



# KOREA TODAY

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## Grand Cross of National Order of Lion and the Certificate

Chairman Kim Jong Il received the Grand Cross of National Order of Lion from the President of the Republic of Senegal in June 2011.

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**Front Cover: The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex builds on its sci-tech foundation for increased production**

*Photo by Ri Song Ik*



**Back Cover: The shores of Lake Suphung**

*Photo by Kim Myong Chol*

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# All-people Frenzy for Scientific and Technological Attainments

**I**T IS SURELY NATIONWIDE ENTHUSIASM for learning science and technology that is forcefully propelling the building of a thriving socialist country in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. What is noteworthy is that it is strongly goading shop-floor technicians, skilled workers and even apprentices, as well as career researchers.

Earlier the country decided on the principle of helping all the working people including the industrial and farming workers, to say nothing of the younger generations, get education without exception. In compliance with the principle, there came the system of full-time learning and the one of learning while working. These systems have made steady progress as required by the developing reality. Significantly, a factory college, belonging to a new form of education, was established during the fierce Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s. It was the progenitor of the many colleges of technology affiliated with big factories and enterprises.

Today the country is pushing ahead with the cause of making all the people well-versed in science and technology to suit the fast-progressing reality. Amidst the current, a distance-learning college came into existence at Kim Chaek University of Technology and, since the first auditorium was set up at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, more than 150 have been laid across the country in the past two years, typically at the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, Taedonggang Battery Factory and Chollima Steel Complex, enrolling thousands of workers at present.

The students on the distance-learning courses attend the lessons they want at their working places at their convenience. Though far off geographically, they can choose any of the lectures given by the

teachers of Kim Chaek University of Technology; Q-A programme is offered based on the application of audio and video materials and interchange between students and teachers and the swap of their experience among the students are also possible. This mode of education makes it possible to train personnel needed on the spot of production and get speedy access to scientific and technological achievements to be applied as required by the time of the knowledge-based economy. Hence the attraction of the new style of instruction is enormous. Kim Chol, a worker at the Chollima Steel Complex, says, "Attending the distance-learning college of Kim Chaek University of Technology I've made a number of technical contrivances. And I've got an eye to see the problems of my workplace from a scientific point of view." The general manager of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex says, "There are many engineers in my enterprise who have acquired latest science and technology and theoretical and practical ability through distance learning. They bolster up our sci-tech resources."

The college admits applicants to examination regardless of their abodes and occupations. The disabled are no exception.

As the country securely maintains the socialist system of free education, the distance-learning college presents lectures gratis.

The domain of instruction is also quite extensive. All kinds of information are given profusely according to the public interest concerning machine building, metallurgy, new materials, electronics, and other engineering spheres, light industry, foodstuff and daily necessities industries, business management, information technology, foreign language and other fields.

Meanwhile, as there are special rooms for dis- ▶

At a distance-learning lecture.



► semination of sci-tech knowledge, people have an easy access to advanced science and technology and quickly solve problems arising in production with the help of the distance-learning college. Technicians and workers of many factories and enterprises use the network to renew their attainment of modern science and resolve difficult problems on the spot. An example is to be found in the modernization scheme at the Taedonggang Battery Factory. By building up its technical staff through the policy of attaching importance to science and technology and talented personnel, the factory designed and manufactured a cut-core transformer which had been the monopoly of only a few nations. After putting it in the international market, the factory developed a semi-airtight transformer which is of high performance but costs much less than it did before. Then, a process of making modern airtight transformers was established. The factory's successful modernization was attributable to the workers who learned in the study-while-working system, as well as to the technicians.

The same can be said of the Pyongyang Medical Appliance Factory. The electronic facilities developed by the factory recently are favourably commented upon by the users. Until several years ago the factory was engaged in production of only a few kinds of things. Now that machine tools were equipped with the CNC technology in close cooperation with the teachers and researchers of Kim Chaek University of Technology, the factory turns out eight times as many latest appliances as it did in the past. The managers say all their achievements are attributable to the improvement of the skilled workers' technical

**The CNC technology is introduced to improve the quality of products.**

and skill levels along with the modernization of the existing equipment.

New coal-cutting methods, a dust-collecting technique and an additive to coal combustion developed in the coal mining industry are all thanks to the shop-floor workers and technicians. The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex set up an automatic monitoring and controlling system in the hot-rolling process and put the vertical-style continuous ingot making process on the CNC basis. Meanwhile, the Kanggye Winery and the Suncheon Chemical Complex were also modernized. All these successes were made by technicians and skilled workers who learned at their factory colleges and the distance-learning college which gives study-while-working courses.

In Korea all the people are assimilating modern science and technology with a high sense of national pride in order to exalt the honour of their country.

*Sim Yong Jin*



# To Raise the Workers' Intellectual Level

## The Study-While-Working System Established in Wartime

**P**RESIDENT KIM IL SUNG INSPECTED an underground factory in January 1951 when the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) was at its height. To find out the actual conditions of the factory and the workers, he had knee-to-knee talks with workers in a damp room with water dripping from the ceiling. He also gave instructions as to tasks of the factory and the ways of their fulfilment. The factory should train management officials, technicians and skilled hands by itself, he stressed. When the discharged soldiers return from the front line, the factory will have a large force of workers; so, promising workers should be selected and trained to be managing officers and technicians. The workers would be able to work at the factory by day and go to school in the evening. This will enable everyone to learn without stopping production work and become competent technicians.

He went on to say that training a large number of technicians would make it possible to increase production, hasten victory in the war and, after the war, reconstruct the ravaged economy as soon as possible. Then he said he was planning to recall some of the soldiers from the battle line to send them to school.

A few months later, the study-while-working system was established in Korea.

## Keeping Abreast of the Times

One day Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Ryongsong Machine Complex. In front of a precision measuring installation, he asked the operator sitting before the computer to set the machine in motion once. Looking at the operator's working, the Chairman asked why he hand-operated the machine which presumably was a CNC device. The operator answered that he typed several dots by hand in the early searching stage and then the

computer interpreted them and controlled the machine.

At that, the Chairman asked him again if he worked the machines by hand when measuring the reverse side. The equipment were of the latest types with all their processes to be handled automatically, but the workers' technical qualifications were not yet high enough to operate them efficiently. Hearing of such a state of affairs from the executive official, the Chairman said that because the equipment were highly precision machines, the workers should attain proficiency in their operation and study hard for the purpose. He further mentioned that knowledge is the most valuable asset in creation and construction, and that everybody should learn to master the CNC machines and keep abreast of the trend of the developing times.

## Education by Distance Learning

The national leader Kim Jong Un inspected the Pyongyang Condiments Factory. Personally tasting the tube-packed red pepper-bean paste, he told the management officials to produce high-quality condiments in plenty for the people.

After going round the production processes, he dropped in at the distance learning room. The employees of the factory were attending a lecture given by the Distance Learning College of the Kim Chaek University of Technology. It was really a gratifying scene of mass education where the workers were obtaining sci-tech knowledge from lectures given through the computer network. He had a conversation with the management staff about the importance of distance learning.

He talked about the need of all-people study. "Knowledge is light and ignorance is ...," he broke short. At this, the management staff members pronounced in unison, "Darkness."

All present burst out laughing.

*Kang Hye Ok*

# With a Patriotic Mind

**T**HE PYONGYANG BUILDING-material Factory located in suburban Pyongyang, produces building materials needed for the construction of Pyongyang and the improvement of the people's material and cultural standards of living. All kinds of the products are associated with the sincerity of the workers of the factory who are devoting themselves to the development of their motherland.

Take the anthracite gasifying process for an example. In the past the factory produced sanitation fixtures with imported fuel. A large amount of diesel was consumed in this process. It was unreasonable to leave the process dependent on imported fuel at the factory that had been built by the state for the people during the period of harsh trails. At that time a technology of making gas from anthracite was successfully introduced into production at the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex, and the rate of domestic raw materials used in production was

increasing in various fields. This stimulated all managers and workers of the building-material factory. They decided to turn to domestic fuel. It was not easy to change the production process. The technicians got broader range of knowledge visiting factories and enterprises that had succeeded in the coal gasification and all the workers studied hard to improve their ability. They carried through their project without yielding to repeated failures. When the difficult task was completed, they were elated and proud that they gave their country what little help they could. The introduction of CNC technology into the process of producing moulds of sanitation fixtures was associated with the patriotic mind as well. In the past the factory's toilet fixtures bearing the brand of

*Ulmildae* were inferior to others in quality. At that time general manager Ko Yong Ho seriously considered this problem. He reproached himself for feeling satisfied with the production of several kinds of sanitation things instead of trying to develop new shapes of things to meet the changing demand for material and cultural life. He thought that he was driven out of the place of servants of the people. All the workers felt the same. The managers and workers set a higher target, looking back upon their past. At that time some people thought it difficult to introduce the CNC technology into the building-material industry. To ▶

The tile workshop.







**The sanitary ware workshop.**



**The plastic sash workshop.**

▶ those people who were dispirited, Ko Yong Ho said, “The machine industry benefits a lot from the introduction of the CNC technology. It would be absurd to think we couldn’t do it. We should do whatever the people like and want.” Now a technical innovation team was organized and the campaign to apply the CNC technology to the production process was conducted. The workers offered good opinions. In this way material and technical bases

were laid to produce sanitation fixtures of any form. The technical achievement won first place at the 29<sup>th</sup> National Festival of Science and Technology in 2014. The swimming pools in the Munsu Water Park, the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Songdownon International Children’s Camp and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren’s Palace are associated with the creative efforts of the workers of the building-material factory.

The workers also pooled

their efforts to refurbish their factory marvellously while engaged in production with a patriotic mind. They planted good species of trees in many places of the compound and laid a nice volleyball court for recreation after work. They continue with their endeavour to create new things for the sake of the people rendering a great help to the facelift of Pyongyang.

*Kim Hyon Ju*



# By Relying on Science and Technology

**T**HE NAMHUNG YOUTH Chemical Complex produces fertilizer by using Korea's rich deposit of anthracite for fuel. The workers of the complex actively introduce sci-tech successes into the fertilizer production with a desire to contribute to the country's increased agricultural production by turning out much more fertilizer. In close contact with scientists and technicians they manufactured several kinds of

facilities—a wagon tipper, a coal screening machine, several ceiling cranes and a conveyer belt—with their own efforts. This greatly helped spare a lot of manpower and time and supply high-quality coal to the related processes.

In addition, they introduced some achievements to improve the quality of the additive needed in making coal rods. The workers in charge of the gas-purifying process invented a new valve to be

used in gas sampling, thus making it possible to increase its life much longer than the old ones and spare a lot of manpower, fund and materials and prevent the loss of gas.

The technicians of the complex established a DCS-style control system with self-examining functions including automatic regulation, sequential control and warning and cutoff system. The development and introduction of this





► system made it possible not only to balance the production by summarizing and analyzing the gas-generating process, purification process, compressor, ammonia production process, heat production by a boiler using by-products from three processes for its raw material and the like but also to open a broad vista for establish-

ment of a computer-based integrated control system. Along with this, a new process was laid to mass-produce 0.06–0.12 mm thick and 8–12 m wide functional treble film.

This year, too, the scientists, technicians and workers of the complex finished a major overhaul of more than 100 objects in

production processes with their own efforts in a short span of time, and the factory went into normal operation. They are devoting their heart and soul to the increased production of fertilizer while introducing sci-tech successes into the processes.

*Sim Hyon Jin*



# Foodstuff Improves in Quality

**I**N THE CITY OF PYONGYANG, the Moran Restaurant, Kyonghung Restaurant and the restaurant in Kaeson Youth Park Amusement Ground and outdoor counters serve the guests with bread, biscuits and doughnuts besides the dishes on the menu. Eating the delicious foods made of wheat flour, the guests are unsparing of praise for foodstuffs produced at the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory. This has resulted from the researches and efforts of the management staff, technicians and workers of the factory who have devoted themselves to raising the quality of foodstuffs for the masses.

In recent years, a drive for improving the quality of goods has been vigorously launched under a sci-tech development plan. The modernization of the installations was a part of it. Its production facilities were relatively up-to-date and its products were in great demand. But the management staff and technicians thought that modernizing and introducing information technology in the production processes on a higher level was the demand of the developing times. It was important before anything else to increase the activity of fungus

decisive to the tastes of foodstuffs and accelerate its cultivation and proliferation. The technical team of the factory completed a new method of yeast fungus breeding after making experiments scores of times. Then they fixed the appropriate quantity of sugar and vitamin to be supplied to the yeast culture vessel and decided the supplying method. Full of confidence and wisdom, the technicians newly developed apparatuses for measuring yeast sugar and yeast fermentability. As the preceding processes were completed, the modernization of the next processes proceeded swimmingly. The computer control of raw materials input, ensuring of temperature and bread cooling were realized, the pressure sensor was remodelled, and the verifier installed.

The workers joined them. They had acquired not a little knowledge through the regular technical studies. Moreover, as field staff, they were more familiar than anybody else with the knotty problems and their solutions. Many of them are diligent students, some enrolled in the Distance Learning College of the Kim Chaek University of Technology, others attending the lectures given at the Grand People's

Study House, and yet others poring over sci-tech books which are their indispensable companions. The doughnut production process, a pride of the factory, has been modernized by the collective efforts of all the staff. Doing away with the old doughnut-making process, they have devised a doughnut mouldings conveyor by themselves, saving a lot of labour and funds and largely boosting production.

In addition, they adopted new trademarks to the liking of the people through a prize competition in the factory. In the course of the factory's modernization, many technicians became inventors and many master originators of new ideas emerged from among the workers. Watching the biscuits, breads and doughnuts flowing down from the conveyors, Kim Yong Chol, the engineer in charge of technical development, said, "In our factory where an integrated automatic system has been established, an increasing variety and quantity of nice and nutritious foodstuffs are produced every day. This has come about because preference has been given to the role of science and technology."

*Ri Chung Ho*



# Worker Students



**T**HE PYONGYANG College of Technology is a part-time education college for factory workers that was founded 50 years ago. This college is famed across the country as a dignified college with a bright future. It admits workers from all factories in the city and teaches them practical knowledge.

It has constantly improved the teaching methods to suit the training of technical talents to the character of the factory college. The subjects of study have increased with the computer, chemical and foodstuff engineerings added to the textile, machinery and electricity engineerings, and many laboratories and research rooms have been set up. The college is improving the quality of teaching by applying various education methods such as popular lectures, priority teaching, use of visual aids, demonstration, use of modern teaching instruments such as computer, combination of lectures, experiments and production practice, and examination method of rating the students' ability with stress

on their ability of theoretical recognition and practical application. As a result, the workers of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill who finished the course of this college launched a vigorous campaign for a mass technical innovation movement, thus contributing to the solution of sci-tech problems arising in the reconstruction and modernization of the weaving equipment and all production processes from the first process of textile production to the dyeing and packing processes. Numerous graduates of the college have developed into technicians, skilled workers and junior cadres.

Kim Ung Je, a worker of the Tetron rayon workshop, made a study of improving the appearance of Tetron rayon fabrics while in the college and paved the way for raising the quality of products. Worker Kang Myong Ok studied how to increase the production of patterned knit goods with the latch needle plain fabric circular knitting machine, contributing to their production. The undergraduates are not only solving the

problems arising in their workplaces by taking lessons, but also making strenuous efforts to have a thorough knowledge of their machines and improve them. Ri Kum Song, a worker of the Pyongyang Lift Factory studying in the fourth-year class of the electricity engineering department, says, "Applying my knowledge obtained at the college in dealing with the problems arising in my work, I solved all problems with ease and got well posted in the equipment in my charge. It is my determination to study harder and conduce to the production work by contriving more efficient machines." Ko Jong Hyok, a worker of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill, read a degree thesis on the designing and making of a yarn tension metre by the use of a chip computer and introduced it to actual work, so that he is called an inventor. Kim Kwan Guk, chief of the administration section, says, "Besides, many worker students launched mass technical innovation drives which included the studies of layer of yarn of flexible shaft weaving machine, of improving the quality of air piston packings in the steel gripper loom and of the test manufacturing of flexible shaft weaving machine sliding bearings and made scores of technical innovations, which went a long way towards increased production."

The college is striving as ever to train large numbers of workers in active service into technical personnel to play a great role in the building of a civilized socialist nation.

*Sim Yong Jin*

# The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland

*(Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's reminiscences With the Century)*

**T**HANKS TO THE NEW DIVISION, WHICH consolidated and enhanced the main units of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army, we had the opportunity to launch, in greater breadth and depth, the anti-Japanese national united front movement and make the requisite organizational and ideological preparations for the founding of the Party. The new division served as a powerful driving force, supporting militarily and politically attempts by the Korean communists to expand the armed struggle deep into the homeland and bring together patriotic forces from all walks of life; it opened up broad opportunities to bring about a turning-point in the united front movement, which we had continued indefatigably ever since the Kalun meeting.

Since the Nanhutou meeting, our united front movement concentrated on activities to organize a nationwide united front. The establishment of a permanent united front organization and unification of wide sections of the anti-Japanese patriotic forces constituted urgent tasks, which brooked no further delay, in the light of our revolutionary progress and domestic and international requirements. Ever since the early years of our activity we had maintained that the surest way to our independence and sovereignty involved a mass resistance campaign based on great national unity, and that great national unity was the key to achieving independence solely by our own efforts. The united front constituted, together with the establishment of Juche, one of the most important ideals we had adhered to, since the early days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

On the basis of the ideal of great national unity and a united front, we had made tireless efforts to achieve the coalition with various nationalist forces and anti-Japanese patriotic forces; we also intensively developed our joint struggle with wide sections of the Chinese anti-Japanese forces and communists, as we were fighting in China. The remarkable successes and experiences we had achieved during this struggle marked a valuable foundation for the large-scale development of the united front movement. We created a postulate for continuing the united front movement on a nationwide scale on the basis of these successes and experiences and also

made every possible effort to train as quickly as possible the nucleus and form our own forces, who would be able to take charge in future.

The Nanhutou meeting constituted a new historic turning-point in the united front movement of our country, as it had adopted decisions on the inauguration of a national united front.

Prior to the Comintern's advance of the line of anti-fascist popular front movement, we put forward our own line of the anti-Japanese national united front and vigorously advanced our revolution on the basis of this line.

In the new historical situation in which the socialist revolution takes place with the nation-state as a unit, there can be said to be no major difference between genuine nationalism and genuine communism in colonies. The former lays a little more stress on the national character, the latter on the class character. Their patriotic stands should be regarded as the same in that they both champion the nation's interests against foreign forces.

My invariable belief is that a true communist is a true patriot and that a true nationalist, too, is a true patriot.

Therefore, we consistently attached great importance to cooperation with true patriotic nationalists and devoted all our efforts to strengthening our alliance with them.

The inauguration of the ARF will be the fruitful result of this protracted self-sacrificing struggle we waged.

Therefore, we should openly use the name "The Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland", and also make clear in the first item of its programme that we intend to liberate the country thanks to the efforts of all the members of our nation and establish a genuinely popular government like the one, which was set up at one time in the guerrilla base in east Manchuria.

In the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF we established that a resolution to the power problem constituted the primary task of the Korean nation, and also put forward various political tasks, such as the provision of the people with democratic freedom and rights, the democratic development of society and protection of the national rights of overseas compatriots.

This programme also set the task of building a revolutionary army and elucidated the economic

► tasks to be solved at the stage of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, such as unindemnified confiscation of land from the Japanese imperialists and treacherous pro-Japanese landlords, expropriation of all enterprises, railways, banks, vessels, farms, irrigation facilities owned by the Japanese state and Japanese individuals and all the properties of the treacherous pro-Japanese elements, support for the poor, the natural development of national industry, agriculture and commerce and the construction of a national economy.

The natural development of national industry, agriculture and commerce and the construction of a national economy were based on our consistent line and policy to rally national capitalists in the anti-Japanese united front by strictly distinguishing between national capital and comprador capital and encouraging patriotic national capitalists and actively defending and supporting them. This marked the difference between pseudo-communists, who asserted that all capitalists, including even anti-Japanese national capitalists, should be tarred with the same brush, and genuine communists who regarded all national capitalists as the motive force of the revolution. These capitalists, though branded as bourgeoisie, were patriotic in their aspirations and anti-Japanese in practice.

The Ten-Point Programme of the ARF also set social and cultural tasks as well as other ones concerning external activities.

The historic inaugural meeting of the ARF was held on May 1. Although the flowers were not yet in full bloom, the whole mountain was in the thick of spring.

As the meeting lay ahead, the hearts of all the delegates throbbed with strong emotion and excitement.

The Donggang meeting lasted for 15 days.

In my report I referred to the need to rally the entire nation as one political force under the banner of national liberation and establish in the border area a new base which the Korean People's Revolutionary Army could rely on, in order to conduct the anti-Japanese national united front movement dynamically and further expand and develop the anti-Japanese armed struggle by advancing into the border area and the homeland. Subsequently this report was published in book form under the title, *Let Us Further Expand and Develop the Anti-Japanese National United Front Movement and Take the Korean Revolution as a Whole to a New Upsurge*.

I also submitted the Ten-Point Programme of the ARF and its Inaugural Declaration to the meeting for consideration.

In the ten-point programme we defined the character and task of the Korean revolution, as well as its

strategic and tactical principles, on the basis of a correct analysis of the revolutionary situation in the 1930s, the socio-economic conditions of our country and mutual relations between different classes, and also elucidated the prospects of the Korean revolution, taking into strict consideration the interests of the workers, peasants and other working masses, as well as the common interests of the patriotic people of all walks of life.

The paragraphs of the inaugural declaration gripped their hearts from the start. In particular, the participants of the meeting were greatly taken by the part of the declaration, which expressed confidence that Korea's independence would succeed if the whole nation—20 million people—were rallied into one, each contributing his or her all—money, provisions, skill and wisdom—and took part in the anti-Japanese national liberation front. They were taken by the earnest appeal to everyone to fight, encompassed in the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

This is how a standing anti-Japanese national united front body, the first of its kind in the history of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in our country, came to be born.

The founding of the ARF as the first anti-Japanese national united front body in our country, constituted a milestone, strengthening the mass foundation of the revolution. Following the founding of the ARF, the anti-Japanese national united front movement developed rapidly in a more organized and systematic way on a nationwide scale, closely combined with the anti-Japanese armed struggle; it was able to dynamically organize and mobilize all the anti-Japanese forces to the struggle for national liberation.

The foundation of the ARF represented the fruit of the active efforts of our young communists, who had tirelessly trained our revolutionary forces. It marked a historic moment, when our people again solemnly declared their will to fight more dauntlessly against the Japanese imperialists with their own efforts: it also marked a turning-point in taking the general Korean revolution, with the anti-Japanese armed struggle as the keystone, to a new upsurge.

The foundation of the ARF enjoyed active backing at home and abroad, as it met the requirements of the development of the Korean revolution itself and the currents of the time.

The birth of the ARF at the northern foot of Mt. Paektu in May 1936 constituted a historic event, which ensured a new turning-point in the development of the Korean revolution and heralded the dawn of national liberation. Thus, the new brighter era of the Korean revolution began to dawn at the foot of Mt. Paektu. □

## Under Banner of Independence for 70 Years

**S**INCE IT DECLARED ITS foundation on October 10, 1945 the Workers' Party of Korea has resolved, by mobilizing the nation's own efforts, all problems concerning the revolution and construction in the interest of the Korean people and to suit the specific condition of the country.

As far as the building of the government, the matter of primary importance in establishing socialism, is concerned, the WPK, unlike other nations, set up the people's government which is based on the worker-peasant alliance under the working-class leadership and relies on an unusually broad socio-political foundation consisting in the united front of all the working people. The Party maintained the policy of building up the people's government into the one that serves the people as the representative of the working people's independent right, organizer of their creative ability and activity, supporter of their livelihood and protector of their interest.

The Party dealt with all problems in an independent way when it replaced the outmoded socioeconomic relations—that were the remnant of the old days when Korea was a colonial and semi-feudal state—with a new one. Regarding the agrarian reform, some people asserted the need to follow existing theories and experience of foreign countries, talking of “nationalization of land” and “indemnified confiscation and distribution.” But the WPK made sure the agrarian reform was carried out on the principle of unindemnified confiscation and distribution, thus abolishing the feudal relations of exploitation and satisfying the centuries-old desire of the peasants for land of their own. Rejecting the existing formula whereby agricultural cooperativization was thought possible only after socialist industrialization, the

Party made a success of the agricultural cooperativization in a short span of time by transforming the economic form along socialist lines—before the technical remoulding—to suit the objective condition in which the peasants wanted agricultural cooperativization and the force capable of undertaking it was already prepared.

The WPK also decided the balance between heavy and light industries and agriculture and the direction of their development by referring to the demand of the Korean people and the specific condition of the country, rather than considering the existing theories on economic construction and foreign nations' experience. The universal mode of economic construction was either to build up light industry first for acquiring fund and then use it to develop heavy industry, or to forcibly push ahead with the building of heavy industry while leaving light industry and agriculture behind for a certain period of time. Having judged that such a mode of economic development was not suitable to the Korean situation, the WPK set forth and consistently maintained the socialist line of economic construction whereby to develop heavy industry on a preferential basis and push the progress of light industry and agriculture simultaneously considering the actual condition of the country where the nation was in direct confrontation with the US imperialists and the people's living was impoverished by the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953). Thanks to the policy the Korean people removed the damages from the war in a short time, accomplished the socialist industrialization in no more than 14 years and built an independent national economy.

The WPK also established new methods of control and administration of the socialist soci-

ety suited to the intrinsic nature of the society. In the past some of the socialist countries were resorting to methods with plenty of bureaucratic elements for state administration and those of economic management centring on stimulation of the material interest. In conformity with the intrinsic nature of the socialist society where the master is the popular masses and which develops on the strength of the creativity of the masses, the Party created the Chongsan-ri spirit and method, which are a new ideology and methodology for the guidance of the masses, and the Taean work system which is a new system for economic management. This facilitated the rapid progress in socialist construction.

In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century socialism collapsed in succession in a number of countries, but the Korean socialism survived all the upheavals of the time and made steady progress. This is all thanks to the WPK that had built up socialism in an independent way in compliance with the desire of the Korean people and the needs of the country, rather than relying on any existing theory or experience of foreign countries. The Party's effort to put forth and implement independent policies and lines has always been accompanied by the struggle to reject foreign forces' intervention and oppression, but there has never been any derailment from the independent way, and the principle of independence has been maintained steadfastly and invariably.

In particular, over the protracted years of direct confrontation with the US imperialists seeking to get world control, the WPK has never tolerated any of their attempts to infringe the sovereignty of the Korean people, and dealt a resolute blow to them. In January 1968 the Korean People's Army navy captured the US ▶



▶ imperialists' armed spy ship *Pueblo* on her intrusion into the territorial waters of the DPRK in the East Sea of Korea. The US imperialists gathered a huge force of warplanes and warships led by a nuclear-powered carrier in the East Sea of Korea and south Korea, while threatening the DPRK that it would start a war if the captured ship and its crew were not returned immediately. Some nations advised the DPRK to send back the ship and crew right away. But the WPK took a resolute posture by declaring that it would render a tit-for-tat answer for the US imperialists' "retaliation" and total war. This resulted in the US's offer of a letter of apology. The *Pueblo* is on outdoor display at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang.

In the 1990s when the US kicked up a fuss about the "suspected nuclear development" by the DPRK and instigated the International Atomic Energy Agency to claim a "ad hoc inspection" while conducting a threatening joint military exercise, the DPRK declared a semi-war state throughout the country and released a government statement on its withdrawal from the Nu-

clear Non-proliferation Treaty. Daunted by the steadfast stand of the Workers' Party of Korea that resolutely copes with the imperialists' attempts to infringe the national sovereignty, the US could not but sign the June 1993 DPRK-USA Joint Statement which affirmed the commitment to the solution of the DPRK's nuclear problem in a peaceful way, and the October 1994 DPRK-USA Agreed Framework which bound the US to supply a light-water reactor and alternative energy to the DPRK.

Even whenever the US and its lackeys were making obstructive moves to check the DPRK's planned launch of artificial earth satellites while stigmatizing it as a "missile test" the Party did not flinch but made sure that the satellites were launched without any hesitation. Referring to the event, the Russian newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* dated December 13, 2012 carried an article titled, "The Juche Idea Has Reached the Outer Space." Part of it reads, "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched a satellite-loaded rocket on December 12. The UN Security Council's interdicts and many countries' persistent demands were ignored.

Quite a few nations demanded the launching plan be cancelled, but the DPRK would not change its line. It is little intimidated at the pressure of the international community that sees the rocket launch as a technical test of the ballistic missile manufactured. What is alarming is that the country reiterated on the 12<sup>th</sup>, through a press release of the Foreign Ministry spokesman, that it would continue to exercise the lawful right to satellite launch whatever argument they make."

The 70-year history of the WPK gives substantial proof that the independent way is that of justice and victory which defends and exalts the national dignity and socialism and assures a bright future for the Korean people. At present the US and its vassal nations are intensifying their offensive against the DPRK, making an absurd argument over its nuclear deterrent and so-called "human rights" problem. But the WPK is confidently leading the Korean people in the struggle to build a thriving socialist nation under the uplifted banner of independence.

*Chae Hui Won*

**The US's armed spy ship *Pueblo* captured by the KPA navy men.**



# Mother's Life

*(Continued from the last issue)*

(Zheng Yubin, son of Ri Kwan Rin, concludes his mother's memoir with his writing.)

**I**, ZHENG YUBIN, HAVE bloods of two great nations in my veins: my father Zheng Jinshan was a Chinese and my mother, a Korean. So, my feeling towards Korea is singular. This is more so because my mother lived the latter part of her life in peace in Korea under the special care of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. The President who had remembered and missed my mother for decades put her up as a heroine of Korea and a brave anti-Japanese woman fighter as she had joined the anti-Japanese independence movement with arms in hand in her early years out of patriotism and waged a death-defying struggle against the Japanese rogues for the lost country and the people in distress. The President and the Chairman accorded her high praise and best treatment, and took warm care of us, her children, beyond border and nationality. I can hardly describe the boundless love of the great men for us in a few words and sen-

tences. I am going to refer only to some most unforgettable things I had seen, heard and experienced while looking around socialist Korea with an impulse to tell the world about the lofty personality and noble virtues of the great men that I witnessed while visiting Korea several times.

## Immortal Life

People often say it is true that the beginning of life is important, but still more important is its end. Like many blessed people, my mother was full of vigour as if she were reborn, treading on the soil of her homeland in her last declining years which she had been yearning after even in a dream. By nature, my mother was cheerful and openhearted, known as a manly woman. However, she became taciturn later, after going through the trials of life in her young days and then coming to bear the heavy burden of household chores. She seldom expressed her feelings. But now she would often speak her mind. Mother and our family lived quite comfortably under the warm care of the parties and the governments of China and Korea. Then, in 1978, mother often fell ill from old age. She would often say that

as she was old now, she would have nothing to regret if she went back to Korea and were buried in her native place. After that she wrote to President Kim Il Sung that she would like to live under the care of the President even if she lived just one day, and that she would have nothing to regret if she were buried in the motherland after death. Grasping her mind, the President called her back to the motherland. So, she returned to Korea in the twilight years of her life.

One day an official of the Korean embassy in China called at our home with an invitation of the Korean government to my mother. At the time, mother was not well and in a very poor condition. However, she immediately prepared for departure. Leaving for Korea, she could not visit the grave of father, her husband. We could clearly see her anguish of parting with us, her children, and with her husband who protected and took care of her whenever she was in distress from the time of the anti-Japanese independence struggle. Before leaving, she called us, my sister and me, to her side and had a long talk with us in retrospect of the past. At the end of the talk she said, "The older I grew, the more I wanted to go ▶

► back to my native village, to my homeland. And today my cherished desire has been realized thanks to President Kim Il Sung, son of Kim Hyong Jik. It was not easy to make up my mind to leave you behind and go back to my native land. It is said that human beings live by affection, but it seems that the motherland comes before affection.”

I was told that when mother arrived at Pyongyang, Chairman Kim Jong Il saw to it that she was immediately placed under the treatment of competent doctors, and told the doctor and nurse in charge to take good care of her. President Kim Il Sung told the officials concerned to meet my mother’s wishes for settlement in Korea by acting in concert with Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. One day in November 1979, the year after my mother’s arrival in Pyongyang, he called on her in her sickbed and inquired after her treatment. When she saw the President, she somehow shed tears ceaselessly, gazing into his face and stroking his hands. That day the President had a long talk with her. When it was time to leave, he grasped her hands and asked, **“Mother, you’ll soon be out of the hospital, and where do you want to live?”** After thinking for a while, she replied she wanted to go to Sakju, her home town. **“Sakju? Well, the native place may be good, but I**

**think it is better to stay here in Pyongyang,”** he said with a smile, but somehow he looked anxious, I heard. Overwhelmed by his kind words, she remained silent for a while, before she said, “You’re so gracious, I’m an old woman, and what shall I do in Pyongyang? I’m afraid I’ll be a burden to you if I stay near you.” **“Mother, don’t say so, please,”** said the President. **“You know I regret I’ve failed to look after you until now. It took a long time to find you out, and so I’ll be sorry if you stay far away from me. Stay here, please. Now I ought to attend on you. I’ll take care of you from now. I’ll attend to you as I do my own mother.”** Then, I heard, he said it would be good to arrange matters so that we, her children, might come to Korea frequently to see her. So, all my family visited Pyongyang to see her in 1981, 1983 and 1985. Each time we were under the special care of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. Back to the warm embrace of her homeland in her later years, my mother led a happy life for seven years. In this period she is said to have rendered considerable services in the work of writing the history of the independence movement and the proletarian revolution in Korea. The Workers’ Party of Korea and the Korean government appraised her merits highly and conferred many decorations on her. On

February 16, 1982 she was awarded a gold watch bearing the signature of President Kim Il Sung, on March 20, 1982 the Order of National Flag 1<sup>st</sup> Class, on September 2, 1983 the Order of Commemoration of DPRK Foundation, and on July 2, 1985 the Medal of 40<sup>th</sup> National-Liberation Anniversary. Whenever I got the news of socialist construction making brisk headway in Korea in the 1980s through TV and the press, I delightfully thought of my mother living comfortably in a cosy house at the foot of Changgwang Hill in Pyongyang. Then, in August 1985 we received a telegram from the Korean embassy in Beijing informing us of the mother’s critical condition. My sister Zheng Jianwei, my son Zheng Wenzhi and I took the necessary procedures in haste and left Xi’an. In early September we arrived in Pyongyang and hurried to the home of mother. Our old mother had been seriously ill for years, but she had been kept alive by the efforts of the first-rate medical team thanks to the meticulous attention of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il. When we met mother who had often fallen into the state of coma until several days before, her condition was taking a turn for the better by virtue of warm care and devoted treatment.

*(To be continued)*

# Breaking Through the Frontier

**R**ECENTLY THE RE-  
searchers of the Central  
Measuring Science Research In-  
stitute have developed a coal  
calorimeter.

In January last year section chief Kang Sun Bom went to an iron plant where he learned that it had some difficulties in the production because of using coals with different calorific values. In order to put the production and management activities on a more scientific and IT basis, the plant needed a coal calorimeter of the Korean style. This thought deepened after that when he visited thermal power stations, chemical factories and other units using coal as fuel or raw materials. Now he came to think, "Without bringing means and methods of quality examination to meet the demand of the developing reality, the quality of products cannot be scientifically guaranteed nor can it be examined in time."

In a conference held in the research institute some time later, he stressed, "Modernizing the quality examination exactly means the modernization of examination means and ways. We should develop a coal calorimeter of the highest order on our own, overall with our own techniques."

A new research team headed by him was formed without delay. Its prospect, however, was not optimistic. Like all trailblazers did, they had to tread a thorny



taken the path of their own accord were aglow with ardour to contribute their share to national prosperity.

After repeated experiments, they developed in their own way all apparatuses from the device to burn sample coal completely to the e-thermometer to be used for measuring temperature of the water in the inner container of the sample coal burner. In this course, they hit upon an original idea that the necessary decomposition ratio could be obtained without using the established functions of the analog-to-digital converter and materialized it at last. This provided a sci-tech guarantee for getting rid of drifting temperature and reproducing the measured values of temperature. Further, they developed the programs of temperature meas-

path. But the researchers who had

urement, ignition control, and simulation of calculation process and results one after another. When the measuring instrument was completed finally in December that year, it was not confined to measuring the calory of coal. The instrument which they call coal calorimeter is a multifunctional up-to-date device to measure the calorific values of all solid matters to be burnt as well as coal's calory and the amount of lime.

Kang says, "This measuring instrument has been made entirely by our own efforts including its design, construction of the device and its programs. All its processes like the ignition of samples, measuring temperature and calculation of values are controlled automatically by programs. We can proudly say this device is a fruit of our researchers' improved ability to develop measuring instruments."

*Ri Kum Chol*

# New System of Load Power Control Developed

**S**OME TIME AGO researchers of the electrical engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology developed a load power control system based on CNC technology.

Last year, Kim Tok Su, a section head of the faculty, encountered many problems when he went to a local-industry factory to update the power supply network. As there was no communication network to connect some transformer substations that were in geographically difficult locations, the control of power supply was not done promptly and precisely. Worse still, when there was overload, the central or provincial stations unilaterally turned off power supply regardless of opinions of local city and county authorities that are in charge of the regions, causing troubles in the production at local-industry factories.

At a meeting of his section soon after his return, Kim said, "Along with increasing electricity production, effective consumption of electricity is an urgent problem which brooks no further delay. So let's develop a new system which can control power supply rationally, ranging from central authorities to separate industrial establishments." At that time some researchers were dubious about it, because they knew they had to solve a lot of technical problems to modernize even a small county-level power control system. And they had to develop

all the relevant equipment newly.

Soon, however, the researchers presented innovative ideas that they had conceived to ease the country's electric shortage. Convinced that they could do anything if they pool their creative wisdom and effort, they engaged themselves in the work to replace the power supply system of a county with a CNC-based load power control system. The most urgent problem was to have means of communications enough to control power supply properly and promptly in keeping with changes in actual conditions. The researchers racked their brains to get a solution. They surveyed the local area scores of times. One day, when they saw power lines stretching out everywhere in the county, they hit on an idea that they could realize communication by using those lines directly which are not restrained by natural and geographical limitations. But it was not an easy job. The purchase of the material joining the communication lines with electric lines needed a huge sum of foreign currency. There was no other choice but to develop everything in their own way in order to improve the efficiency of the power control system. While overcoming repeated failures they not only developed the system by themselves but also made a mobile server to be used in emergency when the communication line is cut off. Scores of technological inventions and devices

were developed to realize the communication based on power line.

Meanwhile, the researchers developed a program which can rationally control power supply according to the level of importance and a sensor (acknowledged as meeting an international measuring standard) which can measure the state of real-time power consumption and protect the inner system. The load power control system they put on a CNC basis draws up the chart showing the per-hour rank of each power line at each substation and uses it to enable the local county authorities to coordinate production and business activities as required by the actual condition. On the other hand, it ensures stable voltage and frequency in a given power supply network, helping improve the quality of products at local-industry factories.

Extending the range of their work the researchers introduced the system into several provinces including Jagang Province. This has brought huge profit equivalent to the construction of a 40 000 kw-capacity power station. When people congratulate their research success, Kim Tok Su says, "It's no more than the beginning. We'll develop other power control systems of our own style without fail in keeping with the global trend."

*Kim Un Jong*

# New Breeds of Cosmos

**T**HERE ARE SOME people who look forward to the season between late May and early June every year. They are cosmos researchers working at the Pyongyang Floriculture Research Institute.

Cosmos, an annual composite plant, used to be well known as an autumnal flower, but now we can see full-blown cosmoses in spring and summer, too, as a result of strenuous efforts of the researchers.

First, the researchers got a

new breed of early cosmos suitable to the climate of Korea, and then they started to make one-colour cosmos from varieties of cosmos of different colours. Cosmoses of mixed colours were planted and marked for the same colour of flowers when they came first. Then they were transplanted in groups of same colours. When they came into bloom the next year, however, the purity of colour was only 50 per cent.

Closer study needed to be made. The researchers kept the

seeds in different natural conditions using different materials. Then, based on the findings regarding the rate of sprouting and the sprouting strength, they also worked on the size of the blossom, width of the petal, height of the plant, distance between plants and other ornamental indexes.

The result of their work was better year after year. In this way new early-blooming varieties of different flower colours such as dark pink, white and thick pink in the centre of the blossom and light



► pink in the edge were developed. Another success was the production of a shorter-height breed.

These new varieties are much better than the originals. The originals bloom between August and October with light-coloured flowers, and they grow more than two metres high, so they are liable to be blown down by wind. The new ones are in bloom for a long period of time from late May to the frost. The flowers are of deep colours and nearly twice as big as the original ones. And they are shorter; growing up to 1.6 m at maximum. The recently developed variety grows only 40~60 cm high, so they are unlikely to fall

down in the wind.

The researchers planted new breeds not only in their greenhouse at their institute but in many places in the capital city and in far-away provinces as well. As the climate was different from region to region, the growing needed much labour. On the basis of their success, they tested the vitality of the new varieties on the spot and found relevant solutions. The plants got more resistant to diseases and cold and dry conditions. The blossoms became bigger and the colours deeper. Now the flowers were planted on both sides of roads by their colours, which boosted their orna-

mentality and aroused greater sentimentality. Ri Su Ryon, head of the research section, says, "In fact, the cosmos flowers are not so beautiful or luxurious when they are viewed separately. But their simple and strong characters stand out when they are put together. They look more attractive when they bloom in groups. We feel proud of our work when we see people pleased with the cosmos in full bloom along the roads."

Now the researchers have embarked on another project, wishing the cosmos to spread all across the country.

*Choe Chol Jin*



# The Root



**Teachers endeavour to improve their teaching.**

**S**OME TIME AGO A national academic contest (computer programming) of students of Middle Schools No. 1 was held. Jong Hae Song was more or less strained as it was a competition of the students who prided themselves on their ability, but she took first place by promptly giving correct solutions of a high level. She belongs to Moranbong Middle School No. 1. When people praised her for the gold medal she won through hard work, she said, "I want to present my gold medal to my teachers."

For the past seven years her school has topped the winning list of different contests. This is the result of the sincere efforts of teachers Choe Sun Son, Kim Yong Gum and Kim Hyon Chol. It is not long since they started their career, and they've made a strenuous effort to develop new teaching contents and methods. Now the students attached the surname of "enthusiastic" to their affectionate title of "our teachers." The teachers had all the same idea.

*My ability will lead to the ability of my school.* They knew the reality changes day by day and that they should keep up with this reality. Almost every night passed with their scanty sleep, overwhelmed with their passion for sci-tech books. Reading books about academic contests the teachers thought that the process of solving problems suggested in the books would improve the students' ability. They had discussions and got good solutions. Their shared conclusion was that

they should make time by making the most of the condition that all classrooms are linked in a computer net and by improving the quality of education. As lessons that had been given by classes were converted into the one that headed for all those in the relevant school year, the students became more enthusiastic and a competitive atmosphere reigned. The videos of lessons improved their understanding of what they had failed to grasp in lessons. Their cognitive power grew, and the questions presented for continuous thinking turned out profitable. In addition, the lessons given to help digest the contents of instruction and apply those contents encouraged the students to engage themselves in the world of creation. The fast-reading lessons based on personality, interest and psychology were quite effective, and simulations and explanations about general principles of nature and society contributed to improvement of the students' reasoning power. When the teachers were assessing examination papers of computer





# No Longer Intractable

**R**ECENTLY THE researchers of the Basic Research Institute of the Academy of Koryo Medicine developed an effective remedy for angina pectoris, which is a kind of heart-related disease. Called motherwort sweet cardiac pill, the Koryo medicine is made from motherwort, astragalus and other natural materials. The administration of the medicine brings about the beginning of relaxation of the convulsion of the heart attack in five to seven days and full treatment in 30–40 days while causing no side-effect and resulting in 90 per cent of successful cure.

In the past the usual remedies for angina pectoris used to be nitroglycerin and other chemical preparations, which often caused side-effects and, particularly, tolerance came easily following a long period of administration. This was why the disease was regarded as an intractable problem.

Five years ago the researchers of the abovementioned institute began to make study of a remedy of angina pectoris. By building on their experience—they had suc-



cessfully developed *Posimbullo Ssarakyak* which is an effective treatment of arteriosclerosis, especially cerebral arteriosclerosis—they launched the study of the pathology of angina pectoris and analysis of hundreds of kinds of medicinal materials. Their experiments verified the strong pharmacological effects of some elements of motherwort in stimulating the heart, expanding the cardiac blood vessel and reducing the blood pressure. This meant the breakthrough in the project to develop a medicine of the heart disease.

Now the researchers redoubled their effort to extract the useful elements, purify the extract for the manufacture of

injection and ensure the safety of the injection. Their strenuous endeavour brought about the development of a sweet motherwort pill for angina pectoris.

The medicine went through experimentation on animals and then applied to patients. The result was that the effect begins to come about five days after the administration and that a month or two is enough to see full treatment.

The result of the research caused a sensation in the medical world and was highly assessed at a number of medical seminars. It gave a special hope and vitality to the patients of angina pectoris and the people in their 40s and upward and those engaged in mental work, who are highly exposed to the danger of the disease.

Ri Song Suk, chief of the pharmacological research section of the institute, says, “Now we are sure angina pectoris is no longer an intractable problem. We are determined to spare no effort in solving more difficult problems.”

*Sim Hyon Jin*

► programming, they knew the students' ability advanced by a stage. While checking the papers they were amazed to find some students such as Jong Hae Song had made a program by a new method. When asked how they had employed the new method, the students answered that they had come across with the idea of applying the formulas they

learned at lesson into programming. The teachers let all other students follow the example. Now a mode was employed in programming tests to give additional points to those who applied a new method.

The school arranged meetings with its graduates who advanced to Kim Il Sung University and Kim Chaek University of Tech-

nology and won on-line programming contests. As a result, the ranks of winners of academic contests increased further. Jong Hae Song says, “My teachers tell us taking first place leads to exalting the honor of my school and breaking through the world standard of intellectual development.”

*Kim Kwang Myong*

# The High Ambition to Win

**T**HE RYONGNAMSAN Sports Team has recently made a good showing in international and national games. Head of the team Choe Yong Gil says, "Our successes are inconceivable apart from the efforts of coaches and researchers of the sports team."

Wrestling senior coach Ri Chang Jong and others developed new tactical methods on a scientific footing, based on the successes and experiences gained in the past. At the same time, they studied the opponents' fortes in the matches, and searched for and applied unique training methods and skills to cope with them. In training they put emphasis on perfecting each athlete's special skills suited to his constitutional features. The sports team saw to more scientific training by introducing the achievements of modern sports science and technology in keeping with its actual conditions and the players' specific traits.

While studying the processes of games and training, the coaches and researchers on athletic events

realized that if the gymnastic training apparatuses were remodelled in parts, the efficiency of training could be further heightened. By pooling their wisdom and efforts, they refashioned the training apparatuses to suit the athletes' physical features. Along with this, they earnestly sought for inventing more training equipment. As a result, many apparatuses were newly made or remodelled, including a device for making the ankles flexible and a tractive force trainer. Not content with this, they developed a physical training support program which can precisely assess the athletes' exercises to boost physical strength. Information researchers pushed ahead with their work to increase the scientific accuracy of selecting reserve athletes physically, technically and intellectually prepared. They also ensured accurate estimation of individual athletes' prospects of development of physical forms and types of physical growth for selection of good athletes. Besides, they strove earnestly to help the coaches and athletes know the

global trend of sport without delay by providing them with data on games and sports information, holding discussion on tactical plans, making analysis of games and giving scientific lectures. Medical researchers rendered scientific medical aid to the athletes by measuring their bodies and examining their physical functions every week and month. They achieved a great success in the research work to scientifically find out every athlete's physical fatigue, recovery and best physical condition.

Last year alone, Yang Kyong Il won first place in the men's free-style event of 57 kg category at the World Wrestling Championships while other athletes snatched scores of gold medals at international and national competitions. So, the sports team has produced many candidates for the Olympic Games next year. Now it is intensifying researches on the scientific training methods with an eye to winning the games with the odds in its favour and also other events without fail.

*Kim Yong Sun*



# The One-time Athlete



Ham Pong Sil (right).

OVER TEN YEARS AGO MARATHONER Ham Pong Sil returned home with other athletes from the 9<sup>th</sup> World Track and Field Championships held in Paris. She was recalling the scenes of her marathon race, somehow with tears in her eyes: coming out to the starting line full of confidence, running fast in the leading group after outstripping other runners by using various tactics, passing the 35-km point and making a spurt close after the two leading runners. But unexpectedly she had difficulty

in breathing and even felt dizzy before the last two-km uphill lap.

She had entered into athletic sport at the age of 14 and participated in many international games, accumulating a great deal of experience. The year before she went to Paris, she won two gold medals in the women's 5 000m and 10 000m races in the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Track and Field Championships, and also came off victor in the women's marathon at the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games. So, everybody believed that she would win the women's marathon event of the world championships, bringing her athletic career to a glorious end. But she failed to the surprise of all. *I've come out fifth in the race. Now how can I see my coaches and friends, and people of my home village?* Then, when she walked into the sports team with this afflicting thought, she was surprised. Her coaches and colleagues, contrary to her expectation that they would reproach her for her bungle, solaced her by saying that she had a hard time of it in the race and that though she came out fifth, she set a high record. After all, her dream of championship remained an illusion.

When she was appointed to a post in charge of the track and field event, she told herself, "The bitter lessons of my failure should never be repeated. I'll devote my heart and soul to the development of track and field sport in my country." But it was not an easy job to translate her determination into practice. At first, she modified the previous methods of training in accordance with her own athletic experiences and demanded still harder training and enforcing more strict discipline from the coaches. ▶



► This caused a protest from them. They insisted that she was obstinate in spite of her coaching inexperience and that she was inconsiderate of the athletes' physical traits. But she had her own way and intensified training. Soon, however, the athletes began to break down one by one. She reproached herself for her rashness in enforcing too hard training. Now, she began to make a deep study of the materials about scientific researches in and contests of the track and field event. This was by no means easy for her. She enrolled in the study-while-working education system to improve her qualifications while striving to find out the right training method suited to the physical constitution of the Koreans and helpful to develop their bodily features. She read books on the latest sports science and had many discussions with the coaches in search of fine ways of training.

On the basis of establishing a new standard of selecting athletes, she scientifically elaborated the training method by studying the players' mental states and listening to their opinions. She found out the optimum diet and training time helpful to heightening the intensity of training. In order to personally verify the training methods agreeing with each athlete's constitution and specific features, she and coaches lived with the athletes at the training field. In the course of repeated training of running she realized that the athletes were lacking in perseverance. In particular,

young athletes including O Song Mi would fall down at the hardest point of training. Seeing them dragging their way to their quarters, Ham asked herself if she was too hard on them and reflected that she might as well ease up the intensity of training. But on second thought, she told herself, "Pity is not love. True love is alien to pity. So, my lesson must not be repeated." She went to the quarters of O Song Mi who was lying limp in bed. She said sternly to the girl, "You once said to me that you hoped to be a world-renowned athlete like Jong Song Ok. Beyond most people's imagination, Jong Song Ok carried off the title in the women's marathon event of the World Track and Field Championships in 1999. Usually, whenever she came to the hardest point in training, she would say, she thought of her parents, her native village, her teachers and friends. With this thought she strove to cultivate a self-denying spirit and be an athlete of honour in their eyes. Her spiritual strength and strong will were the secret of her victory. So, I say the race after the hardest point in the running is a war of the runners' spiritual strength."

In June last year, O Song Mi won the women's 1 500m title of the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Youth Athletics Championships. This is no more than an initial fruit of Ham's endeavours.

Even today she is walking the training ground to bring up world track and field champions.

*Jo Yong Il*

**I**N THE PYONGYANG Maternity Hospital Breast Tumor Research Institute many women are cured of their diseases under the beneficial free medical care system of the country. One of the recipients of the care was a woman who was called to the institute after she filled in a circular notice.

One autumn day last year a Korean People's Army soldier Kim Ok Gyong's mother Paek Ho Chun living in Ryonghung-dong No. 2, Taesong District, Pyongyang, received a circular notice from the head of her neighbourhood unit. "Underline the items which you think pertain to you," the notice read. She looked at the sheet that was full of items about health condition. She knew such notices were circulated from door to door. The terminal of the circulation was the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital Breast Tumor Research Institute. She had no particular pains, but underlined a description which she thought was similar to her condition as was required by the notice. This was how she went to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital Breast Tumor Research Institute a few days later. It was the first time for her to see the institute newly built in the Munsu area. Although she had seen it on the TV and newspapers, she was surprised looking here and there inside the institute. It was really a wonderful medical service base for women. It felt the building was not a medical institute but a palace. After medical examination the doctors declared that she should stay in there for treatment right away. A ►

# Through a Circular Notice



**Paek Ho Chun.**

▶ doctor, noticing her doubt, said, “That’s very good of you to come here for medical examination. You wouldn’t know what would have become of you but for the circular notice. Just for women like you, the state makes sure notices circulate from door to door for the purpose of regular medical examination.” In this way Paek came to know of her disease she had had no idea of.

Now she walked into a sick room of the institute equipped with all facilities needed. After hospitalization, however, she learned the doctors were having a serious discussion about her allergic constitution. At that time her daughter’s image rose before her eyes first of all. It was only six months since Ok Gyong had joined the army. Moreover, she had lost her father twenty days before. Paek decided not to let her daughter know her situation. She knew Ok Gyong might be quite disappointed to know her illness as she was already in sorrow over her father’s death.

To her great surprise, there

came a letter from her daughter. It read, “Mother, is it true? You have got a serious disease? I have no father, and you have contracted a disease. I am really...” However, Ok Gyong didn’t know a warm helping hand reached out to her mother. A surgical operation was conducted. Latest equipment were set for the ordinary woman and a large amount of expensive medicaments were injected into her body. As a result, she returned home in good condition after a short period of hospitalization. “A huge amount of money is needed for this kind of operation in other countries. But we give treatment for nothing in our country. You’d better write a letter to your daughter. Tell her that you’ve got well in the wonderful research institute established by the state.” This is what her doctor said giving her drugs to be taken after leaving hospital. She was tearful. She was so thankful that she felt like writing a letter of thanks to the national leader Kim Jong Un. But she did not expect her daughter would write such a letter.

Some time later, Ok Gyong heard of her mother’s story. She couldn’t get sleep. “An able medical team of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital Breast Tumor Research Institute treated my mother, and she has recovered completely,” Ok Gyong boasted to the officers of her unit and her friends, shedding tears in spite of

herself. She finally took up a pen and wrote, “I respectfully write to you Kim Jong Un, supreme leader of our Party and state and Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army.” In the letter she described how she had felt to hear of her mother falling seriously ill, how tearful she was to think she would be bereaved of her mother after her father and how disappointed she was to know of the possible peril of her operation due to her allergic constitution. “I am writing this letter shedding happy tears. I’m awfully grateful to you, our respected leader, for your warm care for the rescue of my mother from the jaws of life. I’m really indebted to you, Kim Jong Un, our Supreme Commander of the KPA. Without the beneficial free medical care provided by our superior socialist system and the Party’s warm care, my mother couldn’t have survived the disease.” She wrote about the benevolent affection for her mother and about her maternal grandmother’s family who had moved to the Unha Scientists Street as well as her ardent pledge. She avowed that she would become a match-for-a-hundred omnipotent soldier keeping the warm care of the national leader in her mind.

The national leader Kim Jong Un read the letter from an ordinary soldier and wished her and her family happiness.

*Ri Sun Nyo*

# Composer Yun I Sang



**I**N THE EARLY 1980S MANY of the overseas Koreans, who had fled south Korea disillusioned with the authorities for their military fascist rule and anti-reunification policy, visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with a will to end the tragedy of national division rising above the difference in political view and religious belief. Yun I Sang was among them, who was resident in Europe.

The proposal for founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo put forward by President Kim Il Sung at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 1980 won enthusiastic support and backing from the Koreans and other progressive people around the world. It gave Yun the hope of reunification, who was living in the agony of national division. So, he visited Pyongyang encouraged by the trend of the time when the aspiration to one Korea and national unity was surging up.

Born in 1917 Yun taught music at high school, normal school and college in Pusan, Seoul and other places for nearly eight years from 1948. For nearly two years from 1956 he studied musical theory and composition in France and Germany and then worked as a professor and composer at a conservatory of music in Germany, when he wrote many musi-

cal pieces. While conducting creative activities in a foreign land for a long time, he kept in his mind the soul of the Korean nation all the time and tried to implant it in his works. Over 100 pieces of his work are all characteristic of deep Korean sentiments.

Since he engaged in the modern European music he constantly studied the Korean melody and carved out his own way of creation on its basis. In the course of this he developed Yun I Sang Music, a collection of composing techniques, which is unanimously acknowledged and praised by the modern music circle. He created a peculiar mode of modern music which represents the sentiments of the Oriental music with the means and techniques of the Western music, thus rendering a great service in promoting the musical bonds of the East and the West. In those days he was awarded the Prize of Culture of Kiel Municipality, Germany in 1971, and received academic titles and degrees including honorary professor of the Berlin Conservatory of Music in 1972 and honorary PhD of University of Tübingen in 1985.

Yun asserted the need to make the south Korean society democratic where sycophantic and traitorous policies and fascist evil laws were rampant, and to reunify the divided nation. This made him

suffer severe persecution from the south Korean authorities. He, however, did not abandon his faith and produced many works reflecting the tragedy of the national division and the wish for national reunification. In June 1967 the south Korean authorities fabricated the "East Berlin Incident" and kidnapped Yun to south Korea in broad daylight to sentence him the two-year imprisonment. In the prison he more keenly felt the anti-reunification nature of the south Korean regime and the

▶ tragedy his fellow countrymen were suffering from it. The feeling he got at that time developed into the concerto *Kyonu and Jingnyo* he composed later. He created it



based on a popular folk legend of Korea, which shows a couple of young people who meet once a year. In his work Yun gives a profound depiction of the tragedy of the national division and territorial separation of Korea, the homogenous nation that had lived in the same territory but now was divided in the north and the south. The music stressed the urgent need of Korea's reunification.

The Kwangju popular uprising carried out by the south Korean youths and students for anti-dictatorship democratization and national reunification in May 1980 and the military fascists' merciless crackdown on them evoked Yun's resentment and indignation against the dictatorship and his burning desire for reunification. This resulted in his making of the symphonic poem *Forever, Kwangju!*

In the symphonic poem *Angels in Flames* Yun produced in 1994 as the summary of his life he actively supported and praised the patriotic-minded youths and students who had burned themselves as a sign of their resistance against the regime while struggling for anti-fascism and democ-

racy in the south Korean society. The musician described them as angels who had sacrificed their lives for the just struggle. The symphony chanted that their heroic mettle would be remembered by the fellow countrymen for ever.

Besides, he worked as president of the Overseas Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea's Reunification from 1991 and made a contribution to the successful pan-national reunification concert. For the merits he performed for the cause of the country's reunification he was awarded the National Reunification Prize in 1990 and the Order of the National Flag 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

On September 27, 1984 the DPRK established the Yun I Sang Music Institute in Pyongyang to make a deep study of the classic and modern music of Korea and foreign countries including Yun's compositions. The institute organizes seminars on Yun I Sang's music regularly and conducts exchange with overseas Koreans and civic music organizations in south Korea.

*Sim Chol Yong*

**A scene from the concert held in September 2014 in commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Yun I Sang Music Institute.**



# The House of Merriment

**N**OT LONG AGO WE PAID a visit to the Laughing House newly opened in the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground in December last. Even the sign-board at the gate with a picture of a big monkey holding a board inscribed with "The Laughing House" with a funny expression excited a laughter of the customers. Entering the house, we heard roars of laughter bursting out here and there. The inside of the house was elegant as a recreation site with fairy-tale pictures on the walls and colourful ornamental chandeliers on the ceiling, with merry music being played.

"Our Laughing House has got about twenty concave, convex and electronic mirrors of different sizes. Whoever comes before the mirrors, irrespective of age and sex, will double up with laughter," said the keeper Rim Ok who was showing how to use the electronic mirrors that change the facial looks of people every ten seconds. She went on to say that everyday numerous people visit the place and on gala days or Sundays their number reaches as many as five thousand. As we were listening to her, suddenly there arose an uproaring laughter behind us above all other laughing sounds. Turning back we saw a grandma dancing to the music as if laughing in front of the mirror were not enough for her. Seeing the distorted figure of the danc-

ing grandma in the mirror, the young people who were waiting for their turn amused at the twisted sights of other people, had burst into a loud laughter. Turning her unwilling face from the mirror, the grandma from Neighbourhood Unit No. 66, Wasan-dong, Sosong District, said, "To be frank with you, I was disappointed many times at this fun fair, for they say some amusement facilities are only for the young people, in spite of my fitness for riding them. So, today I've displayed my skill in this laughing house. I've shown that I can have a merry time of it just like young people. Really, I feel I'm ten years younger."

Young people moving from mirror to mirror, laughed and made fun of their friends. A mirror made a man look awfully fatty, another one made one person look double with feet joined

together, yet another mirror made a tall man look like a pigmy or a pigmy a tall man. There was a girl who was casting an angry look on her boyfriend who was lost in the mirrors, forgetting about her. But collecting herself soon, she ended up in smiling. On the other hand, some timid girls who were afraid of the mirrors because they would distort their looks became bold enough soon to scramble for their turn to look into them.

Even in such a merry atmosphere, Ri Chol Su, a teacher of Kim Chol Ju University of Education, was absorbed in teaching his child that concave mirror makes a thing look longer while the convex mirror makes a thing shorter. He said, "Children will quickly understand and correctly remember what is taught in a good emotional atmosphere. This is really a good place for the development of children's intellectual ability. The

pleasant time I've passed here today has relieved me of my long-pending stress." Even the people who were leaving the Laughing House were still laughing uproariously with joy and merriment. Coming out of the Pleasure Ground together with them and looking back at the bright sunlit gate, we seemed to hear again the words of keeper Rim Ok when seeing us off, "We can say our Laughing House is an inexhaustible fountain of laughter."

*Ri Song Chol*





# Piano Prodigies

**E**VERY MORNING MANY children come into the Kyongsang Kindergarten in the central area of Pyongyang. Among them are Kang Jun Song and Kim Un Song, children of a worker and an office employee. They are pianists in the making. They were seized by a desire for learning piano three years ago.

One day, 3-year-old Jun Song who was playing with a toy heard the sounds of a piano coming from the TV. Listening with strained ears, he could not turn his eyes away from the TV screen. The TV was broadcasting the scenes of Choe Jang Hung and Ri Yu Jong excellently playing the piano tunes that require a high talent and technique at the 20<sup>th</sup> International Chopin Children's Piano Contest. "Who are they, mum?" "Oh, they are piano prodigies of the Kyongsang Kindergarten," she just echoed the TV. She, too, was struck with wonder at their splendid performance. His mother said he could enter the kindergarten only at the age of five, and so he waited impatiently for the day when he would be admitted to it. As Jun Song was not only physically feeble but also lacking in perseverance, he could not endure to play with one toy for more than ten minutes. This boy's request to take piano lessons and enter the Kyongsang Kindergarten surprised his par-

ents. "Could the boy manage it?" they wondered. But it was a groundless fear. Jun Song was lost in playing the piano upon entering the kindergarten. When he started learning the piano, his kindergartener Ri Hyon A was surprised, because he was sensible enough to respond to her strict requirement. He had the sense of absolute pitch and sound detection ability, so that he was able to reproduce any sound correctly. He had a graceful posture at the piano and correct finger touches on the keyboard. Jun Song was capable of expressing his impressions of things and happenings around him with melodies.

Un Song who entered the kindergarten on the same day was Jun Song's rival. Un Song who was quick and clever could read music very nimbly and had a great ability of concentration. She correctly remembered and played any pieces of music. In addition, she not only learned by heart a long complex music in a day, but could play it splendidly.

It is only one year since they began to take piano lessons in the Kyongsang Kindergarten. However, when they heard the words of a song, they would create a new musical work by combining chords and rhythms in good harmony in their own way, and improvise the music of new songs. It

is common to all young children to get tired of anything that drags on for a long time, but these two children's earnest attitude has proved that their minds and talent have grown simultaneously. Now they can excellently play many pieces of famous Korean music, theme songs of films, children's music and world's famous tunes. Each one of them asks the kindergartener importunately for listening to his playing, "Teacher, I want to play in this manner." Then the sounds of piano melodies played in different styles were heard in succession. Listening to their arranged melodies, the kindergartener thought that their ability of creation and application was on the rise.

Those who are struck with admiration for their excellent piano performance, say that their playing reminds them of the performance of experts rather than children of a kindergarten. Kindergartener Ri Hyon A tells them, "Their success is due not only to their inborn musical talent. Their playing skills are developing everyday thanks to the free education system that finds out and fosters the children's buds of ability. I am glad that piano prodigies with the prospect of winning world fame are growing up under this benevolent system."

*Kim Un Chol*

# Family of Coal Miners

**K**IM RYONG JUN WAS ONE OF THE YOUNG people who rushed to the Tokchon area over 40 years ago when new coal mines were developed there in South Phyongan Province. The man from Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, is nearly 70 years old now.

## Image of father

Kim, who was born and grew up in town, settled at the Toksong coal mine under development, when the socialist industrialization was almost completed successfully in his country. Since the national economy was developing rapidly, the demand for coal, food of industry, was increasing everywhere. That was why he volunteered to work here.

Time flew, and he had four children. The day his first son enrolled at primary school, he asked walking to school hand in hand with his father, "Dad, why are you wearing miner's uniform when it is a special day today? I've never seen you wear other kinds of garments."

"I'm going into the pit right after your school opening ceremony," Ryong Jun answered. "Our family has got the first student and I ought to produce more coal now. Do you understand?"

One evening the family celebrated the youngest daughter's birthday. Embracing his greatest darling in his arms, Ryong Jun said, "I know you've been waiting for me anxiously, Song Ok. I've overfulfilled my assignment today, too, in honour of your birthday."

One day Song Il, his second son, gladly came back home from school and whispered to his mother with his arms around her neck, "Mum, today we went to the mine for motivational activities. When I sang a song, the general manager of the mine recognized me and said to me stroking my head, 'You are Ryong Jun's son, aren't you? You should become a good miner like your father.' Other miners gave me bunches of flowers as I am a son of innovator. My friends all envied me very much."

At that time Song Suk, the eldest daughter, joined them, "That's right. Whenever we go to the mine, we find father's photo and name in big letters on the newsboard. My teacher said we have good father."

Kim Ryong Jun received official commendation and the title of Merited Collier in July 1991. He was extensively introduced by mass media. The well-known coal miner said to his children, "I've never wanted honour or reward for my work. I only wished the coal I extract would do good for the prosperity of our country. The honour I've received is a sign of the care for all miners. You must all try to repay the care, too."

The image of their father heading for the pit unable to suppress his excitement renewed the children's sense of the honour and pride of miners.

## Family's custom

Soon after that, Song Suk became an electric-car driver in her father's pit. Later, Song Il chose to be a tunnelling worker although he could join a prominent football team as he was a good player at school. Song Ok, the last daughter, also came to work there.

Song Chol, the first son, also came home and became a pitman after military service. The sons cut coal where their father had developed and the daughters carried it out. They all worked hard and became known to the mine as skilled tunneller, pitman and electric-car driver. They enjoyed respect from the people.

In the course of this, Song Il has grown up as pit manager. He overfulfills the production plan ahead of others in the mine every year. He usually goes to the most difficult faces to make an innovation in



# The Talented Cook

**T**HE TONGCHONHO RESTAURANT ON scenic Lake Tongchon in Mt. Taesong is always full of guests. Recently, it is winning public favour for serving various new dainty dishes. This is partly due to cook Ri Sun Ae, who is called as “our researcher” among her colleagues.

She has worked in the restaurant for over 30 years since her girlhood. Ten years ago a large quantity of big catfish was delivered to the restaurant. The public catering official who brought the fish said that the restaurant was going to serve catfish dishes as catfish farming was making brisk headway to add to the boards of the people. This greatly pleased Ri. After that, when she saw a heap of remains of catfish outside the cuisine, her attention was drawn to the sticky mucous skin of the fish. An idea flashed across her mind: if the skin was properly processed, it might be possible to make a new kind of dish. Believing that catfish’s skin must contain some nutrient, she set about its study. She went through all sorts of troubles to verify the results of the analysis of the fish’s skin.

Her troubles bore fruit. The analysis of the skin proved that its components are good for preservation of health, age resisting, and treating diabetes. In this way she discovered the practical value of catfish skin, developed the method of its processing and wrote a paper about it in a systematic way. Her paper was highly praised and she got a degree for her contribution to cooking catfish dishes on a scientific basis. The dishes of catfish skin originating with her and other dishes seasoned with various substances extracted from it were served at different restaurants, so that these restaurants enjoyed greater popularity for a wider variety and higher quality of the dishes they served. Though she was in a whirl of service work, her quest for improving



**Ri Sun Ae** (centre).

cookery never gave way.

When people were enjoying the fine view and sweet odour of white acacia flowers at their best surrounding the restaurant in the valley, she conceived an idea to prepare a new special dish with the flowers, and realized it. She also made savory rolled catfish head to go with sliced raw fish as a garnish of noodle. In 2014 peculiarly tasty fried acacia flowers retaining their shape and scent as they were and the methods of processing and cooking flowers invented by her won first place at the 13<sup>th</sup> national invention and new technology exhibition in the sector of light industry.

The restaurant manageress Ri Chun Yong said at the exhibition, “Undoubtedly, cook Ri Sun Ae is a treasure of our restaurant. Today the country wants all working people to become talents with scientific and technological knowledge. The harder she works to serve the people well as a cook, the nearer the day will come when she becomes a famed Doctor of Cookery.”

*Chae Kwang Myong*

► production, and willingly helps other pits. So he is acknowledged as an important man in the mine.

The family has increased as the children married nice young miners.

“You cannot call it a family of miners simply because there are many miners in the family. We must help all other miners to become innovative

workers, and we must lead them. Then we’ll be worth being called family of miners.” This is what Kim Ryong Jun, still working in the mine as an adviser, often says when they are on the way to work side by side.

*Kim Yong Ok*

# Greenhouses in Chongsan-ri

**S**OME TIME AGO I VISITED the greenhouses in the Chongsan Co-operative Farm, Kangso District, Nampho. I found large greenhouses in the seat of Chongsan-ri where the Chongsan Agricultural College, a room for dissemination of agricultural sci-tech knowledge and the Korean tile-roofed cultural hall are located. Pang Su Gil, official of the farm management board, welcomed me and explained, "These days a lot of people from different places visit my farm. One of their greatest concerns is to learn our technology and experience in growing vegetables and mushrooms in greenhouses. Last year we produced hundreds of tons of vegetables and mushrooms in greenhouses and gained huge profit. My farm and workteams are getting rich and living standard of each family is improving day by day."

Guided by him I went to the first block of the dome-shaped greenhouses. Cucumbers, tomatoes, aubergines and other sorts of vegetables were in full bearing there. Pang said that dozens of tons of vegetables are produced in a block a year bringing them three times greater profit than that earned by outdoor production. After looking into the second block with fresh cabbages and spinach, I entered the third block. There

workers were engrossed in gathering agaric in the plots. In the next block I also found the newly-sprouted mushrooms were growing lush in the plots. "My farm has established a rational method of mushroom cultivation in the greenhouse using our own technology and experience in mushroom cultivation," said Pang, and then guided me to the spore cultivation house of the farm.

The house was packed with thousands of bottles filled with mushroom spores. The spores are grown through thrice culture at the house to be supplied to the greenhouses in the seat of the farm and in each workteam. There are greenhouses besides the spore cultivation house as well, which are connected with a mud snail-growing ground. The

excrement of mud snails is used to make an organic fertilizer there. I was coming out hearing about the mud snail growing, when I saw some workers carrying boxes of fresh watermelons and melons. Pointing to a greenhouse, which Pang said had been erected newly with an area of 1 000m<sup>2</sup>, he explained, "Watermelons and melons are supplied not only to the children in the farm's kindergarten and nursery but also to the farm workers. Last year we built more greenhouses of that size in the ri seat and workteams in conformity with the increasing profits of the farm."

Now I went to the greenhouses of Vegetable-cultivating Workteam No. 1. The workteam has six blocks of greenhouses; four of them cultivate vegetables like bok



► choy while the other two cultivate mushrooms. The workteam leader said, "We put fungi-planted substrate in the greenhouses in early October last year, and now we have produced 1.5 tons of mushrooms in one block. We cultivate mushrooms in winter, and vegetables in other seasons. In this way we make the most of the greenhouses getting so much more profits. The vegetables and mushrooms from the greenhouses give a tangible help to the management of the workteam and the livelihood of the workteam members. Other workteams are also vigorously conducting vegetable and mushroom cultivation as we do."

The next leg of my visit was the greenhouses of Crop-raising Workteam No. 3. I saw mushrooms reaped in one of the greenhouses. Greeting me with a beaming smile while measuring the weight of a big mushroom the workteam leader Min Song Chol said, "It's great. Last year my

workteam used the profits from the vegetable and mushroom cultivations to improve the living standard of the workers and arrange some workers' wedding preparations. This year, too, we have had a good harvest, and I believe it will continue to help improve the living condition. Indeed, we benefit profusely from the greenhouses." Mushroom cultivation is also done by individual workers at home. And the stories I heard convinced me of the successful cultivation of vegetables and mushrooms in the farm, and I felt it needless to go around other workteams.

When I asked the secret of the success, Pang answered, "There is no typical secret. If there is any, it is the enthusiasm of all the farm workers who have learned the advantages of the vegetable and mushroom cultivations in greenhouses in their own life. Over the years they have exchanged their knowledge and experience with

one another regarding the cultivation, and introduced advantageous ones. Many superior methods have been applied into practice. For an example, last year we introduced a new method of nutrition management which is conducive to increasing production of mushrooms with richer nutrition. My farm dynamically carries on the dissemination of scientific knowledge through regular technical courses and lessons in the rooms for dissemination of agricultural sci-tech knowledge in order to help all the workers possess good knowledge on vegetable and mushroom cultivation in the greenhouse. Now we have a plan to expand the vegetable and mushroom cultivation on a larger scale, and I know we'll carry it out."

Wishing the steady improvement of the farm's economic condition, I left the farm.

*Kim Yong Sun*



# General Sapling Production Base

**T**HE CENTRAL TREE Nursery, situated on the outskirts of Pyongyang, is a general sapling producer that cultivates varieties of saplings which will be planted in roadsides, those which are necessary for laying out timber forests and those of ornamental value, and sends them to the capital city of Pyongyang and other provinces.

With an area of more than 170 hectares, the tree nursery is furnished with all processes needed for the sapling production—seed collection, conservation of species, acclimatization and cultivation—and it is based on a high scientific, industrial and intensive level.

In solar-heated greenhouses, the temperature, humidity and intensity of light are observed and controlled to suit the saplings'

biological character, and those in the outdoor fields are provided with proper sunshine by the order of the control centre.

These successes of the Central Tree Nursery are the result of the patriotic efforts of its workers as well as the State concerns. A few years ago, the nursery laid an environment-friendly non-woven fabric production process in cooperation with the researchers of the Light Industry Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, and industrialized the production of humus mixed with varieties of nutritive elements including peat. In addition, by building a pig farm last year they set up a cyclic production system of stockbreeding and sapling production.

Now the nursery is mass-producing sapling pots by an

industrial method.

Also, a sun blind production process was newly laid, and novel tree-planting and -tending methods were established in keeping with the country's climate. These are yielding a great result across the country.

Now the workers are accelerating the effort to introduce advanced science and technology including acclimatization of good species of foreign trees and to complete methods of tree planting in all seasons.

Today, the role of the Central Tree Nursery is getting bigger and bigger in the nationwide general campaign of afforesting and landscaping the whole country and turning it into orchard.

*Sim Hyon Jin*





# After Many Years

By Ri Hui Nam

(Continued from the last issue)

ONCE THERE TOOK place a socialist emulation drive between shops for increased transport at the heavy-duty truck company.

Just before the commencement of the drive, the manager of Kyong Hun's shop summoned all the workers in a restroom and called upon them to bring about a peak in their operation to the wonder of the whole company. He said, "Our Party (the Workers' Party of Korea) wants us to work in the heroic spirit. You know there are upsurges in production everywhere in the country. It's time for us tankmen to show what kind of people we are." The shop manager always called the drivers "tankmen" because he was particularly attached to the word.

Leaving the restroom that day, Jong Gu said to Kyong Hun, "Did you hear him? Now put up your head. Don't be so nervous about the truck maintenance. You ought to bolster yourself up. As befits the tankman."

But Kyong Hun let out a sigh for a reason Jong Gu could not know.

Jong Gu felt sorry, and yet found himself confident that he would brace himself up after all.

But Kyong Hun betrayed the trust of his colleagues in the drive. Most of the workers of the shop created new standards of their own as they had promised, but Kyong Hun fulfilled his task

by no more than 105 per cent. As a result his shop failed to be at the top of the drive.

At the meeting of reviewing the drive the shop manager rebuked Kyong Hun in a coarse voice, saying, "Look what you have done to the image of your shop. I would not talk to you if you were really an incapable person. I know you're skilful and good at maintenance of the truck. It's no problem for you to lead the drive if only you're determined. Why don't you display such a mettle you showed by playing the decisive role in the volleyball match one day?" Then he shut his mouth and glared at Kyong Hun angrily. All of a sudden, the corners of his mouth shuddered, about to burst open at any moment. It seemed he was suppressing his impulse with difficulty, the urge to hurl harsher rebuke.

Kyong Hun made no protest. His closed lips went dark and his back stooped as if under an unbearable burden.

Jong Gu twisted himself, unable to stand the bursting anger. He knew Kyong Hun was subjected to such disgrace because he had to dispose of what Jong Gu hadn't done himself. But if Kyong Hun had run without caring for miscellaneous things, he could have done greater things than his 105 per cent. *How could a man live a life so carefully, always heeding the proverb "Look before you leap"? You have to make a dash if necessary even if you know you might fall headlong.* Jong Gu told himself.

Jong Ok Gum, however, viewed this fact from a different angle, because she was well aware how it was that Kyong Hun had fulfilled his task by no more than 105 per cent. She was angry about the attack on him at the meeting of the workshop.

She dashed to the notice-writing room and produced a piece of paper. It was written with the words "Who Is the Real Model Worker?" She argued Kyong Hun was the very man worth public introduction.

The notice writer was embarrassed. He looked half-hearted at her suggestion to introduce Kyong Hun, who he knew had failed to cut his figure. He picked up the telephone and called the shop manager to ask if it was OK to introduce Kyong Hun.

"Are you crazy?" the manager cried out, putting an end to Ok Gum's argument.

When he heard of the happening, Jong Gu felt indignant and went to speak to Ok Gum. "What do you think you're doing?" he said angrily. "What did you intend to introduce such a flash for?"

Ok Gum, who had been searching her book at the table, stared up at Jong Gu dubiously.

"That's a mockery of Kyong Hun," Jong Gu declared.

With her eyes fixed at Jong Gu in his face, Ok Gum closed her lips fast. She was quite a courageous girl who felt little embarrassed at being rebuked. That was probably because she had had a good many experiences with the



► men who worked with iron ores.

“Don’t make fun of the innocent man,” Jong Gu said. “You should respect such a...”

“I didn’t mean to make fun of him,” Ok Gum talked back. “I only wanted to boast of his conscience. The man who obtained great achievements alone without caring for the maintenance of the truck was appreciated while the man who dealt with the aftermath of the work was criticized for his low performance. This is quite a contradiction, isn’t it? To tell the truth, you have been the leader of the innovation thanks to Kyong Hun. It was the same with the recent competition. But how is it that you didn’t try to defend him when he was criticized? Why didn’t you tell the meeting that the really innovative worker is Kyong Hun?”

“What?” Jong Gu cried out in spite of himself, overwhelmed with an indescribable anger rising like a flare on the dry straw.

The eyes of the girl suddenly turned wide open, emitting strange rays of light. It seemed she could not control something rising in her small heart. Probably it was a protest against the abuse of her self-pride. As she was so serious, Jong Gu could not stand staying there any more.

This happening gave Kyong Hun a nickname of “105 Per Cent.” Most people had no ill will when they called him by his nickname. Yet there were guys who were careless enough to treat Kyong Hun impolitely.

One day a mischievous young man recited a poem impromptu just behind Kyong Hun on the way home.

*Listen,*

*Don’t reproach him for his  
sluggishness.*

*You know a sluggish tortoise  
won a fast hare.*

*Don’t make haste with  
your life.*

*You can live to be 105 years  
Even if you are sluggish.*

Then he moved his lips wryly.

To hear the poem Jong Gu felt his face flushing as if he had been insulted himself. He could hardly stand the insult to Kyong Hun however sluggish he was.

Kyong Hun who was going in front of them turned around suddenly. It was such an abrupt happening that the absurd man came to a halt aghast.

“Repeat it,” Kyong Hun said, approaching. “I say, repeat.” His fists were trembling threateningly. And his usually gentle eyes were burning fiercely.

The guy was frozen.

“Beware of your tongue,” Kyong Hun warned and turned back. And turning around, he hurled a glance at Jong Gu. His eyes that had used to be generous seemed to be asking, “You’re the same kind of man, aren’t you?” It was unmistakably the eye of disgust and disillusionment. *But why such eyes to me?* Jong Gu could not tell. *Does he think I’m the same kind as the mischievous guy? Or is it because of my ambiguous attitude in defending him when he was abused?* Jong Gu thought it would be unjust to be labelled as such a mean fellow by his friend. He decided it was necessary to make his attitude understood.

But he couldn’t have any opportunity for it, because the secretary of the branch Party organization gave a positive approval of Kyong Hun’s manner of work at a meeting. He said, “Ri Kyong Hun is always taking good care of his truck in a conscientious

and responsible way, putting the fortune of Truck No. 87 ahead of his own honour. He never overworks his truck even if he lags behind in transport. We should not see this as a simple matter.”

Jong Gu felt quite uneasy, his face flushing red. The secretary’s remarks sounded to him to be slyly referring to him. *Does he mean I should reflect on my past? Is it true I’m a dishonest fellow as was described by Ok Gum?* No, he couldn’t agree. And yet he felt something unwelcome and disagreeable stuck to the corner of his mind—like a thorn. The “thorn” sometimes caused him sharp pangs.

Years passed. The shop manager was promoted to the position of the chief engineer of the company, and the shop was put in Jong Gu’s charge. Although he had some unenviable points about him, he was a man of enthusiastic and passionate disposition. For this he was believed to be able to lead the shop.

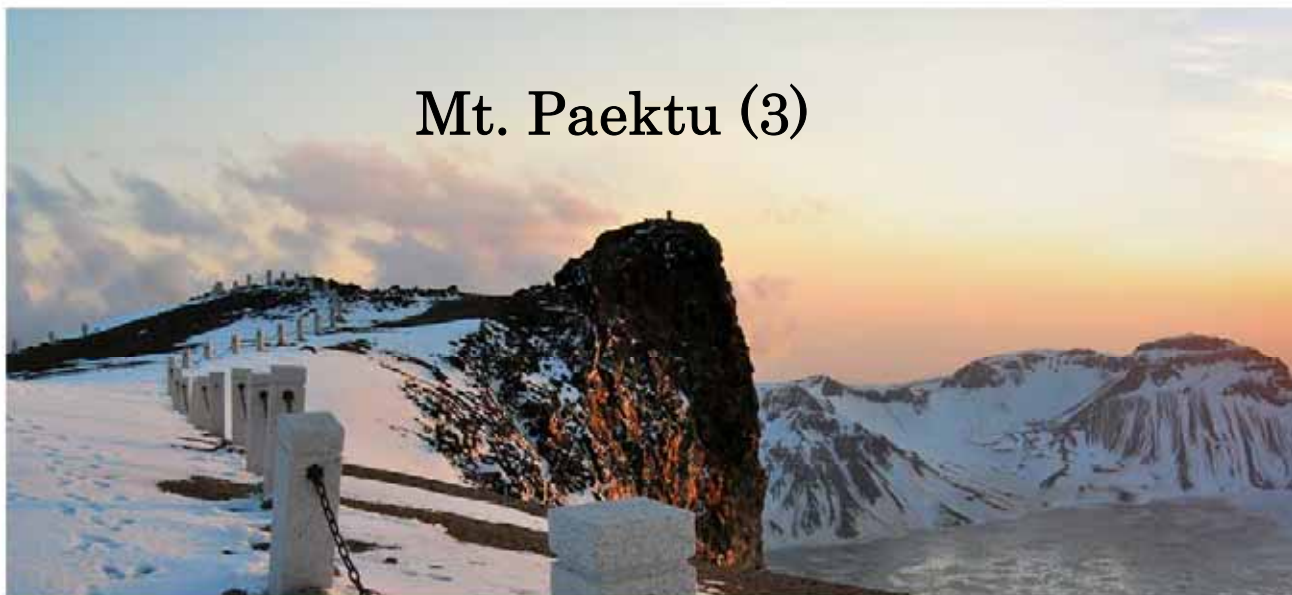
Soon after he took over the shop, he pushed all the drivers to put their trucks in full operation. This resulted in his reputation soaring for a certain time. “Jong Gu is a good man, indeed,” this was the sweeping appreciation of him.

But that praise was not enduring. The rash push on the trucks began to backfire.

With the set-in of the spring the operation of the trucks fell, and an anxious atmosphere reigned in the shop. There were only a few trucks in operation including the one in Kyong Hun’s charge. Evidently, a depression was imminent.

*(To be continued)*

## Mt. Paektu (3)



### Fauna and Flora

**T**HE MT. PAEKTU AREA is an alpine region that is connected with the Asian continent by land. Formed in this area is a unique fauna and flora adapted to the climatic conditions and natural environment. Speaking of the fauna, birds and animals are superior in number and reptiles and amphibians are very few in number. And the finny tribe is relatively large in number but cyclostomata is rarely to be found.

There are lots of rare and beneficial animals including sables, otters, tigers, leopards, musk deer, deer, yellow dogs, antelopes and brown bears.

The area has only a small number of seasonless or winter birds for its very low temperature and unfavourable feed conditions

in winter. A large number of summer birds fly to the area and propagate themselves there as the environment for their living becomes multifarious and favourable in summer. Visible in this area are many kinds of beneficial birds including those living on noxious insects in forests, those living on rats and those adding beauty to the landscape and their number totals more than 170 in kind.

The feathered tribe designated as state natural monument are Ussurian black grouses living on the shores of Lake Samji and at Taehongdan and so on.

Those under special protection are Ussurian black grouses, Burmese button-quails, *Pukolpami*, owls with a slightly long tail, white cranes with a red chest, white-napped cranes, mandarin ducks, *Anus platyrhynchos*,

*Hirundo daurica*, birds living in the depth of forests, etc.

To be found in this area are common adders, long-tailed lizards, *Rana temporaria*, *Bombina orientalis* and newts whose species are of wide distribution and are most plentiful among the reptiles and the amphibian animals.

In Lake Chon on the top of Mt. Paektu there lived only a few species of phytoplankton and water bugs and there was no fish until several decades ago. But to be found there now are fishes that were bred artificially and put into the water of the lake time and again including those brought there from Lake Samji as well as *Salvelinus pluvius*, *Pseudorasbora parva*, *Moroco exycephalus*, *Barbatula toni*, etc.

In Lake Samji, too, there live *Cyprinus carpio*, *Barbatula toni*, ►



► spined loaches, *jagusani* (a kind of freshwater fish belonging to *Cyprinidae*), etc. that were all bred artificially before these different species of fish were put into the water of the lake.

Besides, 1 782 species of invertebrate animals are distributed in the Mt. Paektu area.

Plants growing in this area amount to 2 700 or so in kind. In the flora of the Mt. Paektu area the kind of trees is small in number, but *Pinophyta*, such as *Abies nephrolepis*, *Picea jezoensis*, *Picea koraiensis*, larch trees, etc., hold a considerable proportion.

In the plants of lower order the proportion of mushrooms is the highest and in the higher plant life plants like rhododendron that were acclimatized to the alpine conditions after the glacial epoch constitute basic plants. Among the herbaceous plants

groundsels, *Iris setosa* Pall, grass-of-Parnassus and the like grow in the area. Visible on the ridges in the area are plants that are able to grow even in a windy and sterile land. Seen on small slopes are rhododendrons and the like. To be found over the forest boundary line are grass plants along with shrubs.

Growing in some parts including Jong Il Peak are *Thymus guinguecostatus*, *Codonopsis pilosula* and the like that can hardly be seen in other parts of the Mt. Paektu area.

Spreading out on the ridge and at the foot of Mt. Paektu is a broad grassland. Visible there are alpine plants that are shaped like a dwarf or look as if lying flat on the ground. The shores of Lake Chon are covered all over with layers of mosses that are multifarious in colour—blue, white,

grey, etc.—and 20 to 30 centimetres thick. Growing on the shores are various kinds of aromatic plants and medicinal herbs including rhododendron.

Distributed in the district of rocky cliffs between Janggung Peak and Lake Chon are *tumenadodannosam*, *aegisinga*, *tolkkot* and similar plants.

To be found all over the Tubong district are small shrubs, rhododendrons, *Vaccinium uliginosum* and other herbaceous plants.

The structure of primeval forests in Mt. Paektu is relatively simple. The trees are 25 to 27 metres high on average and their bottom trunk is 40 centimetres across on average. Growing in the forests are a sort of young deodars and there can be found no other kinds of trees.

*Kim Yong Ok*

# Korean Industrial Arts (1)

## Lacquer Art

**T**HE LACQUER ART IS A kind of industrial arts decorating furniture by varnishing them with lacquer. Once covered with lacquer, they remain fast and solid for a long time, for it is resistant to acid, alkali, heat and humidity. The Korean people used such properties of lacquer in making craftworks from of old. It began to be used in the late primitive age and lacquer art became an industrial art in its own right. Among the lacquered artefacts made by ancient Koreans are table, tray, box, cosmetics case, bowl, basin, spoon, bottle and so on. They were made by varnishing wood or hemp cloth with lacquer several times. Vessels were made by applying such fine techniques as line-engraving,

bronze decoration, inlaid glass decoration and inlaid gold and silver plate decoration. Most popular was lacquer decoration that had line patterns of red, black, brown, yellow and yellowish green on the ground colours on the inner and outer walls of the vessels. In ancient times, vessels with lacquer decorations were used to be interred with dead bodies. Though of a small size, they were varied and elegant in making methods, shapes and patterns.

The lacquer art was handed down to the times of Three Kingdoms—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla. This is evident from the fact that lacquered coffins and vessels unearthed from old tombs like the Mausoleum of King Kogugwon and the Gold Crown Tumulus in Kyongju are painted with coloured

lacquers. Besides, there are lacquered pieces painted in patterns of phoenix or ivy excavated from the Kangso Middle Tomb of the Koguryo period (277 B.C.–A.D. 668), a mask which Mimaji, a man of Paekje (late 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C.–A.D. 660), made with hemp cloth thickly varnished with lacquer and gave to Japan in 612, a pillow and a footstool decorated with lacquered gold plate unearthed from the Mausoleum of King Munyong (the 25<sup>th</sup> king of Paekje who reigned in 501–523), the lacquered tables, boxes, bowls and cups of Silla (mid-early 1<sup>st</sup> century–935), and the lacquered pictures of Ok-chungjuja in the Horyuji Temple in Nara Prefecture, Japan, made by Paekje people.

In the periods of Palhae (late 7<sup>th</sup> century–early 10<sup>th</sup> century) and Late Silla (676–935), the

Old lacquered artefacts.





The lacquer work “Lily-Patterned Flower Vase.”



The lacquered vase “Eight Fairies of Mt. Kungang and Magnolia.”

► Korean lacquer art developed into the lacquered mother-of-pearl workmanship. A lacquered mirror inlaid with processed shells, amber and beads presumed to date back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century has been unearthed in South Kyongsang Province and this shows the development of the lacquered mother-of-pearl workmanship at the time.

During the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), too, the Korean people made plenty of lacquerwares inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Pictures of four deities, colourfully-lacquered coffins, pine needle-shaped boxes inlaid with mother-

of-pearl and other lacquered craftworks unearthed from old tombs of Koryo are well-known to foreign countries for their great variety and delicate and elegant decorations. Xu Jing, a Chinese who had once visited Koryo as an attendant on an envoy of Song wrote in his book *Gaolitujiŋ* published in 1124 that Koryo’s lacquered craftworks inlaid with mother-of-pearl were elegant and valuable.

The lacquered mother-of-pearl workmanship was further developed in its craft and technique during the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). Typical of it is a lacquered cabinet inlaid with

mother-of-pearl made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is three-storied with doors decorated with squarely-processed mother-of-pearls and with black-lacquered drawers between the stories. The lacquered craftworks inlaid with mother-of-pearl like triplex cabinets and dowry boxes became still more varied and elaborate with the passage of time.

In Korea today, the lacquer art is further developed to suit the aesthetic sense of the times.

*Kim Kwang Jo, researcher,  
Folklore Research Institute,  
Academy of Social Sciences*

# Arirang

**A**RIRANG IS A TYPICAL folk song symbolic of the Korean nation.

There are many stories about how the song came into being, but typical of them is the story of *Songbu and Rirang*. In olden times, there was a boy named Rirang and a girl Songbu working as servants in the house of a landlord in a village. In a year of bad harvest, they took part in a local popular uprising against the exploiters, and then took flight into the deep mountains to elude the pursuit of the government army. There they married. Soon after that, Rirang made up his mind to go to fight against the exploiters, and went away, leaving his beloved wife behind. Looking out on the hills her husband Rirang had crossed, Songbu sang a song yearning after him. The song has been orally transmitted down to this day as *Arirang*. There are many provincial versions of the song: *Western Region Arirang* of Phyongan Province,

*Long Arirang* of Kyonggi Province, *Jindo Arirang* of Jolla Province, *Milyang Arirang* of Kyongsang Province, *Kangwon Province Arirang* and *Tanchon Arirang* of Hamgyong Province. The words of the different versions vividly represent the affection between lovers including the sorrow of parting, yearning for the husband and the hope of reunion, reflecting the popular masses' sorrow and resentment against the exploiting society and their aspirations and desire for a happy life.

The beautiful and gentle melody of the song represents the Korean people's national sentiments and soul, inducing them to look back on the distressful history of their nation and feel strong love for their country.

Thanks to the state policy of preserving the cultural heritage of the nation, *Arirang* is played in various modes: song, orchestral music, instrumental, film music, dance music, and so on.

Many new versions of the song

expressing the sentiments of the contemporary people have been created. Among them are *Arirang of Prosperity*, *Arirang of Chol Pass* and *Arirang of Army-People Unity*. The mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang*, a Kim Il Sung Prize winner, was created with the folk song *Arirang* as its theme and performed for many years, showing the history of Korea as a great epic.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNESCO inter-governmental committee for protection of intangible cultural heritage held in Paris late last November, the Korean folk song *Arirang* was registered in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This was mentioned in the UNESCO records as follows: "*Arirang* is a popular folk song that is sung on many occasions like important ceremonial functions and holidays by families, friends and groups of people. Through the course of being handed down orally or being revised, *Arirang* exists in many traditional, orchestral music and contemporary music forms; It sings of parting and reunion, sadness and joy, and happiness mainly in soft and lyric melody; It contributes to mutual respect and peaceful social progress by further consolidating social relationship."

In Korea, great care is taken to preserve and develop further the cultural heritage of the nation.

*Jo Yong Il*

**A scene from the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Arirang*, a Kim Il Sung Prize winner.**



# Kim Tuk Sin and His Pictures

**K**IM TUK SIN (1754–1822) IS ONE OF the pioneers of the realistic genre painting in Korea in the 18<sup>th</sup> century during the Feudal Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910). He produced a lot of landscape and animal pictures, and he was particularly good at figure and genre painting. He introduced the working people as the heroes in his paintings. By giving a wide-ranging and profound portrayal of their life he presented vivid images of the contemporary social system, economic condition, customs and manners and the like.

One of his typical works is *The Nobleman and the Peasants*. The picture shows a nobleman traversing a country road on a donkey on a summer day and a couple of peasants making a polite bow to the nobleman. The nobleman with a horse-hair hat on looks down at the peasants proudly and arrogantly; a sly-looking servant pulls back the reins of the horse to stop it for a moment; another servant with entangled hair wears a wry smile, carrying a heavy burden on his back behind the nobleman. All these funny components are a mockery of the nobleman's show of power. Meanwhile, the male peasant makes a bow with his head nearly touching the ground, and his wife greets with her hands carefully closed together. This is a mar-

*The Nobleman and the Peasants.*



*Shooing the Cat Away.*

vellous show of the humble and honest character of the peasantry that was bound by the feudal caste. By giving a deep-going portrayal of the expressions and movements of each of the figures of different social standings through an aspect of everyday life, the picture is well indicative of the irrationality of the caste of the feudal society and the unfair system of human relations. The persuasive composition, simple description of shapes, treatment of the environment based on smart strokes and other qualities of the painting are helpful in understanding the superiority of the Korean painting.

Kim produced a good deal of paintings, like *Fishing in the River*, *Returning Home From the Market* which shows a group of people on their way back home from the marketplace, and *Shooing the Cat Away* in which an old couple are topsy-turvy over the chickens crying for help after bitten by the cat.

Kim's works went a long way to the development of the realistic genre painting for their vivid depiction of everyday life and the truthful reflection of the reality.

*Jo Song I*

# Empire of Evils

**M**ANKIND HAS LONG wished for global peace and security. This has encouraged more and more countries to work hard to remove mistrust and misunderstanding and improve mutual relations on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

Contrary to this current, there is a rogue state in the world invading other countries arbitrarily. It is none other than the United States that maintains the absurd standard that those dancing to its tune are its friend and that those going against its grain are its enemy. The international community is troubled with the US's high-handedness and arbitrariness.

During the Cold War, the Americans' enemy was the socialist countries including the Soviet Union. Under the pretext of defending capitalism from the invasion of socialism, the US formed an anti-socialist military alliance by rallying capitalist countries and outrageously committed aggression against the countries aspiring after independence. It drew up an absurd war plan called "star wars" and threatened its enemy, spending a huge sum of money to carry out the plan, and advertised the "advent of a peaceful age" after the Cold War. As a former Soviet expert put it, "The Soviet Union seemed to do things the US disliked most, for the enemy America keeps looking for will finally disappear in the future."

Later, however, it turned out that the US worked proactively in search of the enemy in the peaceful age. In pursuance of its supremacy, it painted a country, once its friend, as its enemy and

dealt merciless blows. As far as Saddam Hussein of Iraq was concerned, he used to be an ally of the US. In the Iran-Iraq war, the White House supported Iraq and kept silence when Iraq used chemical weapons. Later, it first connived at Iraq's plan to invade Kuwait although it was informed of it, and then suddenly changed its stand to declare that Iraq was its enemy and launched military attacks. This is the Persian Gulf war that broke out in 1991. In return for the war, the US came to have the "honour of the only superpower." This is nothing but a fact that shows the arbitrariness of America labelling its once intimate friend as its enemy to seek its own interest.

Later, the Americans made Taliban and bin Laden they had once supported victim of its "anti-terrorist war" and gained domination in strategically important regions.

At present, the US regards those countries following its policy of domination as its friend, while stigmatizing those aspiring after independence as its enemy. Among the enemy nations are its old and new friends and scores-of-years-long adversaries. This is proved by the fact that the US army adopted a new strategy to cope with possible military conflicts with various countries including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In a report titled *Army Operational Conception: 2020–2040* published last year, the US army defined the DPRK, Iran, Russia and China as regional powers and supremacist rivals that are most likely to have conflicts with the US in the future, and put forward a new follow-up strategic notion on the

Pentagon's plan of adaptation and change. As prescribed in the new military strategy, seven of the ten division-level commands of the US military are to be deployed abroad, and transport helicopters and other infantry equipment are to be supplied on a large scale while heavy weapons are reduced. This angers the international community. It strongly denounces America's reckless manoeuvres to gain military supremacy over the rival nations and carry out its anachronistic ambition of world supremacy.

The US is now faced with serious uncompromising challenges externally. Take some instances: The DPRK's defence policy aimed at safeguarding its independence is posing a stumbling block in the American pursuance of Asia-Pacific control. The economic and military growth of Russia and China is threatening the US's position of "superpower" and the fierce military conflicts in the Near East are sapping the US of its energy.

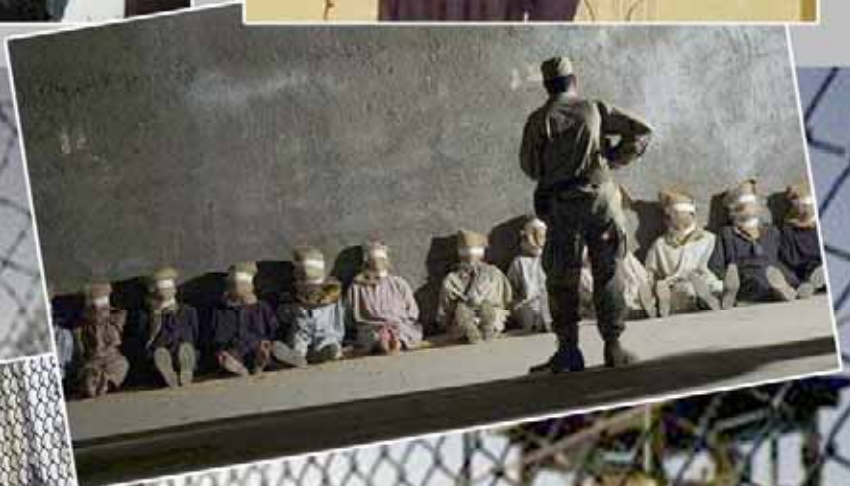
Nevertheless, the White House is answering these challenges with the establishment of a more hazardous military strategy and corresponding military moves.

The present reality shows that the US is attempting to realize its criminal goal of world supremacy by gaining perfect control over its "most threatening nations" in the world. It is the main culprit of broken peace and security in the world and the worst empire of evils. The human history has pages recording futile attempts of some nations to gain global control, which led to their own ruin.

*Kim Yong Un*



# American Cruelties to Detainees in Secret Prisons



# End GIs' Presence in South Korea

**T**HIS YEAR MARKS THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY of the national liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. Now the Korean people are out in the nationwide struggle to drive the aggressive US forces, the root cause of the national misfortune and danger of war, out of south Korea. The Korean people's unanimous desire is to drive the American army out of the Korean peninsula to put an end to the 70-year-long national division and open up a broad vista of peace and reunification.

In retrospect, the US imperialists set up a demarcation line with an ambition to occupy even the southern half of the peninsula in August 1945 toward the end of World War II, and set foot in south Korea in the cloak of "liberator" after Korea's liberation from the Japanese military rule (August 15, 1945).

They cast a wet blanket to the historical north-south joint conference held in April 1948 to establish a unified democratic government and rigged up a pro-American regime in south Korea by enforcing a separate election on May 10, 1948. When they lost the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) and were in the crisis of being driven out of south Korea, they blatantly violated the armistice agreement that envisaged withdrawal of all foreign forces and peaceful solution of the Korean issue, arguing that they would never leave south Korea because they had lost hundreds of thousands of lives in Korea.

When a political conference took place soon after the war to discuss the proposal of solving the Korean issue in a peaceful way, the US imperialists frustrated it by taking the Focus Lenz joint military exercises with their south Korean stooges from the year 1954. Afterwards, they interrupted all dialogues between the north and the south.

Century after century the US was invariably engrossed in checking all the efforts for reunification. It hindered the Korean people's reunification movement by planning all sorts of war against the DPRK and waging war rehearsals when the north-south summit meeting was held in 2000 for the first time inspiring the Korean people's enthusiasm for national reunification.

From the year 2002, it combined separate joint military exercises into a comprehensive frame and carried out different war rehearsals in the framework, thus putting serious difficulties in the way of the north-south dialogue and cooperation. After the adoption of the historic October 4 Declaration in

2007, it changed the signboard of the exercises of aggression war and took a nuclear war rehearsal against the DPRK frenziedly by mobilizing all sorts of nuclear war equipment.

All the war rackets in south Korea last year fully showed how hard and recklessly the US worked to check the improvement of the north-south relations. When the atmosphere for inter-Korean dialogue and improved relations settled thanks to the DPRK's proposal for peaceful reunification, the US military strained the situation from the early days of the year by taking a war exercise with the mobilization of their troops from the US mainland to south Korea. Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises took place in March, Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military rehearsal in August as a formal application of the "tailored deterrence strategy" aimed at preemptive nuclear strike against the DPRK, the large-scale Hoguk 2014 war drill with the puppet south Korean army and Max Thunder joint air strike drill in its frame in November, aggravating the situation toward the end of the year. These made the situation in the Korean peninsula strained all the year round. That was why the north-south high-ranking contact started in February last year could not be maintained any longer and the inter-Korean relations rushed headlong towards ruin.

This year, too, when the DPRK's proposal was made public to open up a broad avenue for national reunification with the Korean nation's concerted efforts, the US cast a wet blanket to the reconciliatory atmosphere between the two sides of Korea by issuing a presidential executive order to impose additional sanctions on the DPRK. From early March it took joint military rehearsals like Key Resolve and Foal Eagle with south Korean war maniacs to carry out the special tasks of "elimination of the north's nukes and weapons of mass destruction and civilian operations."

These facts show that peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula is inconceivable as long as there exists the US and that the US's military occupation of south Korea is the cancer to Korean reunification.

The Korean nation will never tolerate the US that has a morbid antipathy to the DPRK and has brought untold misfortune and sufferings to the Korean people for 70 years.

*Kim Il Bong*

# Songbul Temple

**T**HE SONGBUL TEMPLE IS situated inside the Jongbansan Fort in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province. It was set up in 898 and repaired and rebuilt several times. As the head temple exercising control over the Buddhist centres in the present North Hwanghae provincial area, it originally consisted of more than 20 buildings. There still remain six buildings, including the Ungjin Hall, the Kungnak Hall, the Myongbu Hall and the Chongphung Pavilion, and a five-storied stone pagoda.

The Ungjin Hall rebuilt in 1327 is one of the ancient wooden buildings remaining in Korea.

The adequate and concise form of bracketing (a device installed on the pillar or between the beams in order to support and decorate the overhanging lower edges of the roof) and the framework in the spacious building show well the distinctive feature of buildings that date back to the period of Koryo (918–1392).

The Kungnak Hall was erected on a relatively high ground. It was ruined in air raids during the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953) unleashed by the US imperialists. However, it was restored to the original state after the war. A one-storied building covered with a roof inclined on either side and supported by pot-bellied pillars, it is decorated in gold colour. The door is flower-patterned and sculptural ornamentation of the brackets is excellent.

Also, the Myongbu Hall and the Chongphung Pavilion of Korean-style architectural form are

in harmony with the topographical conditions.

Seen in front of the Kungnak Hall is a five-storied stone pagoda set up in the period of Koryo.

The Songbul Temple is now

well preserved as a precious legacy of the Korean architecture. The area is a recreation ground of the working people on a visit to Mt. Jongbang.

*Jo Song I*



