



# KOREA TODAY

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## Victorious Great Patriotic War Commemorative Medal

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Victorious Great Patriotic War Commemorative Medal from a military delegation of the former Soviet Union in August 1985.

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**Front Cover: Happy to plant trees**

*Photo by Ri Chung Ryol*



**Back Cover: Unjong Falls in Mt. Kuwol**

*Photo by Kim Jin Ho*

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*For the liberation of the country*

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# Fresh Image of Korea



**The picturesque Pothong riverside adds to the landscape of Pyongyang.**

**N**OW THE CAMPAIGN FOR land development and environment protection is in full swing across the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In recent years modern structures were built in succession in Pyongyang including Changjon Street, Unha Scientists Street, workers' hostel of the

Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, apartment houses for teaching staff of Kim Il Sung University, Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, Ryugyong Health Complex and Okryu Children's Hospital. Parks and pleasure grounds were facelifted while the Pothong River and the Hapjang River were

improved, adding beauty to the landscape of the city.

On the Sepho Plain in Kangwon Province, which had overgrown with shrubs and grasses for a long time, the construction of a large-sized stockbreeding base is near completion, and the tideland reclamation projects are ▶

## **The Wisong Scientists Residential District.**



**The stockbreeding base project in the Sepho area is accelerated.**



► making headway. Roads are newly constructed or repaired, and rivers are improved to be harmonious with the surrounding scenery. In North Hamgyong Province hundreds of kilometres of roads were laid and technically repaired, and scores of kilometres of streams and rivers went through improvement. In South Phyongan Province the construction of a road spanning dozens of kilometres between Sinyang County and Hoechang County has nearly finished, and the embankment projects are making rapid progress.

Green areas are steadily increasing in the streets, villages, State organs and industrial establishments. Recently tens of millions of trees were planted in 13 000 hectares of land in North Hamgyong Province, and scores of hectares of pine-nut forest were laid in South Phyongan Province and Haeju City in South Hwanghae Province. In spring and autumn good species of trees are planted intensively in the streets, mountains and residential quarters. Tree-planting ceremonies are held regularly at all the organs on commemorative days. Last year the October 8 Factory was newly built, just like a holi-



**The newly-built Pagon-Ryongthong Temple sightseeing road.**

day camp. It has a green landscape with a huge number of trees in the compound. It looks like a park. Equipped with a computer-assisted integrated production system the factory has up-to-date facilities and the geothermal cooling and heating system, so it is on IT and energy-saving basis.

Meanwhile, significant progresses are made in nature and environment conservation. Advanced technologies have been applied at iron and steel plants, smelters, thermal power plants, chemical factories and other

industrial establishments which used to emit volumes of harmful gas and dust. Thus the working conditions are improving remarkably. And the modernization of dust collectors, and air-tight and ventilation facilities is going on steadily. The February 20 Factory of the Korean People's Army, a foodstuff producer, has become germ- and dust-free to ensure high hygienic quality of the working environment and products. Species of plants and animals and their habitats are surveyed on a normal basis while positive meas-

► ures are taken to protect rare animals and plants and those on the verge of extinction and secure biodiversity. On the other hand, nature reserves are on the increase.

Along with this, active measures are taken to stoke up the flames of land development and environment protection. In November last year, a national sci-tech presentation in the sector of land and environment protection

was held in Pyongyang. Scores of papers were made public regarding the campaign of turning the whole country into a land of forests, greenery and fruit trees, land protection and afforestation, road construction and river improvement on a scientific and modern basis, and prevention of air and water pollution.

The supreme national leader Kim Jong Un gave a field guidance to the refurbished Central

Nursery in November last and ardently called upon the whole Party, the entire army and all the people to turn out in the struggle to restore the mountains of the country, like they had carried out postwar rehabilitation, considering the restoration of the mountains a war against natural disaster.

The Korean Party and government have attached great importance to the work of land development and nature protection from the outset of the building of a new society and registered remarkable successes. It is Kim Jong Un's determination and will to turn the country into a better land to live in by bringing about a radical change in land and environment protection sector in keeping with the reality where great strides are made in all fields of the national economy, construction and sport towards the building of a civilized socialist nation. The land of Korea is renewing its appearance day by day thanks to the wise leadership of the supreme leader and the devoted efforts of the Korean people.

*Sim Chol Yong*

**Good species of trees are planted.**



**The Honggondo tideland reclamation project goes full steam ahead.**



# His Cares

## Clean Chemical Factory

ON JULY 26, 1965, CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il visited the then Chongsu Chemical Factory. After a round of inspection, he talked with the management staff of the factory about how production was going. Outside, the scorching sun of midsummer was beating down. Then after sitting silent for a while, the Chairman asked a member of the management staff what they were supplying to the workers engaged in carbide production. Hearing the answer that they were supplied with labour protection goods, nutrients and even soda water, he said seriously that the workers directly producing carbide should be provided with plenty of meat and edible oil and that primary attention should be paid to the workers' life so as to increase production. Looking out of the window, he asked, addressing no one in particular, if the air was not foul. His eyes were fixed on the smoke sent out from the chimney of a carbide kiln. The management staff only now realized why the Chairman kept gazing out of the window. They could hardly answer him. At the time, all attention was focused on production in disregard of antismoke device. Looking round at them, he gravely said that if the carbide dust coming out from the chimney was not collected, the environment would be polluted and the workers' health damaged. He went on to say that the management officials did not take any measure to solve the technically-simple dust collecting problem.

After a while, he continued: The factory has the Amnok River flowing in front and a mountain at its back. So, it is a scenic spot. When they make air clean and the forest thick by planting many trees, the factory can be a clean chemical factory. The Chongsu Chemical Factory should be built up like a park.

Later, his instructions were carried into effect

and the factory changed its looks like a factory in a park with clean and fresh air.

## Flowing Water and Patriotism

On August 1, 2007, Kim Jong Il inspected a Korean People's Army unit. He stopped at the vegetable greenhouse of the unit. It was wide and many kinds of growing vegetables including cucumber presented a good sight. As he was looking round the greenhouse with a pleased air, the commander of the unit told him that the greenhouse was heated by the hot spring water. The Chairman asked him questions about the water's temperature, ingredients of the hot spring, the quality test of the water, and the volume of water flowing into the greenhouse. Pleased with the commander's concrete explanation, he praised the officers of the unit for their efforts to use efficiently the hot spring. The hot spring water was used in the heating of the unit's nine places: greenhouse, bath house, laundry, barber's shop, hot spring treatment room, indoor swimming pool, horticultural greenhouse and mushroom culture and bean sprout rooms.

He praised them again for full use of the hot spring, adding that in other places hot spring water was used only for medical purpose. The Chairman said meaningfully, **"Patriotism is expressed in sparing and efficiently using the flowing water."**

In fact, the unit's commanding officers did nothing more than using the hot spring water for the soldiers' material and cultural welfare in compliance with the intentions of the Chairman who had designated the unit's base near the hot spring water.

After his visit, the officers of the unit resolved firmly to spare and take better care of every tree and every blade of grass and even a drop of water of the country.

*Kim Un Jong*



# For Effective Use of Water Resources



**N**OT LONG AGO KOREA Today had a talk with Pang Song Gun, a deputy department director of Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, about the matter of protecting and using the water resources effectively in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Excerpts:

**For the effective use of water you have got special rules and regulations to protect the water resources, I think.**

That's right. Water is the essential resource of the nation for

the building of an economic giant and the improving of the living standard. Our country enacted the DPRK law on streams long ago for the protection and effective use of water, and made and distributed the rules and regulations for the implementation of the law. In addition, the government pushes the protection of water resources as a nation-wide campaign and encourages all the people to join the campaign. Minor hydropower stations went up all across the country and a large number of reservoirs of various sizes came into being. Kaechon-Lake Thaesong gravitational waterway was laid as the first model of large-sized gravitational irrigation system. It was followed by the Paengma-Cholsan and Miru Plain Waterways. Thus we have a better guarantee for effective use of water.

**Recently the water problem is getting more serious. I want to know what kind of measures are taken for the solution of the water problem in the DPRK.**

As you know, the water problem is getting serious day by day for some reasons such as the drain on water resources due to climate change, rapidly increasing population, colossal consumption of the industrial and agricultural water and water pollution. The water problem is leading to disputes between countries, and this emphasizes the importance of the protection and effective use of water. Last year our country suffered a severe drought. According to the weather survey last year we had the least precipitation in the past hundred years. As a result electricity production fell at hydroelectric power stations. This year's agricultural water is abso- ▶

**Power stations go up along the Chongchon River.**



# For Fresh Environment

**T**HE RESEARCHERS OF THE GAS purification laboratory of the environmental engineering research institute of the State Academy of Sciences have rendered great services for purification and recycling of the poisonous gases from light industry factories and coal and other mines and from gasoline, naphtha and other solvents, thus saving plenty of raw materials and money for the sake of the national economy. A particular success of theirs is the development of the technology of purifying poisonous gas coming from burning anthracite. They also succeeded in the research project to purify the carbonic acid gas by-produced in the ammonia-soda cyanide process at chemical plants. The successful technology was introduced into production processes.

Recently they developed a carbon monoxide purifier and applied it to relevant units, giving great help to the effort to ensure the people's safety. Earlier, several measures had been taken to purify the carbon monoxide, but they turned out to be ineffective. Kim Hye Rim, head of the laboratory, and other scientists who had been deeply concerned in similar problems set a goal of solving the carbon monoxide purification problem as early as possible and pushed ahead with the research work. But it was not an easy



job to purify the gas in low temperature. They first laid a theoretical basis for the solution by pooling their efforts and wisdom after setting proper targets in each stage. Then, they buckled down to the manufacture of the equipment to be set up in the field of production. Even a small piece of the equipment cost them repeated experiments. In this way they finally succeeded in making a light and ideal purifier whose manufacture costs quite low.

The new device can ensure 99% of purification rate, so it is favourably commented upon by users.

*Sim Hyon Jin*

▶ lutely insufficient due to the drying up of many reservoirs without any filling. To cope with this situation my country calls upon the whole Party, the entire army and all the people to turn out to secure water resources. The construction of a number of power stations along the Chongchon River is making headway and in the countryside reservoirs and dams are built while pools are made and paddy fields are filled with water. The work to dig water holes and wells and new waterways is progressing in high gear. In all back-flow pumping stations all equipment are repaired and maintained to meet technical norms and are in full operation to fill the reservoirs. Electricity, cement, oil and other materials needed to run pumps and accelerate water-related projects including the building of reservoirs are supplied in time. The waterway project going ahead in South Hwanghae Province is preferentially supplied with neces-

sary materials for its earlier completion.

A sweeping campaign is under way to save and effectively use water. To save water industrial enterprises recycle waste water and use water in stages from the one that needs high-quality water down to the one that can do with low-quality water. In order to economize on industrial water, the air is used for the cooling purpose, the equipment and methods of washing goods and raw materials are improved and a technology of treating sewage and waste water is applied to recycle used water on the site.

In the country they clear channels and harden them by stamping clay to avoid waste of water. The hydroelectric power stations are working hard to increase generation by making the most of water. In the future, too, we will make efforts to protect water resources and use them effectively. □

# Preservation and Propagation of Rare Bird *Goshawk*

**T**HE RESEARCHERS OF the zoology research institute under the State Academy of Sciences achieved successes in the study of the distribution and inhabitation of goshawks in Korea. For a long time the goshawk was considered a rare bird in Korea. The book *Korean Birds* (published in 1963) wrote as follow, "In our country the bird was caught once in August, but its breeding is not proved." In the internationally recognized distribution chart of the goshawk, there is no mention about its inhabitation in Korea.

The researchers were doubtful about this and set about making investigations. The aim of the investigation was to prove that the goshawk is a habitual resident of Korea. Scores of researchers including experienced section chiefs took part in the investigation. Last year the research institute dispatched them divided into various investigation groups twice to the forest areas of Ryanggang, Jagang, South and North Hamgyong, North Phyongan and

Kangwon provinces. They pushed ahead untiringly with the investigation crossing rugged mountains everyday in spite of foul weathers with a desire to prove scientifically the national bird's ecological characteristics.

With the assistance and cooperation of the local people, they discovered many goshawks and their nests built long before or quite recently in Ryanggang, Jagang, South and North Hamgyong provinces. In the area of Sangdolri, Toksong County, the group headed by section chief Kim Kyong Jun discovered three goshawk nests built in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and a mother goshawk and its young in 2014, and took their pictures and motion pictures. This was a great success conducive to ascertaining the goshawk's mode of life in Korea. Through the investigation they also gained valuable data relating to the building of nests that is an important part of the breeding of the goshawk. As a result, it was testified that the goshawks in-

habit widely in the northern areas of Korea including the alpine regions and that the goshawk is a habitual resident of Korea.

This success in research work is of great significance for the preservation and proliferation of the goshawk which is a rare bird in the world. And the discovery of the breeding grounds of the goshawk makes it possible to establish its reserves in Korea. The establishment of reserves means preserving the feed animals for goshawks, which will in its turn bring about the conservation of the biological diversity of the reserves. Section chief Kim Kyong Jun says, "The entire people are pleased with the research success that contributed to the preservation and propagation of the goshawk, the national bird and a pride of the country. I think that our research success is not only a fruit of our efforts, but also a natural result of the correct environmental protection policy."

*Chae Kwang Myong*



# Visit to Ogasan Nature Reserve

**O**N A CLEAR AUTUMN day last year, we went to the Ogasan Nature Reserve. Ogasan (Mt. Oga) consists of five peaks higher than 1 000 metres above sea level. There were five houses at the foot of the mountain when President Kim Il Sung went over the mountain alone in

his early teens on the way of his 250-mile journey for national liberation. Hence, the name Oga (Five Houses) sounds dear to the hearts of the Korean people.

Our car reached a peak of Mt. Oga on the boundary between Janggang County and Hwaphyong County, Jagang

**Spring.**



**Summer.**



Province. From there we could command a sweeping view of the vast sea of mixed forests. As we were feasting our eyes on the unbroken mountain range stretching far away, we felt as if the virgin forest of Ogasan with its special flora were beckoning to us. We went down the mountain road to go to the Ogasan Nature Reserve Management Office. The office was by a clear stream, and we met its head Kim Kwang Chol.

First he guided us to the virgin forest. We went along a ridge over the ankle-deep fallen leaves into the virgin forest, where a rare sight caught our eyes. There were roots of many trees tangled together presenting a grand, strange spectacle. Among them were *Eurya japonica* trees that twined round pine-nut trees and Mongolian oaks that stretched their branches over pine-nut trees as if to stifle them. The cute appearance of squirrels moving ►

▶ about on the stems and branches of great trees was very attractive adding a zest to the atmosphere of the virgin forest. We went over countless fallen trees admiring the queer forms of big trees spans of arms round and came to the strange linden trees. They were growing on something like a swollen rock. But a closer look showed it was not a rock, but a mass of tangled roots. We could hardly believe our eyes, and so we rubbed our fingers over its mossy surface with curiosity, when the head of the office said boastfully, "The old poets praised the scenery of Mt. Kumgang for its wonderful sights with all strange forms of rocks and singular scenes of rushing streams, plus beautiful forests. But even in Mt. Kumgang you won't be able to find big trees as strange as these."

As we went further into the forest, we found it was bristling with pine-nut trees, firs, *Abies nephrolepis*, yews, lindens, Mongolian oaks and *Aceraceae meno*, all hundreds of years old. We were told that Mt. Oga is the home of

over 1 200 species of plants such as useful trees, shrubs and edible herbs. So, Mt. Oga can be called a huge natural botanical garden. What is surprising is the fact that *Rhododendron rufescens* known to grow in the northern alpine region, *Sasamorpha purpleascens* known to grow in the areas south of North Phyongan Province, and some other plants of the subarctic and temperate zones are found among the flora

of the mountain, Kim went on to explain. The dense forest is inhabited by large numbers of leopards, bears, wild boards, foxes, and other mammals, birds, amphibians, fishes and insects, and the mountain abounds in perennial herbs of the *Botrychium lunaria* family known to be growing in the areas south of the middle part of Korea, and other rare animals and plants.

Listening to him, we were ▶

### Autumn.



### Winter.



▶ coming out of the virgin forest when we ran across the researchers of the National Spore Preservation Research Institute. They said that they had been engaged in soil analysis in the virgin forest for several years, which they explained was their voluntary work to carry out the last injunctions of Chairman Kim Jong Il. Following them, the head of the office said with deep emotion, "The Chairman visited this place in July seven years ago in a hot and stuffy weather. That day he said that the Ogasan Nature Reserve that had about 1 330 species of fauna and flora was important in scientific research and scientific knowledge dissemination work because of its abundance of fauna and flora resources and peculiar distribution of them. And he instructed that

we should hand over the reserve to the coming generation by preserving the rare fauna and flora and the virgin forest with great care."

Deeply moved, we descended the mountain and came to the Ogasan flora exhibition hall. We were told that the exhibition hall had been built only in a few months by the officials and working people of Hwaphyong County with earnest yearning and feelings of eternal loyalty to Chairman Kim Jong Il.

We went into the hall full of curiosity and saw a panorama of the nature reserve. It was flanked on both sides by 800 specimens of leaves, tree trunks and seeds. Among them were specimens of three plants discovered by Ryom Chol Hun, a researcher of the reserve, for the first time in the

country, and registered. We were told that the workers of the reserve had gone up and down the peaks and ridges of the mountain many times to make each one of the specimens.

It was too late now and we could not visit the comprehensive arboretum planted with thousands of trees from different heights of the reserve to give a bird's-eye view of the flora of the mountain, and also could not see the various tree nurseries. But leaving the place, we seemed to see with our minds' eye the future appearance of the Ogasan Nature Reserve that would be brought to shine as a treasure of our country and a rare natural arboretum unique in the world by the patriotic zeal of the people.

*Ri Song Chol*



# Korea's Wealth— Revolutionary Spirit of Paektu

**T**HE SUPREME LEADER Kim Jong Un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) put forward the slogan, "Let us all turn out in the general offensive to hasten final victory in the revolutionary spirit of Paektu!" in his New Year Address for 2015. The slogan carries the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of national liberation and the founding of the Party as revolutionary, auspicious events by determinedly thwarting the challenges and manoeuvres of hostile forces and scoring a signal success in the struggle to defend socialism and on all fronts of building a thriving nation in the revolutionary spirit and mettle of Paektu.

Recently, owing to the United States' extremely hostile policy towards the DPRK, the vicious cycle of tension never ceases and the danger of war is growing further in the Korean peninsula. The United States and its vassal forces are resorting to the despicable "human rights" racket as they were foiled in their attempt to destroy the DPRK's self-defensive nuclear deterrent and stifle the country by force. The aggressive nature of their uninterrupted large-scale games of war aimed at the DPRK is getting more pronounced.

The WPK, which always gives priority to the ideological work, launched an ideological offensive to enhance the spiritual exertions of the army and people following the Eighth Conference of Ideological Workers of the WPK held in February last year, thus increasing the fighting efficiency of the People's Army remarkably and bolstering the national defence capability. A great progress was made in different sectors of the national economy including agricultural, fisheries, chemical and coal-mining industries.

The construction sector kindled the fierce flames for creating the Korean Speed to build many

monumental structures including the Wisong Scientists Residential District, apartment houses for teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp and October 8 Factory, thereby actually demonstrating the looks of the DPRK that is realizing its beautiful ideals.

The spiritual exertion of the masses is an almighty means to break through any difficulties and trials and create a miracle—this is the WPK's consistent policy of attaching foremost importance to ideology. This year the WPK is giving priority to the ideological work definitely so as to make sure that the hearts of all the service personnel and the people pulsate with the spirit and mettle of Paektu, and that they all turn out in the general offensive to defend socialism and build a thriving nation. In this way the Party seeks to demonstrate the ideological power.

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu, created in the unprecedentedly arduous anti-Japanese armed struggle, is an unyielding offensive spirit of braving obstacles and difficulties and a staunch fighting spirit of rising up no

matter how often one may fall and fighting it out. This spirit, created by the first generation of the Korean revolutionaries, has been alive in the heart of the Korean people in their struggle to defeat the aggressive manoeuvres of the imperialists and build a people-centred socialism, begetting the revolutionary spirit of Chollima, the revolutionary spirit of speed campaign and the revolutionary soldier spirit.

The ideological offensive is now made in all parts of Korea to encourage the people to join the all-out effort to exalt the dignity of their country and promote its prosperity with the confidence in victory and indomitable spirit cherished by the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners. Thus fierce flames of patriotic loyalty, creation and innovation are sweeping all defence posts and all fields of the building of a thriving nation.

As they keep the revolutionary spirit of Paektu as the most valuable mental wealth, the Korean people are convinced that they will be able to break through any difficulties and trials and win the final victory.

*Kim Won Sik*

**Pyongyangites have a mass rally pledging to carry out the tasks set by the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un in his 2015 New Year Address.**



## Society for Rallying Comrades and October 10

**A**N IMPORTANT PAGE OF THE 70-YEAR history of the Workers' Party of Korea that has led the revolution and construction victoriously by believing in the people and by relying on them is dedicated to the first organization of the Party called the Society for Rallying Comrades (SRC). The SRC was the origin of the Party formed by young communists of a new generation engaged in the struggle in the 1920s to down with the Japanese imperialists who were militarily occupying their country of Korea.

After the Korean Communist Party was dismissed from the membership of the Comintern in 1928, the Korean communists of a new generation felt the need to found a party of a new type and rely on its coordinated guidance in forcefully conducting the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle. They began to grope for a new way.

At the time the factionalists still remaining in the communist movement were continuing with their scramble for hegemony while working for the restoration of the Korean Communist Party.

Kim Il Sung put forth the policy of founding a party of a new type with the communists of a new generation—who had nothing to do with factional strife—as the backbone and strengthening it by way of forming grass-roots organizations and expanding them before declaring the party centre. Then he pushed forward the effort to implement the policy.

A conference that was later named as the Kalun Meeting was held in Jiajiatusun, Kalun, Changchun County, Jilin Province, China, on June 30–July 2, 1930, participated in by leading personnel and representatives of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Japanese Youth League from different regions. The meeting made a profound analysis of the prevailing situation and the lesson from the Korean people's anti-Japanese mass-based struggles, before expounding the fundamental standpoint to be maintained by the young communists in the revolutionary struggle. Kim Il Sung stated in his speech: **"Drawing on this lesson we regard it as most important to take the firm standpoint that the masters of the Korean revolution are the Korean people and that the Korean revolution should by all means be carried out by the Korean people themselves in a way suited to the actual conditions of their country. Only when we adopt this standpoint towards the revolution can we map out a correct line and policy and achieve the sacred cause of national liberation."**

The Juche idea expounded at the Kalun Meeting served as the guiding idea of the Korean revolution and the ideological basis in the struggle to build a

party of a new type.

Building on the organizational basis for party building laid with the preparation of the leadership and the mass foundation, Kim Il Sung formed the first party organization with young communists of a new generation, named Society for Rallying Comrades, on July 3, 1930. The name of the organization carried the aspiration of Kim Il Sung who commenced his revolutionary career by making comrades with a determination to develop the revolution in depth and win the ultimate victory by getting and rallying more and more comrades who were prepared to cast their lot with him.

It was thought almost impossible to form a revolutionary party organization by enlisting a dozen patriotic youths who had just engaged themselves in the struggle when flunkeyism and dogmatism towards established theories, dependence on and subservience to the party of a certain big country, and scrambles for hegemony were rampant.

With the founding of the first party organization, Korea came to have a true revolutionary party organization guided by Kim Il Sung, and the revolutionaries of a new generation became able to have a genuine vanguard of the revolution and use its unified leadership to press on with the preparation for the building of a revolutionary party of Juche type. The SRC was the embryo or seed of the Workers' Party of Korea. The formation of the first party organization meant the beginning of a full-scale effort to build a revolutionary party of Juche type.

A magazine named *Bolshevik* was inaugurated as the ideological advocate of the first party organization.

Some time later a homeland party organization was formed involving core members of the revolutionary organizations active in the Onsong area in Korea, and it was soon followed by a lot of primary party organizations in the east Manchurian region along the Tuman River and the northern borderline area of Korea.

Later the Korean People's Revolutionary Army Party Committee was organized to control and guide party organizations within the army and those in different regions, establishing a well-regulated system of Kim Il Sung's leadership of the Korean revolution.

Thanks to this precious achievement and experience gained during the years of the arduous anti-Japanese warfare, a revolutionary party of Juche type was founded on October 10, 1945, less than two months after the country was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation.

Guided by the Workers' Party of Korea that ►



# The Korean People's Revolutionary Army

**T**HE KOREA TODAY EDITORIAL BOARD introduces excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences With the Century.

After repulsing the enemy's winter "punitive" operations, we realized very keenly the need to reorganize the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army into a people's revolutionary army and we discussed this matter seriously with the commanding officers of the guerrilla units in other regions.

Reorganizing the AJPGA into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was a revolutionary measure which would improve its combat efficiency and counter the large-scale offensive of the Japanese imperialists more effectively by providing a unified command for the enlarged guerrilla forces.

In the latter half of 1933, the merger of the guerrilla forces in Jiandao into a unified command became a major topic of discussion as a result of the lessons of Operation Macun for repulsing the enemy's winter "punitive" operations and the heroic battle fought in defence of tens of thousands of square miles of territory.

In a nutshell, the guerrilla movement required a new form of armed force corresponding to the content and scope of the movement. It was necessary for us to take radical measures to bring the armed units dispersed in the counties and districts under a single system. The quickest way of meeting this requirement was to merge the anti-Japanese people's guerrilla forces into a large revolutionary army.

Pan, the inspector from the Comintern, gave full support to our idea, saying that it was a correct policy in keeping with the line of the Comintern.

In March 1934, we formally proposed the policy of reorganizing the AJPGA into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, in full accord with our objectives and the character of the political force which would struggle for them.

In the course of this reorganization, the party committee of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was established as a new party guidance body. The party committee was entrusted with the onerous task of giving guidance to local party organizations

as well as those in the army, because the local party organizations could not protect or maintain themselves if they were not supported by force of arms.

The work of reorganizing the AJPGA into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army was carried out in a very short space of time—from March to May 1934.

The reorganization of the AJPGA into the KPRA opened up a broad highway towards the development of large-force operations in a wider area. Had we not reorganized the AJPGA into the KPRA, or had we not created in good time the large units of regiments and divisions, we could not have lit the torch in Pochonbo, which illuminated the darkness of the motherland, nor won victory after victory in the battles fought in Fusong, Jiansanfang, Hongtoushan, Limingshui, Taehongdan, Hongqihe and in other places in the homeland and in Manchuria, when we annihilated the enemy's crack troops. Nor could we have smashed the notorious siege imposed by the enemy upon the guerrilla zones after his "punitive" operations.

Through this reorganization we clearly demonstrated at home and abroad the will of the Korean nation to liberate their motherland by an armed resistance, no matter what the cost.

The KPRA developed into the most powerful armed force in Jiandao, the eastern frontier region of Manchuria, and the region of the Korean peninsula centring on Mt. Paektu.

The principled stand and prudent political magnanimity the Korean communists had shown in the course of reorganizing the AJPGA into the KPRA contributed greatly in subsequent years to the development of the joint anti-Japanese struggle of the Korean and Chinese peoples, and particularly to the development of the armed struggle against the Japanese in northeast China.

The reorganization of the AJPGA into the KPRA did not mean a mere change of name or a technical restructuring. It meant a new stage of army-building, of improving the command system of the guerrilla army and strengthening its ranks both in quantity and quality by following up on its successes and drawing on its experiences after reviewing the path of militant advance traversed by the AJPGA. ▶

▶ originated as the Society for Rallying Comrades, Korea successfully accomplished two stages of serious social revolution in a short span of time, shattered the imperialist challenges flatly and has won victory after victory, working miracles of history.

Today the Workers' Party of Korea is exalting its

honour as an ideologically pure and organizationally integrated body that is equipped with Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and moves as one under the leadership of the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un.

*Jong Kyong Bok*

► After reorganizing the AJPGA into the KPRA, we launched unremitting military actions to frustrate the enemy's siege.

The headquarters of the Kwantung Army and the military authorities in Tokyo, who had suffered defeat in the winter "punitive" operations which they had flaunted as the final "mopping-up," made a great fuss over determining the cause of their failure and deciding who would be answerable for it; then in the spring of 1934, they re-examined their previous scorched-earth tactics and proposed a plan which they called a siege, an even more notorious, new plan for "clean-up." It was an atrocious operation intended to wipe out the guerrilla zones for good by combining military siege and attack, political suppression and economic blockade. We regarded this new invention of the Japanese as a replica of the blockade policy Jiang Jie-shi had pursued when attacking the Soviet zones in China.

While Jiang Jie-shi's blockade policy had been aimed at denying the communist army clothing and food "by producing a subhuman world filled with political terror and economic crisis," the Japanese siege was aimed at killing all the people and soldiers in the guerrilla zones by shooting and burning and imposing on them death from hunger and cold. To this end, they tried to separate the army and people by building concentration villages and to detect and eliminate all the forces of resistance through the introduction of such medieval collective security systems as the ten-household joint responsibility system and the five-household joint surveillance system.

In his preparations for the siege from the spring of 1934, the enemy moved a greater number of crack troops of the Kwantung Army and his occupation army in Korea to the areas around the guerrilla bases and reinforced them with puppet Manchukuo army troops.

To cope with a threatening situation in which the enemy was deploying his forces for the purpose of siege, we ensured that the KPRA forces forestalled his attempt by assaulting his military and political strongholds one after another from behind in large-scale operations, while fighting in defence of the guerrilla zones and, at the same time, expanding the guerrilla zones to more favourable areas. This enabled us to manage the difficult situation on the basis of our initiative, consolidate the victories won at the cost of our blood, and maintain the people's high revolutionary spirit.

The KPRA launched a spring offensive. We raided the areas in Wangqing where the enemy forces were concentrated and the constructing sites of the concentration villages at Xiaobaicaogou, Daduchuan, Shitouhezi and Zhuanjiaolou.

Luozigou was a strategic area for the enemy, for it connected Baicaogou in Wangqing County and the Dongning county town.

Occupying the Luozigou area by means of a pre-emptive attack was the fundamental link in the overall chain of our efforts to create the conditions for lifting a corner of the siege and expanding new

guerrilla zones.

The greatest obstacle in the battle at Luozigou was a fort on a west hill just as in the battle in the Dongning county town. The battle went on for three days because of the enemy's desperate resistance from the fort. As we were holding a meeting at the headquarters of the Chinese units on the third day, a mortar shell from the fort caused wounds, some of them serious, to some of the commanders of the Chinese units, including Zhou Bao-zhong.

To the KPRA soldiers who were pinned down so that they could not approach the fort but only grind their teeth in vexation, I shouted, "Comrades, we must seize the fort at any cost. Let us fight for the revolution to the last drop of our blood!"

Then, mowing the enemy down with Mauser fire, I charged forward. The rain of machine-gun bullets from the fort grazed my ears. A bullet pierced through my cap. But I dashed forward without pause for breath. The men sprang to their feet and followed me. The fort which was boasted to be impregnable fell into our hands in 30 minutes and a red flag was hoisted on top of it.

The soldiers of the Chinese units who saw that flag turned round and launched an all-out charge in high spirits.

The battle ended in victory for us.

Wen, the battalion commander of the puppet Manchukuo army, and the Japanese instructor, who were defending Luozigou, said in the last despairing message they sent to the commander of the Kwantung Army that they had been surrounded and under attack by 2 000 troops of the combined forces of Kim Il Sung's army and other units for six days and five nights and that they were on the brink of being annihilated. They wailed, "Our ammunition has run out and our fate will be decided in a moment. But we are proud of having done our best for the sake of Japan and the building of Manchukuo. Mr. Commander, please understand this and forgive us."

Our victory at Luozigou and Dadianzi was the greatest of all the victories the KPRA won in the early days of the anti-Japanese war. The KPRA's attack on Luozigou dealt a heavy blow at the enemy in his attempt to besiege us and struck mortal terror into his heart. After this battle the enemy's large and small "punitive" forces deployed in the vicinity of the guerrilla bases were paralyzed with fear.

Indeed, the battle at Luozigou reduced the enemy's power in the northeastern region of the Wangqing guerrilla zone, creating a situation favourable for expanding the guerrilla zones and making a great contribution to the further consolidation of the allied front with the Chinese nationalist armed forces. After the battle we continued brisk political and military activities to thwart the enemy's attempts at siege. When the guerrilla zones were evacuated many of the revolutionary people in east Manchuria were able to settle down in the areas around Antu and Luozigou because we had turned this region into an invisible revolutionary base through intense military and political activities from the early days. □

# Mother's Life

*(Continued from the last issue)*

## Back to the Embrace of the Motherland

**I**N THE WINTER OF 1971, three officials of the Korean embassy in China visited my home unexpectedly with an official of the Foreign Affairs Department of Shaanxi Province who was my old acquaintance. They said they came to see me on behalf of President Kim Il Sung and that the President had asked them to convey his best regards to me. Then they offered me valuable gifts from him.

Hearing them, I felt as if in a dream. At the thought that the President, the eldest son of Kim Hyong Jik and Kang Pan Sok, had been looking for me and that my motherland Korea under his leadership had not forgotten me, her daughter, I could not contain myself and melted into tears. A few days later, my children and I called on the Korean officials at a guest house and saw them off. Bidding them farewell, I remembered the recent letter from my younger brother Ri Kwan Sik living in Sakju County, Korea. So, I heard from him after 26 years' silence.

In the letter my younger brother wrote that he had gone to Kuandian to meet me early in 1971, only to find that I had moved away from there a long time before. The President had

been looking for me, and when he came to Sakju in October 1946, he asked him about me, my brother said. At that time, the President took the trouble to visit my hometown, Sakju, though busy with field guidance in North Phyongan Province. He told its people that there once lived in Sakju a woman called Ri Kwan Rin or Ri Jang Chong who was engaged in the anti-Japanese independence movement, and asked them if they knew where the woman and her relatives were living now. After that, officials of the county searched for people acquainted with me and found out that my brother Kwan Sik was living in Sakju. They reported the fact to the President. At this, the President was very pleased and met my brother. My brother's answer to his question that he did not know where I was living after I moved away from my old place of residence disappointed the President very much. He told my brother to let him know when he got in touch with me, and continued on his journey of field inspection.

I did not visit my hometown again after I went across the Amnok River with the joy of national liberation and met my stepmother, younger brother and sister and home folks in mid-September of 1945. Knowing from my brother's letter that the President with the childhood name of Song Ju who was handsome and warmhearted with extraordinary personality, was

looking for me, I felt a rush of impulse to go and meet him at once. But I had a heavy heart with pricks of conscience that I failed to remain faithful to the wishes of the pioneers of the independence movement to the last and fell away from the movement halfway. So I gave up the thought of going to the motherland. Nevertheless, I could hardly repress my desire to go to my dear motherland and my old home. An old saying goes that young people live on the hopes for the future and the aged live on the memories of the past.

One day in February 1972 I received a letter from an office concerned in Korea telling me that President Kim Il Sung was inviting me to come to the motherland. The unexpected letter moved me to hot tears. I overflowed with gratitude for his kind consideration for me. At the thought that the President, never forgetting this old woman for my affiliation with the independence movement in the past, searched for me for scores of years and now was inviting me to Korea, words failed me to express my gratitude. After passing several wakeful nights, I wrote a letter to the President. In the letter I expressed my thanks for his remembering and calling to his presence such a worthless woman like me and wrote the whole story of my life since our last meeting in Jilin. I enclosed a picture of me. I was told later that after reading my letter the President said to the ►

► officials concerned that the contents of the letter coincided with what he knew about me and that the woman in the photo was unmistakably me.

In April that year I received an invitation to visit the motherland from the Korean embassy in Beijing. With the letter of invitation in my hand, my heart beat high and I was in raptures at the thought that I would soon be in my dear motherland after half a century's vagrant life in an alien land. On April 17, I had the honour of meeting President Kim Il Sung. Going to see the President in a car, I, calming down my excited feelings, thought a lot of things: *What has become of the grave of Kim Hyong Jik in Yangdicun, Fusong County, China, and the grave of Kang Pan Sok in Xiaoshahe, Antu County, China, and of their two other sons?* I was deep in thought in the running car: *What happened to O Tong Jin, Jang Chol Ho and Ryang Se Bong who took an oath to remain faithful to the cause of national independence before the grave of Kim Hyong Jik?*

Before long the car arrived at the quarters of the President. The President was awaiting me in the garden. Getting off the car, I recognized him at once and walked a few steps towards him, when suddenly, under an impulse of excitement, I stopped short on the spot. Only when I heard him calling me politely "Mother! Mother Ri Kwan Rin!" did I gather myself up and approached him. Grasping my hands the President said, "Mother, it's really a long time since I saw you last." Then he

went on to say that though time had passed, he could recognize some marks of my youthful features. His words moved me to tears. "But Mother, where have you been? Why is it that you come home now? I've sought for you. I've looked for you for a long time." As he said this, his eyes shone with ineffable joy and emotion.

Looking up to the President, I was overwhelmed with the sorrows of the bygone days of ordeals when I had wandered about helplessly. Restraining myself, I wanted to express my thanks to the President for calling me to the motherland I had been longing for so ardently, but feeling a lump in my throat, I only wept. "Mother, don't cry. Why are you crying on this happy occasion of reunion? Now stop crying," said the President, and he led me into a room. That day he treated me warmly with the affection of kinship although I had done nothing particular for the country, and recalled the bygone days. He told me in detail about his father's comrades-in-arms and other fighters of the national independence movement whose fate I wanted to know. Tightly holding my hands, the President looked into my wrinkled face and said with deep emotion:

"I'm very glad to meet you like this today, Mother. I ought to have found you out long ago. I'm really sorry for the delay in seeking you out. I think this is our first meeting since we met last at the house of the Rev. Son of the church in Jilin. I looked for you when I went to Wangqingmen, Xingjing County, to attend a con-

gress of the General Federation of the Korean Youth in South Manchuria, but couldn't find you. We strove greatly to find you after the liberation of the country. You actively supported my father in his revolutionary struggle. After setting forth the line of armed struggle, my father travelled widely at home and all over east Manchuria and even to Shanghai to make preparations for its implementation. In those days you often had discussions with my father on the method of struggle, and successfully fulfilled the task he assigned to you. My father passed away too young.

"Now you say you are ashamed of yourself because you failed to carry on the revolution to the last. Though you did not hold out to the last, you had your hands clean doing nothing wrong and didn't betray your motherland and your people. In that period many soldiers of the Independence Army fell in battle against the punitive forces of the Japanese imperialists or surrendered to them and turned traitors. Yet, you didn't surrender to the enemy but held on to the idea of Korea's independence to the last. It was very hard for a woman to continue with the struggle in the difficult situation of the time. In those days you could hardly get in touch with us even if you tried to because we were operating in the deep mountains of Changbai, and it was impossible for you to contact the organization of the Chinese Communist Party. So, you couldn't carry on the revolution single-handed."

(To be continued)

# Research Institute for Women

**C**HAIRMAN KIM JONG IL'S LAST instruction to the sector of public health was to build a modern institute in the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital for medical research of breast tumour. The national leader Kim Jong Un stated that it was not merely a technical matter to build the institute well, and took charge of the construction project.

On June 30, 2012, he inspected the institute under construction. Saying that the Chairman had initiated the construction project of the breast centre and even examined the design, Kim Jong Un renamed it the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. Making the rounds of several places of the institute including an X-ray room, an operation theatre and an in-patient ward, he said he keenly felt again that the Chairman had worked hard to build the institute until the last days of his life. Then he declared he made up his mind to build the institute to the world standard. He went round all the floors of the four-storeyed building for a long time acquainting himself with the state

of construction and giving concrete instructions.

In early November that year Kim Jong Un visited the research institute again. Entering the central hall, he said satisfactorily he felt as if he were in a palace. Looking round all rooms from those on the ground floor, he expressed his satisfaction repeatedly, saying that the building operation was very good and that there were all sorts of expensive top-notch medical facilities in the institute. He asked to place refrigerators in the in-patients' rooms, hang LCD TVs—which he was going to send—on the wall instead of putting them on the table, set monitors by each of beds in the intensive treatment room so as to make them comprehensively controllable by the computer at the observation post, and lay tables and chairs in the visitors' hall so that they can have foods together with the patients. He went on, "As we are building the Breast Tumour Research Institute for women with a full determination, we must make all the things comply with the world standard. We are to spare nothing for the sake of our women."

Later, when he visited the institute on its completion, he expressed great satisfaction for the construction of the excellent institute. He said, "**Some time ago I saw a video report on the completed Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. I thought it was a nice building. Now that I see it on the spot I find it quite admirable. In this central hall I feel as if I were in a palace. The Breast Tumour Research Institute is rather a palace than a research institute.**" □



# Strength of the Masses

**I**N RECENT YEARS THE Osoksan Granite Quarry under the Pyongyang Stone Quarrying Company has supplied processed stones smoothly to many construction sites. Last year it was assigned the task of supplying a vast amount of processed stones such as dressed and cut stones to various construction sites including the reconstruction sites of the May Day Stadium and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace.

At the conference held in the quarry for accomplishing the task, General Manager Chang Jae Ryong said, "The processed stones we have to produce this year are a vast quantity much

larger than the amount we produced in the past. However, we should accomplish this year's plan unconditionally so as to help complete the construction projects as soon as possible. In increasing production, we must work with an eye to using our granite resources most effectively and profitably." At the conference suggestions were made that on the basis of giving definite priority to the production of rough stones, all the machines should be brought into full operation.

*The present machines are not able to increase production capacity. So, the machines should be modernized. Yet, it is beyond the technical force of the quarry to*

*finish the technical reconstruction of the equipment in a short time. For its realization we should depend on the initiatives and creative abilities of all the workers of the quarry.* This was the consensus reached at the conference. Immediately the technicians and workers of the quarry were encouraged to advance more than one technical innovation idea. All the producers were afire with the technical innovation drive.

Chief Engineer Pak Kwang Son decided that reserves for production growth were in the reduction of production time and made deep studies for its realization. Mingling with the workers, asking them about their experiences



► and opinions, and studying the technical documents, he hit upon a good idea that the cutting machine's no-load running time should be done away with while its loading time increased. With its simple mechanism and great utility, his idea increased the efficiency of cutting rough stones 1.5 times. Good technical innovation ideas were presented by Kim Sang Gun and other workers. He remodelled the automatic stone grader by his own effort based on the experiences and knowledge he had gained in the ten years of stone processing work. The remodelled machine could not only increase the speed of production of large cut stones markedly but also reduce the consumption of materials by half. Kang Jong Sam, a workteam head, made strenuous efforts to master the

use of equipment and formed a plan of remodelling the small cutting machine through deep studies. The remodelled cutting machine was also highly appreciated by people for increasing the cutting speed and enhancing the quality of products. One day, in the heat of the technical remodeling campaign, the quarry received a new design of processed stones from a construction site. Determined to make machines that could process any kind of stones to meet the increasing demands for processed stones, the employees of the quarry got down to the work of tackling the design. At that time Kang Jong Sam also presented an original idea and the technicians and workers built a new machine by their concerted efforts. Kang who played a great part in making the machine was

called "a master of contrivance."

Based on the successes achieved so far such as the renovation of the lathe jig, stone processing bases were established in the quarry that can guarantee the production of any kind of processed stones and the formative and artistic beauties of the products. Last year, over ten technical innovation plans were introduced to ensure a smooth supply of all sizes of high-quality stone products to construction sites. General Manager Chang Jae Ryong says, "Last year's experiences tell us how great the strength of the masses is. In the future we will produce more processed stones by introducing CNC technology in our machines depending on the strength of the masses."

*Kim Kwang Chon*



# Ambitious Female Workers



**T**HE UNHA TAESONG Foodstuff Factory is well-known to the whole country although it is less than a year since its inauguration. It is heart-warming to know how this factory came into existence. On December 15, 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Kwangbok Area Supermarket before its opening. Going round the counters, he inquired in detail into the variety of goods, how they were displayed, and the plan of their sale, and set forth the tasks of service activity.

He gave instructions that the ratio of home products should be raised in the sale of goods. It was an important task he set out that day. His instructions given on the day were his last injunctions. On December 17, 2011, he passed away due to a sudden illness. This factory was built as a part of the implementation of his last wishes.

True to his instructions, the management staff and workers of this factory set a goal of increasing foodstuff production to meet the demands of the devel-

oping reality and pushed ahead with construction work and preparations for production simultaneously. So in June last year when the construction was completed, the factory took the first step with the production of 80 items of foodstuff. In retrospect, General Manageress Choe Jin Suk says, "It was our constant preoccupation that we should produce more high-quality



foodstuff as soon as possible so that the loving care of President Kim Il Sung, Chairman Kim Jong Il and the supreme leader Kim Jong Un could reach the people like a large river. So after a serious discussion, we decided to name the trademark of our goods *Taeha* (Large River). *Taeha!* This represents our work- ▶



► ers' unanimous ambition."

The workers of this factory are mostly women. Among them are graduates of universities such as the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry, many women experienced in light industry operations, and beginners in social life. All heads of the workteams such as cake, bread and toffee workteams are university graduates, and they are proud of their work. Laboratory head Kim Hae Ok in charge of the factory's technical development is also one of them. She had worked as technology section chief in

interested in pop-rice and other kinds of cakes and felt sure she could increase their production. As a result, the factory is now producing several kinds of pop cakes such as milk, strawberry-aroma, banana and red-bean jelly cakes. The pop cakes from the factory are highly praised by the consumers for their unique tastes, aromas and nutrition.

General Manageress Choe Jin Suk is vigorously arousing the employees to the campaign for improving the quality of their products. Visiting groceries in various places of the city is

Pae Ok Gyong, a member of the cake workteam, is one of the innovators loved by everyone in the factory. Some time ago she brought up a new cake-shaping design and won applause. She explained the secret of her success in the innovation drive, "Seeing all members of my workteam making strenuous efforts for technical innovation, I, a moulder, also thought to do something. So I thought about the shapes of cake that would please all people from children to adults and never ex-



another foodstuff factory and has a high sense of responsibility for production. She is racking her brains to find out ways of producing dainty foodstuffs to meet the rapidly developing trend of the food processing industry and the tastes of the people.

The production of pop-rice and other cakes is a fruit of her tireless study and sincere efforts. Crisp and highly nutritive, it is a traditional sweetmeat of the Korean people. Going through various technical documents, she became

her daily routine. Tasting and analyzing the foodstuffs brought from the groceries, she is keen to find ways of outstripping other foodstuff factories in the quality of their products. This stimulates the workers to produce more and better. Actually in the factory a mass-based technical innovation drive is vigorously conducted and all the employees including dough-making workers, moulders and cooling workers are eager to bring on more than one technical innovation idea.

pected that I would win a high honour at a joint-review meeting in the factory. I have been congratulated warmly by my friends. So, now I am confident to contribute something to the factory and desire to create more designs."

All female workers of the factory are making strenuous efforts to produce more high-quality foodstuffs, with an ardent desire to contribute actually to the improvement of the peoples' livelihood.

*An Nam Hui*

# Kindergarten Full of Dreams

**S**OME TIME AGO I VISITED the newly-built Wisong Kindergarten in Unjong District, Pyongyang.

When I arrived at the kindergarten, the children were doing morning exercise to the music of the animation *The Boy General*. Rubber sheets were laid on the ground lest the children would get hurt if they fall down during play. Headmistress of the kindergarten Ri Son Ok, who was with the children, greeted me. She said, "When we see the bright faces of the children laughing and singing loudly at this palatial kindergarten, we recollect how it was built. When the construction was nearly completed, several vehicles rolled

up to my kindergarten. They were loaded with toys and sporting apparatuses for the children. Words failed to express my feelings." Then she led me to the entrance hall.

In the hall there was a picture of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il among the children. The beaming images of the President and the Chairman reminded me of their warm care for the children they put forward as the king of the country.

Guiding me to the corridor of the ground floor Ri said that the ground floor shows the sea, while the first and second floors depict the land and the sky respectively.

She pointed to the wave-style decoration belt on both sides of the corridor. Above the decoration belt several kinds of sea and freshwater fishes were painted and above them were pictures of animals from animations such as *The Hedgehog Defeats the Tiger*.

Now the morning exercise was over and the children went into their education rooms. Following them we dropped in at Senior Class B on the ground floor. It was a drawing lesson, and the teacher asked the children draw pictures to show their wishes. Then the children began to draw with crayons and pencils. I approached a child with curiosity, ►





▶ who was drawing a microscope. I asked him what it was, and he answered it was a toy in the kindergarten and that his teacher said it was a tool used by the scientists. He said, "When I grow up, I'd like to use it like my father. He is a scientist." Another child was quietly drawing a saw, a hammer, nails and other carpenter's tools. To my question he answered that he wished to grow up quickly to erect a huge house to delight the dear leader Kim Jong Un who had built such a wonderful kindergarten for them.

I came out of the room and I found shoe chests in the ante-room pasted with pictures of tank, plane, gun, apple, cucumber, tomato, peach and others on each shelf. Ri said that the pictures help the children find their shelves.

Then I went up to the general playroom on the first floor. There

was a housekeeping play section involving toys like a refrigerator, an electric rice cooker, spoons, chopsticks, and bowls. In the doctor-acting play section there was a stethoscope, a microscope, a white overall, a sanitary cap and a first-aid bag and the like. I also saw the *paduk* board in the playroom which was one of the children's favourite games.

Coming out of the playroom I walked along the corridor. On the wall there were pictures of a cock, a rabbit, a bear and a pig under the question of *What did you lose?* It was a puzzle to find out the things the animals lose in camping. I climbed up to the second floor.

From the ceiling were hung numerous big and small red stars as if resembling the stars in the sky. Ri said that there were amusement and exercise rooms. As if proving her words there

came sounds of the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* to the accompaniment of accordion in the amusement room. The exercise room was packed with different sporting apparatuses including mini-backstops, toy horses and bicycles. The children of Senior Class C were doing exercises using those apparatuses. Teacher Song Yong Sim said, "It is just like a dream. Thinking of the fact that I am now working at this wonderful kindergarten I brace myself up to bring up the children well." In her words I read other teachers' mind as well to be faithful to their task as the educators of rising generation.

I also made the rounds of the wading pool, dining room and kitchen. Keenly feeling the State benefits for the children I wrapped up my visit to the kindergarten.

*Sim Yong Jin*

# Everybody Learns

**T**HESE DAYS MANY people enrol in the Distance Learning College of Kim Chaek University of Technology. Among them are blue- and white-collar workers of various ages and occupations. Distance learning is an ideal mode of education to meet the demand of the present reality, says Kim Il Nam, rector of the college.

Situated in the central part of Pyongyang, the college was established in February 2010 and now has thousands of students across the country. In a little over two years since the first room was established for distance learning, more than 150 rooms appeared in the country for the purpose. In Pyongyang alone, there are many at different establishments including Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

The teaching contents of college are so wide-ranging that the students can get sci-tech knowledge of various engineering fields like mechanics, metallurgy, materials and electronics, light industry, food and consumer goods industry, business management, information technology and foreign languages.

The important thing of the distance learning is the guidance lecture and data reading. In particular, the lecture is focused on helping the students fully understand the contents of the subject treated.

There are also an inquiry room and a question-and-answer room. The students raise questions difficult to understand in the lecture to the inquiry room, and sci-tech problems arising in the practice are put to the question-and-answer room. After the collection



**The Distance Learning College of Kim Chaek University of Technology put emphasis on the development of an educational management system.**

of the problems, lectures are given every evening according to the relevant timetable. The instruction is not limited to the lecture. Teachers give tasks to the students so that they have fuller understanding of the materials they learn in the lecture. The examinations are directed to learning how much the students understand the lecture and help them improve their capacity. To successfully carry out all these, the college developed an efficient education management program by itself.

The students can attend or re-attend lectures as they want at any time in their factories and enterprises. Though far away geographically, they can get lectures of able teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, have questions and answers by audio and video means, share their experience with other students on the distance learning courses across the country, and solve problems arising in the practical production.

The college is now giving a great effort to the development of a rational instruction management system in order to draw up a

better curriculum, make better materials for lecture and make a better educational condition. Based on real-time report on the students' attendance, the college sees to it that the study website is an arena of competition involving the students, departments, factories and enterprises. It also provides enough materials for reference to suit their high enthusiasm.

Distance learning helps training necessary personnel on the spot and is a suitable mode of education which can satisfy the demand of the time of the knowledge-based economy, so it is greatly favoured.

The college takes part in international distance learning courses to have exchange with its counterparts of other countries.

The teachers and researchers of the Distance Learning College of Kim Chaek University of Technology hold their position securely in the Korean people's struggle to build a thriving nation, and do their best to train able sci-tech talents in greater numbers.

*Rim Hye Gyong*

# Our Doctors

SEVERAL DAYS AGO A game of Korean chess played by old folks was at its height in a park near Neighbourhood Unit No. 25, Phyongchon-dong No. 1, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang. Both the players and cheering spectators were war veterans in their 80s. At the time some doctors approached them, greeting, "How are you these days?"

Old folks received them with open arms.

Eleven years ago Phyongchon Polyclinic No. 1 came into being in Phyongchon District. Head of the clinic Rim Son Ryol started her work with the carrying out of health checkup of all the residents in the area in the direct charge of her clinic. In the course of this she got to know the fact that there were dozens of war veterans among the residents. She assigned all the section doctors the task of acquainting themselves in detail with the health conditions of the war veterans in their charge.

As the result of the physical checkup it was ascertained that the elderly ex-servicemen had motor disturbance and diseases caused by aging and their tooth conditions, too, were not so good.

At a consultative meeting of doctors held in this connection, Rim Son Ryol said: "Taking good care of the health of our war veterans with a sense of responsibility, the people who had a bloody struggle in defence of our country during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) is the duty of their younger generation, we doctors, in particular. It is said from olden times that one of the keys to longevity lies in teeth. Only when one has a good set of teeth can one enjoy good health free from illness. That is why we in this clinic are going to take a curative measure for the elderly people who are in poor health and, along with this, to give all of them concentrated dental treatment."

The clinic gained the detailed information about the dental state of the ex-servicemen by organizing an intensive medical checkup for them with the mobilization of Choe Yong Chol and other dentists. And then it scrupulously organized the work of making new artificial teeth for them. The doctors called at the homes of the ex-servicemen who felt uneasy in moving around so as to treat their teeth, while looking after those who were making visits to the clinic. As a result, all the ex-servicemen were given good services in a short space of time. In addition, checkups took place on a regular basis to know whether the new false teeth were fixed fast and whether there was something wrong about the gums. Necessary measures were taken promptly.

In parallel with this the clinic simultaneously pushed ahead with preventive and curative care for finding out diseases of ex-servicemen in time by checking up their health in a regular way. Kim Kum Sil and other doctors called at the homes of the ex-servicemen in the neighbourhood units in their charge every week and took a curative measure

when they found anything undesirable about their condition.

When a veteran fell seriously ill with bronchial asthma several years ago, Ri Son Bok waited on the patient for more than 20 days, while treating him in his home.

All doctors often dropped in at the homes of the veterans so as to inquire of them about their health, whenever they paid a sick call or went out for inoculation and even when they came to and from work. Lots of medicaments and tonics including *Schizandra chinensis* syrup, rowan remedy for cough, *Tractylis ovata* taffy with dates or nuts in it, and so on were prepared and supplied to the veterans regularly.

In July two years ago all the war veterans in the clinic's charge took part in the celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War in good health, and they are still spending their time full of joy.

Veteran Yun Pyong Chol says, "Thanks to the popular public health policy of our country and the whole-hearted sincerity of our doctors we veterans are living youthful life even in the old years."

*Jo Yong Il*



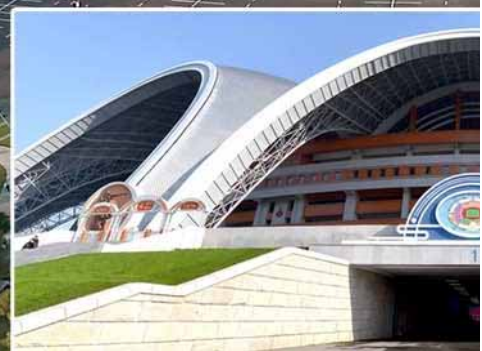
# Comprehensive Sports Facility

**I**N OCTOBER LAST YEAR THE MAY DAY Stadium was wonderfully renovated to go well with the spectacular scenery of the picturesque Rungna Islet in Pyongyang.

The stadium was built in 1989. Since inauguration, it has been the venue of countless international games and public functions, including the 13<sup>th</sup> World Festival of Youth and Students in 1989, the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Ever-victorious Workers' Party of Korea* held in celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK in October 2000, and the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang* held in celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup>

birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung and the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army in 2002. Since then *Arirang*, a Kim Il Sung Prize winner, took place there annually until 2013.

Recently the Democratic People's Republic of Korea set the target of developing the country into a sports power and has made unsparing investment. Sports facilities are newly built or renovated across the country while amusement and sports apparatuses are arranged in parks and residential districts. The May Day Stadium, too, has recently been completely refurbished in a short span of ten months as a comprehensive and modern sports facility for ▶



► sportspersons and the general public. The reconstructed 150 000-seater stadium has a football field, running track, a warm-up room, bedrooms for players and rooms for coaches, referees, screening and registering, which are consistent with international standards. It is also furnished with a swimming pool, table-tennis rooms, miniature golf courses, recovery rooms and other sporting, cultural and welfare facilities and a service network. The warm-up room, for example, is arranged well for the convenience of the players in such a way as to help them prepare themselves fully before entering the game. And the recovery rooms and bedrooms for players are also laid well enough to alleviate their fatigues satisfactorily.

Pak Min Gu, one of the coaches of the Wolmido Sports Team's women's football team who had a match with the national team—they had won the

17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games days earlier—in presence of the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un, says, “When I got to the stadium for the match in October last year, I only thought it fascinating. But when I received all kinds of service in the facilities in the stadium, I was in deep thought. I felt the state directs a huge sum of money for sports development, but we haven't achieved nothing special. I'll work hard to leave an indelible trace in my career and help build a sports power.”

Except athletes, many ordinary people frequent the stadium. Especially, it is crowded on holidays and in weekend.

Today the stadium serves as an important centre contributing to the recreation of the people along with the adjacent Rungna People's Pleasure Ground.

*Choe Chol Nam*



# Rising to Fame



**I**N OCTOBER 2014 A gymnast attracted attention in the men's vaulting horse at the 45<sup>th</sup> World Gymnastics Championships. He was Ri Se Gwang from the DPRK, who won the gold medal by defeating the Ukrainian and US rivals with the mark of 15.416.

## The Ri Se Gwang Movement

Ri Se Gwang, winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Gymnastics Championships, bagged another gold medal in the men's vaulting horse at the next championships. At that time the experts and the spectators were struck with wonder seeing his movements. Running at a high speed from the starting line Ri jumped from the springboard to the vaulting horse, bending his body square in the air, and then doing somersault forward three times, and landed on the mat

while doing 180-degree spin with his body straightened. That kind of movement was a high-grade one they had never seen in earlier competitions.

Ri's second run was more surprising. The second run is usually a repetition of the movement of the first run. Ri, however, performed a movement much more difficult than the first one. A roaring applause erupted. His original movement was a backward 360-degree somersault. Following his vaulting horse performance he won another gold medal in the rings by beating a Chinese, the title favourite. The world gymnastics circle named Ri's second movement after his name.

### To attain a high aim

Can he fully demonstrate his ability in the coming international games? This is the public interest. The world sports circle has seen a number of sports-persons fail to defend their championships after their successful records. But people say Ri is an unusual talent of gymnastics for his physical fitness and faithful way of training.

In his childhood Ri was fond of exercising on the horizontal bar. His teachers and neighbours used to say he would be a gymnastic ace. Sometimes Ri did exercise on the horizontal bar all day long. So his teacher took him to the gym-

nastics circle of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace. Now he learned basic movements of gymnastics. His natural talent in the days of learning at the palace and training at a sports team attracted the attention of experts and coaches, and he was acknowledged as a promising gymnast.

With an amazing ability for his age he soon won domestic championships. Later, he registered good records at some international competitions. By virtue of those successes he was honoured with the title of Merited Athlete, and decorated for his service. Despite his laurels he was stuck to the training ground with a determination to add glory to his nation by winning more gold medals. He perfected his movements while studying recent data on the global trend of gymnastics. He often sat up all night to complete a new technical movement of his own style through computer simulation. His painstaking efforts bore fruit. He has ranked among the Asian and world champions, flying the national flag in the international arena.

He is still engrossed in intense training hoping to encourage his compatriots who have turned out as one in the building of a sports power by winning more gold medals.

*Rim Hye Gyong*



# Inventive Worker

“LAST EVENING I SAW him come out of the experimental station. He said he was studying how to increase the per-minute number of rotations of a loom. Now he seems to have got a clever idea.”

“It’s certain that our inventive worker will see it through.”

These are what some workers entering their factory said to see a worker heading straight for the station to make experiments on the specification of a loom.

The inventive worker was Yom Yong Gil who was working at the tool shop of the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory.

It was more than 20 years ago that Yom started to work in the factory after finishing his military service. Seeing the workers of his shop do the processing of various tools and the assembling of various machines skilfully, he wondered at first when he would be so much skilful. He acquired techniques and skills from old hands and continued with technical studies on his own, thus making a great deal of efforts to elevate his skill. He always carried books in his hand studying whenever he had time to spare. Sometimes he forgot his meal, lost in specula-

tion. Slightly over a year his technical skill improved beyond recognition and he is now inferior to none of the old hands in the prompt assembling of equipment.

One day his factory was given a task of assembling a large number of facilities in a short span of time. When taking the capacity of the factory into consideration, it was rather a difficult task. Engaged in the assembling for several days, he racked his brains over the matter of how to save labour and reduce the time as much as possible. In spare times he made a study of documentary records on the mechanical engineering. And as for the matters difficult to understand, he, with the help from experts, tried to work out even a design for automation of the assembling jobs that required manual labour a good deal.

After examining his design technicians were unsparing in their praise of his novel idea and actively helped him with the manufacture of an automatic assembling apparatus.

The device made a great contribution to advancing the terminal date of the assembling.

However, Yong Gil was not satisfied with this. What he felt

was that he was lacking in knowledge and that he had to learn if he was to do more things. He, having enrolled in one of the study-while-you-work courses, exerted himself to acquire knowledge of all spheres of mechanical engineering, to say nothing of his major field of study. Afterwards he put forward a lot of creative proposals and made many technical discoveries. Among them is a device that he newly invented by refashioning a deposited tool jig. It is capable of considerably economizing on raw materials. In the current century he has made efforts to keep in step with the developing reality by acquiring more knowledge. When remodeling existing machinery and equipment into CNC-based ones, he learned from technicians while working together with them and hit on a novel idea, thus making a contribution to modernizing many machines and pieces of equipment in a brief space of time. When his factory was assigned to a task of assembling a socks packing machine to be sent to the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory, he helped the researchers in their work of remodelling a sock-pushing device, thus making it possible to ensure 100 percent success in packing.

Besides, a lawn-mower he had refashioned after his own idea was favourably commented upon by its users as it is quite easy to handle everywhere. It was awarded a state certificate of contrivance.

Whenever he is complimented by people as “a man of talent” and “our inventor,” he says, “The developing reality demands that everybody study hard. An ill-informed person cannot do anything even if he wants to, nor can he be conducive to the prosperity and development of the country. I have only made an endeavour to keep in step with the demand of our times. I am going to work hard for the modernization of textile and other machines by strenuous studies.”

*Jo Song I*

**Yom Yong Gil** (*first left*).



# Visit to Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp



ONE DAY IN NOVEMBER last we paid a visit to the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp located in Kaechon City, South Phyongan Province. When we passed the gate with the signboard of “Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp” overhead, a complete view of the camp unfolded before my eyes. The camp with a distinctive corridor expanding like an open wing looked quite pleasing—like a swan on the shore of the lake. Ri Yong Ok, head of the camp, said, “I’m sure you’ll agree with me—when you look round—that my camp is a

great treasure for the scientists provided by our national leader Kim Jong Un. He initiated the construction project and personally designated the site on the shore of the picturesque Lake Yonphung. He inspected the construction site several times to make sure it went up to meet the world standard.” And she said that the camp consists of nine blocks and some other buildings with the general service centre in the heart.

Hearing her we headed for the Fifth Block, where the scientist couples were said to be staying.

On the way there we enjoyed the views of the holiday buildings which were decorated with mild-coloured tiles and roofing materials to be harmonious with the surrounding scenery and suit the usages of the buildings for holidayers. Their appearance produced a warm and comfortable atmosphere. Arriving at the Fifth Block we found a *yut* game at its height. The fierce competitiveness between the couples was giving fuel to the merriment of the spectators in the hall. Ka Chang Ju, vice-director of the Hamhung Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, said, “My couple have had little time to enjoy the pleasure of a sweet home. But we’ve been unusually proud that we dedicate the family’s happiness to the development of our country’s science. Now our pride is coupled with the happiness of the family.” Feeling happy to have met a sweet family we came out only to have a view of the corridor stretching hundreds of metres to ►

▶ different blocks and the compound roads paved with blue stone. Ri said that for the convenience and health of the staying scientists the camp was linked by the corridor between blocks and the roads were covered with the blue stone so that they could have a pleasant feeling while at walk.

Walking to the shore of the lake along the corridor we met Han Chol Hun from the global environmental information research institute under the State Academy of Sciences and his wife Kim Hye Rim working at the environmental engineering research institute of the same academy. Overwhelmed with happiness, they said that they were having a walk to their heart's content enjoying the beautiful scenery of the breaking blue water of Lake Yonphung and the natural beauty of

the dense forest. "We feel as if we were ten years younger," they exclaimed.

On the shore the fishing was in full swing. Ri said that the shore was a monopolized "territory" of the holidayers who were unusually interested in fishing. It was surprising that they had learned fishing when they were busy with their studies. They were catching fishes such as crucians and carps so skilfully that they reminded us of the professional anglers. Ryang Hyong Chan, a researcher of the coal science branch of the academy, said with a broad smile on his wrinkled face that fishing relieved him of his fatigues and helped him to get a clue to the solution of his research project.

Leaving the continuous hurrahs of the anglers we entered the service complex. The inside of the

building was sparkling with merriments. All service facilities such as the banquet hall, dinning rooms, bathrooms, barbershop and beauty salon on the ground floor and the billiards hall on the first floor were arranged so exquisitely as to meet the holidayers' needs to the full. We were told that an electronic library was set up there to suit the occupational character of the scientists whose inveterate habit is studying. We happily visited a conference room where they can swap experience and achievements in research work, before heading for an indoor wading pool, one of the most favourite places of the holidayers. The sight of the holidayers relaxing pleasantly in the clear water was quite pleasing. Kim Kwang Ung, a researcher of the State Academy of Sciences, told us gleefully, "The Munsu Water Park in ▶



► Pyongyang is excellent, and yet this wading pool has great merits of its own.” Inside the building billiards and table-tennis matches were at their height, and in the multi-purpose outdoor playground a volleyball game was going on between Blocks Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 amidst roaring cheers. They were all united in each of their teams though they were different in position and research field. The spirit of both sides’ players who were making a score by marvelous teamwork amidst the cheering of the spectators was well



worth seeing.

Presently, the sun set and the windows began to be switched on. The singing voices and the sound of laughter were ringing out from every window continuously. We left the holiday camp, looking back at the bright appearance, and we were deeply convinced that the camp was just the home of happiness for the scientists.

*Kim Chol Ung*



# Female Tram Drivers

**A**MONG THE TRAM drivers working with a bright face in blue uniforms are Jang Yong Hui, Ri Kum Ryon and Kim Jong Ae, women drivers of the Songsan Tram Service Company. They are called “flowers” by the company workers and “our drivers” by passengers using the tram on Mangyongdae-Pyongyang Railway Station line.

## Man-and-wife drivers

Kim Jong Ae is working in the company with her husband. When she began to work as a conductress she admired the women drivers. But when she imagined herself driving the tram with heavy metal wheels along the avenue, she felt scared. Nevertheless, she couldn't delete the idea completely.

One day after finishing her duty she left for the resting room, but unable to resist the curiosity she returned and went into the driver's cab. In the middle of her acting like the driver—pressing some control buttons—the tram started to move ahead, for she must have touched something. Fortunately, no accident hap-

pened thanks to the driver in charge who was watching her. Later she became a driver true to her desire. And she married the driver who had prevented an accident for her. The couple are in charge of different trams but they work together to solve any problem relating to their cars written with the slogan “We serve the people!” Today they are working honestly for the service of the passengers regarding the slogan as their motto.

## Choice to be a driver

Jang Yong Hui has been working in the company for twenty-odd years. She is a little shorter than ordinary women and looks weak at a cursory glance. But she is a proud tram driver and a work-team leader. She has been working in the company since she finished secondary school in 1992. Working as a conductress first she experienced the shortage of tram drivers personally and made up her mind to become a driver and enrolled in the driver training school. After school she proposed to form a team of women drivers. Then she became the leader of the

first women's team. The distance of her accident-free run up to date is as long as to go round the earth several times.

The mother of a child has spared no effort to provide passenger service in Pyongyang for a dozen years. People wonder what makes the woman of a small stature so strong and energetic. She says, “There should be somebody to do this work if not me. I don't feel tired because I know I carry the people to their important workplaces like research centres and construction sites. I know I contribute to the hastening of the final victory in the effort to build a civilized socialist country.”

Today her team of women drivers enjoys great admiration—even from the male drivers.

## Changed vocation

Ri Kum Ryon used to be a needle worker at the Pyongyang Children's Garment Factory. She was a good singer, so she often participated in artistic performances arranged by the factory. She left the factory, however, to be a tram driver. Why?

One early morning in winter ▶

Kim Jong Ae.

Jang Yong Hui.

Ri Kum Ryon.



# After Many Years

By Ri Hui Nam

(Continued from the last issue)

AS HE LEARNED LATER, the volleyball team of the mine had had no players who were capable of making a good toss for the strikers. That had been the most vulnerable point of the team. So, Kyong Hun who was very good at striking had receded from the offensive position to be a support of attack. Without any idea of the situation, Jong Gu had been so absurd as to advise him to stop playing volleyball if he knew he would not distinguish himself.

When they were out of the volleyball court, Jong Gu approached Kyong Hun boldly and tapped him on the shoulder. "That's great of you, Kyong Hun," he said. His voice rang with a note of apology for his absurd advice as well as praise.

Kyong Hun wore a smile shyly, making no remark.

At the moment Jong Ok Gum, a statistics clerk of the heavy-duty truck company, ran up to Kyong Hun pleasantly and thrust a white handkerchief to him, saying, "Congratulations. Wipe the sweat, please."

The snow-white handkerchief was dazzling in the sun and her two cheeks were flushing. She looked quite excited.

Kyong Hun took the handkerchief silently and dashed it across his face. The kerchief turned dirty

at once.

"Thank you," Kyong Hun appreciated, returning the kerchief.

"You're welcome," the girl answered pleasantly, putting on a happy smile, her lips parted innocently, showing the attractive white teeth.

This was the first occasion for Jong Gu to see Ri Kyong Hun and Jong Ok Gum share close relationship. But he didn't notice it at all at the time. He thought it only an expression of the enthusiastic readiness to do whatever was needed to congratulate Kyong Hun for his decisive service for the team's win.

Kyong Hun was an admiration itself to everyone that day. Someone praised him, saying, "I took him for a poor volleyball player. I'm sorry I was mistaken."

"He has something surprisingly admirable about him," another commented.

"I wish he'd distinguish himself in ore transport, too," one of the crowd lamented.

They had a good reason to say such words about Kyong Hun. Jong Gu always drove the truck rashly and won the reputation of a grand model worker, but Kyong Hun had never got in the list of model workers. The amount of iron ores he transported was far behind that of Jong Gu and other colleagues. "Truck No. 87 is always leading the company since it is driven by Jong Gu, the model

driver," said the leader of Jong Gu's division of the company habitually, whose voice was husky and resonant and whose face looked rough like iron ore rocks.

Of course, those comments sounded pleasing to Jong Gu. *To be an innovative worker was something worth doing anyway*, he thought.

One day Jong Gu set another record in the transport of iron ores in his shift. Without putting the truck in good repair, he passed the truck to Kyong Hun, saying, "I'm sorry, Kyong Hun. I wanted to overfulfil my task, so I haven't..."

"I understand," Kyong Hun said calmly. "You've done a great thing, and I've got no regret for you. Don't worry, and I'll do the repair work myself. You have only to run and run. You're the forward of our truck and I'm the back. If everyone tries to stand in the forward position, then the team will be defeated. The same is with the truck."

With these words, Kyong Hun began to check up the truck.

Jong Gu felt obliged to him for the understanding of his weak points. "It's all right with the truck," he said, seeing Kyong Hun cleaning the hood of the truck assiduously. "The truck is in normal operation. Make a dash like me. If you indulge the truck, you will get a trouble with it."

Kyong Hun grinned at him, ►

► in the first of the years of the forced march after the "Arduous March" in Korea, she got on her way to work. But the tram would not come to her anxiety. One of the passengers waiting at the stop said, "These days the tram service is in a poor condition because there aren't enough drivers in addition to the shortage of electricity, I hear." Hearing the words

Kum Ryon fell into deep thought. *If I became a tram driver, then?* After thinking it over for several days she finally made up her mind to become a tram driver. Her parents dissuaded her from such determination, saying, "You can't move the large vehicle as a woman." But she fulfilled her words. She says, "As a citizen I couldn't avoid this job when my

country was having a hard time."

This was how she became a tram driver. She has not only ensured accident-free run for a dozen years, but also set an outstanding model in the passenger service. They say the driver of Tram No. 1 108 is praiseworthy. She is a mother of a ten-year-old boy.

Sim Chol Yong

▶ taking his joke. "You know the dog and the cat love being looked after. The same is with the truck."

This kind of happening repeated—almost every day. Jong Gu's achievements were high while Kyong Hun's were low. There were many people wondering how it could be when Kyong Hun was lagging behind while driving the same truck. Jong Ok Gum was one of those people.

One summer evening at twilight, Jong Gu was walking slowly down a hillside road on his way home. He was in a happy frame of mind for his fulfillment of the day's work. The layers of the iron ore mining grounds standing like a fold of walls were glistening in the twilight. The mining grounds aglow with the setting sun were magnificent and beautiful enough.

"Hi, Jong Gu," someone called out from behind and there came sounds of hurrying up to him.

Jong Gu looked back to see Ok Gum. When she caught him up, she was almost out of breath. Calming down with difficulty, she asked, "Why is Kyong Hun lagging behind you?" She was looking towards the western sky tinged in red.

Jong Gu glanced at her round face. He could read some earnest wish in her pretty face about Kyong Hun. If it had simply been worry or anxiety Jong Gu would not have been so surprised.

Suddenly Jong Gu remembered the white handkerchief the girl had given to Kyong Hun at the volleyball ground. Now he understood it had been something unusual. The girl must have kept something sincere in her heart for Kyong Hun all the time. It was surprising the two had developed as ripe as the fruit in the autumn.

"You must be worrying about Kyong Hun? I wonder you're such a kind-hearted girl. Ha-ha-ha-ha..." Jong Gu joked.

"Don't be absurd. I'm not joking but serious," Ok Gum said.

"Then, I'll give you my word. He seems to be too much attached to the truck. Of course, he is responsible and honest," Jong Gu

said, and he didn't want to go ahead, for he thought he had given a satisfactory comment on his friend by the statement.

The girl didn't ask any more. She walked ahead with her lips closed firmly, her footsteps sounding heavily. It was a fortunate silence. The twilight slipped away before they could notice it.

The next day, passing the truck to Kyong Hun without any maintenance at all after his shift—as he had done before—Jong Gu said to Kyong Hun, "You're a deep fellow, indeed. I've had no idea you've picked up Ok Gum."

"Stop being absurd. I don't know what you mean," Kyong Hun responded, his innocent eyes blinking doubtfully.

"She is quite worried about your work on the decrease. She is even feeling low."

"I think it's only a passing remark. As a matter of fact, I'm lagging far behind."

"You're happy, anyway, for you're worth a girl's care."

Even such words couldn't stir Kyong Hun. On the contrary, he gave a slight sigh, his eyes falling.

"You've got to save the girl's worry, and don't trouble yourself too much about the truck, Kyong Hun, but go ahead forcefully," Jong Gu advised. "You'd better not be nervous about petty problems. Life can hardly go ahead if it is to be combed through. It is something like the stream of water that flows down whether there is a hole, a stone, sand or rubbish in its course."

Kyong Hun didn't make any remark but gave a cursory glance at Jong Gu over his shoulder while scrutinizing the truck as closely as he had done before.

Jong Gu felt Kyong Hun was intolerably unwise. *If all people had the same way of life as Kyong Hun, the life would be quite dull and uninteresting*, Jong Gu told himself. He would prefer a dashing current to a tranquil sea.

After a careful check of the truck, Kyong Hun straightened himself up and looked at Jong Gu. His changed countenance came to

Jong Gu's notice—there was something unwelcome between them.

"Listen, Jong Gu," Kyong Hun said, "I think I have to tell you this. You ought to clean the truck at least if you couldn't check it up before passing it. Look at this. It's all dirty with the mud. It takes more than 30 minutes to clean it, you know, and it will cut so much of the time of maintenance."

It was an unexpected counter-attack, so Jong Gu stood embarrassed. Only after a while did he regain himself and said, "All right. I haven't paid attention to the cleaning because you said you understood it. From now on I'll do my bit before passing it to you."

Jong Gu assumed he was admitting the friend's advice, but felt unpleasant inwardly. *It's a time of great upsurge, and it is no use talking about cleaning*, thought Jong Gu.

After the happening, he seemed to be changing for several days, but soon returned to his old practice. He wanted to retain the leading position by making even a more run instead of spending time cleaning the truck.

Kyong Hun felt like making a sharper criticism to him, but pocketed the idea. *The achievement of my truck is growing day by day, so it would be of no use to accuse my friend for a trifling matter*, Kyong Hun thought. *It would be all right if I do more work*. In this way Kyong Hun got accustomed to passing the ball to Jong Gu.

Days later the shift changed. The first day Kyong Hun passed the truck to Jong Gu, he asked to wait a minute as there was still something to repair. Then he rushed to the maintenance shop in haste.

At the moment Jong Ok Gum appeared. Her round face wore a cold expression instead of her usually pretty image. "I've found out why Kyong Hun's achievement is lagging behind," she said angrily, and stared Jong Gu in his eyes with her mouth shut.

*(To be continued)*

# Mt. Paektu (1)



## Famous Peaks

**M**T. PAEKTU (2 750 M), the highest mountain in Korea, is situated in the north of Korea, that is, in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, on the border with China. The peculiar natural features of the mountain are largely associated with the physiographical factors including the local climatic conditions and its volcanic activity.

Over 2 000-metre-high peaks with a 60-degree inclination surround Lake Chon like a screen. Peaks of different shapes and heights adjoin each other that the mountain looks gently sloping and smooth when seen from afar, but it is rugged and precipitous when you look round from the shores of Lake Chon. Some of its peaks soar high like Janggun Peak (2 750 m) and others are low. They are either sharp-pointed or round-topped like a

pot lid.

More than 20 peaks around the crater rise 2 500 metres or higher above sea level. Janggun Peak, the summit of the mountain, towers in the middle of the north-eastern ridge of the outer verge of the crater, and in the north about 1.1 kilometres away from it soars Hyangdo Peak (2 712 m). Ssangmujigae Peak (2 626 m) stands

900 metres away from Hyangdo Peak, and several peaks such as Jebi Peak rise to the southwest of Janggun Peak. In the middle of the western ridge of the outer verge of the crater stand Chongsok Peak (2 662 m) and cloud-veiled Paegun Peak (2 691 m), and Chail Peak (2 596 m) rises on Tal Gate. Paegam Peak rises in the middle of the northern ridge ▶

## Janggun Peak, the highest peak of Mt. Paektu.





► of the outer verge of the crater with different shapes of rocks dotting it in tiers while rows of high and low rocks and peaks stand on southern ridge. The difference in height of the major peaks in the outer verge of Lake Chon is about 150 metres. So, excepting Janggung Peak and the peak (2 717 m) to its south, all the peaks of the ridge of the outer margin of the crater are of the similar height and therefore look like a screen.

The area of Piru Peak on the east of the crater is a range of steep rocky cliffs. Piru Peak standing like a guard of Janggung Peak constitutes a unique block with a conspicuous form representing the alpine beauty of the crater of Mt. Paektu. The rocky ridge stretching out both ways from Piru Peak is about one kilometre long, and the 600-metre-long ridge between it and Janggung Peak is sheer with its top jagged. So, it is steep and craggy, forbidding anyone to climb up or walk over it. On the peak there are strange-shaped rocks including Bear Rock resembling a bear guarding Lake Chon, Candlestick Rock, Lion Rock, and Rainbow Rock, all weathered into the fantastic forms over a long, long time. This part of the mountain is called Paektu Manmulsang (Ten-thousand Images of Mt. Paektu).



**Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp and Jong Il Peak.**

The scenery of the peaks of Mt. Paektu is so marvellous that it is regarded as a sum total of mountain-scapes and natural beauties.

Jong Il Peak, 1 798 m above sea level, rises on Mt. Paektu. With its imposing, superb appearance, it stands there like a guard protecting the birthplace of Chairman Kim Jong Il. The bedrock of the peak consists of trachyte, rhyolite and basalt. On its southern side is a 100-metre-high cliff with thick taluses at its base inclining 30°–35°. The taluses are connected with the alluvion of the Sobaeksu valley. To

the north the peak is linked with Saja Peak by a gently inclined ridge. The ridge has monoclinical structure, and the eastern slope is steeper than the western one. The soil is podzol. Over 300 species of plants including 16 species of trees and 40 species of shrubs grow on the peak. The peculiar natural environment and flora of the peak set off its appearance and scenery. There are slogan-bearing trees from the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle around the peak.

The sunrise on Mt. Paektu is a glorious view. □

**Hyangdo Peak in glow.**



**Piru Peak.**



# Korean Folklore Museum

(Continued from the last issue)

## Folk play

**O**N DISPLAY IN THE HALL WE ENTERED were data and relics of the folk plays created and developed by the Korean people in ancient times. The guide told us, “There are hundreds of kinds of folk plays in our country. They can be largely divided into physical plays, martial-art plays, brain contests, music and dance plays and children’s folk games. *Ssirum* (Korean wrestling) is typical of the physical plays.” With this, she pointed to a photo of *ssirum* match. It was a duplicate of the mural painting (late 4<sup>th</sup> century) of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668). The photo showed two wrestlers grappling with each other and a judge standing by them in a *ssirum* contest. The guide said that *ssirum* has come down since the Koguryo period, that the winner in the contest is awarded an ox, and that it is the Korean people’s most favourite folk game now.

The physical plays include a tug of war, jumping seesawing, swinging and rope-walking. In the past the tug of war used to be played mainly between villages on January 15 of the lunar calendar. This was an important occasion for people to demonstrate their team spirit and develop their physical strength and stamina.

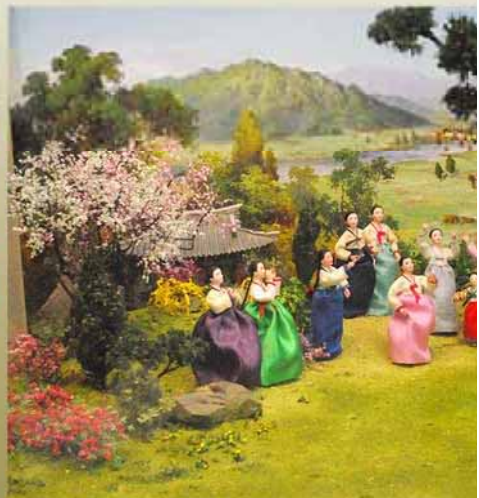
On display was a photograph of women playing jumping seesaw. This was a favourite game of

women played mainly on lunar January 15. They liked it because they believed that playing at seesaw in lunar January would protect their feet from a thorn.

We saw the old documentary data on *subakhui* (a kind of martial arts) and the book *Muyedobothongji* of the feudal Joseon dynasty showing the basic movements of *thaekgyon* and boxing while listening to the explanation about the martial-art plays. *Subakhui* is a boxing play to strike the opponent and fend off his attacks with bare hands. This contest was in the fashion during the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), and it is said that when one struck a wall, his fist pierced the wall and when he hit a pillar of the house, the rafters shook. In combination with kicking, it was developed as *thaekgyon* and Pyongyang’s famous *nalpharam* in the latter half of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

The picture showing the nationwide hunting games of Koguryo helps to know better about the martial-art games. Regarding the martial-art training as men’s obligation, the Koguryo people underwent training in horse-riding, running, archery and swordsmanship from their childhood and had folk plays and games based on martial arts. Across the country young and middle-aged men got training in martial arts and martial-art games would be organized on holidays. Every spring a national hunting game was held in the Rangnang field on a grand scale. The winner in the game was awarded a prize ▶

A tug of war.





***Thae Kgyon.***

► and appointed a military officer, and martial arts served as a measure for selecting men of talent. The pictures and relics on show acquainted us with various martial-art games which cultivated bravery, capacity of unity, and indomitable fighting spirit in people. The games included equestrian tilt, swordsmanship, stone missile fight, torchlight fight, and bullfight.

In front of the showcase of intellectual contests, the guide said, "In Korea, the intellectual contest is regarded as a good game to improve people's intelligence. It includes *yut* (four-stick) game, Korean chess and *paduk* (go)." The name of *yut* game originated from the name of a governmental post of Puyo, an ancient state of Korea that existed thousands of years ago. Pictures and visual aids show that Korean chess and *paduk* have been popular among the Korean people from olden times. On display are a book of *chilgyo* play and its tools. The *chilgyo* play is a

**Swinging.**

game of shaping the images of man, animal, plant, house and various other things with seven pieces of wood according to the book. If one succeeds in shaping one thing in the set time, he will gain one mark, but if he fails, he is out, and his opponent comes in. The game helps to develop the wisdom and thinking faculty of people, the guide said.

Pointing to the relief model of children's folk games, the guide said that the children's folk games can be divided into indoor, field, lawn and ice plays, which can be classified into two categories—physical training game and intellectual contest. The children's games include jackstone, shuttlecock, hide-and-seek, slap-match game, ball game and rope jumping.

The guide said that the children's folk games have been handed down through ages availing them in physical and intellectual development.

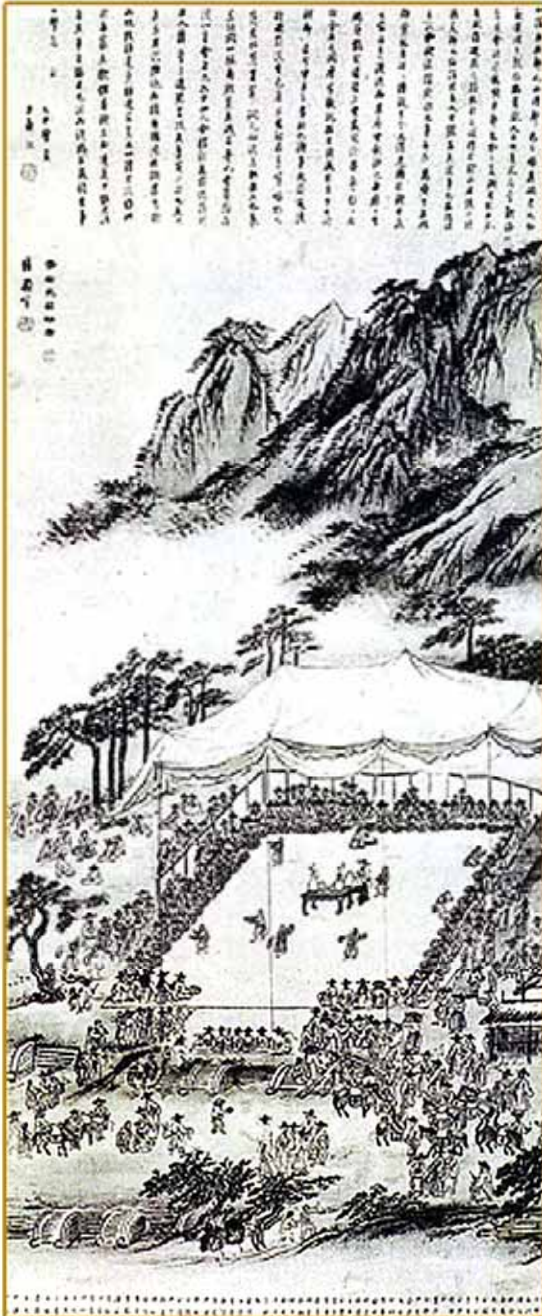
*Rim Ok*

***Ssirum.***



# Kim Hong Do and *Kyehoe* on Site of Manwoldae

**K**IM HONG DO IS A PAINTER WITH A realistic tendency who represented the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in Korea. He belonged to *Tohwaso* (a government office that was in charge of the work related to painting during the feudal Joseon dynasty). He was in government service as *yonphung hyongam*.



He showed extraordinary talents from his childhood. He left behind many masterpieces in all kinds of fine arts ranging from figure and genre paintings to portrait and landscape paintings, paintings of flowers and birds, and woodblock prints. In particular, he did away with the outdated style of painting of those days and opened up the way of creating realistic genre paintings.

In genre paintings he made the labouring people appear as the master, affirmed their creative labour and optimistic life and the beauty of their simple and sound mental world and unartificially ridiculed and sneered at the depraved and degenerated feudal bureaucrats and sections of those who were loafing their time away by making use of a variety of painting techniques, thus showing the social feature of that time.

Among the representative paintings reflecting the creative labour and the daily life of the labouring commoners are *Smithy*, *House-building*, *Cloth Weaving*, *Wrestling*, *Fishing*, *Archery*, *Well Side*, etc. and among the paintings dedicated to the exposure and derision of the corruptness and degradation of feudal aristocrats and bureaucrats is *Gamble of Aristocrats*.

Kim created landscape paintings as well. All his paintings of this kind are filled with love for mountains and streams of the country, national flavour, and the deep love for his beautiful native village and are consistent with attractive scenes that make one have an urge to be nestled in the bosom of the beautiful nature, lost in deep meditation and filled with poetic sentiment. *Picture of the Four Main Scenic Spots in Mt. Kungang*, *Kuryong Falls*, *Hongryudong*, *Ferryboat*, etc. can be enumerated as his representative paintings. Also to be found among his paintings is *Kyehoe on Site of Manwoldae*.

This depicts a scene of picnic enjoyed by old folks aged over 70 who enjoy themselves on the site of old Manwoldae at the foot of Mt. Songak with the help of their descendants. With a large tent put up, old folks sitting within it pass wine cups back and forth when there goes merry dancing in the yard, adding to the enjoyment of those present. The feast is given on the site of the Hoegyong Hall, the royal audience chamber of Manwoldae, the King's palace of Koryo (918–1392) and seen behind it are peaks in the west side of Mt. Songak. Masters of that day are 64 old people aged more than 70, but there are many people standing in front of them while watching them with interest. So the number of people seen in the painting exceeds 200. Depicted in the painting in detail are different postures and acts of all people present. Some of Kim Hong Do's famous works are *The Banquet at the Ryongwang Pavilion*, *The Welcome Accorded to the Pyongyang Governor* and *The Banquet Given at the Pub yok Pavilion*. □

# Folk Musical Instruments of Korea

**T**HE KOREAN PEOPLE have developed folk musical instruments suited to their sentiments and feelings over a long historical period. The traditional musical instruments of Korea have elegant and soft tones. They are diversified and are fully capable of expressing folk tunes and rhythms. There are hundreds of kinds of instruments, and some of them have two or three varieties, and even ten.

In Korea folk musical instruments existed long before the Christian era, and orchestral music with wind, stringed and percussion instruments and *kochiak* (a kind of military music) were developed in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668). After Korea's liberation from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists (August 15, 1945), the folk musical instruments of Korea got rid of their defects while many new instruments were developed. The improved folk instruments have a much greater compass and volume of sound, and their clear, soft and elegant tones became still richer. Now they are also fit to freely play 12 chromatic scales and their expressive capability has increased further and their shapes have been improved better and more conveniently. This makes it possible to wonderfully play all musical pieces of varied feelings including march.

The traditional instruments of Korea can be largely divided into



woodwind, stringed and percussion instruments. The woodwind instrument is made of bamboo or timber. It typically represents the characteristics of the Korean people. It includes *tanso*, *jodae*, *thungso*, *saenap* and *piri*. *Tanso* and *jodae* are not only used as solo instruments, but also play important roles in folk orchestras and mixed orchestras. *Thungso* is used as a solo instrument for playing traditional music. *Saenap* and *piri* are used in traditional music, and *jangsaenap*, *taepiri* and *jopiri*, derivatives of *saenap* and *piri*, are widely used in solo and ensemble.

The folk stringed instruments are classified into *chal*, *pal* and *ta* instruments according to their playing method. The *chal* instrument includes *ajaeng* which is divided into *soajaeng*, *jungajaeng* and *taeajaeng* according to the range of sound. *Ajaeng* is used in playing folk music at odd times. There are *kayagum*, *konghu* and *okryugum* in the *pal* stringed instrument. *Kayagum* with a long history is used not only as a solo instrument, but in folk orchestra, ensemble, solo-ensemble and mixed orchestra. *Okryugum* was newly created in the 1970s by making the most of the advantages of the *pal* stringed instru-



ments. With its diversified playing methods and rich representation, *okryugum* is used as a solo instrument and in instrumental ensemble. *Konghu* went out of use in musical practice after the appearance of *okryugum*, but it remains as a cultural heritage.

*Yanggum* is a kind of percussion-string instruments. The percussion instrument is classified into leather, wood and metal instruments according to the materials of the resonance chambers. *Janggum* and *puk* (drum) are typical leather instruments. According to the size, the drum is divided into large, medium and small drums. In addition, there is the hand drum and *pangulbuk* (a kind of tambourine). *Moktak* and *abak* belong to the wood percussion instrument. The metal percussion instrument is divided into melodic and non-melodic instruments. The melodic metal percussion instrument covers *phyonjong*, *panghyang* and *unra*, and the non-melodic instrument includes *kkwaenggwari*, *jing*, *pangul* and *jong*. The melodic stone percussion instrument includes *phyongyong*. □

# Reading in Jiphyonjon

ONE EVENING SO KO Jong was on night duty in Jiphyonjon (a central organ of the feudal Joseon government) which was staffed with famous scholars writing books necessary for the upkeep of the royal authority.

There came a dry cough from the quiet garden of Jiphyonjon. Turning his eyes from the book he was reading by the lamplight to the door, So asked, "Who is there?"

A voice answered from outside the room, "I'm a classical scholar and I'm here to ask a favour of you."

So opened the door and saw a handsome young man standing. He looked rather unhealthy. "Who are you?" So asked.

"I'm Song Kan, brother of Song Im."

Surprised, So scrutinized the young man. Song Im and So were the same age and both of them successfully passed the state examinations for civil service in 1438. Moreover, they once worked together in Jiphyonjon during the reign of King Sejong. Now So remembered that Song had said he had a frivolous, book-greedy young brother. He asked again, "What's brought you here this evening?"

"I recently heard that a rare book has come to be newly placed in the custody of Jiphyonjon. So I'm here to ask a favour to let me

see the book once."

His words reminded So of what Song Im had said boastfully with a smile on his face: Song Kan, since he fell in love with reading, had been so engrossed in reading that he had devoured all the many books in his house and then, whenever he heard that a friend or a scholar had a good book, he would pester them like a leech until he got it. That was how he had been more informed than his brother Song Im.

Now it seemed the "leech" stuck to So. As it was said that a book thief is not a thief in the true sense and that the greed for the book is not a mean selfish desire, So was far from feeling antipathy against the "leech."

"You've got a good nose," So jeered, "and you could smell a rare book in Jiphyonjon."

Then he said as if he had been in an awkward situation, "By the way, I'm at a loss. The rules of Jiphyonjon forbid lending books to anyone. What can I do?"

"I only want to read the rare book right here, not borrow it. If you allow me, I'll read it all through the night just in this garden and return it."

"Really? Can you understand the whole complicated contents of the thick book by looking it through overnight?"

"It depends on me to understand or not. Please let me read it

once."

"Then you can do it in the next room," said So, and brought him the book. After a while, he looked into the next room quietly before going to bed. Song Kan in a seated posture was engrossed in reading. When So looked in again at midnight, Song was still in the same position, reading avidly. It was marvellous enthusiasm and great reading ability.

Returning the book to So at dawn, Song said, "Thank you very much. I appreciate your help last night."

"I don't want to hear such words," So said. "You should tell me the contents of the book."

"Now I'll try to tell about the book, regarding it as a test before my teacher," Song said and talked about the topic and contents of the book without a hitch. So was struck with admiration for his ability and enthusiasm to read in different respects and his unusual memory. So advised him sincerely, "Of course, it is good to study hard, even throughout the night. But I'm worried about your health. I wish you to look after yourself."

"Thank you for your care. But I'd rather have a worthwhile short life rather than a useless long life," Song replied shyly, and went back home.

Some time later, he became a member of Jiphyonjon. □

# Lifeline of Reunification Movement

**F**OR THE KOREAN PEOPLE the reunification of their country is the supreme national task, the solution of which brooks no further delay. The national division that has lasted for 70 years is preventing the general development of the Korean nation and inflicting innumerable misfortunes and pains on all the members.

The DPRK government attaches importance to achieving the reunification not by relying on outside forces, but by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation. National independence is not only the key to the reunification problem but also the lifeline of the reunification movement.

In retrospect, the DPRK government consistently maintained the policy of national independence and made strenuous efforts to prevent national division. After liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation (August 15, 1945) the US intruded into south Korea under the cloak of "liberator" and sought to carry a separate election and establish a separate government in the south under the signboard of the UN. To cope with the US and its vassal force's attempt to conduct a separate election on May 10, 1948 in the south for the formation of a pro-American regime in pursuance of the policy of perpetuating the national division and putting south Korea under colonial control, the then People's Committee of North Korea proposed to hold the first ever historic joint conference of the representatives of the north and south political parties and social organizations to discuss the reunification problem, and did the best for its realization. The joint conference held in Pyongyang in April 1948 showed that despite the difference in ideology, ideal and religious belief

the Korean people could be united in the struggle for the common cause of the nation and that they could achieve reunification when they wage a nationwide struggle for national salvation by the united efforts.

Then in 1960 the DPRK proposed to adopt a north-south federation in which to organize a supreme national committee consisting of representatives of each government and mainly control coordinated development of the economy and culture while leaving the two governments to work as they were and leaving the different political systems intact. And in 1972 the July 4 Joint Statement was adopted in which the two sides reaffirmed their agreement on a number of issues to accelerate independent and peaceful reunification of the country based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity. These events were indicative of the DPRK's intention to achieve reunification on the principle of national independence.

In 1980 the north suggested the idea of establishing the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo, the most reasonable and realistic proposal to suit the specific situation in which different ideas and systems exist in the north and south. As a suggestion acceptable to any of the Korean people who love their country and wish the reunification, it is also based on the principle of national independence.

In 2000 a north-south summit meeting was held for the first time in the history of national division and the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, a milestone of reunification in the new century, was adopted. The adoption of the joint declaration that carries the will to solve the reunification problem by the concerted

efforts of the Korean people who are responsible for the matter of reunification was a clear-cut demonstration of the truth that the Korean nation is the motive force of reunification and that the practical power for reunification lies in the Korean people.

Last year, too, the DPRK made strenuous efforts to realize the desire of the Korean people to improve inter-Korean relations and promote common prosperity of the nation not by recourse to confrontation and war, but through negotiation and cooperation on the principle of national independence.

As is recognized at home and abroad the DPRK declared its principled stand on many occasions to save the inter-Korean relations from the catastrophic situation and achieve national reconciliation and unity. It proposed to stop all kinds of hostile military moves such as south Korea-US joint military exercises and showed its tolerance by first taking some well-intentioned measures unilaterally. The head of the General Political Bureau of the KPA and his party visited Incheon, south Korea. This was an expression of the consciousness of national independence based on the sense of duty they assume before the nation to safeguard the nation's destiny and usher in a new phase of peaceful reunification despite the ever worsening situation.

The DPRK's stand to achieve reunification on the principle of national independence is invariable. In the future, too, the DPRK government will steadily follow the road of national independence as they have consistently maintained the principle of independence regarding the matters of the nation and the reunification since the first day of the national division.

*Kim Il Ryong*

# Truth: Japan's Past Crimes

**R**ECENTLY NEW MATERIALS ABOUT Japan's past crimes have come to light, attracting the attention of the international community. Typical of them is what was exposed in a Korean's diary made public in 2013, who had once worked at a comfort centre of the Japanese army. It testifies to the fact that the atrocious sexual slavery of the Japanese imperialists belongs to the national crime of Japan. According to it, the then Japanese imperialists' southern expeditionary force headquarters made a request to the Korean occupation forces headquarters in May 1942 for helping the collection of sexual slaves. Accordingly, a lot of Korean women were taken away to battle sites of Japan's aggression war via Pusan Port and forced to live as sexual slaves. The diary also reveals that the comfort centres were totally under the control of the Japanese military. The comfort centres of the Japanese army in many countries sent income reports, daily reports on management and the like to the army units they belonged to, and the military supplied them with the money for management. Their moves were strictly subjected to the control of the Japanese military.

There are many other materials related to Japan's past crimes.

The KBS of south Korea reported that in 1945 MacArthur, the then general commander of the Allied forces in the Pacific, had a confidential document on the truth of the Japanese imperialists' forcible draft of sexual slaves drawn up. The document titled "The comfort facility of the Japanese army" worked out by the general headquarters of the Allied forces in the name of MacArthur on November 15, 1945, says that the Japanese command mobilized the Korea-resident Japanese agents to take away Korean women to Myanmar and other countries.

Nevertheless, Japan denies such an extra-villainous crime of sexual slavery and refuses to make any apology and compensation for it. Worse still, it justifies the criminal acts, arguing that they were "needed to improve the fighting efficiency in the then situation." Naturally Japan's argument arouses great indignation of the Koreans and other Asian people.

There were released data on the Japanese imperialists' massacre of Koreans in the days following the Kanto Great Earthquake. Professor Tanaka Ma-



**Korean women forcibly drafted as "comfort women" for the former Japanese army and the inside of a room in a "comfort house" used by the Japanese brutes.**

sataka of Senshu University revealed in a public lecture that the massacre of Koreans had spread from Tokyo to Chiba, Saitama, Tochigi, Gunma and many other regions of Japan and that, in particular, the groundless rumour, which had served as the fuse of the massacre, had been widely disseminated by the radio systems of the Japanese police, prefectural governments and navy. Nevertheless, the Japanese government has not yet given the correct number of victims, the least thing they could as a sign of the admission of their responsibility and apology, Tanaka condemned.

Also, there is a stream of data coming to light, accusing the Japanese imperialists of their atrocious attempts to erase the Korean history and culture and enslave the Koreans. The KBS disclosed that the Japanese imperialists had distorted *Arirang*, the ►



# US Should Be Brought to Human Rights Court

**D**O WE LIVE IN PEACE IN THE WORLD of freedom and equality while enjoying the modern civilization amidst the progress of the cutting-edge science and technology and the social development? When asked of this question you would answer *no*. Now the acts of oppression and domination, and murders worse than those in slave-owning and feudal societies are rampant in some countries, abusing the elementary human dignity and rights. This is because the United States is infringing on the human rights mercilessly wherever it reaches, bringing the current times back to the Dark Ages.

According to a report on the human rights situation of the US, which was posted on the website of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the conflicts in Iraq took 117 000 civilian lives until August 2012 and 14 700 of them were killed by the international allied forces led by the US. Meanwhile, 14 400–17 200 innocent Afghans lost their lives and 9 000 were murdered by the US-led allied forces since the start

of the Afghan war. And the drone attack operations on the “suspected terrorists” are still going. There are frequent occurrences of the US troops maltreating the people, shooting pregnant women and children to death, maiming civilians and chopping corpses into several pieces. The GIs are put to criminal trials only when they are serious cases. The report also mentioned that the international organizations strongly denounce the US’s indiscriminate use of forces in the armed conflict areas.

The crimes committed by the US troops occupying south Korea are beyond description. From the day they set foot in south Korea in the cloak of “liberator” in September 1945 they killed innocent Koreans. During the period of the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) millions of Koreans were massacred by GIs.

The Russian Internet news agency *Inosmi Ru* reported that the existence of one million sex slaves in south Korea is a result of the 60-odd-year-long

▶ typical Korean song. It revealed that they had systematically distorted the words of the song to make it useful for creating a favourable circumstance for their annexation of Korea since before they cooked up the “Ulsa Five-point Treaty,” which was an illegal, false agreement fabricated by Japan to establish its right to colonial control over Korea in 1905. The words of *Arirang* carried in a photo album published by an organ of Japan in 1905 were completely distorted, into the content that the Koreans had better admit the annexation considering such a power as Russia had been defeated by Japan in the war. Earlier, a book written by Okita Kenzo, a Japanese, had made wry comments on the song. It described indifference to national affairs, dry humanity, hermitic life and indolence as the spirit of *Arirang*, asserting *Arirang* was a powerful piece of music to deprave the Koreans’ soul. The KBS denounced that such acts of Japan were intended to give the defeatism and inferiority complex to the Korean people and stamp out the spirit of resistance.

The historical facts clearly show how persistently and desperately the Japanese imperialists at-

tempted to devastate the Korean people. Japan’s past crimes are unprecedented; they put other notorious atrocities recorded in history to shame in terms of the scale of the national involvement and arrangement, and brutality in content and method.

Such being the case, the UN committee working against racial discrimination demanded Japan’s apology and compensation for its past crimes by making public a follow-up concluding written opinion in August last year after deliberation of a report on Japan’s fulfillment of the anti-racial discrimination convention.

Nevertheless, Japan is overwhelmed with a Samurai-style view of history that “there is no need to feel guilty for the past” and that “the truth of history can be clear at least a century later.” Some Japanese are so arrogant that they assert their colonial military fascist rule of Korea was legal.

Without liquidation, the past will be repeated, and the result will be catastrophic. The history will continuously accuse the Japanese imperialists of their crimes until they are punished.

*Kim Hyon Ju*

**In the US: People protest the authorities' racial discrimination policy, and the police crack down on them .**



Missouri judicial authorities decided not to indict the white policeman on the ridiculous ground of “self-defence” against the black and from the fantastic notion that he is white. This clearly shows that the US community is no more than a theatre of human rights infringement and the worst human rights tundra in the world. A huge number of people turned out into the streets in more than 100 cities across the US including Washington and New York, sternly denouncing the unfair stand of the authorities that backed the criminal. When the situation developed that way, the authorities mobilized heavily-armed policemen and even military force to crack down on the protests.

The Russian Foreign Ministry plenipotentiary for human rights affairs issued a statement asserting that the incident in Ferguson City proves once again that the US has the serious institutional problems concerning human rights protection and the standard of democracy. *The Los Angeles Times* and other media in the US commented that the standard of the US's human rights is taken up for discussion by the international press circle owing to the incident. The great irony is that the US dares brand those countries preserving systems and political modes peculiar to them as “human rights abusers” to put collective pressure on them for the only reason that they are not an ally or companion of the US. The American pursuance is the infringement on national sovereignty and the interference in internal affairs of other nations from A to Z.

It is a unanimous voice of many countries in the world that the US should be brought to the human rights court for its violations of the human rights inside and outside the country.

*Kim Il Ryong*

- ▶ presence of GIs there. It disclosed that the GIs who occupied south Korea in 1945 made 350 000 of the south Korean women their sexual slaves till 1953. Their filthy crimes are still unabated. One of every 25 south Korean women fell victim to them and one million women suffered grave infringement on their dignity and human rights. This is, indeed, a thrice-cursed crime that can be perpetrated only by the US, the chieftain of human massacre and the worst human rights abuser, and an unheard-of unethical crime that can never go unpunished. In south Korea they say that they may see the sun set without crows crying, but that they can never pass a day without hearing of an occurrence of GI crimes.

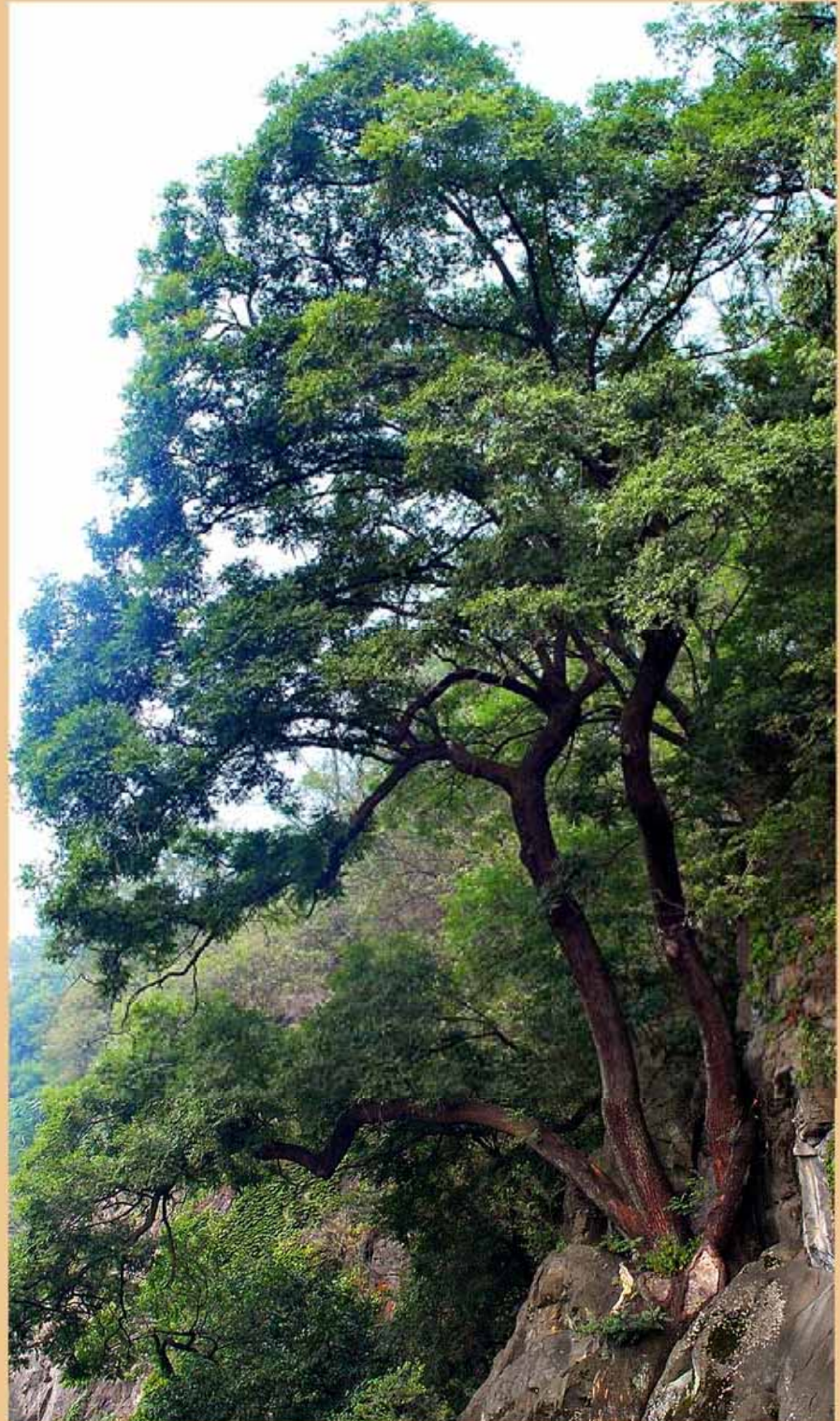
Then, what about the human rights situation of the US that brings up such human rights abusers? Violent demonstrations that erupted when a young black man was shot to death by a white policeman in Ferguson City, Missouri, swept the whole United States. The brutality committed by the white policeman who is obsessed with racial discrimination and hatred for human beings ignited the anger of the blacks who are treated as second-class citizens in the US and subjected to contempt and maltreatment of all hues on the absurd “guilt” of different colour.

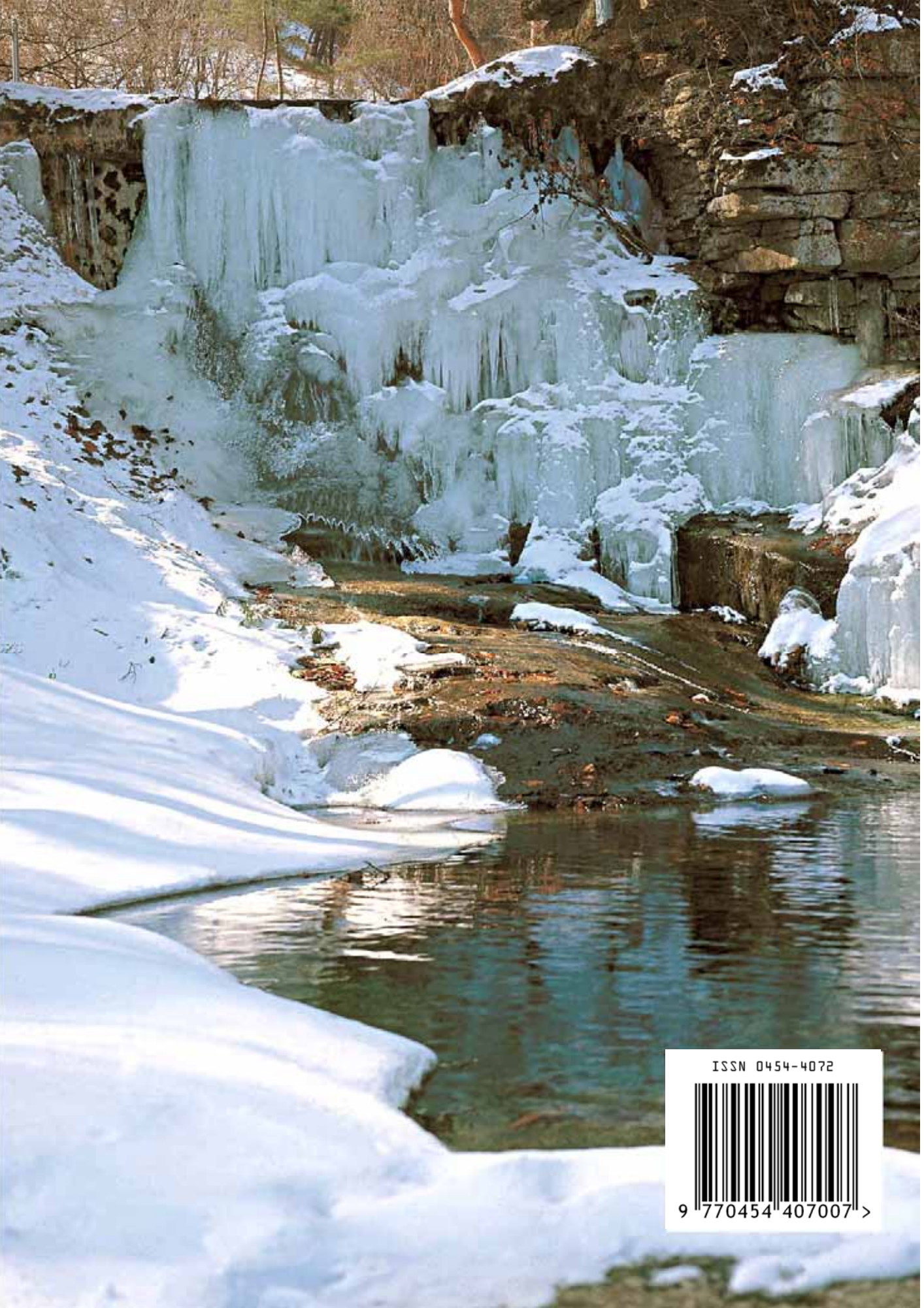
# Locust Tree in Chongnyu Cliff

**T**HIS LOCUST tree is found in the precipitous Chongnyu Cliff in Kyongsang-dong, Central District, Pyongyang. As it looks pretty and strangely interesting, it makes the scenery around the cliff more beautiful. So, it was designated as State Natural Monument No. 3 and is now well protected.

It is a tall deciduous tree standing ten metres high. Shaped like a wedge with its roots struck in a niche of the cliff, the tree has grown up to five metres before several thick boughs come out.

It has grown for nearly 200 years while spreading its crown like the ribs of a fan towards the Taedong River. The soil of the cliff where the tree has its roots is brown and fertile forest soil. □





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