



KOREA TODAY

4

Juche 103
(2014)

DPRK Citizens

THE KOREANS ARE IMMENSELY attached to the people's power that protects and guarantees their happy life. Proud of their being master of the country, they are making devoted efforts to consolidate and develop their power. An eloquent proof is the elections to the 13th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK that took place on March 9 this year.

Pushing the revolution and construction dynamically along the road they chose for them-



selfs, they keenly felt that socialism is the one and only guarantee for the life and destiny of the working masses and their eternal future. In recent years they got a better idea of how valuable their people-centric socialism is while enjoying their supreme national leader Kim Jong Un's loving care. True successor to President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's idea and cause, he boosted the dignity of the people as genuine master of the country. Give absolute priority to the interest of the people! Work heart and soul for the welfare of the people! Everything for the people and everything by relying on them! These are the principles of his administration of politics for the people. Under his governance centred on the service for the people the Koreans have got full understanding of what kind of person he is. Their attachment to the DPRK government has grown

stronger with the establishment of a large number of structures—edifices of the era of the Workers' Party of Korea—including the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the Munsu Water Park, the Mirim Riding Club, the Masikryong Ski Resort and the Okryu Children's Hospital, all built under the initiative of the national leader.

Their heart-felt thanks found another expression recently when they put him forward as candidate to the 13th Supreme People's Assembly. On the occasion the national leader sent an open letter to all the voters of the country, in which he said, "Remembering the deep trust and expectations of the entire electorate, I will remain faithful to the last to the ideology and cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and devote my all to working for my fellow countrymen and expediting the day of prosperity when they would live without envying ▶

Yes votes are cast unanimously at Sub-constituency No. 28 of Wonhwa Constituency No. 187.



▶ others, enjoying all the benefits of the world.”

The entire electorate of Paektusan Constituency No. 111 for the election of deputies to the 13th Supreme People's Assembly voted for Kim Jong Un with an absolute belief that he would bring all their dreams and ideals into reality.

The national leader voted for Kim Kwang Hyok, commander of Unit 855 of the Korean People's Army, candidate to the SPA, at the polling station of Subconstituency No. 43 of Constituency No. 105. Senior Party and state officials also participated in the election at different polls together with local voters. Earlier, meetings had been held nationwide for nomination of candidates to the 13th SPA and deliberation of their credentials. They had chosen those people who were working with patriotism for the accomplishment of the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of building a socialist thriving nation—service personnel, industrial and farm workers, intellectuals and officials. The masses of the people voted for the candidates whom they had chosen by themselves and who are their close acquaintances.

One of the deputies to the SPA, Kim Song Hui, workteam leader of the Panmunjom Cooperative Farm in Kaesong, says, “I'll do my bit for the granary of the nation, keeping in mind the expectation of my voters in the Military Demarcation Line district who elected me, daughter of an ordinary farm worker, to the SPA. I'll make positive contribution to the consolidation of our benevolent government.”

The recent election was the first of its kind in the new century of the Juche era after the nation acclaimed Kim Jong Un as their top leader of the revolution. Through the election the Koreans renewed their allegiance to their socialist system that guarantees their destiny and future under Kim Jong Un's leadership. Their determination became further adamant to make patriotic devotions to build a socialist thriving nation without fail.

An Song Duk

The People With Confidence in Future

TODAY (MARCH 9) THE Korean people elect depu-



ties to the Supreme People's Assembly. The people in gala at the polling stations look very happy. Words fail me to express the happiness of the voters. The fine weather and the good atmosphere make me feel pleasant. I believe the voters take part in the election with a confidence that their country will surely emerge as an economic giant. I read it on their bright faces. It is my fourth visit to Korea and I think I can't forget my experience today throughout my life.

*Sergey Ruslamovich
Tikhomirov, press
secretary of the
president of the
Mostovic Science and
Production Complex, Russia*

I Found Korea Bright

THIS IS MY SECOND TIME here in Pyongyang. It has



undergone changes since my first visit. At that time the construction of Changjon Street was in full swing. Three years have passed and there are many changes here. Seeing the election of deputies to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly today I feel many things. Most impressive is the beautifully decorated polling station. Everyone is very happy, dancing with a bright face. Through those scenes I know what the happiness of the Korean people is. Clean and fine environment and romantic atmosphere give me deep impression. I am very lucky to be here, to see conspicuous scenes of the election.

*Nick Walker, student at
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, USA*

KOREA TODAY

Monthly Journal (694)

Printed in English, Russian
and Chinese



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Front Cover: Schoolchildren enjoy themselves at the Masikryong Ski Resort

Photo from KCNA



Back Cover: A view of the Masikryong Ski Resort

Photo from KCNA

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578 000 km

SOME 578 000 KM IS THE SAME WITH the total distance of 301 round trips from Mt. Paektu in the northern area of Korea to Mt. Halla in the southernmost tip of the country. It is the same as travelling round the earth 14 times and a half. The above-mentioned figure is the distance travelled by President Kim Il Sung for on-the-spot guidance all his life since the immediate days after national liberation (August 15, 1945).

The President's field guidance was consistent with his politics for the sake of the people and with his idea of "The people are my God." One July day in 1994 at the close of his life he said at a conference of senior economic officials, "I have so far relied on the

people, struggled for the people and lived among the people. My life is that of devotion to my country and nation and that of struggle together with the people."

Regarding it as his greatest happiness to find himself among the people, he visited wherever the people lived—whether it was urban or rural, whether it was a secluded mountain hamlet or a small seaside village—to look after them in and out of work. When he was at factories, he asked of their living conditions before acquainting himself with the state of production, and when he was at a rural village, he understood the cash income of the peasants first of all. There are many anecdotes about his humble manner of life: he used to relish his meal of boiled ▶





President Kim Il Sung gives on-site guidance to the Hwasan Cooperative Farm in Chongdan County in September 1979.

► millet, admonishing that the government officials should have millet when the people had millet; once he had a boiled head of green maize for his lunch in a train after looking round farms; he took the trouble to plod in a tideland to work out a plan to develop it, saying he did not hesitate to do whatever was for the sake of the people. Keeping such a frame of mind, he, dropping in a shop in a county, asked earnestly that the commercial managers should not simply engross themselves in selling but take the customers' attitude of mind. When he was working out a plan of cloth production he made detailed calculations in his pocketbook about the amount each of the citizens of the country would get.

A typical story goes: one January day in 1958 the national leader, after giving field guidance to several units in North Hwanghae Province, arrived at an agricultural cooperative in South Hwanghae Province. He looked at new cozy dwellings for a good while. Then he dropped in a house. Feeling the floor of the living room, he kindly asked if it had good heating, and even measured the thickness of the wall. He was glad that peasants now had good housing. And to the accompanying officials' surprise he said he was going to stay that night in the village. Actually he, staying in a house whose master had not moved in yet, had a late supper and conversed with officials of the county and the cooperative deep into the night. The following morning he told officials that he knew he liked the new house while spending a night there, that the house had a good layout and a nice heating with warm air inside, that he understood the peasants would be satisfied with the houses, and that it was necessary to build such modern houses extensively. Now the officials knew why the leader had stayed a night in the village.

The President's devoted efforts for the happy life of the people are also to be learned at the Saegil Cooperative Farm in Sinchon County. One day in September 1979 he visited the farm. Looking over an expansive field he was satisfied with the rich rice yield. Studying some ears of rice hanging heavily from each plant with his body stooped, he asked how much yield they were expecting per hectare, how many grains each ear had, and other actual questions. Earlier the field had been almost a forlorn land

as the yield was very poor. (The soil was quite sandy.) The President, while visiting the farm several times, had taught specific methods to do farming in consonance with the local features. Now the farm introduced suitable fertilizing methods established through experiments, which brought about such a successful harvest.

You can also trace the President's field guidance in South Hamgyong Province, too. The area has a lot of industrial enterprises like the February 8 Vinalon Complex and the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, farms and fishing stations that are related with the standard of living of the people. The President, paying deep attention to the economic affairs of the province, gave on-site guidance to many of the local companies and farms. Visiting mines he encouraged the miners to perform innovative feats and looked after their living conditions. Calling at farms he taught—by drawing some patterns on the ground with a pebble on the roadside—how to plant corn. And he made sure that eggs of duck of a new breed were bought from a foreign country and sent to a local duck plant by air in order to make a new history of poultry farming of the nation.

On August 31, 1993 the President visited the Yonbaek Plain in South Hwanghae Province. Earlier in July 1953 he inspected the plain immediately after the war. Sorry that the farming in the area lagged behind those in other areas, he taught advanced farming methods and how to improve irrigation to suit the local natural and geographical conditions. The long-standing deep care for the life of the local people brought him to the plain again despite his age of more than 80. That day he called a consultation concerning agriculture in the province. "Only when we do good farming and solve the food problem, will we be able to solve other problems successfully," he remarked and promised to come to see them again the next year if they got a rich harvest. Nobody knew it was his last instruction to the people in the Yonbaek Plain.

"Go among the people!" this was his motto he had cherished since he was in his teens. True to his motto he was always among the people and dedicated his all to their welfare.

Sim Yong Jin

Eternal Care

I AM FAR OVER SEVENTY, BUT I STILL WORK full of youth as general manageress of a light industry factory, and it's a great pride of mine.

My father, Pak Chang Bom, left me when I was young. Labelled as an "insidious element" by the Japanese imperialists when they occupied our country militarily, he ran away to North Manchuria to avoid the Japanese persecution, and we could in no way find his whereabouts. Some time later, I lost my mother as well. Subjected to intolerable humiliation, I lamented my father who had left me alone in the cruel world.

The wretched life of mine came to an end only when General Kim Il Sung achieved the historic cause of national liberation in August 1945. I grew up in the world where the working people were masters of the country and had a worthwhile life, working at a garment factory as I wished. (I knew I had something good about me in the tailoring.)

One day I was told a surprising story that my father—I had thought he had met the end of his sorrowful life in a forlorn exotic land—was a patriot who had rendered a contribution to the historic cause of national liberation. Now I knew that he had joined the anti-Japanese armed struggle with ardent admiration for General Kim Il Sung and died a heroic death as a loyal fighter of his. President Kim Il Sung recalled in his reminiscences, "Choe Il had been in touch with Pak Chang Bom, our political worker who had been conducting activities relying on the temporary secret base on Mt. Kom, Rokya-ri, Kyonghung County."

Chairman Kim Jong Il put forward my father as an anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr and made sure he was buried at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery. When I saw my father in the stone picture in the tombstone, whose image had almost blurred in my memory, I shed tears of happiness calling him proudly from the bottom of my heart for the first time in my life.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il took good care of me like my own father so that I kept the revolutionary blood as befitting a bereaved daughter of a revolutionary fighter. When I got some achievements in my job they ensured that I was invited to a number of important national conferences and gave me the honour of standing with them for souvenir photographs. Thanks to their care I developed as general manageress of a factory—those who saw me as a miserable girl in my childhood could hardly believe it. In an effort to repay for the great care I fulfilled my factory's national economic plan for scores of years with the mind of doing my father's share as well, and for this the country glorified me with the title of Labour Hero, the top



Pak Yong Chun (*centre*).

honour for the DPRK citizens.

I thought hard how to repay for the country's concern. When the nation was having a hard time called the time of "Arduous March", I made two suits of clothes with all my care and sincerity by building on my skills and experience I had got all my life while working in the clothing field. And I presented them to Chairman Kim Jong Il on the occasion of the February holiday of 1996. I never expected to have another happy event in my family, though. Chairman Kim Jong Il, on receiving the suits, wrote, "Please convey my thanks to her and ask her to give the suits to her children as my present. February 7, 1996."

The day we were told of the story, my family were all filled with gratitude for his kindheartedness and could not go to sleep.

The day our nation bid the last farewell to Chairman Kim Jong Il in 2011, I renewed my determination in front of the two suits that I would support our supreme national leader Kim Jong Un faithfully true to the instructions of the Chairman.

I went to many places in the country, giving support to the struggle to bring our supreme leader's plans and intentions into reality. Whenever younger people asked me to take it easy I told them that I had become master of the country and the times thanks to President Kim Il Sung scores of years before and that I would never allow myself to be an onlooker of the times—and I did mean it.

Whenever I visit my father at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery I swear before my father's stone image, "Father, I am happy we are all under the same care that looked after you."

*Pak Yong Chun,
general manageress of the
Taedonggang Unha Garment Factory*

Higher and Faster

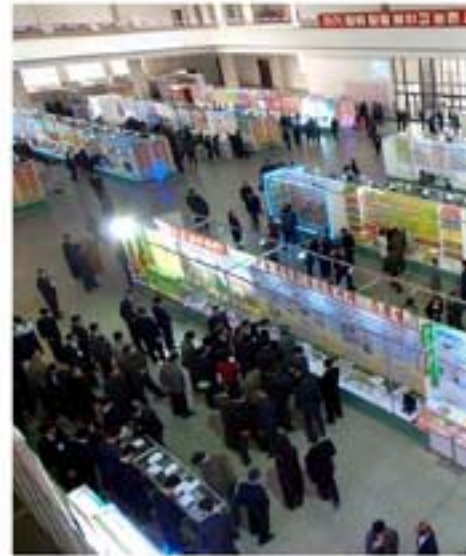
THE ENTHUSIASM FOR scientific and technological research is rising higher in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which is forcefully pushing the building of an economic giant. Great efforts are now being channelled into construction of scientific research centres and the

putting of all projects on the scientific and technical basis. Last year modern scientific research institutes were established including the Central Mushroom Research Institute and the Branch Academy of Turf Studies under the State Academy of Sciences, and measures were taken

to introduce a scientific and technological dissemination system. Excellent apartments, such as the Kim Il Sung University lecturers' apartments and those on the Unha Scientists Street, were given to scientists and technicians for free; state banquets were arranged for and state citations



The National Conference of Scientists and Technicians held in November 2013.



The venue of the 28th national festival of science and technology.



► were given to scientists and technicians, which are clear signs of the state's great concern for the field of science and technology and scientists and technicians.

The State Academy of Sciences, Kim Il Sung University and other scientific research centres and many establishments achieved a lot in their sci-tech researches, giving a great stimulus to the economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards. The Nano



The Unha Scientists Street.



Technology Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences developed an insulation varnish which can substitute foreign imports used in making electric insulation appliances, and nano polishing material which can ensure high speed and quality in the polishing of different kinds of products. The researchers of the Central Experiment and Analysis Laboratory made it possible to turn to domestic materials by developing standard materials for precise analysis of different kinds of metals and ores and a powder for a solution with standard pH, which is one of the basic materials used in the chemical, light industry and medical sectors. And they made a successful research into a project of using domestic things to make incombustible inorganic materials for protection of buildings and other objects from fire. The researchers of the Geological Research Institute established a scientific system for the assessment of geological condition of anthracite fields in Korea, thus laying a foundation for improving the scientific accuracy in coal prospecting and enhancing the functionality of management and control of production at coal mines.

A scientist in his thirties working at Kim Il Sung University advanced a theory on a new kind of elementary particle related with the origin of the space, which earned recognition of the interna-

tional academic circle; the university produced a lot of scientific research achievements last year; in particular, the lecturers and researchers of the Faculty of Mathematics elevated the basic theory of algebra onto a higher level. The Haeju Kim Je Won University of Agriculture made a successful research into an organic activator which accelerates the growth of roots of crops. The medical field also produced lots of scientific ideas and discoveries, including the cancer-fighting taxane injection and its manufacturing method, the method of microscope-based examination of medical sensitiveness and the tolerance of TB, and a compound preparation for treatment of troubled peripheral nerves that comes from diabetes. These achievements make it possible to improve the vitality of the popular health policy of the country. In the field of telecommunications the production of fibre-optic cables was innovated, the telecommunications network was expanded farther, capacities of automatic exchange, information transmission and information communication have much improved, the project of building centres of mobile telecommunications was completed. Innumerable are the achievements of the scientists and technicians and scientific research centres.

Factories and enterprises are pushing an enthusiastic campaign of technical innovation relying on ►

The Central Mushroom Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences.





Researchers of the Branch Academy of Turf Studies under the State Academy of Sciences develop a new kind of grass.

► the masses of the employees. Valuable ideas of technical innovation are produced and brought into practice in good time. The Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex made a breakthrough in production and maintenance of railway engines by manufacturing a device to remove wedges from small gears and bearings in engines, which had been an urgent problem for the enterprise. The Chollima Steel Complex laid a process of producing small hard rolls based on the feeding of Juche steel while the Chonnaeri Cement Factory introduced a load power control system which automatically controls the consumption of power. The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex solved the problem of filtering waves in the signalling system to suit the working program and actual condition of furnaces of the complex, and the Suncheon Chemical Complex developed a method of using domestic materials, instead of foreign ones, to produce the catalyst needed for vinalon production. The Hamhung Youth Electric Appliances Factory developed CNC substrates and operation programs for machine tools and AC contactors and made active use of ball screws of its own make, and in this way the factory

raised the rate of usage of Korean products.

The Pyongyang Youth's Exhibition of Sci-tech Achievements held in April last year in celebration of the Day of the Sun had on display a lot of valuable sci-tech achievements—numbering more than 500 items—presented by scientists, technicians, health workers and other people, including a CNC plasma cutter, a program for estimation of the density of mononucleocyte cells in the marrow of a hepatic cirrhosis patient, and the research into treatment of hepatic cirrhosis by way of injecting mononucleocyte of the marrow through differential culture. The 40th national exhibition of farm machines in September last year and the 24th national program contest and exhibition in November last year were presented with many things which would render much service to the nation's economic construction and the improvement of the people's living standards, thus giving a strong impetus to the Korean people's struggle for the building of a thriving socialist country.

The National Conference of Scientists and Technicians held in Pyongyang in November last year dealt with the matter of solving

immediate sci-tech problems for economic construction and improvement of the people's standard of living while focusing on research projects of cutting-edge science and technology and basic scientific sector. It also put stress on the need to put greater investment into sci-tech projects, put forward scientists and technicians for honourable places, provide them with sufficient conditions for their work and life, and many other matters for development of science and technology.

In his New Year Address this year supreme leader Kim Jong Un said that a climate of attaching importance to science and technology should prevail across society, and that all officials and working people should diligently learn modern science and technology upholding the slogan of making all the people well versed in science and technology. At present the Korean scientists and technicians are working hard to open a shortcut to the building of a knowledge-based economy as pioneers in the building of a thriving nation by running faster and flying higher towards the cutting-edge science and technology.

Kim Yong Sun

Riding the Fleet Steed

KIM JONG UN, FIRST Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited a daily necessities factory in October last year. Going round several workshops, he inquired in detail into the actual conditions of production, and set forth concrete ways of renovating the factory to raise decisively the quality and quantity of products.

Stating that the existing solid foundation of the country's light industry is a "fleet steed," he told the factory officials that if they managed the steed well, they would gain the peak of an economic power at a breath. To be a good rider of the steed, it is vital to accelerate the modernization and scientific operation of light industry, and so he pays such deep attention to the matter.

In July 2012, Kim Jong Un gave field guidance to the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory. Looking round its workshops, he surveyed their technical equipment and production results at length. Then he gave instructions to increase production in line with the factory's updated equipment and high capacity, and to make its production processes automatic and unmanned with its up-to-date facilities.

Kim Jong Un, who regards modernization and scientific operation as the key to the development of light industry, attended the National Conference of Light Industry in March last year and stressed the need to develop light industry by means of science and technology and other issues—modernization of production processes in light industry factories, construction of many consumer goods factories equipped with latest technology, and elevation of scientific standards in goods production, quality lift, equipment maintenance and business operation in keeping with the modern trend of development of light industry.

When Kim Jong Un visited the Ryongmun Distillery in May last year, he made a round of the production processes and gave instructions to make the packing process automatic and unmanned at a high level. In June he inspected the Pyongyang Condiment Factory where the overall production processes were computerized, and told its executives to step up modernization by their own efforts and technology and increase the proportion of home-made equipment. When he gave on-the-spot

guidance to various economic sectors in Changsong County, he set forth concrete tasks and ways to modernize the local industry factories by accelerating technical reconstruction and develop the economy in conformity with their specific conditions by making good use of mountains in mountainous regions and the sea in the coastal areas.

His wise leadership is bringing about brilliant results in the improvement of the people's living standards and the building of an economic power. The Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory has applied cutting-edge technology in production and developed a special-brand liquor, and the Sonhung Foodstuff Factory has turned into a foodstuff complex producing a choice variety of victuals by virtue of science and technology. The Suyangsan Unha Clothing Factory, a mere local outfit, has now renovated itself into an enterprise capable of producing any type of clothes as they choose.

All this shows his teaching that the good rider of the fleet steed will gain the peak of the economic power at a breath is being turned into reality in Korea today. □

Thanks to the National Leader

WHEN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea successfully launched the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into space, national leader Kim Jong Un left Pyongyang for the far-off launching site. Arriving at the destination, he gave thumbs up to the scientists and technicians there with a bright smile, sending a warm greeting. Then he had a photo session with them. Then, feeling somewhat sorry as if he had failed to do something due for them, he

gave them thanks on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and kindly invited them all to Pyongyang.

The scientists and technicians were more than thankful, for they knew who had been most engrossed in the work of launching a satellite. In order to make a success of the launch of an artificial earth satellite the national leader had given them great courage and trust, asking them not to feel disappointed at the failure but make greater

efforts, and took health and safety measures for all the members of the team engaged in the project. He was so kind as to send deluxe cosmetics to women scientists. His concern for the scientists was unbounded. Nevertheless, he attributed all the success to the efforts of the scientists and technicians. It was none other than the national leader who deserved great thanks first of all—this was the unanimous idea of all the people present on the occasion. □

Youthful Doctor



AMONG THE PROUD Doctors of Science at Kim Il Sung University is Kang Jin U in his thirties. Kang spent his secondary school days at Changdok School, which is closely associated with the activities of President Kim Il Sung in his childhood. The school is an authoritative school with a long history of talent training. Kang felt proud of his entrance into the school. His academic attainments were distinguished and his friendly attitude earned him favour from his teachers and schoolmates. He had a particular liking for physics. Kang was such a kind of man who liked physical exercise. But he was engrossed in physics experiment after school once he entered the physics laboratory. Equipped with all kinds of conditions for experiment the laboratory became the cradle of his fancy about science. What happened to him was failures rather than success, but his anxiety for knowledge got rather much intenser than cooler. Once he declared that he would dis-

cover a secret of physics without fail, and delved into the physics world more assiduously. Thanks to his efforts at secondary school he entered the Kim Il Sung University physics faculty with good results at entrance examinations.

His learning at the university coincided with the time of “Arduous March” of the country. The care of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the state for the students grew warmer, though. Perceiving it keenly he was burning with fiercer enthusiasm for academic inquiry. His class set a high goal of becoming inventors during their university days. In the effort to attain their goal Kang was the standard bearer. Meanwhile he made unusual efforts to grasp the trend of the world of physics. As part of his effort he pushed the theoretical studies of cubane—a material that emits incomparably greater energy than trinitrotoluene—which was a concern of the academic world at the moment.

Professor Kim Nam Hyok, who used to be Kang’s guide in paper writing, says, “Kang had something great in view, and he had fury enthusiasm.”

In 1999 his class became a class of inventors and his paper “Studies on cubane molecule and its structure and vibration” brought him the first academic degree in 2001. He was also awarded Kim Il Sung Youth Honour Prize which is a national citation for those young people who perform distinguished service for the country.

After going through a post-graduate course at the university he became a lecturer, for he wanted to complete his study on the theory of the field of elementary particles which he had had in mind since his postgraduate course. Sensing his unusual intellect, the German DAD foundation arranged his entrance to Munich University, where he had greater access to new priority tasks of physics. In 2005–2009 he, by working with fury zeal, produced a model of his own and completed its theoretical system, thus presenting a perfect paper. His idea was acknowledged by the academic world as it disclosed mystery problems significantly in the field of space studies, and a doctorate of Munich University was given to him. Even in the days of tight schedules of research he always missed his country. When he returned home, he said to his old teacher Kim Nam Hyok as one of the greetings, “I thought I had your backing always like I had done as your student.”

Kang was given DPRK doctorate in 2012. Recently the country gave him a flat in the Kim Il Sung University lecturers’ apartments and let him speak proudly to the national conference of scientists and technicians.

As a full-fledged member of the International Centre of Theoretical Physics, he is now filled with a determination to make a valuable scientific discovery for the sake of his country and mankind.

Ri Kum Chol

Pioneers

ONE OF THESE DAYS I met some lecturers and researchers of the Geology Faculty of Kim Il Sung University, who told how they had developed underground brine in Korea.

One late spring day in 2009 when department chief Kim Ryong Hung of the Geology Faculty was staying in a seaside village on the West Sea of Korea coast, guiding students in their practice, he saw some workers of the local saltern worried about salt production as raindrops began to fall. One of them said the salt production was the same as crop farming in that it depended on the weather. Then he wished they had something like the underground water used in farming in the dry season.

Kim explained to them that there is something like what he mentioned, that it is underground brine whose development makes it possible to cut the area and period of salt production considerably while increasing the amount of production and to continue production even in the rainy season, that the water is quite useful as it contains a lot of expensive metallic and nonmetallic

minerals and that Korea has no such water to their utter regret. The workers who had been engrossed in his explanation were all disappointed.

Even after Kim returned home he was obsessed with the images of the workers. Now he chose to adopt it as his research task to develop underground brine deposits in his country.

The profound analysis of the historical evolution of the West Sea of Korea he made confirmed his belief that his country is likely to have such deposits. Building on the analysis he presented a relevant scientific theory. Soon a research team was formed headed by Kim, and they immediately launched into an investigation to prove the theory. There were numerous difficulties in their way, but they pushed ahead, afire with the determination to support their country by successful development of natural resources.

In April 2010 they successfully completed their theoretical studies on the typical distribution and components of the underground brine in the Quarternary period in the coastal region and its general usages. Elated with the suc-

cess they expanded their investigation to wider areas. In a year from 2009 to 2010 alone the area of their coverage of investigation and geological survey was thousands of hectares.

The Salt Industry Guidance Bureau and the salt works under the bureau and different prospecting corps also gave them unstinted support and help. From May 2010 the researchers carried out hundreds of rounds of special geological studies at many salt works such as the Kwisong, Namyang, Yonbaek and Kwangmyongsong salterns, and finally located the most promising place of drilling. Meanwhile, they also achieved a lot of scientific and technological stuff, including the development of a new physical prospecting appliance which makes it possible to speed up prospecting and an efficient drilling technique that substitutes priceless materials.

In August 2010 the team finally extracted the first brine in a salt works in the west coast and then succeeded in producing salt with its use. With this a sure prospect was opened for Korea to produce salt by means of underground brine. It also put an end to the academic argument on whether there is any underground brine in the country and put another item in the list of natural resources of the nation.

Leaving for another salt works, Kim Ryong Hung said, "Even the workers who have worked at this salt works since its opening call us pioneers. And we often think of the title with pride. It tells us what we scientists have to do and what kind of target we have to set and hit."

Chae Kwang Myong



Developers of Underground Information System

RECENTLY THE RESEARCHERS of the Mining Environment Protection Research Section of the Environment Engineering Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences developed a 3D underground information system and introduced it in production, thus improving the scientific accuracy and speed of mining process and ventilation system designing. The new information system ensures prompt operation, so it is favourite with miners. It also needs no other programs in designing and is open to 3D application when incorporated with supplementary programs for management of natural resources and production environment in consonance with special conditions. It also ensures faster operation in designing at coal mines than those currently

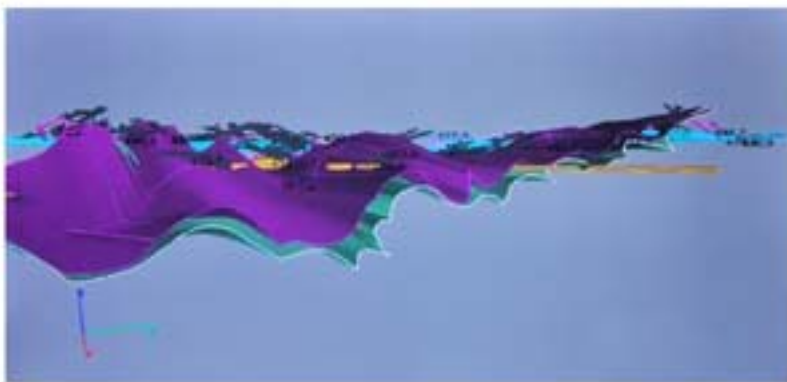
countries there are built numerical mines drawing public attention. The numerical mine means the one whose designing of coal production process and management are based on information of all data related with resource management, production control and environment management and their dynamic 3D image display. To build such mines you have to get the support of information technology.”

It was a few years ago that the researchers began to make studies on modernization of the ventilation system. At the moment researches into making programs of supporting appraisal of in-pit environment and atmospheric environment were going on. Their painstaking efforts and inquiry brought about the completion of programs that help evaluate the



Song Hwang Dok, chief of the Mining Environment Protection Research Section.

information system in use was not in accordance with the realities, causing quite an inconvenience. Now they decided to develop a new underground information system which is convenient in practice and helpful to making 3D designing of the ventilation and mining processes. Basing themselves on the achievements they had already gained in application of the earlier programs, they solved problems one by one arising in designing the framework of tunnels and process in cooperation with the local technicians and workers. Thus they made it possible to design mining process and ventilation system by considering the tunnel frame and coal vein by the level, object and tunnel and complete the ground plan and 3D plan faster than they had done earlier. The 3D underground information system developed by painstaking efforts has been introduced to many units including the Pukchang and Tokchon area coal mining complexes to further modernize production processes.



Tunnel conditions are examined on a 3D basis.

used. For this the new program is enjoying high reputation among the users.

Professor Song Hwang Dok, section chief, says, “In many

environment in pits at coal mines and the overall environment at the mine. While applying the programs into practice the researchers knew that the geographical

Kim Hyon Ju

Relying on Science and Technology

THE MANAGERS AND WORKERS OF THE Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex are focusing on technical innovation while introducing advanced working methods in order to meet the ever growing demand for coal. General manager Jo Chol Ho and other managers of the mine adopted a development strategy and plan for immediate production of coal on the principle of radically improving the method of guiding the scientific and technical development and concentrating on the link of critical importance.

They first buckled down to the job of furnishing the general control office as required by the developing realities. All the technicians were required to produce at least one technical innovation idea, and the most reasonable ones were chosen through collective critiques and discussions and introduced into practice. With the establishment of the general control office, it became possible to afford a comprehensive control of the pits ranging from production to transport. It also provided proper measures to prevent accidents in pits.

The technical staff put efforts into prevention of environmental pollution and other matters for improvement of the working conditions of the miners as well. From long ago the miners used to travel to the coal cutting faces by electric cars, which caused great noises and jerks. The managers and technicians decided to remove the cars so as to secure the safety and convenience of the workers. Earlier the travel was based on the use of 300 hp winches. If cable cars were set it would provide the workers with a safer travel into and out of the pits while saving a lot of

electric power. Now a relevant project was carried out, removing noises in the pits and making it possible to save a good amount of rails and sleepers—bringing a double profit. Meanwhile, existing conveyor belts were modernized, resulting in removal of a number of motors and speed reducers and economizing on electricity extensively.

The managers and technicians of the mine adopted the 3D underground information system developed by the State Academy of Sciences. Made easy to understand and operate, the program attracted their interest. When some mines were reluctant to introduce the program, engrossed in immedi-



ate production alone, the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine turned out positively to introduce the new program, believing that science and technology means increased production. The program is easy to apply and fast in operation; it can also work out a plan of the coal bed section and automatically search out a rational distribution of cutting tunnels in a 3D condition. The introduction of the program brought them a huge profit. In the past tunnel designing needed a good deal of labour, but now the program finishes the task in a short span of time.

The mine is producing far more coal than it did in the past, while providing the workers with much better working conditions. Production plans are fulfilled without fail.

Song Yong Sok



Kim Jong Il and CNC (5)

Never slow down

ONE FEBRUARY DAY in 2006 Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defence Commission visited a machine-building factory again.

“Dear Chairman, Ryonha machines have increased in number,” a manager of the factory said. He pointed to a plan showing the increased area of the sections with CNC machines, explaining that one section was laid following his field guidance in December 2001 and the other after his field guidance in July 2003.

Kim Jong Il cast glances by turns to the section full of Ryonha machines and the one of conventional machines. The contrast had been made by the Chairman purposefully. After a while, looking round the workshop again, he pointed to the site where he was standing and said, “Now this is the target place to be filled with.” A bright smile was always on his face. Then he looked at the two sections by turns and mentioned that the two were completely different—like two different countries. Hundreds of workers had been there doing manual jobs some years before, but now a few workers stood in front of control panels to input programs.

The Chairman asked the factory’s managers—who were renewing their determination—to keep their high spirit and not to slow down their pace.

Size and position of the brand “Ryonha”

An official told Kim Jong Il, “Dear Chairman, as you instructed last time, we’ve made a bigger nameplate of the Ryonha machines and fixed it a little upward. And we’ve made the nameplate of the manufacturer a little smaller and fixed it slightly downward.” The Chairman looked at the brand carefully. He had already said that the brand should be designed elegantly and gracefully in accordance with people’s aesthetic and emotional sentiment and instructed in detail about the brand’s size and position.

“As you instructed, we moved the brand’s position downward,” the official said.

“Do you like it now?” The Chairman asked.

“Sure. And as you instructed, we made the trademark slightly smaller than the machine’s nameplate.”

“That’s good,” said the Chairman, and saw the newly fixed trademark “Ryonha” with

satisfaction. In this way the Ryonha CNC machines came to be excellent both inside and outside.

Calculation is technique

One day Kim Jong Il, studying a calculation plan for the CNC project, asked if it was examined by “Ryonha” machine comrades. By “Ryonha” machine comrades he meant the group who developed and manufactured the “Ryonha” machines. Hearing the general manager say that he had made the calculation with them, the Chairman said that was OK if “Ryonha” had calculated it.

The other day when he was looking round the production process which had been put on CNC level, the Chairman said, “I know you had not enough money. How could you carry out a modernization plan in such a large scale?”

A senior official answered, “The ‘Ryonha’ machine comrades are very scrupulous in calculation. So most of the facilities were not imported, but developed by the ‘Ryonha’ itself. The Ryonha people are very good at calculating substantial profit and pursuing the interest.” Then the Chairman remarked that good calculation was also a technique. □

Continuing the Songun Revolutionary Leadership

THE KOREAN PEOPLE acclaimed Kim Jong Un as Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army on December 30, 2011. Then he inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the KPA as his first on-the-spot guidance in 2012. Referring to the event the American AP news agency reported to the following effect: After the passing of Chairman Kim Jong Il the new national leader Kim Jong Un inspected the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division. He sent smiling greetings to the soldiers and gave them warm applause. He drew some officers up to him and told them something close up to their ears. Despite the tight schedule of military inspection, he looked round the beds of soldiers, and went so far as to turn a water tap to see if they had enough supply of water. His visit to the tank division purports to send a manifest message that he will adhere to Songun politics of Chairman Kim Jong Il. Meanwhile, it hints at his mode of work.

Kim Jong Un has continued with his Songun-based revolutionary leadership, defending his country, revolution and socialism.

He published his immortal classic work titled *Let Us Add Eternal Brilliance to Comrade Kim Jong Il's Great Idea and Achievements of the Songun Revolution*, with which he manifested his will confidently that he would invariably carry forward the achievements President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il had gained over their Songun-based revolutionary

leadership. By materializing Kim Jong Il's revolutionary idea and Songun idea, he advanced the new line of developing the two fronts simultaneously.

He has strengthened the army into ranks with adamant ideology and faith and impregnable fighting capability. Over the past two years the country was often driven into an acute and rigorous situation due to outside forces' threats. Coping with the situation he, keeping an optimistic view to the inevitability of the victory of his nation's idea and cause, implanted a strong sense of responsibility in the mind of the soldiers for defence of the country. When visiting military units, he first acquainted himself with how the ideological information work was going and instructed that the task of arming the soldiers with strong idea and faith should be the priority in the Party's political work. Providing on-the-spot guidance to KPA units' exercises including rehearsals of tactical attacks combined with real firing, flying drills, paratroopers' landing exercises and artillery firing drills, he told that it was necessary to steadily study and complete fighting methods to suit modern warfare while putting efforts into modernizing weapons and equipment continuously. He often visited frontline posts including the Jangaedo Defending Unit and the Hero Mudo Defending Unit that are in the hottest spots in the southernmost tip of the country, perfecting operations plans for victory. Once he convened an emergency operations meeting on the KPA Strategic Rocket Force's

performance of its task for strike and gave his final ratification of the strike plan.

The Supreme Commander looked after the KPA soldiers with absolute trust and care, regarding them as his revolutionary comrades who would go the road of revolution with him to the end. Visiting military units he earnestly asked officers to take good care of the rank and file like their elder brothers and sisters, befitting their true comrades. He went wherever there were his soldiers even when they were a thousand and one miles away. And he did risk his own life on his way. When meeting ordinary soldiers he shared a kinship feeling with them, without any sign of aloofness. Remembering the first birthday of a son of an ordinary officer, he gave a gift. Once he stood soldiers beside him one by one for souvenir photos. True to his principle that nothing is more important than the soldiers' needs, he saw that measures were taken to give them regular supply of meat and fish and had modern fishing boats built and sent. Seeing piles of frozen fish in a fishing station of a KPA unit, he was more than pleased and then made sure that a conference of model workers in the fishing sector of the Korean People's Army was held, which was the first ever event in the history of the army.

The Korean people are convinced that only victory and glory are in store for them in the future of Songun Korea as they are led by Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un.

Chae Hui Won

New Era of Construction Opens

RECENTLY IN THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea a number of structures have sprouted for the people's happy and civilized life. Take some examples: the modern Mirim Riding Club was built in suburban Pyongyang in a little over seven months, equipped with a knowledge dissemination room, a rehabilitation house, a veterinary hospital and a breeding research institute, occupying a total of 627 000 square metres; the Munsu Water Park was completed in a short span of nine months as a complex of outdoor and indoor wading pools and a

gym in an area of 109 000 square metres; the Unha Scientists Street came into existence in seven months which consists of dwelling apartments housing more than 1 000 families, public buildings, children's parks and welfare service facilities. All the structures are of high artistic and formative value.

The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, which was newly built and opened in July last year, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, is an edifice that complies well with its mission. Occupying a

total area of 93 000 square metres, it is made up of the main building, the Taejon Liberation Operations Hall and the open-air edification ground, and all of them go well with one another. Centring on the edification ground in front of the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War, there are the exhibition ground of merited weapons, the exhibition ground of the enemy's weapons captured, and subthematic sculptures; the edification ground has a good landscape, whose elegance is elevated by the multifarious foundations in the middle of the ground. The ►

The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum.





► channel and bridge between the main building of the museum and the Taejon Liberation Operations Hall are also of original shape. In the central hall of the museum there solemnly stands a colour statue of Kim Il Sung in marshal's uniform acknowledging salutes at the parade held in celebration of the war victory; the architectural elements as a whole including the ceiling and staircase of the central hall decorated with a shining model of the Generalissimo Star in its centre, are respectfully arranged so that the visitors could easily know the achievements of Kim Il Sung who vanquished the US imperialists that had been bragging their being the "mightiest in the world". Pillars, walls, ceilings and all other inner spaces and elements of architecture are of superb formative and artistic value while assuming a grandiose tendency. The outer walls of the main building are hung with large mosaics, relief decoration boards and group sculptures in numbers.

The Mirim Riding Club is characteristic of the good combination of horses and natural beauty; the Masikryong Ski Resort features a nice association of snow and refreshing beauty; and water parks have a harmony of water and modern aesthetic senses. Like this, each of the structures has unique architectural appearance.

All structures go up on the principle of meeting the people's demands and interest as best as possible. The Okryu Children's Hospital, decorated with more than 1 700 artworks, is in good compliance with the psychological properties of the children; moreover, it is fully equipped with teaching conditions, so children can have both treatment and education free of charge.

The Kim Il Sung University lecturers' apart- ►



The Munsu Water Park.

► ments that were completed in October last year have more than 200 square metres of floor space for each flat comprising a parlour and a study in addition to private rooms for parents, man and wife, and children. The flats are furnished with all kinds of furniture and TV sets and even plates and cutlery for guests. On the 16th and 29th floors of the 44-storeyed apartment and on the 13th and 26th floors of the 36-storeyed apartment there are set lounges which have lawn, potted flowers, playing facilities and stone chairs. The ground floors have laundry and other service facilities and a small park is to be found around. Lecturers of Kim Il Sung University moved into the apartments for free and are now living a happy and civilized life.

The maximum speed of construction and accomplishment of the need to comply with the Juche character, popular character, ideological and aesthetic

standards and the formative and artistic value are attributable to the energetic guidance of Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea. He elucidated matters of principle to be implemented in the construction field including the principle of giving priority to convenience and aesthetic requirements. In particular, he sent a historic letter titled *Let Us Usher in a Great Golden Age of Construction by Thoroughly Applying the Party's Juche-Oriented Idea of Architecture* to the participants in the grand short course of officials in the construction sector in December last year. Visiting construction sites uninterruptedly he made sure that the projects were pushed at a lightning speed and in a 3D manner and completed in a best possible level and at the highest possible level of quality. He inspected the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum construction site 18 times and gave advices on a hun-

dred and scores of times. He screened the formative plan of the ►



► Munsu Water Park 113 times. He went to see the construction site of the Mirim Riding Club many times, giving wise guidance to the project until it was completed, sometimes advising the builders to decorate the outer walls with timber so that they are friendly with nature, lay good turf and dirt tracks and set stepping platforms along the riding tracks for the convenience of getting on horseback.

The Masikryong Ski Resort, which was finished in a little over one year occupying more than 1 400 hectares, is also closely associated with the energetic guidance of the national leader. He proposed to build a ski resort in the primeval forests in a mountain area centring on Masik Pass so that people could have physical training by skiing to their heart's content and enjoy the great scene of sunrise and other natural scenery. Then he organized a powerful force of builders and leading officials. Inspecting the construction site several times,

he trustfully appealed to the soldier builders to create the "Masikryong Speed" and gave detailed instructions on how to complete all the structures and buildings to suit the local features. When he was looking round the resort on its completion in December last year he confirmed the safety of the cable car by riding it personally. Thanks to his specific guidance the ski resort was developed into an A-class winter sports centre equipped with all facilities necessary for sport, tourism and recreation, featuring ten ski runs, a hotel that goes well with the mountain scenery, skiing services and lodgings, a number of cable car lines and snow cannons.

The Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery at the foot of the beautiful Mt. Sokbak in Pyongyang, was also completed marvellously—from the layout of tombs and representation of the tombstones to the style of the inscriptions on the tombstones—under Kim Jong Un's special

guidance.

His intention is to erect structures at the highest possible level in the shortest possible period so that the people will be provided with the happiest and most civilized life as soon as possible. In his 2014 New Year Address he stated that the sectors of agriculture, construction and science and technology should hold the torch of innovations in the van and that the construction field should set up world-class structures and build many other structures that could contribute to improving the people's living conditions, and thus usher in a new heyday of construction. The Korean people have turned out as one to bring his intention into reality. They are developing the capital city of Pyongyang more magnificently and wonderfully while improving the appearances of provinces, cities and counties in accordance with their local features.

Sim Yong Jin

The Mirim Riding Club.



Spearhead of Building of Socialist Civilized Nation

ANOTHER HEYDAY HAS started in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The gigantic campaign is spearheaded by the Pyongyang University of Architecture. The institution has developed into an able staff of creation and a reliable centre of architect training while making a great contribution to erection of edifices representative of the era across the country for over 60 years since it was established on October 1, 1953 in the debris of the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953).

Staff of Able Architects

The university is famous for its staff of authoritative and experienced architects. The country entrusted designs of important projects to the university and highly commended them when they completed designs and plans of formation and models successfully. To be worthy of such a trust the teachers and researchers of the university have dedicated all their patriotic enthusiasm and creative efforts year after year. Some typical designs and plans they produced are the plans of the Grand People's Study House, the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Central Youth Hall; plans for restoration of national architectural heritage such as the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong, the Ryongthong Temple in Kaesong, and the Kwangbop Temple and South Gate in Mt. Taesong; and urban plans and greenery plans. In recent years they produced designs and plans for structures worth national treasure such as the Pyongyang Folk Park and the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery, making a tangible contribution to the construction of



monumental edifices. Meanwhile, they solved scientific and technical problems arising in the construction field, including those related to the fixing of stone slabs, the development of the core wire of the rod used in welding killed steel, the development of a system for designing acoustic arrangement in the auditorium, and the dealing with temperature stresses and cracks in Ryongnim Dam. They also successfully pioneered

new fields of construction science. Jon Hyong Su, section chief of the architectural science research institute, received a WIPO award for best inventors for his method of 3D-based fixing of stone slabs on round faces. Meanwhile the university developed different kinds of waterproof materials, ornamental heat-insulating materials, water-reducing materials, hardening accelerators, flash-setting agents, anti-freezing ma- ▶



► materials, and different kinds of cleaning materials like those used in cleaning glass, tiles and granite, and tile-fixing materials. Those materials are produced at a number of building material factories, and they are helpful in ensuring the quality and speed of construction.

The university has laid a comprehensive architectural information centre and a distance learning centre which are serviceable in creating educational conditions and environment for pedagogical and academic guidance to construction-related institutes of learning in provinces.

In accordance with the present realities when a new heyday is opening in the field of construction, the university is also providing designs of a large number of projects. Master plans and detail designs for developing some districts into cultural cities that will meet the global standards are being completed. Studies are made energetically to increase the rate of 5D-based designing, introduce into architecture Korean-style green architecture, life architecture, intellectual architecture, flexible architecture and numerical city construction; their efforts are also going into the work of completing a rational method of dry construction, using domestic

materials in making final building materials, and putting the process of building materials production on a modern and scientific basis.

Competent Persons Trained

The Architectural College is the backbone of the university. The officials of the college make sure that all the lecturers enhance the quality of professional instruction and train the students as able architectural talent. Improving the teaching content continuously and introducing proper methods of instruction to suit the properties of professional education—this is one of the major links in the chain of education maintained by the officials. The college puts emphasis on attaining four main items of qualification during their stay at college—technical sight of architecture, artistic eyes, social and cultural view and formative architectural knowledge. It steadily improves the teaching content by incorporating innovative achievements attained in the nation's architectural field. The environmental physics of architecture, architectural acoustics, designing of architectural acoustics, planning of the indoor space in architecture and many other subjects have reached a high level in the content of instruction. Mean-

while, the teachers have put efforts into improvement of instruction methods of designing, while boosting the efficiency of the instruction of designing by bringing the designing content nearer to the reality by way of operations of joint meeting of departments, presentation of teaching skills and similar methods. As a result of the improvement of the professional instruction, many students won diplomas and medals at international students' symposiums of scientific ideas and world students' architectural festivals. Students and graduates take an active part in working out formative plans and designs of structures to be erected across the country, and in the course of this a large number of promising designers and architects cut figures.

Supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the university on November 26, 2013, when he made a trustful statement that the university is the spearhead of the building of a socialist civilized nation.

The lecturers and researchers of the university are now redoubling their efforts to produce excellent formative plans and designs to be worthy of the great trust of the national leader.

Sim Yon Ok



I Owe My New Life Not to Heaven

IN THE AFTERNOON OF June 7 last year a half-dead girl soldier was rushed to the Songyo District People's Hospital. She had fallen down unexpectedly in the discharge of her duty. She was Jong Ok Hyang, 21 years old, diagnosed as pyemia.

An emergency consultation was held at the hospital and a potent treatment team was formed, with Chief Surgeon Song Jong Du as its head, including Vice Chief Surgeon Han Ung Ho and other doctors and nurses. They discussed how to treat her and reached a conclusion that the point was to find the pus basin and drain it. After careful preparations, she was operated on. The operation took two hours. But her condition did not improve and she remained unconscious. Operations were performed over and over again along with medicinal and physical therapies.

Doctor in charge Ryu Il and nurse Im Ryon Hui devoted themselves heart and soul to the care of the sick. Ryu Il says, "At that time the patient was in a very serious state, so we spent ten days by her bedside to remove the poison and restore her senses. It took her ten days to come round." Two months later the patient's life index began to re-

turn to normal. But she still felt an acute pain and her appetite failed. Doctor Ryu Il decided it was necessary to stimulate her appetite for quick recovery, and prepared such nutritious food as carp soup and peach extract for the patient, and the nurse spent every night at her bedside singing songs and telling tales to amuse her.

For her recovery all the team members did their best, and the cook, Ri Son Hui, displayed her culinary skills to please her palate. Laughing voices floated out of her ward which was crowded with visitors who were as kind as her own father, mother and sisters. Almost every day they came to inquire after her conditions, making donations and offering whatever help they could. Sur-

rounded by the warm care of the medical team and people from all around, Ok Hyang got better every day and finally recovered her health in some 110 days. She left the hospital in mid-October last year and returned to her post of national defence.

People said that her life was given back by Heaven, but leaving the hospital, she said, "It is not Heaven that restored life to me. I was more dead than alive when I was taken to the hospital. But now I have recovered my health to tread on the ground again as you see. I owe my new life to the doctors and nurses and all who have attended to me with devotion like my parents and sisters and to our benevolent socialist system."

Sim Hyon Jin



Move Heaven and Earth

THE 2013 MACAO International Marathon Race took place in Macao, China in December last year. It featured Kim Mi Gyong from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who won the gold medal in the women's marathon.

Mi Gyong was born into an ordinary worker's family in Kangryong County, South Hwanghae Province. As she was a little girl full of dreams, her kindergarten teacher used to ask her to become a scientist seeing her sitting at desk calmly and reading assiduously. Her parents also sought her future somewhere far from the athletic world as they knew she was a silent and reticent character.

One day just before she entered primary school, Mi Gyong began to run after her mother who was going to work by bicycle. Although her mother offered the back seat, the little girl continued to run stubbornly, saying she wanted to have a race with her mother. Such a sight was often seen when she was going to primary school. This was soon noticed by Ri Ju Il, instructor of the Kangryong County Juvenile Sports School. He found unusual strength, patience and marvellous fitness in the girl and told himself that she would make a good

marathoner in the future. This was a momentum for Mi Gyong to enter the world of marathon at the age of nine at the school. Soon she distinguished herself at national contests including the national games of juvenile sports school students.

Mi Gyong moved to the Ministry of Light Industry Sports Team in 2003. But it took her nearly nine years to be qualified for launch into the international arena because her record showed little improvement despite her efforts. Though she was a girl of a humble and industrious nature, she found it difficult to stand her own mental vacillation. It was the words "Move heaven and earth" her mother had written in the first page of her training record book—when she left for the sports team—that gave her sustained encouragement. Even when others went to bed after the day's training, she entered the training ground silently and did physical exercises talking to the stars in the night sky. When her friends asked her to have rest for the next day's task, she said, "How could I improve my record if I had as much rest as others?" Her clothes were wet with perspiration.

She made her debut in the international arena by attending the 2012 IAAF-25th Mangyong-



dae Prize Marathon Race, when she breasted the finish tape against the anticipation of experts. Her win came again in the next round of the race.

Many of the experts and fans at the Macao race admired her greatly, saying that it was surprising that Kim Mi Gyong from the DPRK won the marathon race which had been ruled by African runners and that her image in the race was quite attractive.

Feeling little satisfied with her win at the international race, Mi Gyong has been engaged in training herself as hard as ever—like when she set out on the road of marathon. When she finds herself in extreme difficulties in training, the words come from her mouth, "Move heaven and earth."

Song Kum Chol

Aerial Stunt Performers

“I THINK THE KOREAN aerial stunts have never been so wonderful as they are in the current festival. All the jury have given the top mark to the Korean performance, and it is quite natural.” This is a quotation from what the president of the Chinese Association of Acrobats and concurrently head of the jury of the China Wujiao International Circus Festival said at the 14th Wujiao International Circus Festival, which took place from late October to early November last year in Shijiazhuang, capital city of Hebei Province, China, participated in by performers

from 18 countries including the DPRK, China, Russia, the US, France, Germany and Cuba. The Koreans’ programme titled “Let’s Fly Higher” won the Golden Lion award. Introduced below are those performers who made distinguished service for the win.

Flying Girl

Kim Chung Hyo, nicknamed Flying Girl, was born the eldest daughter of an ordinary office worker’s family. When she was 9, she was selected as a reserve acrobat for her smart figure and pretty countenance and her unusual kinetic senses. After entering the Pyongyang Circus School she learned basic acrobatic movements like standing on hands,

somersault and balancing on the bar. When she was chosen as a reserve performer of aerial stunt after a few years, some people were dubious of her ability because she was still short of flexibility in physique. But her instructor was sure she, a clever and tenacious character, would be able to develop into a nice acrobat by outgrowing her weak points without difficulty. As expected, Chung Hyo was stubbornly strenuous and diligent in attaining due strength, speed, agility and flexibility, and thus became a master of stunts in her teens and made a debut in the arena. Later she participated in a large number of performances at home and abroad including those in France, Spain and the Netherlands, when she ▶



第14届中国吴桥国际
The 14th China Wujiao International

► monopolized the spectators' admiration for her immaculate aerial movements like three backward somersaults in the air and flying a long distance from the swing.

On the second day of the 14th Wuqiao International Circus Festival she got hurt unexpectedly and was believed she could not perform difficult movements. At the critical moment she flung herself into the air enduring pains with her willpower—and successfully. The spectators raised a roar of cheers and applause for the courageous Korean acrobat.

Recollecting the day director Kim Song Il says, “When her performance was over all the jury members stood up and gave her enthusiastic applause. It is unusual for the jury to clap.”

Pyon Chol Ung, newcomer

Pyon Chol Ung was one of the main performers of “Let’s Fly

Higher” at the 14th Wuqiao International Circus Festival last year. When he carried out difficult acts like catching after four backward somersaults, two backward somersaults along with two twists, and three backward somersaults, the spectators breathed the same air with him.

Pyon was born into a worker’s family in Kumsong-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. He had unusual kinetic senses from his childhood. Kim Jong Nam who trained him when he entered the Pyongyang Circus School, says, “Pyon had keen senses of kinetics, had precise senses of grasping the situation, and had a high sense of responsibility for his role.”

Pyon was able to perform two somersaults in his teens, and his ability brought him the appraisal of a promising performer at a joint performance in Spain. Later he worked heart and soul to accom-

plish the feat of catching after four backward somersaults. For this he was given the nickname of “Untiring Man” and “Thoroughgoing Man”. When he performed difficult acts at the Wuqiao international circus festival in cooperation with Kim Chung Hyo, the spectators gave him unstinted applause, and even the jury could hardly repress their excitement.

The jury members gave a unanimous comment that the festival gained a greater fame with the Korean circus, that Korea got supremacy in aerial acts and that the supremacy in aerial performance would remain in the grip of the Koreans for ever.

Sim Chol Yong



杂技艺术节
al Circus Festival

Computer Game Houses Filled With Enjoyment



THE GREAT PUBLIC resort of the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground has computer game houses. They were opened last year on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the victory (July 27, 1953) in the Fatherland Liberation War. The facilities offer scores of e-games like hunting, cycling, motorcycle race, tank warfare, snowboarding, firing down from the helicopter, shooting in the jungle, boating race and horse riding. In there people sit in front of the game facilities to become pilots, drivers and horse riders enjoying the pleasant feelings of dashing in the sky and on the ground and hunting ferocious beasts in tropical primeval forests.

The tank warfare is popular with the young people who like to do adventurous things. The ▶



► shooting in the primeval forests gives you quite a strain with the screen and you have critical moments shooting insects in the jungle; the hunting game is a favourite with the general public, especially the elderly folk, as it gives a clear recoil effect and arouses a pleasant sense of mystery. The senior people, who pride themselves on their achievements

in their youth, can hardly repress their pleasure whenever they hit the targets.

Teenagers are usually fond of the martial arts game section where they have to win by means of their strength and wisdom in a thrilling atmosphere. The snowboarding game is attractive to little children and women as it engulfs them with the feeling of sliding down the ski run covered with white snow.

“Along with the enthusiasm for roller-skating, skiing and riding, my house is a great haunt of people,” said senior worker of the house Pak Song Hui.

The amusement in there is unlimited. Those at the boating game feel as if they were cheerfully speed-

ing leaving gigantic surfs behind. The cycling and motor race section is crowded with children as it is equipped with facilities that accord well with their psychology.

The workers of the house provide the customers with more than good service. According to Kim Jong Hyok, a worker there, the houses are open even at night, so people visit the place in numbers after work. Bus service is given to all direction in the city while catering establishments are well established for the visitors' conveniences. The amusement establishment attracts many overseas Koreans and foreigners as well, who find the fees surprisingly low for the investment made. Then, the guides tell them about the country's policy of putting the people's welfare before economic profit.

Kim Il Ryong



Masikryong Ski Resort

THE MASIKRYONG SKI RESORT WAS opened in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in December last year. Initiated by Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK, the project was completed in a little over a year.

Consisting of ten ski runs, it can afford training to all people, ranging from beginners to masters. Some of the runs have cable cars. As some are illuminated at night, you can enjoy skiing and snowboarding even after the night falls. The nocturnal sight in the mountains is a great fun to the visitors.

Masik Pass, standing more than 1 360 m above sea level, is a wonderful winter holiday resort as it has a good climate, many sunny days in particular, and is covered with forests of needle-leaved trees. The ski resort is neither high nor low, has ideal

maximum descents and is organically combined with service facilities—this is a unanimous opinion of the experts.

Skiing down the run here and there like an arrow is a great sight. In the skiing ground are found a skiing equipment service centre and snowmobiles working for tourists. The resort also has a sliding ground, a snow playground, and a skating ground as well, affording a merry atmosphere to children, elderly folks and women.

The Masikryong Hotel is friendly with nature and gives you a true sense of living in mountains. Two underground floors are occupied by a swimming pool, a sauna, a beauty salon, a coffee shop, a billiards room, a karaoke hall, a massage room, a children's playground and other amusement and service centres. ▶



► Foreign visitors also call it a convenient and marvellous hotel. The nine-storeyed hotel's central hall has a clock telling the times of Pyongyang, Moscow, London and Beijing. Around the hotel stands a large electronic display which gives information on the local temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind and other weather conditions of the locality.

Last January Pyongyang-resident foreign diplomats, representatives of international organizations and military attaches had a good time at the resort together with their families. The army attaché of the Chinese Embassy said that he was feeling quite well at the resort and that as an A-class ski resort in the world the Masikryong Ski Resort is an epitome of the Korean cultural properties and the world's features.

Kim Chol Ung





Promising Cooks

THE 4TH NATIONAL Student's cooking contest was held in November last year in Pyongyang. The contest was divided into several categories—creating dishes, compulsory dishes, local dishes and technical dishes, etc. Senior students of the catering faculty of the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce obtained excellent results.

A demobbed student

Ri Thae Song was a soldier of the Korean People's Army before he entered the university. He received the Special Technique Award in the contest for his nice *Sinsollo*, a symbol of Korean cuisine.

Asked of the secret of success, he said, "There's an important motive that made me interested in cooking deeply. When Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected People's Army units, he called at their mess halls first. Whenever I saw him understand the quality of dishes and pay deep attention to the soldiers' living condition, I thought how I could bring pleasure to him by making better dishes."

After military service, he entered the Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce. With unusual desire for learning, he exerted himself to build a high tower of knowledge in himself and combine his knowledge with reality by way of on-the-spot training and technical trials. As a result he presented *Sinsollo*, which is representative of Korean dishes though it requires much labour in cooking process, to the recent contest.

Even a single one

Ri Sun Jong won the Special Award in the local dishes category of the contest for her highly nutritious grilled eel. Her good point is to combine a single one with reality. There's a story how she won the Special Award by the grilled eel.

During her vacation, she went to see her grandmother in a provincial town. At that time Sun Jong often had a hacking cough. Worrying about her health, her grandmother boiled some fruits with sugar for her. Drinking the sweet decoction, she asked her grandmother what it was. The

grandmother told that it was *Omija* tea which has five kinds of tastes and is a health drink. Suddenly Sun Jong had an idea of using *Omija* for her cooking and her grandmother positively supported her idea. Soon she returned home and buckled down. Thus she succeeded in making *Omija* juice for grilled eel under the guidance of her practical instructor.

In the contest all the members of the jury were of the same opinion that her grilled eel was good for health improvement.

A student of carved dishes

One of the most attractive dishes in the contest was carved dishes. Kim Kwang Jin can make dishes of any shape and form with any vegetable in a moment. According to his parents, Kim made various toys of clay in his childhood, so he was expected to be a sculptor. Now he has become a sculptor-cook.

He presented a smart work to the recent contest. It left a deep impression on the mind of the people, bringing him a Special Award in the carved dish category.

* * *

Some other students in the catering faculty were given special honours for their excellent dishes including Pyongyang *raengmyon* (cold noodle). Han Yong Hun, dean of the faculty, said, "In the near future, my students will make a great contribution to the building of a socialist civilized country, that is to say, the development of the Korean culture of cuisine." □



Giant of Korean Literature



Jo Ryong Chul (left) continued his writing till he died in May 1993.

CHAIRMAN KIM JONG IL ONCE HIGHLY praised Jo Ryong Chul when he saw his opera *Dream at the Red Mansion*. Saying that each of the lyrics of the opera was an exquisite combination of gem-like vocabulary, he pronounced Jo Ryong Chul a literary giant and pride of the nation.

As writer Jo left a great deal of cultural treasure in his life. He produced more than 100 songs of the enlightenment period, wrote many songs during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) such as *Song of National Defence*, *Off We Go*, *Bridled Ox* and *The 2 000-ri Annok River*, created scripts of revolutionary operas, plays, films and music and dance epic plays, and wrote a large number of lyrics and poems. In total his writings number as many as 1 000 pieces of diversified kinds. Typical of them were the script and lyrics of *Dream at the Red Mansion*.

Born in November 1913 when Korea was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists he hoped to become a man of literature while going to school. Since his lyric *Song of Seoul* won a prize contest sponsored by the *Dong-A Ilbo* newspaper in 1933 he wrote many songs and poems. He started his career by creating ballads. Later he wrote in an article referring to the fact, “When the Japanese imperialists were enforcing the policy of stamping out Korea’s national culture, I was anxious to implant our nation’s inherent sentiment and our bitter sorrow over the statelessness in songs that easily found their way into the general public. I thought hard how

to realize my desire. Now I turned to folk music, for I knew it contains the inherent sentiment of our nation. Indeed, the heritage of our folk music is a treasure house of our national music, the diversified tones and forms of our national lyrics as well as the melody and rhythm.”

In reality, he tried hard to use his creation of poems to bring back to life the nation’s soul that had been trampled down under the Japanese imperialists’ boots and set the nation’s sentiment afire. Even when the aggressors hampered his creative work by banning the singing of Korean songs, he would not lay down his pen but continued to write songs, such as *Falling Blossoms and Flowing Streams*, *Solitary Street Lamp* and *Lamenting Sounds of the Cosmos*. Every verse of his songs carried the sorrowful sounds of the time of statelessness when the rose of Sharon, favourite with the Koreans, could hardly come into bloom as there was no light in the sky and no place on the earth for the flower to settle. His burning love for the nation and his anxiety to bring the nation’s soul back to life, however, incurred him the label of “insidious element” and shackles behind bars.

Such a lamentable career met with something bright, when Jo heard that Kim Il Sung was waging an armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists to regain the lost country. The news was like a good teacher’s lesson on what kind of literature was genuinely patriotic literature. Now Jo’s writing headed for a different theme.

After national liberation he wrote the script of the play *The Independence Army*, giving vent to his adoration for Kim Il Sung who had achieved the historic cause of national liberation. The play was put on stage more than 500 times, telling of operatives who, dispatched by Kim Il Sung, rally people and arouse them to the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Later Jo created a number of masterpieces—full of national flavour and high in ideological and artistic value—like the opera *Flower Shoes* and the drama *General Ri Sun Sin*, giving a great encouragement to the people who were out in the struggle for the building of a new country.

He was honoured to participate in the work of creating the five revolutionary operas of a new style under the wise guidance of Kim Jong Il. Recalling the days of energetic campaign, Jo said, “When I was assigned to make a script of the opera, I felt like a toddling baby holding the reins of an ox. As such a poor writer, I managed to head the production team and create a revolutionary opera in months. Our respected leader Kim Jong Il gave us a high praise, saying that we had made a success of our work. What

► supported me in doing such a good work? That is in no way because I had any inborn literary inspiration or because I had any unusual creative talent. It is entirely because I was guided by the great leader that I was a happy writer breathing the same air with the public. The days of creation of the opera was the period in which I was born again as Jo Ryong Chul in the era of the Workers' Party, and it was also the continuance of my having lessons—just like I finished another college.”

Jo's writings featured unique, rich and free use of vocabulary, native sentiments of the sweet Korean bean paste and the pleasant smell of the wild rose in the yard of the native house, and the free use of rich and graceful and rhythmic styles. His qualities as writer are all the more shining for his ardent love for and devotion to his nation. He was well versed in histories and culture of many countries as well as the ancient, modern and contemporary times of his own nation. For the knowledge he creditably finished tasks of translating voluminous amounts of classical Korean literature in a short span of time.

Jo was a man of enthusiasm. He worked in important positions in a number of national organs of art and literature, including vice-chairmanship of the central committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Art and Literature of Korea, but he never left his pen idle. A man of humble character like a country boy but strong sense of justice, he did not allow himself to be obsessed with any ideas other than literary creation. His thinking was not stagnant at any time; when inspirations sprang to his mind while he was at dinner, he tapped his knees in glee and instantly went to his table. His breast pocket contained pieces of paper all the time, which were for emergency use to record his abrupt ideas and outline of works. When he was in advanced age he had a

mobile table made for his use even in bed. And when he could hardly see even with a pair of spectacles, he resorted to magnifying glasses, thus never stopping his work on literature.

His name and image were not confined to the world of literature alone. Many newspapers and other publications also carried series of his essays and notes related to the preservation of cultural heritage of the nation and reunification of the country.

His ardent love for his nation further developed into the feelings of admiration and praise for the Workers' Party of Korea that takes warm care of all the people. As a result paeans to the love of the socialist country and the single-hearted unity of the nation came out of his heart one after another. A typical work is the lyric *If Our Mother Party Wishes*, which goes in part, *If our mother party wishes us to bloom as azaleas, we would bloom as azaleas; if it wishes us to be magnolias, we would be magnolias; if it wishes us to live like bamboos, we would live like bamboos.* The message mirrors the writer's life and experience as they are. Chairman Kim Jong Il spoke highly of the lyric, saying he liked it very much as it gives a humble and true representation of the Korean people's loyalty to the Party. The song is still alive in the mind of the Koreans who follow the Party faithfully.

More than 20 years have already passed since he passed away. As Kim Il Sung Prize and National Reunification Prize winner, Jo is alive in the nation's memory, placed at the Patriotic Martyrs Cemetery. *Selected Poems by Jo Ryong Chul* and *Collection of Jo Ryong Chul's Plays* are typical collections of his writings handed down.

Yom Song Hui

Haeju *Kyoban*

HAEJU *KYOBAN* IS A KOREAN DISH known as a special food peculiar to Hwanghae Province. According to the old book of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty *Haedong-jukji*, Haeju boiled rice with assorted mixtures is a speciality in the Haeju area known to the public as Haeju *Kyoban* or *Kkoldongban*. The dish was cooked by families on festive occasions.

The materials for the dish include, besides greens and meat, bracken from Mt. Suyang and laver from the nearby sea which is roasted and crumbed before added to the condiments. Roots of broad bellflower, parsley and trepang are often used as garnishings. The book says that the dish is flawless for its spices, garnishes and cuisine and so is very appetizing. In the dish the balance between the acid in rice and alkali in vegetables is well preserved, and the nutriments of the food's ingredients are combined rationally to be absorbed easily into the system. Hence the dish, with its unique taste, is well known as a health food. □

A Great Pride

By Kim Hae Song

(Continued from the last issue)

SUN A STARED AT JIN HAK with admiring eyes thinking better of him who she had thought to be a brusque young man lost in matters of science and technology alone. The deep-set eyes of the girl brightened up like the sparkling spring water. Jin Hak felt like filling the well with the sense of an honest life.

Paeg-u's toil and moil finally worked the miracle of getting his son, a poor country boy, to enter a college. Paeg-u was in the seventh heaven of joy, and the flower garden owner's family rejoiced at it just as at their own. Invited to the congratulatory party arranged by the family, Paeg-u went to the flower garden in high spirits like a victorious general with his son who was in smart college uniform with a square cap on. At the party the only daughter of the gardener's family, Kkot Sun, sang a song for congratulation. Clothed in white like a lily, she sang "My home was in a blooming mountain village" in a beautiful voice. The song made Paeg-u and his son quite nostalgic, bringing tears to their eyes. Sitting shyly by her parents, Kkot Sun sometimes stole a glance at the student who looked very sturdy for his age and stubborn due to his projected chin.

A year later when Kkot Sun was a secondary school girl, Paeg-u who had been on the run all the time carrying water hurt his an-

kle badly on a stony path. As he was bedridden, his son had to carry water late into the night after school. Otherwise, they might lose the job to their rivals who were newcomers. One spring day when the earth was thawing, the college student in his father's ragged clothes plodded up the steep slope with the water carrier on his back, pulling his feet heavily over the muddy lane. When he entered the yard of the gardener's house, the girl in school uniform opened the kitchen door and looked out. She was no longer a child, quite different from one year before. As her eyes clouded at his shabby appearance, he felt ashamed of himself and bit his lower lip. The mistress of the house was absent, and so he hastily poured the water of his pails into the jar in the kitchen and turned back.

When he was just coming out of the gate, a shy voice called him from behind. Looking round, he saw the girl coming up to him. She diffidently held out an envelope towards him, saying, "I hope this will help you with your school expenses." As the young man received it in embarrassment, the girl hurriedly disappeared into the gate. Opening the envelope, he found ten *won* in it. It was a lot of money, the first big sum in his hand. As he learned much later, her maternal grandfather, a small farmer, had given it to her to make up for school expenses. The next evening he went and met the girl who was watering flower pots in the garden. Stepping into the

greenhouse which was bathed in the light of the evening glow, he placed the envelope on a big flower pot where a new species of roses were blooming. With her eyes wide-open in astonishment, Kkot Sun hugged her burgeoning breasts.

"We're poor water carriers but not beggars," he said firmly.

"Oh, what do you mean? I just intended to..." she could not finish because the youth interrupted.

"It's very kind of you, but such a sympathy hurts a man's pride. We bear all manner of shame and humiliation because we know we have to give up a petty pride for a great pride."

When he strode out of the greenhouse, the girl covered her face in her hands. The schoolgirl who had just begun to know the world realized that by "a great pride" the young man meant that they had to build a nation that was not inferior to any others by making ten and hundred strides while others made one. *What a noble spirit and grit he has in his heart although he is shabby and poor in appearance*, she talked to herself.

Gradually her flushed face beamed with a happy romantic smile. A wonderful evening it was, unforgettable and dear to the innocent girl's heart beating with a beautiful dream.

But how could young people of a ruined nation attain their big dream? Driven to the wall in the Pacific War, the Japanese rogues dragged even college students out to the battlefields as "student ►

► soldiers.” This was not simply to make up the shortage of army strength but to stamp out the national spirit of the Korean students who were growing up as the brains of future Korea, ready to offer resistance to the Japanese, looking up to the guerrilla army on Mt. Paektu as the lodestar. The young man from Pukchong, now a college student in the junior class, was also called up as “a student soldier.” But he evaded military service and hid in Kkot Sun’s house. The girl, now almost grown-up, would bring meals to him in the musty semi-dark underground seed storage. In those days the affection between them deepened day by day. The flower garden, however, was unable to afford them a peaceful heaven for their love. The Japanese police tore down and trampled upon the Korean-lettered signboard of the garden and then walked Kkot Sun’s father off on the absurd charge that the name of the garden “Pretty Kangnam” carried a rebellious thought. Now the flower garden was placed under police watch and the young man, unable to hide there any longer, disappeared by a smuggling boat. It was when the Fatherland Liberation War started that he came back to Seoul. He had been enrolled at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang which was established by General Kim Il Sung after national liberation. When the war broke out before he graduated from the university, he became a People’s Army officer and came to Seoul which was seething with a joy of liberation, and visited the flower garden. Kkot Sun threw herself into his arms, wetting his army jacket with tears. Hearing the man’s heart throbbing, she felt it was

telling her of his resolution to defend his country by arms, which she thought was a great pride for him. This prompted her to take the road of justice without hesitation, the road of guarding the country followed by all young people.

Sun A put away the dish of rice cake with a gentle smile playing about her lips. “Shall I continue the story? Well, now after the war Kkot Sun went to Kim Il Sung University. A letter was waiting for her instead of the man she wanted to see. (A lecturer handed it to her.) He had been recalled from the front before the end of the war to continue his studies at the university. Leaving for Tongchon after graduation which was not far from his old home, he trusted the letter to the lecturer, which told Kkot Sun like a military order to find him in Tongchon. She went there and married the man who was determined to attain his youthful ambition in Tongchon, an important industrial centre of the country.”

Jin Hak stared the girl in her smiling eyes. “You’ve got a high antenna,” he said.

“Kkot Sun was the childhood name of your grandmother, wasn’t it? My father was a foreman in charge of a kiln trained by your grandfather, nicknamed crane manager for his persevering efforts for expansion of the factory. The old workers of this factory still miss your grandfather.”

Jin Hak was grateful to the people of the factory for cherishing the memory of his grandfather who had dedicated his whole life to the work of carrying out President Kim Il Sung’s plan for boosting the nation’s magnesia industry up to the world’s ad-

vanced level. He asked Sun A abruptly, “You hated me, didn’t you?”

“Yes, I hated you. I think it was the same with you. Everybody is susceptible. But I thought the chief engineer and you were broad-minded men when I was taken on into the supplementary heating research team without any sign of hesitation. They say he who is capable of self-command is more of a true man than he who can surmount all hardships.”

“No, don’t say so. I’m still far from a true man,” Jin Hak said in real earnest. He felt himself like an innocent boy in front of his uncle and Sun A. He said, “I’m going to calcinate myself rather than the ores by way of the supplementary heating system. I wish to be a highly purified man.”

“You sound quite philosophical. You call me a poet, and I’ll call you a philosopher,” Sun A returned jestingly.

Now the two smiled brightly at each other for the first time.

The supplementary heating research team pushed ahead with the project in cooperation with the factory’s technicians. By blitz tactics they rushed the work pooling collective wisdom, and overcame all difficulties in the way of remodelling the kiln. Jin Hak made haste to turn out samples before the technical delegation returned from abroad. The design was completed in three months, and they were through with the refashioning of the test kiln in a flash and ignited it. But the first test ended in failure. Different methods of technical operation were applied but the kiln kept vomiting lumps of rejects.

(To be continued)

Korean Nation's Horse Riding Custom (1)

HORSE RIDING EXERCISE is a long-standing custom of the Korean nation. Running, horse riding, sword and spear wielding, wrestling, swinging, playing of tug of war, Korean art of empty-handed self-defence, such as *subak* and *thaekkyon*, are famous as national athletics of the Korean people. In particular, horse riding, archery and arrow shooting on horseback have been recognized as “Korea’s national merit” for ages. It is not fortuitous that many of the successive kings of the Feudal Joseon Dynasty, including King Sejong, often said: “Our fortes are good archery and horse riding.”

The horse is one of the domestic animals people tamed early in their life. Korea has a long history of using horses for different pur-

poses. A series of graves belonging to Ancient Joseon’s culture in the first half of its history (the early 30th century BC–108 BC) were unearthed in the Liaodong Peninsula, China, including the Loushang Tomb, Zhengjiawazi Tomb No. 6 512, Zhaogongjia Tomb and Wolongchuan Tomb; they produced harnessry peculiar to Korea. The people of Ancient Joseon made part of a bridle with copper and used it to govern horses and decorated them with adornments.

It was in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) that the Korean nation was best at riding. The Koguryo people had a strong militant spirit. They learned horse riding and archery in their childhood. Riding and archery were a daily routine and a standard of talent selection. According to the legend about the establishment of Koguryo, Ko Ju Mong (King Tongmyong, the founder of Koguryo) was extraordinary in the ability of horse riding from his childhood and was said to have

realized his ambition of nation building together with his colleagues Oi, Mari and Hyoppo astride a steed obtained by his mother.

The Tale of Ondal handed down from long ago shows well that the Koguryo people regarded horse riding as of great importance. In the tale, Ondal of a low rank takes part in a hunting game, riding the horse his wife—she used to be royal princess—brought up with all sincerity. In Koguryo the hunting game was held on March 3 every year on Rangnang Hill with all warriors of the country taking part. Ondal wins victory by driving his horse more rapidly than anybody else and catching a ferocious animal. And then he immediately participates in the battle against foreign marauders.

The brave hunting appearance of the Koguryo people is well reflected in Koguryo’s mural paintings kept in the Dancing Tomb, the Yaksu-ri Tomb, the Hunting Tomb and Taeon-ri Tomb ▶



- ▶ No. 1. The Tokhung-ri Tomb mural gives a vivid scene of shooting an arrow at a fixed target on horseback.

Horse riding, archery and arrow shooting on horseback, sword and spear wielding that were widely encouraged among the Koguryo people were aimed at cultivating bravery and training military arts keenly needed in fighting in defence of the country. In order to enhance the fighting efficiency of their cavalry soldiers and protect their horses from the blow of enemy, they introduced a variety of protection facilities. Stirrups were used to bring horses under control. Shooting with a bow and using swords and spears while going on horseback without pulling up the reins depends on how to stand on stirrups and use them to control the horse as one intends.

Horses of Koguryo were small in stature but were strong enough to climb mountains easily. The iron horse models of Koguryo found on Chol Pass in Kangwon Province have short legs alike.

Horses seen in Koguryo's tomb murals have short legs but they look quite brave dashing forward with apparently heavy helmets on. Such heavily armoured horses were said to be *kaema* and the soldiers of Koguryo on *kaema* were called *kaema* warriors. Typical of the tomb murals dedicated to the show of heavily ar-



A mural in a tomb of Koguryo.

moured *kaema* warriors of Koguryo are those in Anak Tomb No. 3 (the Mausoleum of King Ko Kuk Won) painted in the fourth century and the Tokhung-ri Tomb (in Kangso) mural painted in 408.

Among the standing armed forces of Koguryo cavalry held a considerable proportion. In the historical records including *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) there are such statements as "While advancing in command of 5 000 cavalymen on

armoured horses I raided the enemy."

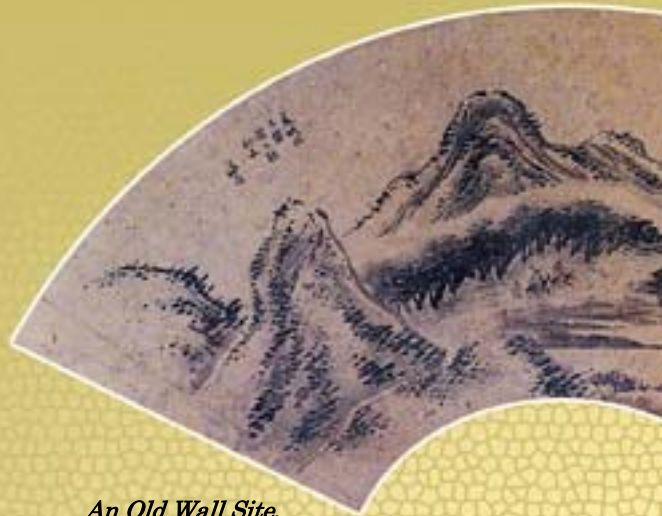
This proves that in Koguryo the heavily armoured *kaema* warriors formed a large contingent and that the foundation of the powerful military forces of Koguryo, the 1 000-year-old mighty state in the East, was supported by the old tradition of horse riding, shooting with a bow on horseback, spear and sword wielding which were liked by the people from their childhood. □



Artist Jong Son and His Masterpieces

JONG SON WAS ONE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE artists in the late 17th century–18th century in Korea. He painted so well in his childhood that he became a member of the Fine Arts Academy. He was once appointed head of a county yamen. While being an excellent painter, he was versed in the theory of the art of painting and also trained many famous painters including Sim Sa Jong (1707–1769). He paid primary attention to the social reality of his times and beautiful natural landscape, and originated his own style of painting in the field of landscape.

He painted not just beautiful sceneries but the tame scenes of mountains and lakes, scarlet-tinged



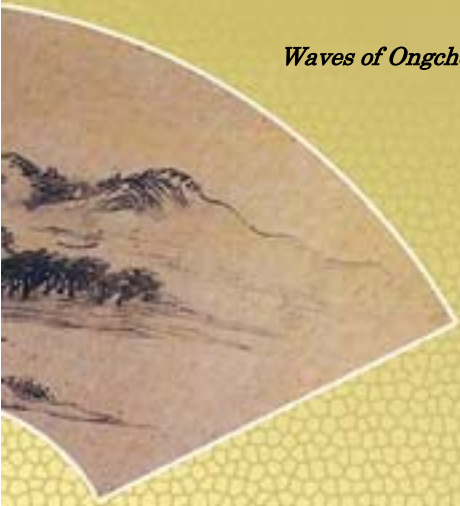
An Old Wall Site.

maple leaves and seasonal changes of natural beauties. His works *Waves of Ongchon*, *Manphok Valley*, *Pagyon Falls*, *Mt. Paegak*, *Mt. Inwang*, *Kuryong Falls* and *A Flat Rock* vividly exhibit his love for the country's natural sceneries through diversified painting strokes. In particular, *Kuryong Falls* is typical of his painting style characterized by vigorous ▶

Spring Rain.



Waves of Ongchon.



► and subtle touches and uses of wide space structure. The vertical fall of water in the centre of the picture with pine boughs forcefully stretching out sideways against it is eloquent of Jong Son's high depicting skills. And *A Flat Rock* is his best picture showing masterly sidelong strokes. It skillfully portrays two figures enjoying the natural beauty on a stream in summer. Besides, he painted a great number of pictures showing the emotional beauty of nature with rich actual life as their theme, such as *Spring Rain* and *An Old Man Playing Kayagum*.

He was a patriotic painter who portrayed the country's nature with high artistic skills, rejecting flunkeyism and dogmatism that existed in the artist circles at the time, and a realistic landscape painter who enriched the realistic expression of the Korean painting by truthfully and tangibly depicting the scenic beauty of the country.

Sim Chol Yong





Part of the wall of the Taesongsan Fort.

Mt. Taesong (1)

MT. TAESONG RISES ON Taesong District's north-eastern boundary with Samsok District in Pyongyang. It is 270 m above sea level. The mountain has six precipitous peaks—Kuksa, Somun, Jangsu, Ulji, Pukjang and Jujak—and two wide valleys divided by the long southwestern ridge running down from Jujak Peak. Pine trees cover the peaks and valleys, and various flowers bloom in all glory in their seasons, setting off the scenery. The place once thrived as a site of ancient culture and today it is widely known as a recreation ground for people.

Taesongsan Fort

Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the first feudal state of Korea, distinguished itself as an Oriental power. It exerted a great influence on the subsequent development of Korea.

At the foot of the mountain is the site of the Anhak Royal Palace which existed from 427 to 586. Covering an area of some 380 000 square metres, it was surrounded

by a quadrangle rampart with a 622-metre long wall on each side. The east, west and north walls had one gate each and the south wall had three gates, with a watchtower at every corner of the walls, for the security of the palace. The palace, consisting of 52 buildings with a total floor space of 31 458 square metres connected by scores of covered passages, was surrounded by a moat filled with water from a mountain stream. On the south-north axis of the palace stood the South (Outer), Central (Inner), and North (Royal Bedchamber) Houses in due order while East and West Houses flanked the North House. These houses were connected by covered passages, and there were gardens of various sizes. Of them the largest and prettiest was the garden on the south of the lower eastern part of the palace. The scales and positions of the buildings were a well-balanced harmonious ensemble of triangular, quadrangular and round forms. Up to now, 2 590 vestiges of pillars have been found along with a large number of granite footstones shaped

round or square. In the palace over 15 000 relics have been discovered, including concave and convex roofing tiles, ridge tiles, jars, pots, large and tiny bowls, basins, inkstones, glass ornaments, arrowheads and nails.

The Taesongsan Fort, 7 076 metres round, was one of the largest Koguryo forts and had 9 284 metre long walls. It was built over a period extending from the 3rd to 5th century as a citadel to protect the Anhak Royal Palace. It centred on 270-metre high Ulji Peak, linking up Somun, Jangsu, Pukjang, Kuksa and Jujak Peaks. The mountain has two wide and deep valleys which made it possible to accommodate a large number of people and keep combat equipment and supplies. The ruins of the fort have the old sites of food storages, armouries and barracks. With its advantages of position the fort was hard to attack and easy to defend. To the north of the fort stretch rugged mountains range after range, and on its east and west are steep slopes. The valley on the south facing the Taedong River was covered by ▶

▶ stout double walls.

The walls were built with squarely-cut stones by piling them up regularly and fortified with bastions. The existing bastion on Somun Peak projects 12 metres from the wall, and it is 10 metres wide and 3 metres high. There have been discovered 20 sites of wall gates, and the South Gate is the only one left as it was. There were lookout platforms on Kuksa, Jujak, Somun and Jangsu Peaks that afforded fine views. Stones were buried under the walls at regular intervals to prevent the walls from crumbling

when the ground was sopped through in the rain, and gaps were left between the buried stone piles to drain the ground.

There were 170 ponds within the mountain fort including Ingo, Sasum, Kuryong and Jangsu Ponds. Of the remaining ones, Kuryong Pond is 18 metres long and wide and 4 metres deep. Stones were heaped up around the pond and 30 cm thick clay was

tamped down on its bed. It has been confirmed that there were a number of springs in the fort. Many relics including roofing tiles of the Koguryo period, a gilt-bronze image of Buddha and a stone case of the Buddhist scriptures have been discovered. A part of the fort on Somun Peak, Jangsu Pavilion, South Gate, Jangsu Pond and many other remains have been restored. □

One of the clustered graves in Mt. Taesong that date back to the time of Koguryo.



Sculptures unearthed in the Taesongsan Fort site.



The South Gate of the Taesongsan Fort.



National Leaders and Cultural Heritage



A KOREA TODAY *REPORTER* had an interview with Ro Chol Su, deputy director of the Guidance Bureau for National Heritage Protection. Excerpts:

National cultural heritage is valuable treasure which shows the long history and glorious cultural traditions of the nation. I think they will remain valuable only under the meticulous care of great leaders who prize and protect them.

You're right. In less than 100 days after national liberation (August 15, 1945) President Kim Il Sung took steps to found the Korean Central History Museum (the then Pyongyang Museum). Further, during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953), he sent a detachment to save from destruction the history book *The True Records of Feudal Joson Dynasty* written in the period of the feudal Joson which nobody took heed of.

It is inconceivable apart from his lofty love of the nation and far-sighted acumen that King Tangun, father of ancient Korea described as a mythical being for a long time, was ascertained as a historically real being, and that the Mausoleum of King Tangun was built as superbly as one

worthy of the name.

Kim Jong Il in his Kim Il Sung University days advised his fellow students to appreciate relics of ancient times like a royal crown in terms of our ancestors' technical skills. Under his wise leadership, the principles of fidelity to historical truth and of modernity were firmly established in preserving and managing the national cultural relics and the excavation and preservation of historical remains were carried out briskly as a matter of concern of the entire nation. Even the numerous cultural heritage in Kaesong which were registered as cultural heritage of the world some time ago embody the pains of the peerless great men who were deeply concerned from scores of years ago about unearthing all the remains and relics marked with the resources and wisdom of our ancestors.

How has this work been going on in recent years?

Today the work of discovering and preserving cultural relics of the nation is going on briskly. When the construction of the Pyongyang Folk Park was under way at the suggestion and last wish of Chairman Kim Jong Il, our respected leader Kim Jong Un visited its site many times and gave active guidance to bring about rapid progress in the work of construction, designating the right places for structures and setting out concrete ways to build them in clever imitation of the original forms.

As a result, the unique folk park which comprehensively shows the 5 000-year-long history and culture of the Korean nation was built wonderfully in a short span of time. Today not only the Korean people but also the foreigners who visit the Pyongyang Folk Park say in unison that the wisdom and talent of the Korean

nation are brilliant thanks to their great leaders generation after generation.

Will you tell me the successes achieved in the management of the historic sites last year?

Last year all historic sites across the country were preserved in good condition even in furious storms and heavy rains, and they added to the scenic beauty of the surrounding areas. In Pyongyang, the Ryongwang Pavilion, Pothong Gate and Outer Walls of the city underwent elaborate face-lifting. The Old Walls of the county town in Sukchon County in South Phyongan Province and the Tongju Fortress in Tongrim County and the Simwon Temple in Pakchon County in North Phyongan Province were repaired in a fine way in a short time. Repairs on many mountain forts including the Jongbangsan Fort in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province, and the Outer Walls of Kaesong were finished, and a pavilion was built over the Monument to the Great Victory in Pukgwon in North Hamgyong Province. Besides, the work of beautifying the surrounding landscapes of the mausoleums of King Tangun and King Tongmyong in keeping with the modern aesthetic taste on the principle of historicism was carried out. In particular, the offices of management and preservation of national heritage in Pyongyang, Nampho and South Hwanghae Province and at the Mausoleum of King Tongmyong protected admirably the Koguryo tombs registered as cultural heritage of the world from the damage of all bad weathers.

Thanks to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on preservation of the cultural heritage of the nation, the historical relics of Korea will remain as valuable national wealth for all time. □

Improvement of Inter-Korean Relations Urged

THE NEARLY 70-YEAR-LONG SPLIT OF THE Korean nation has caused immeasurable damages and sufferings to the members of the nation. Over the years the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made positive efforts to put an end to the tragedy of national division and achieve national reunification as early as possible. In his 2014 New Year Address the DPRK supreme leader Kim Jong Un indicated a realistic way to achieve reunification of the country peacefully by the concerted efforts of the nation. On January 16 this year the DPRK National Defence Commission made an important proposal to the south Korean authorities in which it suggested that both sides begin to take practical measures to halt all sorts of recriminations on and after January 30, lunar New Year's Eve, and that the south side cancel the planned Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises to be held in the Korean peninsula and refrain from recklessly shipping extremely dangerous nuclear strike means of the US to and around south Korea.

Soon after the proposal the DPRK took substantial steps first to call a full halt to all militarily hostile acts, which might get on the nerves of the south side, on the ground and in the sea and sky in the frontline areas including the dangerous waters around the five islands in the West Sea of Korea.

Adding importance to the proposal the DPRK National Defence Commission released an open letter to the authorities, political parties, public organizations and people of all strata in south Korea on January 23 upon the special authorization of DPRK NDC First Chairman Kim Jong Un, appealing to them to turn out as one to open a broad way for improvement of the north-south relations.

It is a consistent stand of the DPRK that the problem of national reunification should be solved in an independent and peaceful way and that to the end it is necessary to create an atmosphere favourable to improvement of the inter-Korean relations which are going from bad to worse with each passing day. The nation was forcibly split by the foreign forces and the US imperialists' occupation of south Korea is the main obstacle in the way of reunification. In order to reunify the country it is essential to reject foreign forces and create a climate for reconciliation and unity of the nation. To go on a tour around foreign countries touting for "international cooperation" in resolving the inter-Korean relations issue, the one related with the Korean nation, is a humiliating treachery of leaving its destiny in the hands of outside forces. Slinging mud at and showing hostility to each other will merely serve as an occasion for the US imperialists to fish in troubled waters. The US imperialists are using south Korea to accomplish its Asia-

Pacific strategy; they are instigating the south Korean authorities to fight a fratricidal war by drawing them into the establishment of an MD system.

Good inter-Korean relations are the premise of reunification. Only when the north-south relations improve up to those of stable confidence and unity, will the premise of reunification be able to come into existence and the reunification be able to come true in an independent and peaceful way by the concerted efforts of the nation.

Although there exist different ideas and systems in the north and the south, it is in no case the reason for distrust and confrontation between the two parts of the homogeneous nation. If the hostile policy is maintained against the fellow countrymen in the other side while clinging to their own isms and interests instead of giving importance to the nation's common interest in and burning desire for reunification, it will inevitably aggravate the gash of distrust and confrontation, presenting no opportunity to improve the relations between the two sides and leaving the malignant cycle of antagonism and showdown in the history of the nation.

The inter-Korean relations could hardly improve with efforts on the part of any one side. The recent proposal of the DPRK National Defence Commission has provided a condition to develop the north-south relations as aspired by the times and as desired by all the members of the nation.

The DPRK's policy and relevant steps are commanding active support among the world's progressive people as well as the Korean people who want a peaceful Korean peninsula and one Korea. The south Korean newspaper *Hangyore* issued an editorial regarding the crucial proposal of the DPRK National Defence Commission to the south Korean authorities, which goes in part: Viewing the north's attempt to improve the north-south relations as a fake peace offensive is quite improper. Such a manner could hardly take an opportunity to better the north-south relations but rather bring back last year's extreme confrontation. The authorities had better assume an attitude towards favourable inter-Korean relations. Improving north-south relations is an objective need also.

The Indonesian Vanguard Party released a statement which said the proposal was another expression of the DPRK's sincere efforts.

Improved north-south relationship leads to independent reunification and peace and prosperity wished by the Korean nation. It is a determined stand of the DPRK to open a path of improvement of the inter-Korean relations by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

Ko Yong Nam

Struggle to Achieve the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (7)

The June 15 North-South Joint Declaration— By Our Nation Itself

IN THE 1990S THE ACUTE political and military showdown was triggered in the Korean peninsula between the progressive and the reactionary, between justice and injustice, that is, between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the world reactionary allied forces headed by the United States.

At the time the Korean people suffered the greatest loss of the nation suddenly and unexpectedly—the demise of President Kim Il Sung—and faced with severe trials and difficulties due to consecutive natural calamities. At this juncture, Chairman Kim Jong Il made a new turning point in the endeavour for national reunification, holding high the banner of Songun. With the firm faith that independence can be defended and maintained thoroughly by the sword of justice in the present world where the high-handed and arbitrary pursuance was rampant, Kim Jong Il consolidated the country's defence capabilities impregnably and mercilessly crushed the anti-DPRK moves of the US imperialists with the harder-line military countermeasures by dint of the military power. While experiencing ecstatic events—the US imperialists' high-handed policy and moves of intervention were shattered at every step while the DPRK won victory after victory in the showdown against the US thanks to the Songun-based leadership of the Chairman—the entire Korean people in the north, the south and abroad earned great national pride and self-confidence and the conviction that the national issues could be solved with the efforts of the Ko-

rean nation itself.

The Chairman made every effort to open up a radical phase in the national reunification movement. In his immortal classic works including *Let Us Carry out the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung's Instructions for National Reunification* and *Let Us Reunify the Country Independently and Peacefully Through the Great Unity of the Entire Nation* the Chairman clarified that national reunification should be achieved on the principle of independence and great unity of the nation as instructed by President Kim Il Sung. True to the instructions of the President, he mapped out a plan to have a north-south summit meeting and talks. After the Pyongyang meeting on April 8, 2000 and the ensuing publication of the north-south agreement on holding inter-Korean summit talks, the historic inter-Korean summit meeting and talks took place in June that year, producing the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration.

The declaration based on the fundamental idea of “by our nation itself” was a landmark of the independent reunification movement in the new century. The historic Pyongyang summit meeting and the adoption of the June 15 Joint Declaration opened the June 15 reunification era, when the nation made a history of national reunification by the nation's own efforts. When historic changes were taking place in inter-Korean relations and the independent reunification movement thanks to the implementation of the declaration, Kim Jong Il had another summit meeting with the south side in Pyongyang in October 2007, when the Declaration for Development of North-South Relations and Peace and Prosperity was

adopted. In the course of this, he firmly set the idea of “by our nation itself” as the paramount idea of the time.

“By our nation itself,” the idea of independence and unity, exerted great influence on the advance of the June 15 reunification era. Nationwide reunification events took place one after another while inter-Korean dialogue, contacts, exchange and cooperation in all fields of social life including politics, defence, the economy and culture were conducted briskly. Severed railways and roads were re-linked, and the north side's athletes and cheering groups involving hundreds of people went to the south, adding fuel to the zeal for reunification. Meanwhile, both sides exchanged art troupes to give performances respectively.

Although severe trials and difficulties have cropped up in inter-Korean relations and the national reunification movement over the past five years since the emergence of the conservative authorities in south Korea, the Koreans are never disappointed or in despair. Now the public is more enthusiastically demanding implementation of the inter-Korean declarations in south Korea. The patriotic movement for reunification is getting stronger nationwide. This clearly shows that the idea of “by our nation itself” has settled in the heart of the entire nation and become the ethos of the independent reunification era for its truthfulness and vitality.

The idea of “by our nation itself,” the hardcore of the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, is a precious bequest left by Chairman Kim Jong Il; it serves as a solid foundation in the effort to achieve independent reunification and peace and prosperity. □

What's the Reason?

HISTORICALLY, THE United States has successively found the final way out of its domestic economic crisis in provoking a war. The economic crisis that started in some countries between 1900 and 1903 led to the global economic catastrophe in 1907, and, finally, it caused World War I in August 1914. The United States, siding with the Entente, participated in the war and reaped an enormous profit, changing its status to a creditor from a debtor. And when it was pressed by the Great Depression of the 1930s, it also took part in World War II and gained huge economic profits, rolling back the economic crisis.

From that time on, all the economic crises in the US gave rise to aggression wars. The aggressive Korean war detonated in an attempt to survive its economic crisis in the late 1940s. The repeated crises from the 1950s through the 1970s coincided with the Vietnam War and the US's attacks on Lebanon and Dominica. Those crises in the 1980s and the early 1990s induced the US's attacks on Grenada and Panama, and the start of the Gulf War. Air raids on the then Yugoslavia in the late 1990s gave excessive profits to the US war industry, raised the price index of the US stocks up to a dramatic climax as never before and brought about the crucial dominance of dollar over euro in the first confrontation.

Entering the new century the US's economy was in a critical phase of overall collapse due to the stagnation, slowdown in export and rise in the unemploy-

ment rate. Fretting about it, the US was desperately groping for a solution of its socio-political and economic crises. At this critical juncture, the 9/11 incident broke out in 2001. Seizing the opportunity, Washington put up the banner of "anti-terrorism." Advertising absurdly the ideological foundation of the "anti-terror war" as the "spread of freedom and democracy," it attacked Afghanistan and Iraq. The attacks overheated the war industry of the US again which had been inactive for a while after the Gulf War in 1991. The four major war industry enterprises and other enterprises across the US were in full operation thanks to the "benefit" of the new wars.

Now the United States is further aggravating the situation in the Korean peninsula in an attempt to have another boom. Having moved the focus of its world strategy to the Asia-Pacific region, the US is now materializing the seizure of the Northeast Asian region as its basic strategy for global hegemony. *The Washington Post* commented that the geographical condition remains unchanged despite the big changes in the current situation of the Korean peninsula, and the peninsula is situated in the heart of Northeast Asia, which is one of the most important and energetic regions in the strategic point of view. Hence, the US is escalating the tensions in the Korean peninsula by making a propaganda of the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK and its "threat". It considers that if it dominates the Asia-Pacific region strategically, it would be able to secure a footing for main-

taining its permanent position of the "sole superpower" by checking major potential rivals like China and Russia, and other "opponents".

The United States has expanded its military domination in Asia through the "anti-terror" war and secured advance bases in several places. Owing to the US the Korean peninsula is heavily hung with a danger of nuclear war, and the touch-and-go situation has been lurking. History shows that wars have seriously influenced the strategic thinking and psychology of the US politicians. As they have been accustomed to war for over a hundred years, it is not too much to say that they have no manner of reasonable thinking even in peace time or the ability to ensure peace through political and diplomatic means. The psychology and thinking of the US politicians took shape in the war time for generations. Therefore, it is obvious that when there's no war, they find themselves baffled at strategic problems in peace time.

The issue of the Korean peninsula is tangible proof. The US is asserting dialogue with the DPRK vociferously in the international arena while aggravating the situation without apparent motive. Moreover, it justifies the realization of its strategy of supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region, making a fuss about the "threat" from the DPRK. That's probably the reason why a professor of University of Chicago in America said that [the United States] will soon be eager for war time.

Kim Il Bong

Self-destructive Moves

VOICES AGAINST THE Japanese authorities' scheme for the right to collective defense are becoming harsh among the Japanese. According to the Kyodo news agency's nationwide poll, 53.1 per cent of the respondents refused to allow the authorities to gain the right to collective defense through re-examination of the Constitution.

Nevertheless, the authorities are pushing the exercise of the right to collective defense. Then, what underlies their sinister aim?

Japan is a war criminal, defeated nation; with the end of the Second World War the country was disarmed as a criminal nation and was legally bound to remain a pacifist state. In 1947 it adopted the so-called "pacifist Constitution" that guarantees the refusal to fight war, renunciation of arms buildup and existence as a peaceful nation. Article 9 of the Constitution clearly stipulates that Japan will not retain land, sea or air forces or any other armed force for war and that the state's right to belligerency will not be endorsed. That means Japan is at least bound by the "pacifist Constitution" neither to fight against others again nor join such military actions. Such being the situation, the country has been a nation possessed of the right to individual defense alone, with its right to collective defense given up by the Constitution.

The right to collective defense, vociferously argued by the Japanese authorities, means the right of Japan to declare a war even when its ally is attacked and participate in the war. This is an eloquent proof that the country is going to go in for overseas expansion under the pretext of its ally's security.

Premier Abe and other militarists, in an attempt to execute the right to collective defense, is seeking the Americans' recogni-

tion of the need to make different interpretation of the Constitution "to cope with North Korea's threat." When asked whether it is necessary to execute the right to collective defense in order to build up the Japan-US alliance, Abe's advisor for diplomatic policy answered that the US stands for giving importance to Asia although it is cutting defense expenditure, that the ally's aid is necessary in Asia in any case, that it is a matter for Japan to welcome, and that he believes that the US would give full support for Japan's execution of the right to collective defense, increased defense spending and amendment of the Japan-US defense cooperation guideline. By this he meant that Japan would get the permission for its right to collective defense in exchange for its making up for the dwindled American military expenditure by increasing its own arms spending.

The present Japanese authorities are struggling to regain their right to belligerency and participation in war in the name of right to collective defense and thus open a road to accomplish the old ambition of "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere." Last December they adopted at a time the so-called three security arrows of a new guideline for defense program, the mid-term defense adjustment program and the first national security strategy while mouthing the "threat" from someone—this is intended to seek a sinister aim on the part of the present rulers to get rid of the postwar mechanism as soon as possible.

The insular nation is in fact rushing for the rightist and militaristic tendency by expanding its arms and revising its Constitution. It is now laying systematic and legal foundations for overseas aggression by reorganizing the Self-Defense Forces into national

defense forces and equipping it with latest military hardware. Making an absurd argument about a certain "threat" from outside, it increased the 2014 military expenditure by 2.8 per cent above the astronomical sum of military spending last year; with this it can lay more solid foundations for material and technical supply for fighting war. Meanwhile, it decided to boost the defense budget by five per cent year by year. Referring to the development even Japanese media disclosed that the manipulation of the "threat theory" is intended to fan up the apprehension of the Japanese people and use it to strengthen its military capacity and eventually create a condition for attaining the capability of the Self-Defense Forces to launch attacks against enemy bases.

It is quite shameless for Japan, an internationally denounced war criminal that has refused to settle accounts with its bloody past and is pursuing a militaristic policy, to try to improve its own image by finding fault with others. The present chief executive officially announced Japan's revival as a belligerent nation by visiting the Yasukuni Shrine on December 26, 2013, on the first anniversary of his taking power. This is consistent in all respects with the behaviours of the A-class war criminals of Japan who were rushing for aggression of Korea and other Asian countries, arguing for Korean conquest and "new order of greater East Asia." The Abe-headed ultra-right camp's visits to the shrine are condemned even by his supporters in the country as well as by Asian nations.

It is more than clear that extension of Japan's recklessness to physical acts will incur the nation's ultimate ruin.

Choe Chol Nam

Paeksang Pavilion

THE PAEKSANG PAVILION is a building that stands at the northern commanding post of the old Anju Fort which is now situated in Anju City, South Phyongan Province. It was first set up in the period of Koryo (918–1392) and was rebuilt in the period of the Feudal Joson Dynasty (1392–1910).

The pavilion is a widely known place of historical interest as one of the traditional eight scenic spots in northwestern part of Korea, for it commands a fine view and its scenery is unrivalled.

The name of the Paeksang Pavilion means a pavilion that affords a hundred sights. The pavilion is thought to date back to the period of Koryo. Koryo ceramics were unearthed at the site.

The Paeksang Pavilion, rebuilt later in 1753, is representative of the pavilion construction of the Feudal Joson Dynasty. It is large in scale, and furnished below is a stylobate built up in an orderly fashion. It is covered with a double hip-saddle roof and separated in two oblong divisions, which look as if standing close to each other widthwise and lengthwise.

The columns are laid in such a way as to give a great space to the middle parts of the four sides and thus put stress on the centre. This is a traditional method the Korean ancestors used in the pavilion style of architecture.

Visible in the floor of the central section is a staircase. Pillars on the floor are erected straight from the pillars supporting the floor. Each pillar becomes beautifully thinner upward. The roof is of hip-saddle style, and characteristic of this building is that

though its body is only one it looks as if it were built by linking up several buildings. Pillars are set up in two rows at the front and in the rear in the five western rooms but no pillars are erected midway. The ceiling has no partition so that the inside of the house look solemn and refreshing.

The pavilion is painted colourfully to suit the building and the environment. The beautiful painting in many colours and designs in keeping with the structure and building materials splendidly enhance the architectural and decorative effects of the pavilion.

When the soldiers and the people fought in the Anju Fort against foreign aggressors in the Koryo period the Paeksang Pavilion played an important role as a commanding post. It is carefully preserved as a historic relic worthy of national treasure. □





ISSN 0454-4072



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