other festivals to enjoy it splendidly. Women made new clothes for their family members for the day or kept their clothing clean and tidy. And they cleaned the inside and outside of their houses and prepared de-

licious foods on the eve of the day.

On the very day, people offered New Year greetings to deceased ancestors first before exchanging New Year greetings. Juniors made a bow to their seniors in their families in order of age, wishing them good health and luck. Then young people went to make a bow to seniors in their village, and their teachers. Old people wore holiday dress and gave simple gifts they had prepared to their grandchildren when the children made a bow to them.

Dishes were another feature of the day. Of the dishes *ttokkuk* (rice-cake soup) was a special and symbolic food on the day. It was prepared by steaming rice powder to make a long bar and chopping it into the size of coin before putting them in the meat soup to boil. From ancient times the soup was made with pheasant, but when pheasant was not available, chicken was used instead. So came the Korean proverb, "Use chicken instead of pheasant."

And people drank a glass of unheated liquor, and this kind of custom reflects diligence of our people who avoid excessive drinking and hurry up preparations for springtime farming.

Folk games made the atmosphere of the day more pleasant. The games included *yut* (four-stick game played by people regardless of age and sex, women's seesawing, and children's kite flying, sledging, pinwheel turning, etc.

The traditional customs of the lunar New Year's Day are still commonplace, I think.

Right. When the day comes nearer, people refurbish streets and villages, and put up celebrating slogans and make decorations in every corner of the street, livening up the atmosphere. On the day they visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state to pay tribute to them. And they also visit the statues of the President and the Chairman on Mansu Hill and in other places. Besides, they make calls to their seniors and teachers to offer New Year greetings to them, and enjoy the holiday while relishing traditional foods and playing folk games. And art performances and various music concerts take place on the day. □



The lunar New Year's Day is celebrated.





Fresh Vegetables in Winter



IT IS FEBRUARY NOW WHEN WINTER IS over and spring has come on this land softening the ground and bringing all things back to life.

Greengroceries in Pyongyang already supply fresh vegetables like spinach, bok choy and lettuce to its citizens. “The vegetables have already appeared. They are refreshing to look at,” people say with joy while buying the vegetables. Seeing them, I recalled the vast expanse of greenhouses in the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, which I had visited.

Renovated as a model modern rural village, the farm had a hall of culture, a sci-tech learning space, the Jangchon Health Complex, modern dwelling houses and an amusement ground and a park equipped with a volleyball court, a swimming pool, a roller rink and fish ponds—it was really as beautiful as a picture.

What especially attracted my eyes were various types of greenhouses. Seeing me counting them one by one, Labour Hero Kim Myong Yon, an expert in vegetable cultivation and the chairman of the man-

agement board of the farm, said with a smile, “Maybe you’ll take a long time counting all of them. They number 665. Having introduced five- or six-cropping a year, we produce as many as over 300 tons of vegetables per hectare from the greenhouses.”

The vegetables of different kinds are supplied to orphanages and baby homes, old people’s homes, hospitals and Pyongyang citizens, Kim added and then guided me into one of the greenhouses.

Though a chilly wind blew outside still under the snow, vegetables were growing in thick verdure in the greenhouse, and the farm workers were working while singing and laughing. Quite admirable was the fact that the plants were growing on walls and in the air as well as on the ground.

A girl said proudly, “By using the inside of the greenhouse in three dimensions, we are reaping a good harvest. For example, we plant cucumber and tomato on the ground, spinach between them, lettuce and celery on the shelves by the walls and strawberry, spring onion and garlic in the baskets hung in midair.”

▶ Then, together with her colleagues, she put something into a sprayer after diluting it with water. When I asked them about it out of curiosity, they said that it was a natural activator and that when it was sprayed on the plants, it helped them grow well by absorbing nitrogen from the air, and briefly explained how and when to use it.

They also said that they were learning advanced sci-tech knowledge regularly in their sci-tech learning space. So we went to the sci-tech learning space after looking round some other greenhouses. The place had a library, an e-reading room, a technical study room, a room for soil analysis and a room for harmful insect examination equipped with modern facilities.

In the e-reading room, young farm workers were reading new information—for example, global trend in greenhouse vegetable cultivation and effective use of space of greenhouse—sent from the Sci-Tech Complex, thus building the tower of knowledge.

▶ In the technical study room there were other young people having a heated argument about the

problems arising in manuring and cultivating vegetables in winter.

Yo Kyong Chol, head of the sci-tech learning space, said, “Our farm has hundreds of college graduates. They are now playing an important role in combining production with science and technology and making its management scientific and IT-based.”

Now I thought that the people would have a better diet thanks to their efforts.

Kim Myong Yon said, “In the future, too, we’ll put more efforts in the business management of the farm, for example, enhancing the intensive and scientific methods of vegetable production, actively introducing advanced science and technology, widely cultivating high-yield varieties of vegetables and training all the workers into experts in vegetable and crop cultivation, thus producing and supplying larger amounts of vegetables to the citizens.”

I saw trucks full of fresh vegetables from the farm leaving for the city.

Pak Thae Ho



Elderly Man Travels 2 500 Miles by Bicycle

ON THE MORNING OF July 1, 2015, an elderly man living in Neighbourhood Unit No. 48, Sungni-dong No.1, Ranganang District, Pyongyang, was leaving his apartment house on a bicycle seen off by his children and grandchildren. Throwing a smile of self-assurance to his wife, who wore a concerned air, and the children the elderly man set out on his journey, his figure gradually receding from view.

Mixing himself among other bicycle riders on their way to work he briskly peddled his bicycle, looking quite strained as he knew he had to make a round trip to Mt Paektu in northern Korea and back. It is 1 000 miles to the mountain and back, and moreover, he was 74 years old. He could enjoy the rest of his life under the care of his wife and together with his frolicsome grandchildren, but he embarked on the trip.

The elderly man, Kim Ho Il by name, was vice-director of the Hydro-meteorological Service before retiring on a pension in 2007. While spending his leisure time at home he, who had been

very busy with his work, could not help but feel lonesome. Sometimes he passed hours angling. But the sport was not fit for him to do. *An old saying goes that a man dies, his name remains,* he thought. *What else can I do now?* He could not put the thought out of his mind.

Then he decided to write long travel notes as he had wished to do since he had a study tour to Mt Paektu in his days at Kim Il Sung University. This was why he set out on the trip though many people tried to dissuade him doubting that he could travel the long distance in his advanced years.

At every place associated with the very spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners who fought in the dedicated struggle to win back the lost country in the first half of the 20th century he keenly felt anew that all the relevant historical facts should be eternally imprinted deep in the mind of the coming generations. And he regarded it as his own task to have it implemented.

He cycled ceaselessly in the

daytime, and in the evening put down on paper what he had seen and heard. But the road he had taken was not smooth. Sometimes he had to go up a steep mountain road and sometimes he had to go down a sharply bent downhill road. Besides, he had to cross a river flooded by a landslide. At these times he tenaciously overcame all the difficulties with the thought that he must not collapse on the road but continue the trip he had chosen to the end. And sometimes he had to repair his defective bicycle in an uninhabited region, lighting a fire himself.

Tiding over all those hardships he finally climbed up Mt Paektu (2 750 m), the sacred mountain of the nation. While seeing him pushing his bicycle up onto the top of the mountain against a strong wind blowing at over 15 metres per second college students on a study tour admired him for his persistence. And he was imperturbable on the height of 2 750 metres where even the young people panted. He had souvenir photos taken with the help of the study tour-

► ists at Lake Chon on the top of the mountain.

After taking photos they asked him how he could keep his good health even in his advanced age, and he replied that it was thanks to the public health system of the country which takes prophylactic measures for him before he gets sick, and that it was also attributable to spiritual strength.

At last he returned to Pyongyang 56 days after he left the city. But when he was about to start to write a travel book, he admitted that the data left much to be desired. So he set out on another trip by bicycle on June 21, 2017. Some people tried to dissuade him suggesting that he might write the book as he thought fit. He, however, felt impatient. *I should go as early as possible before getting older,* he thought. (Later he said that his confidence that the book he wrote would continue to be alive with the coming generations though he died invigorated him.)

At every place he met kind-

hearted people. This always encouraged him to continue with his trip. Once he was saved by people when he slipped on sphagna falling into a stream while enjoying the scenery of the Isonnam Falls in Mt Myohyang, a celebrated mountain of the country. And when he had a high fever, medical workers of a county people's hospital cured him sincerely. And remembering students in the Hongam village, who had said that they would bravely break through trials remembering the *bicycle grandpa*, he ran 60 km in the rain in five hours. In this way he cycled 1 500 miles in 60 days. After all he travelled 2 500 miles by bicycle during the two trips.

In the period he crossed 136 high passes and hills including Huchi Pass (1 325 m), Oun Pass (1 579 m), Ogasan Pass (1 119 m) and Jik Pass (1 059 m), and covered 12 provinces, and 139 cities and counties.

When meeting a reporter some time ago, he said, "I knew that man sheds tears when he

is happy or sad. But when I was over 70, I came to be aware that man also sheds tears when he is too tired."

His trouble was not in vain. The long travel notes he wrote reflects vividly the revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il Sung who liberated Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation and devoted all his life to the sake of the country, Chairman Kim Jong Il and other members of their revolutionary family of Mangyongdae. It also depicts the image of the country changing for the better day by day.

The elderly man deserves to spend the rest of his life in comfort, but it seems that he knows no satisfaction. He also told the reporter about a bicycle trip he planned to do this year. Actually he was collecting the relevant data, and making thorough preparations for the trip.

His hair turned grey, but he still has a youthful mind.

Yom Song Hui



A picture of Kim Ho Il taken on the top of Mt Paektu, and the road map to the mountain he drew.



Mt Kuwol



Surigae (eagle) Rock.

MT KUWOL IS ONE OF THE SIX celebrated mountains in Korea, the others being Mts Paektu, Myohyang, Kumgang, Chilbo and Jiri.

Located in the northwest of South Hwanghae Province, the mountain is made up of 99 high and low peaks, including Sahwang Peak (954 m), O Peak (859 m), Jugo Peak (823 m), Asa Peak (688 m) and Sam Peak (615 m). Formed with granite and granitite, it unfolds sceneries of complex and diversified shapes which are the results of long-standing weathering, erosion and water-caused cutting.

The name of Kuwol comes from the fact that its scenery is most beautiful in September (Korean phonetic sound of Kuwol) when it turns golden.

In the deep ravines of the mountain including Sansong, Obong, Ungye, Hwajang and Wonmyong there are waterfalls like Ryongyon and Samhyongje, where rainbows hang in wet fogs, and pools. From the ravines rise the Hani, Hanil, Namdae, Kuwol, Sanchon and other streams. In the Samsu Ravine up the Hani Stream that flows down the northern slope of the mountain there are pools called Puyon, Mayon and Yoyon. On the side of the mountain is Sokdam, a pond with the tale that it did not go dry even during a 7-year-long severe drought. And on its western slope are Madang, Kama and other pools. In the middle of the slope is a deep pond called Kyoyoyon.

As it is located in the northern part of central Korea, it has a relatively warm climate and a considerable precipitation. For such climatic conditions, the mountain area is a sanctuary of hundreds of species of plants including pine, pine-nut, oak, maple, walnut, camellia, persimmon and jujube trees and medicinal herbs like wild insam, astragaluses, forest asiabell and *Schizandra chinensis*.

There are also many kinds of animals like roe deer, boar and hare, and birds such as pheasant, oriole, migratory grosbeak and ringdove. The fauna and flora go well with the beauties of peaks and ravines, adding to the scenery of the mountain.

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

In the Sasonda district are found Ryongyon Falls which is over 15 metres in height, Pyongphung Rock, Sasonda which is a big cliff that is said to have been a haunt of four Heavenly creatures for their enjoyment, and pools of clean water formed by Jonggok Stream. In the district are also to be seen historical sites like those of Jonggok Temple, Koson Temple, Jangnim Temple, and the sites of a kiln used to make Koryo celadon and an iron works.

Mt Kuwol has a lot of historical remains and relics. Examples are Kuwolsan Fort, Yangsan Fort, Tangun Shrine, Woljong Temple, Phaeyop Temple, a five-storeyed pagoda at Wonjong Temple, a five-

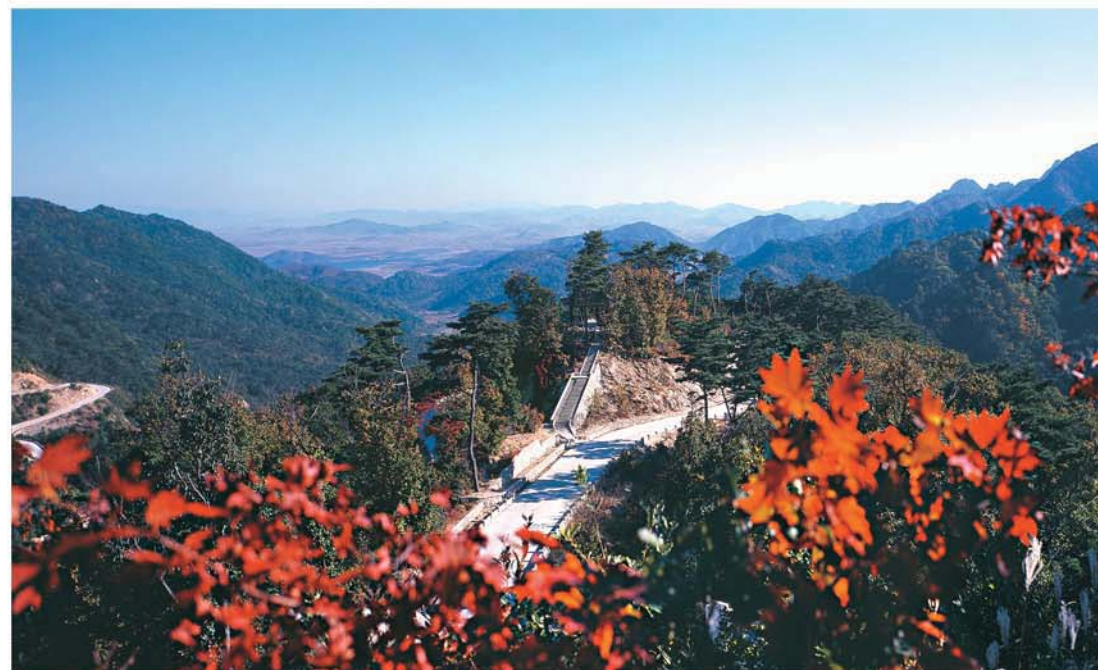
- ▶ storeyed pagoda in Hongmun-ri, a pagoda at Jangbul Temple, Monument to Phaeyop Temple, Monument to Woljong Temple, Monument to Jonggok Temple, and other mountain fortresses, pagodas, monuments and 88 stupas.

The natural celebrity is associated with a lot of legendary tales of Tangun, the founding father of Ancient Joseon, natural beauties, the patriotic struggle of the Korean people against foreign invaders, and beautiful manners and customs of the Koreans. A typical one of them, associated with the Kobuk Rock in Hanwol-ri, Anak County at the foot of Mt Kuwol, goes: Once upon a time the king of an undersea kingdom ordered a 3 000-year-old tortoise to go up to the human world to travel around the human world with Tangun on its back. At the moment Tangun was not on the throne yet. Wandering around the world, the tortoise arrived at Mt Kuwol in Korea which was a land of morning calm under the bright sun. There in the mountain Tangun trained himself to be king while the tortoise, attracted by the scenery of the mountain, remained there enjoying the natural beauty before turning into a rock.

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

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

Kim Un Jong



Susamthae Pass in autumn.

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (27)

Story of Sol Juk Hwa

THE STORY REFLECTS THE STRUGGLE of the Koryo people against foreign invasion in the 11th century.

In her childhood Sol Juk Hwa lost her father who fell in a battle against foreign aggressors, so she grew up under her mother's care. To take revenge of her father and defend her home village, she learned martial arts in a deep mountain for three years.

Then, one year, foreign aggressors invaded the country once again. Though having waited for the day, Sol hesitated to leave her home as her mother was seriously ill. Knowing this, her mother disappeared leaving a letter telling her to go out to the battlefield to take revenge of her father without fail.

Charged with her mother's wish, Sol Juk Hwa, dressed in man's clothes, went to see General Kang Kam Chan, general commander of the Koryo army. At first the general tried to send her back as she was too young. But impressed by her patriotic will he allowed her to enlist.

While fighting in the vanguard in the battle to defend the Kuju Fortress (The Koryo army's victory in the battle in which they annihilated almost all the 100 000-odd aggressors is recorded as Kang Kam Chan's sweeping victory over the aggressors at the Kuju Fortress in the history of Korea.), she fell. Only then did the Koryo troops know that Sol was a girl.

Remembering the girl who gave up her youth to defend the country, the Korean people handed down the story of her through generations. Her story is pride of the residents of Kusong, North Phyongan Province, in particular. This can be proved by the fact that many local names in the area are associated with her story. Mt Kulam in the locality is called Hyangno (incense burner) Peak. As a place that the girl used as a base, the mountain served as the place where incense was burnt in memory of her generation after generation. Hence the mountain was called Hyangno Peak. And the area has a village called Mayang-ri where there was a military horse training ground of the fortress in the period of Koryo. It is said that General Kang Kam Chan gave Sol a good horse trained there for the bravery she displayed in a battle against invaders.

The story of Sol Juk Hwa, which is adapted for lots of literary works and greatly impresses people, was registered on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Kim Chol Hyon

Japan's Old Crime of Sexual Slavery Revealed (1)

Organized Sexual Slave Hunting Starts in the 1920s

THE INTERNATIONAL community is indignant at the data on the atrocities of the Japanese imperialists who abducted and kidnapped lots of Korean women and forced them into sexual slavery for their aggressor army by mobilizing state mandate.

They, however, still do not have a clear idea about the Japanese crimes of sexual slavery. Typically, not a few people think the system of sexual slavery for the Japanese army existed from the 1930s to 1945, that is, from when the Japanese imperialists started the war for continental invasion to when they were defeated.

In fact, the Japanese began to take Korean women as sexual slaves in the 1920s. In 1918 Japan dispatched its troops to Siberia (for anti-revolutionary armed intervention there—from 1918 to 1922). During the period venereal diseases spread among the troops because of sexual irregularities. Then the Japanese imperialists were conscious that they needed to establish a system of sexual slavery in order to prevent decrease in combat strength caused by sexual diseases in a protracted aggression war, and began to put it into reality.

Jo Hui Sung, a senior fellow of the Institute of Japanese Studies, says that at that time

the Japanese authorities decided to establish such a system on the basis of the abnormal military theory that “the sexual desire of troops should be satisfied in order to preserve their combat strength.”

Thus, in the 1920s, “comfort stations” began to be established and operated in the Japanese army. This can be proved by the testimony of Ri Kyong Saeng, a woman who was taken as a sexual slave for Japanese troops in 1929. She says, “The Japanese say that they took Korean women as sexual slaves from after the Sino-Japanese war. But I have my own miserable experience, and I dare say it was from the 1920s.”

She also says, “I was born in Orang County, North Hamgyong Province. It was one August night in 1929 when I was 12. Guided by the village head Japanese police armed with swords and rifles showed up at the landlord's house where I was working as a hired hand. They burst into my room when I was sleeping, and took me by the collar and threw me in a truck. The truck immediately rushed away from the village. While staggering in the truck I noticed something entangled ahead of me. It was a bunch of teenage girls like me. They were also seized by force.... We were nine in all. Though living under one roof, we were banned from meeting one another. Each of us was subjected to sexual service for seven

or eight Japanese overseers and troops on ordinary days and for 15 or 20 on Sundays.”

She had a narrow escape from death. But she could not return home ashamed of her miserable past. Even after she got married she had to keep the truth from her husband.

Afterwards, however, she volunteered to take the witness stand to reveal the truth of the Japanese crimes and their immorality. Why did she do so? It was because the Japanese authorities shamelessly tried to shirk their responsibility while embellishing their history of crimes of sexual slavery. She had a deep-rooted rancor against the Japanese imperialists who had taken even teenage girls as sexual slaves. What was more annoying was that their descendants were behaving so shamelessly. This aroused her wrath and hatred.

Testifying in 1992 she announced that she decided to reveal her past with the thought that before her death she should satisfy her deep-rooted grudge against the Japanese by condemning the Japanese imperialists for their crimes of seizing and violating her in her youth and trampling upon all her rights as a human being.

Her testimony exposed the new historical fact that the Japanese imperialists began to force Korean women into sexual slavery in the 1920s, not the 1930s.

Rim Hye Gyong

National Dog of Phungsan

PHUNGSAN IS INDIGENOUS TO KOREA. The Korean nation has bred the dog for thousands of years. The home of the dog is the area of Kim Hyong Gwon County (the former Phungsan County) in Ryanggang Province. From of old the local people in the area of Kapsan and Phungso centering on the county widely used the dog for hunting. The area is 1 040 metres above sea level with the average annual temperature of -2°C and the average annual precipitation of 700 mm.

The dog is clever, good at hunting and adapted to high mountain regions in the country, so it is known as a specialty of Korea. The country registered Phungsan as a natural living monument, and designated Kwangdok-ri in Kim Hyong Gwon County as a natural living monument reserve.

The body of the dog is rather small but has a broad and developed chest fit for living on high mountains. And it is strong in resistance to cold and diseases, healthy in appetite and grows well in harsh conditions. It persistently fights an enemy to the last though the latter is a fierce beast of prey. It

faithfully follows its master and has a sharp judgment and concentration. With judgment on the basis of its sense and intellectual faculties the dog is able to return alone to its home even from a distance of scores or hundreds of kilometres.

It is nimble and, with thick and sturdy hind legs it runs well even in mountainous areas. It looks wild, and its standing posture is agile. Its head is big and its ears are relatively small. It always raises its head slightly as if it were sharply watchful. Its fur is white in the main or yellowish brown.

The male and the female are about 55 centimetres and about 53 centimetres tall, respectively. The male weighs 24 to 25 kilograms and 28 kilograms at maximum and the female 22 to 23 kilograms and about 27 kilograms at maximum. The female is in pup for 60 days, pups five to six at a birth and suckles them for 40 to 50 days.

The pure breed of the dog is kept thanks to the country's policy of nature preservation. The country designated it as the national dog.

Sim Yong Jin



