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Front Cover: Researchers of remedy for metabolic diseases

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Sonha Stream in Outer Kungang.

Photo by Ri Kuk Chol

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Flood-affected Areas Revive Miraculously

A TYPHOON FLAILED THE North Hamgyong Provincial area in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from August 29 to September 2 this year, bringing uncontrollable disasters ever seen since the country was liberated in August 1945. Due to the rainfall which was the greatest since they began meteorological observation in the Tuman River basin in northern Korea, the water spilled over the river, leaving Hoeryong City, Musan County, Yonsa County, Onsong County, Kyongwon County, Kyonghung County and parts of Rason City inundated, and causing colossal calamities. Hundreds of people were dead or disappeared, and 68 900 became homeless. A total of 29 800 dwelling houses were damaged, 11 600 of them demolished irreparably. More than 900 production facilities and public buildings were destroyed or damaged. Roads were blocked at 180 sections and over 60 bridges seriously destroyed, thus the traffic was shattered. As many as 100 sections of the railway were blocked with silt and the bed washed away, leaving the rail transport in suspension. The electric power substations in Musan and Yonsa counties were inundated or buried in silt and the electric cables cut, thus the power supply was discontinued. Equipment, dams and channels of a number of minor power plants were damaged. The communications network was cut off. As many as 27 400 hectares of farmland were washed away or buried in silt, embankments of rivers and streams broken at 150 spots, and dams and spillways of reservoirs in Kyonghung and Kyongwon counties gave way. The floods caused tremendous calamities to the economic development and the people's livelihood in North Hamgyong Province.



Soldiers and other people have turned out in the battle to recover from the flood damage.

The colossal disaster brought an unbearable heartbreak to Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea. He changed the main thrust of the 200-day campaign to the restoration front in the north. And he made sure that specific measures were taken to carry out the rehabilitation project forcefully by enlisting an all-out effort of the whole Party and society.

Thanks to effective measures

of the Party and the State to stabilize the livelihood in the affected areas on the preferential basis, the power and water supplies resumed in several days. Road and communications networks were restored, thus opening the traffic of streams of convoys carrying food, clothes, medical supplies, building materials and equipment and other relief goods and construction forces to the rehabilitation sites.

▶ On September 10, 2016 the WPK Central Committee sent an appeal entitled "Let us achieve the miraculous victory of converting misfortune into favourable conditions on the front of recovering from the flood damage in the northern part of North Hamgyong Province with the tremendous might of single-minded unity!" to all Party members, officers and men of the Korean People's Army and all other people. The appeal reads in part: "Our Party is determined to work a miracle of turning the misfortune into favourable conditions by recovering from the disastrous damage in the shortest possible period of time through general mobilization and concentration of all human, material and technical potentials of the State for the restoration of the northern areas. In this connection our Party took an important measure of rapidly dispatching the main units active in the major sites of the 200-day campaign including the construction of Ryomyong Street to the sites for the recovery from the flood damage and ensuring that the whole Party and army and all people focus all their efforts on the rehabilitation operations...."

"Direct all efforts to the construction of dwelling houses to

provide flood-hit people with warm cradles and turn the flood-damaged region into a fairyland in the era of the Workers' Party within this year...."

"The battle of restoration in the northern areas means the one to defend and serve our people, the one of our Party whose lifeline is pinned to the people-first principle."

The Party appealed to save the inhabitants in the affected areas from the imminent rigours of the cold winter even if it would cost the whole wealth of the country.

The decision and operations plan of the Party received hearty response from all the service personnel and other people. True to the intention of their leader Kim Jong Un, the entire army and all the people turned out as one to develop the victimized areas into a wonderful place to live in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea by turning the misfortune into good luck.

Ri Sang Gwan, chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, says, "We felt helpless to suffer the unexpected calamities. We were at a loss what to do. Yet there was one thing we were sure of. We believed we would be able to return

to our happy life after all because we are under the guidance of our respected leader Kim Jong Un."

The army and the people are launching a forceful joint struggle to finish the rehabilitation campaign as soon as possible. The army is playing the leading role. It is carrying out the most difficult, laborious tasks in the spirit of "At a go." A huge number of builders and other people are working at the reconstruction sites voluntarily. They are doing the building jobs at the highest possible level of quality to be admired even in the distant future, making as sincere efforts as they would do for their own flesh and blood.

All fields and units including the Cabinet, ministries, national agencies, factories, cooperative organizations, are forcefully conducting the activities of producing even a ton of more cement and even a kg of more rice and raising even a penny of more funds to be supplied to the rehabilitation project as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, all the people across the country are offering selfless spiritual and material aids regarding it as their own affair to relieve the victims of their misfortune and sufferings.

Yom Song Hui

The first train passes only a dozen days after the railway rehabilitation campaign began.



Popular Health System of Socialist Korea

IT IS A CENTURIES-OLD DESIRE OF THE people to enjoy a long life in good health. Socialist Korea is meeting the desire on the highest possible level. It can be verified through the popular health system established in the country. The system is guaranteed by the Socialist Constitution and the Public Health Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and executed through the systems of universal free medical service and preventive medical care.

Public Health Law, Guarantee of People's Health

The Public Health Law of the DPRK was adopted as Ordinance No. 5 of the Supreme People's Assembly in April 1980. Later, it was revised and supplemented in 1999 and 2001. The promulgation of the law became an important occasion in providing a legal guarantee for materialization of the Korean people's centuries-old desire to live in good health without worries about treatment.

The law stipulates as follows: Public health service in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a worthy and honourable work to protect the lives and promote the health of people, the masters of nature and society and the most precious beings in the world, and to enable them to contribute actively to the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

The law also specifies that the State provides every citizen with the benefits of complete free medical service, that the industrial workers, farm workers, intellectuals and all the rest of citizens have the right to free medical treatment, and that the State regards it as a main duty in its activity to take measures to prevent the people from being affected by disease and directs efforts first and foremost to prophylaxis in public health work. It stipulates that in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea health agencies are popular agencies that protect the lives and promote the health of the people, the masters of the State and society, so as to guarantee their happy life and satisfactory social activities.

Actually in Korea, secure material and technical conditions have been laid to provide the people with the substantial right to and benefits of free medical service. Today the people enjoy the benefits of the free healthcare to

their heart's content under the protection of the law.

Universal Free Medical Care System

The universal free medical care in Korea originated from the free medical service which was enforced in the guerrilla bases of the form of liberated area during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the 1930s. The free medical service was introduced in Korea from January 1947 after its liberation from the Japanese imperialists in August 1945. Since then the blue- and white-collar workers and their dependants were treated gratis at the State expense. In the thick of the Fatherland Liberation War the universal free medical care system was enforced from January 1953. The country introduced a complete and universal free medical care in February 1960 when the economy of the country was gradually recovering from the aftermath of war.

In the DPRK all the working people, including the industrial workers, farm workers, soldiers and intellectuals, have the right to free medical care irrespective of sex, age, residence and occupation, and the quantity and quality of labour done while special State benefits are directed to the children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. All sorts of medical services are free of charge such as outpatient and inpatient treatments, sick calls, diagnoses, tests and experiments, functional tests, operations and foods at hospital, and the State or cooperative organizations bear the travel expenses to and from the places of recuperation. Moreover, such services are given gratis as health checkups, health consulta- ▶

Modern hospitals have gone up to contribute to improvement of people's health.



- ▶ tions, preventive vaccinations, delivery of the pregnant women, dental prostheses and other prostheses for the disabled persons, treatments and medicines.

Socialist Medicine Is Prophylaxis-oriented

Socialist medicine is based on prophylaxis, as was famously stated by President Kim Il Sung in 1960. True to his instruction Korea's socialist medicine is based on the principle of preventing diseases, and protecting the lives and promoting the health of people. State measures were already taken in the 1960s for prevention of diseases and improvement of health.

Hygienics, infectious disease science, microbiology, epidemiology, clinical epidemiology and the like are directly contributing to the preventive medicine in order to provide clean environmental conditions and prevent epidemics and other diseases beforehand. And in all spheres of medical science including internal medicine, surgery, paediatrics and gynaecology they put primary attention to the prevention of diseases, and conduct researches and medical service activities to this end. The State has maintained the principle of preferentially establishing science research institutes and facilities in the sector of preventive medicine and giving precedence to the development of prophylactic medicine. Achievements in the sector of basic science such as virology, immunology, molecular biology, cell engineering and gene engineering, and in the cutting-edge science and

technology have been actively introduced into study and practice of prophylactic medicine to suit the development of medical science, thus putting it on a higher level. It has reduced the death rate and the case rate, thus increasing the average life span remarkably.

The State regards it as an important part of its popular policy for improvement of the people's living standards and prophylactic medicine to maintain the principle of rationally laying out residential districts, production facilities and sanitary and service establishments for the good of the environmental conservation and the people's health.

There was a crude furnace at the then Songjin Steelworks when the country was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists (1905–1945). The Japanese rogues produced steel at a sacrifice of many Korean workers. Though a ton of steel counted in the building of a new country after liberation, the Korean government saw to it that the electric arc furnace was blown up completely, declaring that the lives of workers could not be bartered for steel.

The State is improving the hygienic and anti-epidemic work. Health and other agencies, enterprises and organizations are intensifying the hygienic publicity and education so that the people participate in the hygienic work voluntarily, protect and look after their health and prevent diseases. All residents, especially children, are provided with all sorts of preventive medicines free of charge each year. The preventive medicine-oriented medical service system is in operation, and the public health workers are waging dynamic activities to prevent and cure diseases in time in dongs and neighbourhood units, and at agencies and enterprises they are in charge of. And efforts are made to create and keep a hygienic and cultured living environment, and provide safe working conditions.

In the DPRK the State takes the whole responsibility for the health of the people all over the country, and there is a system under which doctors are in charge of a certain number of households. The section doctor system which has been enforced since the early 1960s is a system of looking after residents so as to prevent the outbreak of diseases; it is a medical service system which offers special treatment to residents in time by bringing the special service closer to the lowest echelons of the healthcare establishment. It is a common occurrence in the country that doctors go to see patients instead of patients going to see doctors. Deep concern is directed to the protection of the health of women and children through policies like maternity leave.

The States does not seek economic profit regarding the matter of people's lives and health. In recent years alone it has built the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Okryu Children's Hospital and the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and other modern hospitals to meet the requirements of the new century. These establishments are positively contributing to improvement of the people's health.

Yom Song Hui



For Improvement of People's Health

Combining Koryo Medicine with Modern One

IN AUGUST 1959 PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG attended the opening ceremony of the then South Phyongan Provincial Central Hospital. Walking up to the third floor of the newly-built hospital he made the rounds of treatment rooms, the operation theatre and labs. Noting that they should provide better medical service to the people he said that modern medicine and Koryo medicine should be developed in good combination in the sector of public health in future, that diagnosis should be made through different examinations and experiments by means of modern medical science, and that it would be better to combine modern medicine and Koryo medicine in giving treatment.

He explained that modern medicine could afford accurate diagnosis through roentgenography, blood test and urinalysis by using modern medical appliances. He continued to say that Koryo medicine is superior in treatment, though, that unlike chemical drugs, the Koryo medicinals play the role of adjusting functions of organs and protecting them having no side-effect even if they are used for chronic cases for a long time. The President stressed that man is the most valuable being, and that they should develop therapeutic treatment steadily while focusing on preventive medicine for improvement of the working people's health in the future, too, as they had done earlier.

Story About Hot Spring Village

In March 2007 Chairman Kim Jong Il, talking with officials concerned, said that Korea has many hot springs and mineral waters, that they should let the people use them widely, that the people could not use spas to their full as they had done in the past, that mineral springs should be brought under unified control, that modern rural dwelling houses should be built in large numbers in areas with spas, and that an additional room should be attached to those houses for accommodation of people from other regions. He continued to say that Hwangjin Hot Spring in Mt. Chilbo should be developed as finely as that of Onpho Hot Spring in Kyongsong County, and that one hundred blocks of dwelling houses should be built additionally around the Hwangjin spring, by State investment

if necessary, so that people could have hot-spring bath and treatment there.

Later, in September 2009, the Chairman visited the Hwangjin Hot Spring village which was laid out flawlessly in harmony with the scenery of Sea Chilbo of Mt. Chilbo. Arriving at the place he wore a smile pleased to see the new community. After hearing about the village he acquainted himself with the spring which was well known from of old along with Sea Chilbo as it is very efficacious in treating different diseases such as hypertension, dermatosis, neuralgia and gynaecopathy.

After the construction of the village people came to have treatment as much as they could do at bath houses, the hot spring and the outdoor treatment space on a hillside.

Detailed Instruction

One day in June 2012 the supreme leader Kim Jong Un visited the Breast Tumour Research Institute under construction at the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the modern medical facility for women, despite of the sultry weather.

He looked round treatment rooms, CT rooms and wards. He said that it would be good to fix plastic veneer or paste PVC wallpaper on the corridor walls, instead of painting them white, and that tiling the corridor floor would be good but not in case of the floor of treatment rooms because the joint between tiles could be the breeding ground of bacteria. And he gave detailed instructions for providing thoroughgoing sterility of the operation theatre.

He stressed the need to establish a system of regular checkup in the sector of public health for the early detection of breast cancer.

The leader emphasized that doctors should have high medical art if they are to fulfil their mission as engineer in charge of human life, and that world-class medical appliances including CT equipment should be supplied if they are to diagnose correctly whether women have breast cancer or not. He added that remarkable research successes should be produced in the tumour research sector by intensifying study about cancer, and that the institute should work hard to reach the world level in preventing and treating women's mastopathy and breast cancer.

Kang Hye Ok

Researchers in Metabolic Diseases

“I SUFFERED FROM OBESITY FOR YEARS. The researchers at the metabolism laboratory of the Academy of Koryo Medicine cured my disease that I thought was incurable in modern medicine.”

“It was really marvellous. When my obesity was cured by acupuncture and medication and complications were treated completely, I wanted to shout ‘Our Koryo medicine is the best.’”

These are parts of the stories told by people who have shaken off their years of sufferings from metabolic diseases thanks to the effort of the metabolism laboratory.

The researchers began their study by understanding such classic medical theories as *Tonguibogam* and the global trend of research into obesity. They experienced failures sometimes, but put strenuous effort in the study. In this course, they developed efficacious medicines for obesity, including Kugija Obesity Granules, Kyongsin Pulo Tea and Hwadam Kyongsin Tea. Along with this, they established long-term methods of treating obesity, like the treatment by pills for curing obesity, and the combination of Koryo medicine and acupuncture. They redoubled their efforts to find a method of slimming on everyday diets. Different from the old method of diet, they developed a new efficacious medicine called Golden Pill Against Obesity, with Korean medicinal herbs, technology and facilities.

“The process of making the Golden Pill Against Obesity convinced us of the truth that when loving our own things and believing in our own abilities, we can do anything,” said researcher Kim Un Sim.

Making analysis of the ten-year-long clinical experience, the lab came to a conclusion that proper combination of the ingredients of medicinal herbs richly available in the country could be efficacious in treating metabolic diseases. On this basis, deep attention was paid to finding out substances of medicinal herbs and identifying the most reasonable ratio of combination.

What seemed possible in theory turned out to be a failure in the first experiment. Some people of the lab argued that theory did not mean practice, giving advice to use an old method to finish the project early. When Un Sim was going to accept it, Ri Ran Hui, head of the laboratory, said, “Of course, honour is important, too. But only when it contrib-

utes to the improvement of people’s health can you deserve it.”

Un Sim and other researchers engrossed themselves in the study again. Repeating discussions to find a clue, they finally learned a new method of combination. After a long-term study, they succeeded in making the Golden Pill Against Obesity.

As it decreases the body-weight and the thickness of subcutaneous fat without applying any diet or exercise cure, the pill is believed to be superior to existing remedies of obesity or foreign pills or other means of treatment. The new cure helps slimming and gives fortitude and harmonious metabolism. In



addition, it turned out to be helpful to treat complications like arteriosclerosis, hypertension, diabetes and fatty liver that come from obesity. People who have taken the new medicine say in unison that it has no side effect and brings about clear progress in the treatment.

The researchers have developed many programs on the basis of their achievements and data from the tens-of-year-long study. Among them, the program “Diagnosis of obesity and Koryo treatment support system—Kambi 2.0” was awarded a gold medal at the 23rd national IT achievement exhibition. This year they presented “Diagnosis of obesity and Koryo treatment support system—Kambi 3.0” which gained great public favour.

Their research is going full steam ahead.

Rim Hye Gyong

Our Doctor

WHEN I VISITED THE OKRYU CHILDREN'S Hospital a few days ago, I heard an interesting story from a patient's mother in the department of limb trauma and orthopedic surgery. It follows:

The woman was unaware, for lack of experience, that her daughter—it was her first child—was suffering from congenital dislocation of thigh bone joint. One day the doctor in charge of her family examined the baby and said she seemed suffering from congenital dislocation of thigh bone joint. Then she sent the baby to the Children's Hospital. As it received treatment in time, it got well and was to leave the hospital in a few days.

The mother said, "My family doctor takes good



care of her charges with responsibility. Thanks to her, all my family as well as my daughter are getting on with a healthy life. All the residents are grateful to their doctors."

To see the doctors respected by the residents I visited the Tongdaewon Polyclinic in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang. Entering a polyclinic office, I found the head doctor inquiring about residents who were suffering from diseases of high case rate and mortality. Her name was Ri Jong Hwa and she had been in charge of the polyclinic for a dozen years, so she was well aware of conditions of the residents in her area. She told me a story about what she had done when she was a section doctor.

The polyclinic once launched a vaccination programme. All the residents but one family had vaccination in the polyclinic. The clinic called the absent family several times but still no coming. So she vis-

ited the family. The reason of no coming was that they were healthy and that they thought it was no use having injection. Saying the socialist medicine is a prophylactic one, Ri took out an injector. The family members felt sorry and said, "We have enjoyed the benefits of the system of free medical care and prophylactic medicine since we were born, and now we sometimes forget its worth."

Ri sometimes remembers the day and encourages the family doctors to work with the consciousness of being a life engineer responsible for residents' health.

She introduced Doctor Ri Kum Hui to me saying that it would be more helpful for my coverage to see the doctors myself. When Kum Hui was about to have a talk with me after writing in the clinical chart of a patient she had just seen, the phone rang. A resident under her charge asked for detailed information about effect of a drug he had purchased. As soon as she finished the call, there was another one that requested the doctor's visit. I decided to follow her. While walking with her I saw many people greet her. The caller was a hypertension case. He was relieved after having the prescribed drugs and manual treatment. She promised to see him the next day and left the house. And she walked toward Neighbourhood Unit No. 3, Tongdaewon-dong No. 1 to see if there was any new case.

She rang the bells of dozens of houses one by one and asked how they were. Among them were two cases—one of them caught flu and the other had digestive troubles. She took a measure for them on the spot. She also told them about seasonal diseases and taught some remedies.

A woman in her nineties said, "I can recognize you from afar even by your step. I like the moment when you knock at my door."

Now Ri went over to another neighbourhood to examine the conditions of a woman who had had a baby a few days before and her baby. Seeing her I found the ninety-year-old woman was right when she said, "The doctor's knocking at the door will always sound pleasing." This was what I wanted to say after seeing the ordinary doctors of the polyclinic.

Rim Ok

Story Told by Second Daughter

SOME DAYS AGO, *RODONG Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, reported that Ri Ok Suk, an elderly woman resident in Somun-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, received a spread from the State on her 100th birthday.

Prompted by curiosity, I, as journalist of *Korea Today*, decided to go to see her who has lived a full century. As soon as I pushed the doorbell on arriving at her house, an elderly woman full of vigour opened the door and greeted me. I told the purpose of my visit, when she welcomed me in, introducing herself as Ri's second daughter Kim Yong Ae, nearly 70.

When I entered a room guided by her, I found it very clean and tidy. Yong Ae told me that it was thanks to her mother's daily routine. According to her, Ri always lives in a regular way following her daily schedule, tending potted flowers and cleaning the house and yard early in the morning. She is so diligent that even youngsters find it hard to catch up with her. During the day she makes working gloves for workers at construction projects that are underway to improve the people's living standards. As she had once worked at a textile mill, she was good at needlework until ten years ago. She always shows much interest in everything and, in particular, she is fond of thinking. She enjoys the evening very much, playing *yut* and *kkoni*

games with her family, and sometimes defeating all her rivals.

Ri still has a good eyesight, so she can read newspapers and put the thread through the eye of the needle without the aid of glasses. She also has a good memory. After reading the newspaper, she tells her family members the details of the articles about the happy life of people. At the time she never fails to tell a story about her past.

Ri was born in 1916 when the country was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists. She could not eat enough and dress herself properly since she was born into a poor tenant family. She was put in prison several times for the absurd reason that she hated the Japanese imperialists and their stooges. She survived the torture with her strong will and met the liberation of the country. But she often became bedridden because of the illness she had taken in prison.

Gradually, however, Ri got better and better under the benefit of the free medical service of the State. She worked so hard that she received official commendations and a number of State orders. As she got older she was registered as macrobian.

Whenever her visitors asked about the secret of her longevity, she would say, "The authorities of our district look after me as if I were their kinsfolk. My doctor comes to measure my blood pressure and temperature almost everyday and if there is anything unusual about me they give me



Ri Ok Suk, a centenarian.

injections or valuable medicines. And I live in a house surrounded with trees and a river nearby, so I enjoy fresh air all the year round. Everything is OK for me. It's too natural I live a long life in good health."

Yong Ae told me a long story from her memory and added that her mother has meals with her own teeth because she has got dental treatment on a regular basis. In particular, the elderly woman likes to have vegetables that she grows herself. Yong Ae continued that her mother had gone to her grandson's in the morning to help with their housework because they are busy with their social life. "My mother never changes her daily routine there," Yong Ae said, and added, "She always emphasizes that we should work hard to repay the benefit of the beneficial system."

Ri Chung Ho

Popular Sanatorium

THE KANGSO SANATORIUM under the direct control of the Ministry of Public Health is situated in Yaksu-ri, Kangso District, Nampho. It is an institution for treatment of digestive diseases with the Kangso mineral water as the main curative material. A lot of people visit it. It is housed in a four-storey building with the spa and facilities for both treatment and relaxation. It is beautiful like a park covered with green foliage, matching well with its surrounding scenery.

According to a legendary tale, hundreds of years ago a serious drought swept the area. One of

Kangso mineral water with manual therapies. The efficiency is great.”

Early in September 2015, Song Chol was checking a newcomer, when she asked if he could cure a more than ten-year-old disease. She was Son Kyong Ok, resident in Inhung-dong No. 2, Moranbong District, Pyongyang. She was suffering from digestive disorder, which had begun after she had a child. And she had stomachache whenever she took a step. As the days went by her illness became worse, so she went to a hospital. There, she was told that she had serious gastroptosis

improvement in her health. Moreover, she had some intercurrent while she was being treated. One day, an official from the District People's Committee visited her and advised her to go to the Kangso Sanatorium, offering a ticket.

Learning her history Song Chol made a plan of treatment on the basis of her examination. He let her drink mineral water every day and applied manual therapies while he was carrying out gastric irrigation. After a week Kyong Ok felt it easier to breathe and had no gas in her bowels; 20 days later she had less stomachache. Kyong



Manual therapy and electric treatment.

those days people happened to see cranes gathered in one place. There they found a spa. A historical document reads that the present spa was discovered in 1636 and used for treatment.

O Song Chol, doctor of the treatment department of the sanatorium, said, “We treat people by applying physical therapies. We combine the use of the

which was the cause of her headache, dizziness, insomnia, fatigue and weakness. She was admitted into the hospital and received varieties of treatment including acupuncture and moxibustion as well as modern medicines. She felt she was getting better at first, but days later the symptoms returned again. She went to some other hospitals, but there was no

Ok says, “I already knew that the Kangso mineral water is good but it goes beyond my expectation. Everybody including my family was surprised to see me because I was cured of my old disease completely in the sanatorium. Now my family uses the mineral water to boil rice while drinking it regularly.” She stayed at the sanatorium for a month and later she

Best Socialist Country



I VISIT THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea almost every year and this is my 19th visit. I looked round the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans and the National House of Class Education. Also I visited the Sci-Tech Complex for the second time.

In the middle school I could understand that the government takes warm care of orphans with parental love. I was impressed by the teachers who pay far more attention to the orphans than their parents would do. As the Korean government looks after the orphans with a parental heart they are growing happily without want of love and affection. They represent the future of the coun-

try and they will be the leading force of the country.

The Sci-Tech Complex is well furnished. It is situated not far from the Mirae Scientists Street. It is one of the centres that provide a good condition for Korean scientists to engross themselves in research. I was really impressed. The building is of a modern style, and it keeps valuable scientific and technological documents in store. It also helps scientists to rejuvenate their research projects. It has also information on display to give children basic knowledge. It shows that Korea has a bright future.

Human development is the most important in the social development. The DPRK puts efforts in education of children, and pupils and students are really lively and cheerful and enthusiastic about studies of science. The complex is a visual indicator of which road Korea is following and how much it will develop in the future.

The DPRK changes year after year, and, especially, it has become much faster in the era of His Excellency Kim Jong Un. For example, a new street went up every year since 2012. In April

this year I saw the new appearance of the Mirae Scientists Street and the Ryomyong Street has reached the stage of completion. It is hardly possible apart from the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Jong Un.

Every time I visit Korea I see streets much cleaner and more beautiful, and I can see new models of trolleybuses and facelift of apartments.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il made a great contribution to the development of the country. Now His Excellency Kim Jong Un is faithfully carrying forward the cause of his predecessors. He is developing it more creditably. Especially, the DPRK has made a new great progress in all areas including science. I would like to declare the DPRK is the best socialist country in the world.

*Prof and Dr. Songchit Pullarp,
Chairman of the Juche Idea
Study Organization of
Thailand*

*Prof. Dr. Songchit Pullarp
Chairman, Juche Idea Study
Organization of Thailand
(JISOT)*

► had recuperation in the sanatorium annually.

O Myong Hwan, director of the sanatorium, says, "Every year thousands of working people receive treatment in my sanatorium free of charge under the care of the state. The mineral water is good for not only digestion but also treatment of high blood pressure, arteriosclerosis and so on. We are going to render

great service for health improvement of the working people by expanding the realm of Koryo treatment."

The sanatorium applies the drinking of the mineral water, mud-used treatment, electrical treatment, irrigation of stomach and gastric canal with the mineral water, irrigation of bowels and absorption of the mineral water. We also use the methods of

carbonic acid-based bathing, sauna, sand bathing, air bathing, therapeutic sports, massage and so on. Especially, patients of digestive disorders including chronic gastritis, gastroduodenitis, chronic enteritis and colitis, chronic hepatitis and chronic cholecystitis are well treated and leave the sanatorium in happy mood.

Pak Yong Il

Victorious Advance of Cause of Socialism

FROM OF OLD THE POPULAR masses desired to have a new independent society free from exploitation and oppression and waged a protracted arduous struggle to attain their desire. In the course of this, Marxism, a socialist, communist theory, came into existence and, as a result of the struggle guided by the theory, the October Socialist Revolution emerged victorious. Later, socialism expanded to the worldwide scale, and the socialist countries achieved enormous socio-economic development in the historically short span of time. Such a historic course of development showed that the ideal of socialism is just, and that socialism is incomparably superior to capitalism.

The people's cause of independence and socialism, however, was confronted with vicious challenges of the imperialist and reactionary forces in the period between the late 1980s and the

early 1990s. The imperialists including the US ones were scheming to disintegrate socialist countries from within and induce them to reform and open their social systems in an attempt to restore capitalism while proactively inciting impure forces in those countries to an anti-socialist campaign. In time with the imperialists' anti-socialist moves the renegades of revolution in some socialist countries introduced pluralism by fanning up the wind of reform and reorganization, and thus they degenerated socialism rapidly and pushed restoration of capitalism. As a result, there came an abnormal situation in which socialism collapsed in the Soviet Union and other East European countries in quick succession, giving way to capitalism. The imperialists and reactionaries, availing themselves of this opportunity, defamed the ideal of socialism while talking about the "end of socialism."

At this juncture, Chairman Kim Jong Il of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made public a treatise *Socialism Is a Science* in *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on November 1, 1994. In the work he said: "**Socialism has been frustrated in a number of countries, but scientific socialism is as alive as ever in the minds of the people. The imperialists and reactionaries are fussing about the 'end of socialism,' with regard to the events in some countries which had been building socialism. The renegades of socialism try to justify their despicable betrayal, claiming that the ideal of socialism itself is invalid. However, the truth cannot be concealed or obliterated. The crumbling of socialism in various countries does not mean the failure of**

An international seminar was held in Pyongyang on the Juche idea for anti-imperialism, independence and solidarity.



► **socialism as science but the bankruptcy of opportunism which has corrupted socialism. Although socialism is temporarily experiencing a heart-rending setback because of opportunism, it will without fail be revived and win ultimate victory for its scientific accuracy and truth.”**

The work actively encouraged the struggle of the world’s revolutionary people aspiring to socialism. In a little over three months after its publication it was carried or introduced by over 200 media of the world, and over 60 countries studied and disseminated it in different forms and methods such as seminars, lectures, readings and explanation meetings on 220 occasions. In February 1995 an international seminar on the Juche idea for global independence was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, attended by leaders, delegations and delegates of parties, delegations and delegates of the Juche idea study groups and social organizations, and figures of academic circles and mass media of different countries. The seminar adopted the work as official document. In February 1996 an international seminar on the Juche idea for independence, peace and friendship was held in Moscow, Russia, and an international seminar on the Juche idea for independent development of Latin America in Cuenca, Ecuador, in April the same year.

The Chairman made public such immortal classic works as *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party*, *Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable* and *Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism*, wisely clarifying the cause of collapse of socialism in some countries and its historic lessons, the truthfulness and scientific accuracy of socialism and the inevitability of its triumph.

Seminars, short courses and

study sessions on the aforesaid works were held dynamically in the international scale. At the seminar of the leftist parties in Latin America and the Caribbean region on the works of Chairman Kim Jong Il they decided November 1, 1994 as the day of restoration of the global socialist movement and the day of advance of the cause of socialism, and made public an appeal calling upon the progressive parties to contribute to the cause of accomplishing socialism by organizing significant functions on the anniversary every year. Meanwhile, the participants in the international conference on socialism in the 21st century held in Nepal confirmed that the last decade of the 20th century was the period of struggle when the socialist force was restored, and that the 21st century would surely be the century in which socialism would advance and emerge victorious centring on the DPRK.

The Chairman firmly safeguarded the cause of socialism from the challenges of the allied forces of imperialism and led it along the road of new development and advance. The US-led imperialist camp made a vicious attempt to suppress and obliterate the Juche character and national identity of other countries and nations in the name of “globalization” and “integration” of the world, and assimilate them.

Regarding the struggle to defend independence against imperialism and dominationism as a task of special importance for the victorious advance of the cause of mankind for independence, the Chairman published the immortal classic work *On Preserving the Juche Character and National Character of the Revolution and Construction* on June 19, 1997. In his work he fully exposed the reactionary nature of the imperialists’ sophism of “globalization” and “integration” of the world, and

clarified that the illusions about and fear of imperialism should be dispelled in order to oppose imperialism and dominationism, and that international unity and cooperation among the progressive people of the world must be strengthened. Then he illuminated the specific ways to attain the aim.

Chairman Kim Jong Il wisely led the struggle to frustrate the imperialists’ moves of intervention and suffocation. Historically, the US imperialists have been hostile to the DPRK and, taking advantage of the decline of socialism in some countries, made a desperate attempt to stifle the country, the bulwark of socialism and the home of the Korean people, by mobilizing the imperialist allied forces from around the world. In the 1990s the world’s political structure changed from the former USSR-US confrontation to the DPRK-US confrontation, and the DPRK’s fight with the US meant a decisive battle to defend the destiny of socialism.

The Chairman led the dynamic campaign to safeguard socialism through Songun politics and pushed ahead with the vigorous struggle to build a socialist power true to the banner of Songun. Thanks to his wise leadership the Korean people turned misfortune into blessing, demonstrated the dignity and honour of the socialist Korea and transformed their country into a single-hearted, invincible politico-ideological power, a nuclear state and a military giant.

Today Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers’ Party of Korea, is carrying on the socialist cause of Juche successfully. He is staunchly championing and maintaining the Chairman’s ideology and exploits, approaching all problems arising in the revolution and construction the way the Chairman did, true to his ideology and intention.

Pak Chol

Master of Youth Power

NOW, THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea is in its heyday in the building of a youth power under the wise leadership of Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In January 2012 when the whole nation was in the greatest sorrow over the demise of their supreme leader Kim Jong Il and was faced with the imperialists' challenges and suffocation moves, Kim Jong Un sent the Korean young people his handwritten message, reading, **"The prosperous tomorrow will be advanced thanks to vigorous steps of the young people.**

Always march straight ahead, following the Party! January 26, 2012. Kim Jong Un." This was a declaration of his strong faith and will to hasten the final victory of the building of a prosperous nation by the leading role of the youth.

On the occasion of Youth Day that year, he saw to it that celebrations took place on an unprecedentedly big scale. He sent a congratulatory message to all young people in the country. In the message he said, **"Our young people are the point-men in the general onward march....**

"Our Party is planning new projects aimed at making the

nation prosperous, believing in the great patriotic enthusiasm, limitless mental strength and inexhaustible courage of our young people....

"I want to seat them on golden cushions and pluck stars from the sky for them so that the world will envy them."

His trust and love for the youth was more clearly shown in the construction site of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station consisting of a series of three power plants in the upper reaches of the Sodu Stream in Paegam County, Ryanggang Province. It was a difficult and large-scale project that would have to be done

A scene from the torchlight procession of the youth vanguard "Charge Forward, Youth Power, Following the Party!" held in celebration of the 9th Congress of Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League.





The Youth Movement Museum.

▶ in the most unfavourable natural and geographical conditions in the history of the construction of hydraulic power stations in the country. The young people were entrusted by the WPK to carry out the project as a whole.

In 2015 alone, Kim Jong Un inspected the construction site three times. Visiting the site in April last year he said that the patriotism displayed by the youth shock brigade members in the construction was a powerful demonstration of the fact that the DPRK is the only youth power in the world. He rendered a high honour to young people by calling them “master of the youth power.” After his inspection, the young shock brigade members wrought a miracle. The formidable task which was as great as what they had done for the project for the past ten years was carried out in a little over four months through a fierce struggle day and night.

On his second visit to the construction site in September that year, he said that the young people had written a world-startling legendary story of heroic youth, and that all of the builders are

heroes. Then he named the power station the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station.

A grand inauguration ceremony of the power station was held on October 3 that year. In a historic speech there the leader said, **“In the course of building the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station have been created the charging spirit and culture of young people that are representative of the Songun era, which constitute a precious asset for the promotion of the youth movement in our country....”**

“It is the unshakeable determination and will of our Party to put forward young people in the vanguard of the ranks of the general onward march as masters of the times and help them put up the doorplate of a thriving country before anybody else.”

His trust and love encouraged the youth to work another miracle. They finished the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Plant No. 3 project in less than half a year. Paying a visit to the plant on its completion he said that the peo-

ple, soldiers, youth and students should visit there to emulate the Paektu youth’s ideological and spiritual qualities and culture.

He also initiated young people’s conferences in succession, including the fourth conference of workers of primary organizations of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League, the second national conference of exemplary young people of virtue and the 9th congress of the league. Saying that the Korean youth’s ideological and spiritual trait and laudable deeds are more valuable than a mountain of gems, he expressed his confidence that they should creditably play their role as the young vanguard of the Party by devoting their youthful strength, wisdom and passion to the ongoing historic march.

Seeing a performance of the central youth artistic motivation group and the torchlight procession of the young vanguard which was held on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the WPK, and visiting the newly-built Youth Movement Museum, he gave energetic guidance to the youth movement, attaching im- ▶

The DPRK— Great People's Power (2)

WHAT IS SINGULAR about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is that the word *people* can be seen and heard anywhere. *People* is incorporated in the names of the State and the army. The word can also be found in the names of the State organs including the people's committee and the people's court and the facilities for the working people like the Grand People's Study House, the People's Palace of Culture and the People's Hospital. Such a social climate and system that ensure the popular masses' position and dignity on the highest level did not come of its own accord. They were provided by the leaders who regarded the people as God, loved them best and devoted their all to the welfare of the people.

One of my heirloom is the *Arpan* dated July 6, 1979. It carries a photo of President Kim Il Sung receiving us journalists from Nepal on June 19, 1979, and his answers to four questions we raised on the occasion. That day we met the President in a city in northeast Korea. He made time for us in the middle of an important conference on economic matters.

The meeting was a continuation of heart-warming impressions. I did, and do, think that private feelings are a taboo during news coverage for a journalist

who is obliged to analyse and represent the social reality truly and impartially. Nevertheless, I could not contain my admiration for the President.

When a topic was raised about the technical revolution during the interview, he said that the goal of the technical revolution is to free the working people from difficult and hard jobs. This was a completely new idea to me because I thought that the development and introduction of new technology are aimed at earning greater profits by increasing the productivity.

In retrospect, the industrial revolution started with the invention of new technology brought about tremendous increase in productivity, but the working people's condition got worse and worse. Though the flow-line introduced by the Ford Motor Company of the US brought about radical development of productivity, the workers fell into a more wretched plight as part of machinery. As a result, the technical progress in the capitalist society has nothing to do with the popular masses.

The technical revolution in the DPRK, however, beyond the meaning of the development of productivity, is to help the working people enjoy their work like music. One of the requirements of the Korean technical revolution

was that the technical reconstruction and development of productivity are inconceivable without man and that if they harm the popular masses they are in no way permissible.

More impressive was the fact that the President of the DPRK, who was nearly 70, was giving field guidance to a local city far away from the capital city, presiding over a meeting to solve problems in the metallurgical industry. I had visited a lot of countries, but I hadn't seen or heard a story about a national leader giving on-site guidance to a complex's technical reconstruction project for the country's development and the people's happiness.

After the interview, we members of the delegation said in unison that Kim Il Sung was not merely a state leader but a great leader and the only person to make the whole world happy.

It is said from olden times that the people are the foundation of the country. However, for ages the word *people* had been a synonym for the ruled and exploited classes and the absence of rights. Even now a number of politicians and heads of state put on a show of advocating administration of the country "for the people," "of the people" and "by the people," but it is nothing but a slogan to deceive people. ▶

▶ portance to and showing care for the youth.

He firmly believes in the youth as his comrades-in-arms who can share life and death with him in the struggle to make a beautiful future of the country. His love and

trust is the valuable nourishment for the Korean young people to grow as people with admirable personalities and models of noble virtue.

"Let us glorify the youth!"—this shows the Korean youth's

view of life. The DPRK is alive with youthful vigour. The young people are working miracles at all posts of the building of a thriving nation, befitting the title of Youth Hero.

Kim Chol Hyon

► President Kim Il Sung, regarding the people as his God all his life, attached *people* to the names of the State and the army. His leadership changed the DPRK into the country with universal free compulsory education system and universal free medical care system and the only one with no tax. He was a great, popular leader who unfolded a new page of history of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people.

On Mansu Hill in the centre of Pyongyang are bronze statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, the greatest leaders of the 20th century. In 2012 I had the honour of taking part in the ceremony of unveiling the bronze statues, which was held with a large attendance to celebrate the 100th birthday of the President. I can never forget the moment when the Korean people with deep emotion gave enthusiastic cheers looking up at their leaders' images.

Cheering together with the Koreans, I remembered the President who had met my journalists' delegation. And I was reminded of the moment when I saw the Chairman for the first time. In October 1980 I was fortunate to cover the 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. At the time I had the honour of seeing for the first time the young leader Kim Jong Il on the platform of the Congress hall. Looking up at him, simple but very attractive, I thought of a saint related to the name of Nepal. There was a saint named Nemuni in Kathmandu in the 3rd century BC. When he died after having done a lot of good things for the sake of the people, commanding their respect and love, people called the Kathmandu region Nemuni Pali with the intention to carry forward his achievements. As time went by, Nemuni Pali was abbreviated as Nepal and it was fixed as

the name of my country. The Nepalese people's desire for another saint for over 2 000 years has not been realized yet.

The Korean people, to our admiration, were lucky to have another popular leader after Kim Il Sung. I and all other members of my delegation expressed great admiration.

The bronze statue of the Chairman on Mansu Hill reminded me of his ordinary image at the Congress hall 32 years before. His simple jacket and quilted coat, which impressed me whenever I saw photos and videos about his field guidance, showed his noble personality who shared sweets and bitters with the ordinary people. With such a great image he devoted all his life to serving the people.

After President Kim Il Sung passed away in July 1994, the DPRK came to face unprecedented harsh trials. The imperialist allied forces' raging wind of suffocation and consecutive natural calamities swept the country fiercely, driving the Korean people, who had suffered the greatest loss of their leader, into a critical condition. Worse still, the lack of food, fuel and power was threatening the nation every moment. Referring to the timetable of the DPRK collapse which was advertised by the US-led anti-DPRK hostile forces, the world mass media were guessing the country's lifetime—whether it would be three months or three years. I knew well the spiritual strength of the Korean people who had defeated in the Korean war the US imperialists who had boasted of being "the strongest" in the world. They had changed their country into a socialist industrial state to the admiration of the world people. But I myself was watching the DPRK apprehensively.

My worries began to recede

when I heard of Kim Jong Il's continuous field inspection of the army. In the harsh trials which might have been so unbearable for others as to put up the flag of surrender readily, the leader launched a life-and-death struggle to defend the people's destiny by holding high the banner of building up the military force.

It was not merely for defence. On his way of field inspection of the army, he gave the army the task of rezoning the arable land of the country as befits the socialist land and led it wisely. With excitement I contributed this news to *Arpan*. When joint military drills of the US and south Korean armies were waged against the DPRK almost everyday in the southern part of the Korean peninsula, the solemn sound of the land realignment reverberated far and wide overriding the firing sound of aggression. This came from Kim Jong Il's great love. In the showdown with the imperialist allied forces, he mapped out and led the grand nature-remaking project to cultivate the people's happiness. He was truly the guardian of the people's destiny and the creator of their happiness.

It was not all. In such a difficult period, the DPRK continued to enforce the popular policies at an expense of a huge sum of money, including free medical care system and free education system.

When I visited the country in February 2007, I happened to see a convoy of vans in the street everyday. My guide told me that the vans printed with the words "soya milk" were going to see the children who are regarded as the king of the country and that the Korean people call them the royal van.

*Manju Ratna Shakya,
PhD in Socio-political Science,
President of the Nepal
Journalists Association*

New Notebook Factory Starts Operation

THE MINDULLE NOTEBOOK Factory, which went online this year, specially produces notebooks to be supplied to the children and students across the country—from kindergarten to university.

To implement the behests of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who worked hard to provide quality notebooks to the children and students, Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), proposed building the factory in August last year and gave directions on its plan. Then he named it Mindulle Notebook Factory.

Seeing the factory's sample notebooks, the supreme leader was happy that the country could supply the children and students with quality notebooks. He wrote on them "Knowledgeable, Virtuous and Healthy," "Let's Learn for Korea!" and "We Are the Happiest in the World."

Earlier he made sure that new school uniforms and satchels were supplied. Now under his care a modern notebook factory was set up for the children and students—this is associated with the WPK's love for younger generation and future which firmly guarantees the bright future of Korea.

In the factory, there is a large-size picture which implies the noble intention of the Party. Along with the images of happy schoolchildren running against the background of the Sci-Tech Complex, it features a large inscription on it, reading, "Run Forward to the Future."

Pak Pyong Ho, chief of the Mindulle Management Bureau, says, "We work hard for the future. I think the mind of loving the future is just a patriotic one."

When the supreme leader visited the factory in last April, he said that the buzzing sound of machines in good operation

means the children's singing of the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*; and that the factory should be run without a moment's stop to ensure their bright smile and happiness. The factory assumes a very important duty in carrying out the Party's policy of giving precedence to education, he noted, and specified tasks to be tackled by the factory, especially annual production of 50 million notebooks at the moment and 150 million in the future.

Being proud of their mission, all the employees of the factory are now bringing about innovation after innovation in the production to materialize the Party's loving care for younger generation and future. Drawing notebooks are made each in a moment by the flexible plate perfecting presses handled by a skilful girl operator, and other notebooks of language, mathematics, music and other subjects are slipped out of the multispindle-wire binding ma-





The integrated control room.



A flexible printer.



The folding process.



Products are responsibly conditioned.

▶ chine after being automatically folded in the mixed folding machine. In this way a mountain of

notebooks are produced in a few minutes.

The managers and technicians of the factory are now putting the main emphasis on the upgrading of the IT indexes in its business management, while controlling the production in keeping with the high spirit of their employees.

Having set a target of breaking through the cutting-edge, the

factory is promptly solving all the problems arising in the production and management through a complete integrated manufacturing and management system, thus putting the production on a scientific basis. Thanks to their tireless efforts, the factory will surely attain the goal of producing 150 million notebooks in the near future.

Jon Song Il



Mother Factory



THE WORKERS OF THE PHYONGSONG Artificial Leather Factory fondly call their mother factory. It is not only because it is a parent factory that supplies materials to daily necessities factories across the country but also because it is permeated with the parental love of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il for the people. It was built under the warm care of the President who ensured that a great investment was made to fully supply the people with quality shoes, and its radical development was attributable to the devoted effort of Chairman Kim Jong Il who visited the factory in the last year of his life.

The workers of the factory are fully displaying their wisdom and enthusiasm to implement the instructions of the leaders. Their determination to support with their labour achievements the noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to offer a richer and more civilized life to the people is developed into the spirit of self-development.

A few years ago when the factory launched a modernization project, they encountered a number of problems. It was important to purchase a set of equipment and fix it asap to ensure its normal operation. Yet a greater problem was lots of labour needed to reshape the existing buildings in accordance with the new facilities. Despite the difficult

condition, none of the workers wanted help from their senior organs or any others.

According to their unanimous opinion the factory decided to propel the project of modernization while continuing with production. And it chose to solve the problems in their own way. A lot of ideas were sug- ▶



▶ gested to save the time, labour and materials. One of them was to separate the equipment by parts and assemble them again in buildings without changing the basic structure of the buildings. Thanks to the ideas the factory got an amazing achievement—finishing the assembly of the equipment in a few months and getting into normal operation.

And it also hastened the modernization of the existing facilities by dint of their own tech force to secure more production potentials. A fine sci-tech learning space was established and has been in regular operation.

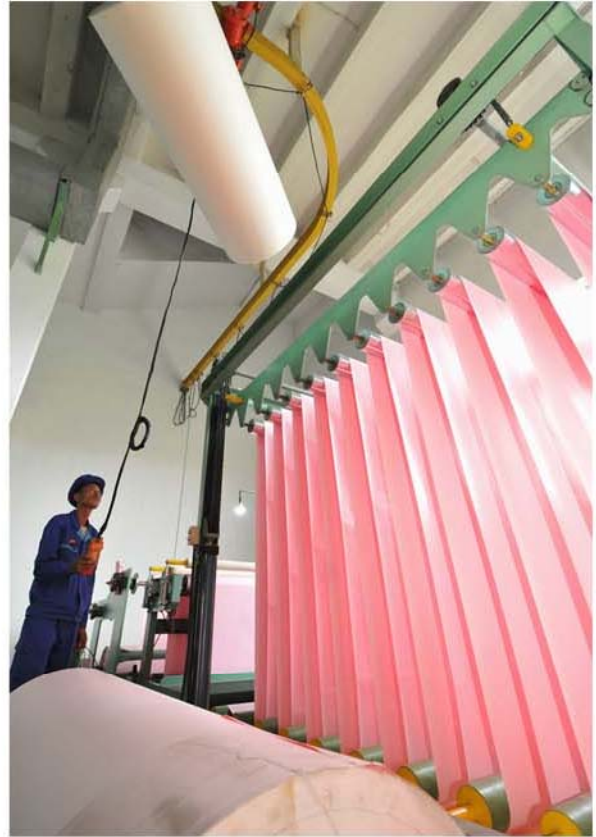
As a result the production process of the factory has been automated as a whole and production increased in both quality and quantity. The artificial leather produced by the factory is supplied to the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and the Ryuwon Footwear Factory to make varieties of shoes, which are the favourite of the people. And the bags of various colours and styles from the factory are highly appreciated by the people as well.

Kim Ye Won, a veteran worker leading a workshop, says, “Mothers are the kind of people who try to put their children forward as finely as others and create happiness by their own effort whatever the difficulty. As long as we have the love of the Workers’ Party of Korea that encourages us to cope with hardships and trials caused by the sordid sanctions of the enemy, my factory will remain a glorious, favourite factory of the people in the future, too.”

Today the workers and technicians of the factory have risen up as one in the project of sharply in-

creasing the production and the variety of colours and styles of their products with the consciousness of being a member of the mother factory.

Chae Kwang Myong



Different styles of bags of various colours are made of the artificial leather.



Home Production of Telecommunications Equipment



RECENTLY THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea developed a soft switch amidst the dynamic struggle to develop the telecommunications industry. The developers are researchers of the Cutting-edge Science Research Centre of Kim Il Sung University.

In 2006 the team began to research into the IP telephone communications, an advanced technology—for the first time in the country—and developed IP telephone private exchange service system to be used at institutions and various technical appliances for it. Thus they realized the modernization of communications at scores of major projects, organs and industrial establishments, and the technology won special prizes and first prizes several times at national sci-tech festivals and national exhibitions of IT achievements.

Not content with this they buckled down to the research into a next generation network technology, which is an industrial application of IP telephone communications technology. The telephone communications mode

which had long been developed in the mode of circuit switching has changed or is now changing into another mode in the current century. The point of this project was to develop a soft switch which can comprehensively control a new type of communications network. When the researchers started their project, few people believed they would succeed in developing the switch, the acme of modern communications technology, because they had developed no more than IP telephone switch for individual organs.

The researchers, however, set out to make the switch in close connection with the officials in the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. Most of them were young scientists who had just graduated from university. They pooled their wisdom and strength to conduct experiments. They pushed ahead with the search of huge data in the communications sector along with the study of field technology with the active support and cooperation from officials and technicians of the Central Information Communications Agency, and made the

first trial product of switch a year later.

Now they conducted operational tests on the field, and continued to develop other components—needed to establish a new generation network of the Korean style—such as large-scale trunk gateway, an integrated network management system and an online charging system. In this way they made communications appliances with their own efforts. They also put all wire and wireless communications networks (including traditional wire telephone network, mobile telecommunications network, data communications network and cable television network) and audio, image and data transmissions on one integrated infrastructure, thus laying a firm foundation for unified control of the network.

They have introduced the switch into many units, demonstrating its advantage and bringing huge economic profit to the country. Their success serves as a sure guarantee for production of all components of the communications network of the country and development of them up to the advanced level. The latest communications technology products developed by the researchers are winning favour from users as they have superior indexes in quality, efficiency, stability and capability of diagnosis and monitoring.

They are redoubling their efforts to attain a high aim of turning the entire communications equipment of the country into Korean models in the sector of information communications.

Sim Hyon Jin

Developers of Document Correction Technology

ONE EVENING IN MARCH LAST YEAR, A meeting happened till late at night in a room at the Mathematics Research Institute of the State Academy of Sciences to discuss a new research task for modernization of publication technology. The oppressive silence hung on for a long time in a highly-charged atmosphere.

It was an enormous task. They had to analyse a bulky document of over 75 000 pages and solve several problems of latest science and technology including the document and image retrieval technology. As it was equivalent to all the research tasks they had carried out for several years, nobody dared to take up the task.

At that time Dr. Kim Yong Chun, head of the natural language section of the institute, said, "When we were developing the document correction support program for the first time, it was not smooth. But we did it under no one's direction. What is important is to have a confidence that we can do it without fail."

In fact, the research group had conducted the

work of developing a Korean language document correction support program and its introduction for about 20 years, and achieved a lot of successes. In this course, they had studied and analysed over tens of thousands of pages of documents and millions of expressions to make a massive database of dictionary. Based on it they had developed a Korean language document correction support program. This program applies an artificial intelligence technology, a cutting-edge technology to imitate human intelligence in understanding language and controlling it with the use of computer. For the reason it generally demands a large amount of work. Well aware of their responsibility in pioneering the natural language technology, the researchers investigated the world of science step by step. At last they had developed error-checking functions including wrong usage of words and the first version of document support program with the error-finding rate of over 90%.

Now, building on this experience, they buckled down to the work of developing a document support program for practical use. Encouraged by Kim's

Researchers discuss how to improve detection of documentary errors.



► words, the research team launched the struggle the next day. There were no specific time and place for their research. They continued the project day and night. In the course of this they encountered a bottleneck. What was important in developing a higher version of program was to find a retrieval method by which to correctly examine relevant original text image data when a specific text was given. It was an untrodden path and an unknown world to them, but there was no other choice. *The only way out is to rely on our own strength and technology*, they thought.

The job of inputting tens of thousands of pages of text into image data was quite difficult, but the scientists including Choe Song Min, Kim Hyon Il and Ri Yong Hak intensified their study, relying on their own strength. In this course they developed a new program by introducing a latest document and image retrieval technology, thus making a breakthrough in their research work. At last they successfully created a document and image database in six months, which had been expected to take three years.

The researchers in charge of developing new algorithm and program for analysing sentences and checking all sorts of errors fulfilled their task by pioneering their own way step by step, not by following others' way. Thanks to their devoted effort the second version of document correction support program of the highest level was developed wonderfully, and now it is an indispensable program in document correction.

The State Certificate of Registered Sci-tech Achievement was conferred on the Korean Language Document Correction Support System, and later, the system received the State Certificate of Introduction of Sci-tech Achievement. When Section Chief Kim Yong Chun is asked about the secret of developing a program which some people thought was impossible, he says, "Science has no national boundary, but we have the socialist motherland. This spirit led us to success."

Recently the scientists of the natural language processing research team have developed a new method of finding syntactic errors and established its theoretical foundation. They are now engrossed in the work to raise the rate of finding errors in documents.

Rim Hye Gyong

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE NAMPHO University of Agriculture in Nampho City. The university consists of several faculties like the agricultural science faculty, departments and the correspondence faculty. It also has a research centre, a postgraduate school, an institute studying agriculture in reclaimed tideland, a modern laboratory, a machinery practice room, a practice plot and a greenhouse, which are conducive to the education of students and the work of researchers.

Mun Kyong Chol, vice president in charge of research affairs, said, "My university has produced 205 persons with academic degrees or titles, including winners of the February 16 Scientific and Technological Prize, holders of world's invention certificates and patent rights, People's Scientists, Merited Scientists, candidate academicians, professors and persons with PhDs. Thus it is recognized as a prestigious university." He added that his university has recently developed a blue-green algae-based bioactive compost which is believed to make a remarkable change in grain production, and a mobile rice com- ►

Veteran researcher Hong Kwang Bom (right) has devoted all his life to the research of agricultural science.



Nampho University of Agriculture



Studies are made of characteristics of crops.

- ▶ bine harvester; it has achieved research successes of national significance, thus rendering great service to agricultural production and improvement of the people's living standards. Then he talked about Hong Kwang Bom, a veteran researcher who has devoted all his life to the study of agricultural science.

Hong graduated from Kye Ung Sang Agricultural College of Kim Il Sung University and has worked at the Nampho University of Agriculture since 1968. He keenly felt farms had an absolute shortage of source of humus soil which is badly needed to increase the fertility of soil. *Taking a measure to increase the agricultural production of the country is my duty*, he thought, and buckled down to the work to solve the problem.

With his untiring zeal and quest he developed a method of producing bioactive compost which can rapidly increase the fertility of soil with a small amount of organic materials like rice straw and corn stalks. The method of making bioactive compost, an organic fertilizer, is to mix 200-300kg of quality calcium hydroxide with a ton of organic material, and inject bacteria with a strong ability of degrading cellulose to raise the rate of decay up to over 90% in 40-50 days. The amount of active humus contained in one ton of this kind of compost is equivalent to that of 20 tons of ordinary one, so the necessary amount of bioactive compost per hectare is no more than 1 or 1.5 tons per hectare. Some people, however, opposed the application of the bioactive compost for fear of decrease in the crop yield, saying that it was premature to use the bioactive compost in the nationwide scale.

Hong was not dispirited, but waged a dynamic work to introduce the compost at several cooperative farms in South Phyongan, North Phyongan, South Hamgyong and North Hwanghae provinces. Several years later the method of producing bioactive compost was introduced at all cooperative farms across

the country at last. Not content with this success, he started in 1998 to develop a new kind of microbial fertilizer to steadily increase the amount of humus in soil and apply an organic-based farming method. Three years later he succeeded in finding two kinds of blue-green algae with a high capability of photosynthesis and nitrogen fixation. The possession of a technology to cultivate the blue-green algae was not an easy job. The research team led by Kwang Bom continued their work for a dozen years and made a blue-green algae compost. The introduction of the compost at many cooperative farms in the country proved that the fertility of soil increased sustainably every year, thus saving a lot of nitrogenous fertilizer while producing 1 or 1.5 tons of more crops per hectare.

The original bacteria of bioactive compost and the original bacteria of blue-green algae Hong developed all his life received DPRK patents, certificates of invention, certificates of registered sci-tech achievement of the Ministry of Agriculture and certificates of introduction. And the blue-green algae-based bioactive compost won high appreciation at an international symposium on organic farming, a national sci-tech festival, the national invention and new technology exhibition and other sci-tech achievement exhibitions and symposiums at home and abroad.

The managers and workers of different cooperative farms who have introduced the compost say unanimously: "The compost plays a great role in increasing the fertility of soil. This compost makes it possible to increase grain output with a smaller amount of other kinds of fertilizers."

Now the university is making every effort to help hit the target of grain production set by the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea with greater research successes.

Pak Un Yong

Home of Orphans



RECENTLY WE VISITED the Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans which was newly opened in July last. We could see the hanging board bearing the frame of open notebook, the fence embossed in the pattern of pen point, sunflower and ball, the spacious playground and school buildings for instruction and other purposes. Passing the gate, we headed for the four-storey building adjoining the football field covered with artificial turf. Ri Pok Sil, assistant mistress in charge of education affairs, guided us. Entering the ground floor past the central hall, she told us a story: Supreme leader Kim Jong Un visited the school. He said that since a wonderful school was built for orphans he was as happy as if he had plucked a star from the sky. He felt at ease

with one of his wishes accomplished to grow orphans as happily as anyone in the world.

Ri told us that orphans have the 12-year compulsory education like other children and that they attend junior and senior courses according to their age.

We stopped in the classroom for the junior 3A. It was a mother tongue lesson. Students were writing their wishes—to become a scientist, doctor, pilot, artist, football player and so on—in their white notebooks, and the title “Wish” was written on the whiteboard. Ri told us that the school is furnished with not only a physics laboratory, a chemistry laboratory, a biology laboratory, an art room, a dancing and music room but also multi-functional classrooms and an on-line educational room so as to give scientific

knowledge easily through the national network and intranet. She continued to say that a lot of students had won the July 15 Honour Student Prize which is given to top honour students for studying. The school receives a lot of letters from the graduates who are at university, the army and other posts.

Stepping out of the classroom, we saw a student coming towards us. Ri introduced him to us, saying that he was Kim Chol Man who took part in the Seventh National Meeting of the Korean Children’s Union. Chol Man said, “Frankly speaking, I used to be timid as I had no parents. But unexpectedly I was honoured to participate in the Seventh National Meeting of the KCU like those with parents. I was moved to tears when I thought that I’m



▶ under a warmer care than that my own parents could give me.” With delight he told us about his schoolmates and senior students who had participated in the celebrations of the Youth Day and the celebrations of the 66th anniversary of the foundation of the KCU. We parted with him and walked up to the second floor. We could hear a voice reciting a poem from the classroom for the senior 2A. “Then, you try, Jang So Yon,” the teacher said. Jang stood up and recited a poem titled, *Potbellied Wardrobe*.

*Our leader Kim Jong Un
Sent us lots of gift clothes.
As the days go by
My wardrobe is getting fatter.*

*There are quilted clothes
And summer skirts.
There are too many to
wear all.*

*As the days go by
They are piled as high
as a hill.*

*Oh, my! What is that?
My wardrobe is getting fatter
Under the warm care of
Our leader Kim Jong Un.*

We opened a poem book, and saw it full of poems about the warm care of Kim Jong Un who had provided stuffed specimens, varieties of experimental appliances, winter clothes and shoes, and sportswear.

Then, we visited the dormitory behind the school building. There were no students in it as they were at class. We could see some people tidying up beds, blankets and wardrobes. Ri said, “They are after-school instructors who look after the orphans with parental care.”

There was parental love everywhere in the school. We left the school picturing in our mind the future of the orphans who are growing happily with a hope of becoming pillars of the country.

Ri Chung Ho



His Effort

MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, A MAN OF sturdy physique came to the Suncheon City Juvenile Sports School located on a hillock in Suncheon, South Phyongan Province. He was Mun Su Gil, once a wrestler in his career, on his return home. Meeting the deputy principal of the school, Ri Chol Su, Mun said he wanted to work at the school and make it famous for wrestling. Ri was very pleased to hear it.

Now Mun said the following story: While he was in a sports team he won national championships several times. His team appreciated his talent. However, he was not qualified for international competitions because he was past the age limit. Thus, he participated in national contests alone. It was because he belatedly chose wrestling—suitable for his constitution—only after he had tried different sports events from his childhood. After a deep consideration he decided to organize a wrestling team by enlisting children of under 10 and train reserves in his home town, refusing an offer of the sports team to work as coach. That way he would leave no more regret in his life, he knew.

That is how a wrestling team was organized in the school. They won a silver medal and five bronze medals in their debut in August 2006. When the school administrators and parents of the team members congratulated him on the achievement Mun was far from satisfied.

Realizing that the level of the students' attainment depends on the teacher's, he made a heavy demand on himself.

He made a thorough plan to improve his ability and introduce new techniques. He exerted himself to carry it out. In his spare time he obtained a lot of dynamic images of international and national contests, and used them to improve the students' techniques. Now they could learn a high level of special techniques including leg grip, rear waist lock, throw and rolling. On the basis of it, he drew up a training program for team members and carried it into reality steadily. It was not an easy job for the trainees to acquire the technical knacks. It was a much more difficult task for those who stayed in the dormitory.



Ri Se Ung, one of the team members, said, “My teacher is strict in training but warm-hearted in life.”

Han Song Suk, Mun's wife, helped his husband's job. When Mun taught his students special techniques according to their ages and mental qualities his wife brought varieties of nutritious foods to the trainees. Thanks to their efforts, the team took first place in team events at a number of national competitions.

Today the school is well known across the country for wrestling. A lot of students received the certificate of Young Sports Ace and were admitted to many sports teams—the number of such students reached 350. Ri Se Ung who won the title in the men's 42kg Greco-Roman wrestling at the Second Junior Olympic Games in 2014, and Mun Su Jong, daughter of Mun Su Gil, who won the title in the women's 40kg wrestling at the Asian Junior Wrestling Championships in 2015 are disciples of Mun Su Gil.

In January last, when Ri Se Ung and Mun Su Jong returned home all Suncheon citizens turned out to welcome them. There was Mun Su Gil among the citizens. Seeing his disciple and daughter who received bouquets and were happy to enjoy the blessing of the people, Mun decided to train more reserves to support the construction of a sports power.

Today he is exerting himself to rear young wrestlers. He is fondly called “Our wrestling instructor.”

Kim Il Ryong

In Full Sail for Sixty Years

ONE OF THESE DAYS A RACING BOAT WAS sailing down the Taedong River, catching the eye of an elderly man standing on the deserted promenade. It was Won Yong Son, 80, a Merited Artist. The boat sliding over the water surface left waves of memory in his mind.

Won was born in Songchon County, South Phyongan Province before his country was liberated from the Japanese imperialist military occupation (August 15, 1945). In his childhood when he played on the Piryu riverside, he used to find a white sailing boat so beautiful. In particular, he was so excited and full of ambition, though so young, when he saw the boat navigating vigorously with the white sail wide open against the glowing sky at sunset. Hence the first picture he drew in a bright classroom after liberation was a boat on the river. Still he did not imagine that the drawing would become a decisive one in his life.

The day he was complimented by his teacher on his picture, he decided in the evening to draw everything he would find beautiful. His teacher took special care of him and was assiduous to help him with his drawing. It wasn't the technique alone that he learned from his teacher in those days. The teacher often told Won that Korea was called golden tapestry of three thousand *ri* from of old and that he should work hard to develop the liberated country that had been trampled down by the Japanese imperialists. Viewing the land with the eye, Won found many things worth being represented—fertile paddy-fields that now belonged to the peasants, his father making a smile while tilling his land for the first time in his life, the village path along which villagers returned home with their oxen singing *Peasant's Song* pleasantly and a puppy running merrily ahead of them and skylarks chirping in the sky. As he drew those things, he came to nurture, though young, the love for the beautiful mountains and streams of his country. He gradually decided to become a favourite artist of the people by depicting everything in the country vividly. He was buoyed up by the dream.



Merited Artist Won Yong Son.

The Korean war (1950–1953) unleashed by the US imperialists was really an unexpected blow to him. But the small boat cherished in his heart was sailing more vigorously powered by the fervent sympathy for the reality and love for the country and people. He gradually became interested in sculpture and the heroes of his works were the villagers who turned out in all-people resistance to defend their homeland. *Peasant Pulling a Cannon*, part of the sculpture group of the Grand Monument on Mansu Hill (established in 1972), later appreciated by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, was a typical example of his work based on his personal experience during the war.

After the war he rose into prominence in ceramics as well by representing the merits of the national culture. Ceramics was a new branch he chose to repay the benefit of the country that appointed him

► in his early twenties as member of the Mansudae Art Studio, one of the authoritative artistic groups of the nation. He wanted to create immortal works that are dedicated to the show of the brilliant realities in every decade of socialist construction. The principle he adhered to was to create things of greater harmonious beauty while preserving the style of Koryo celadon that has a long history and the elegance of the white porcelain created during the feudal Joseon dynasty. As for colour he decided to develop a pleasant emotion by combining the traditional tone that gives a sense of stability with vivid, deep and bright colours. He tried particularly to make a copy of daily life and ensure practical utility as well as artistic interest as much as possible. That led him to creation of porcelain of unique attraction.

His achievement is to be seen in the fact that dozens of his works have been listed as articles in the State possession, bringing him prizes at each of the dozens of national art exhibitions. He is now devoting, though well over 60, himself to the work of training young artists while producing new works. This shows that the small boat cherished in his heart in his childhood has now become a giant steamship of patriotism.

His works are great favourites of the public.

“In his works I felt anew our national aroma, our

soil scent and clarity of our blue sky. Seeing the works I am proud of being Korean. Indeed I feel as if I had been to parts of our beautiful country.”

“I am impressed by the beautiful, soft colours and traditional patterns. They are wonderful.”

These are some statements made by overseas Koreans and foreigners looking round Won’s private exhibition opened in 2004. An Yong Gi, a former unconverted long-term prisoner and a calligrapher, also appreciated his works, saying, “Every work he created after the traditions of Koryo celadon and white porcelain of the feudal Joseon dynasty shows the creative zeal and patriotism he has kept for dozens of years. Its delicacy and harmony of various colours imbued with the national soul are leading people to ecstasy.”

A voice was now calling in the heart of the veteran artist who was looking at the sailing boat that was coming back past the turn.

Now they say I've made a unique dedication to glorifying the traditional culture of the nation. But my works are the fruits of our national character and socialist reality. As long as they are there for me, I'm sure my boat of hope will be able to sail on and on.

Kim Chol Ung



Some of Won Yong Son’s works.



Central Zoo (1)

A FEW DAYS AGO I visited the Central Zoo following its improvement project. When I arrived at the zoo at the foot of the picturesque Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang, I saw a huge sculpture of Korean tiger at the entrance—it seemed to welcome me. I met guide Kim Hyang at the

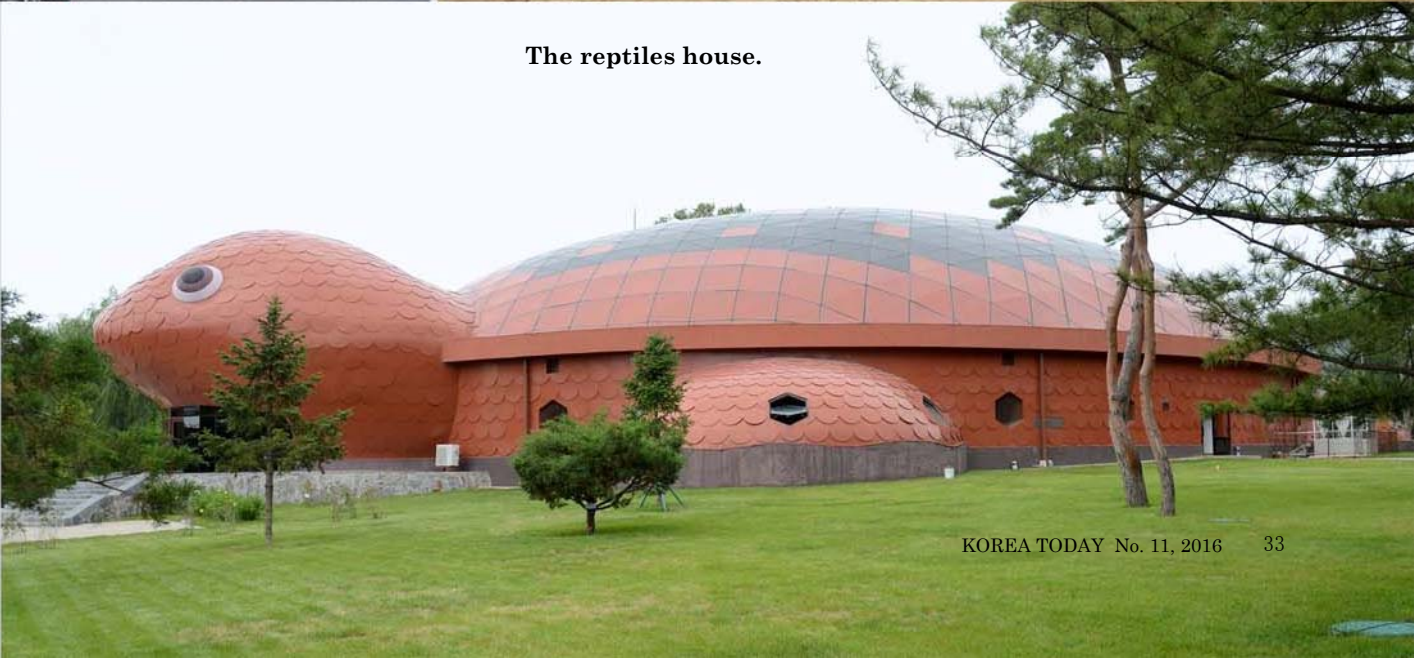
gate, who told the history of the zoo.

According to her, the zoo was established on April 30, 1959. Its development has been a close concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government. It is in no way a means of making money or finding a diversion but a

facility for the people's cultural and recreational enjoyment as well as an educational establishment that gives rich knowledge about animals to the people and students and imbues them with the idea of loving nature of the country. It was modernized this year as required by the 21st cen- ▶



The reptiles house.



▶ tury under the competent guidance of Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission. The size increased five times as much as its initial one, now occupying over 100 hectares.

Listening to her I got to the aquarium first. There I met Rim Chol Yong, chief engineer, who was doing his rounds. He told me a good story: When you enter the aquarium you feel as if you were in an undersea world as its internal walls and floors are decorated in fresh blues. It is divided into areas of natural scenery, tortoises, marine animals and so on.

Giant vessels attracted me, in which thousands of fishes—freshwater fishes like famous gold fish of Korea and Sarusa comet, saltwater fishes—were swimming in them. Past large bowls and an arch-shaped water tank where ornamental fishes were swimming leisurely, I arrived at a pool where there were loggerhead turtles weighing over 100 kg. All along the route I could see wall pictures that give knowledge of various fishes, methods of fish growing and their evolution.

Explaining about the tortoises—their physiological features and ages—Rim said the preservation of the species of the tortoises and taking care of them

was the most important task and that in the aquarium there were freshwater fishes and seawater fishes, including Korea's indigenous ones such as sterlet, snakehead, catfish and silver carp, and tropical freshwater fishes such as electric eel, Siamese shark, colossoma and piranha, and invertebrate animals such as octopus, trepang, and sea urchin.

Looking around the water tanks one by one I felt anew how concerned the government is to provide the people and students with an enjoyable life.

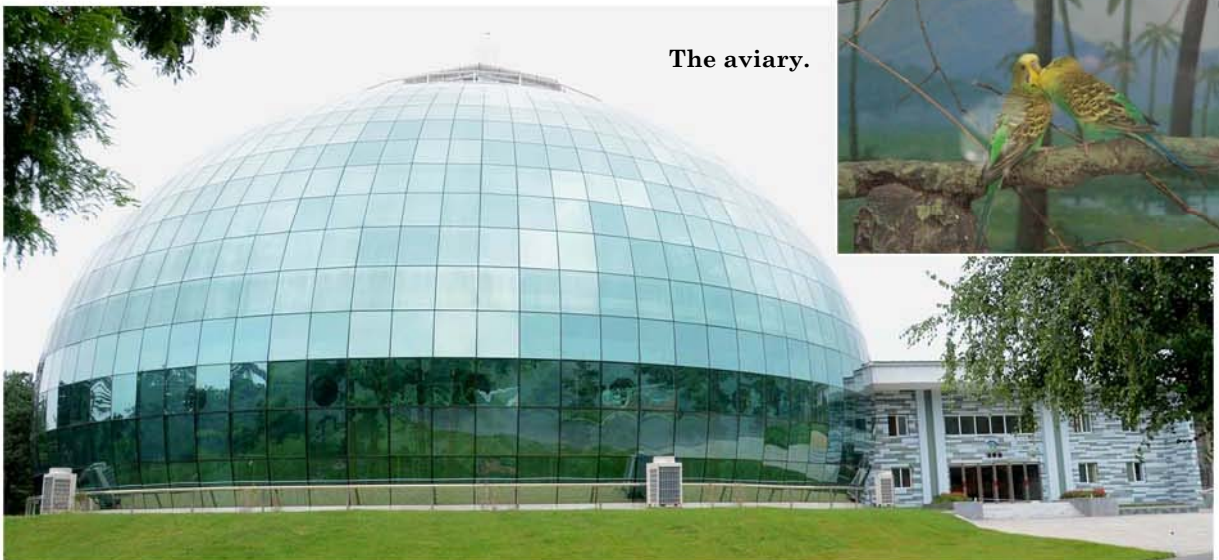
Now I headed for the reptiles house. It was a tortoise-shaped building and the route inside was shaped like a loop providing comfort for the people to look around. The house is divided into a comprehensive lecture hall, and areas of rainforest, marsh, savannah, semi-desert and so on. When I entered the house I felt a fresh cool air but when I saw a number of banana trees and palms overhead, I felt as if I were in a tropical zone. There were amphibians such as Chinese giant salamanders, bull frogs and tortoises and reptiles such as crocodiles, snakes and lizards. And the route was decorated on various formative and artistic patterns, and on the walls were murals showing the

reptilian age. There were also to be seen a sculpture of dinosaur, natural rocks, and a stone bridge in good arrangement, and trees, plants and grassland were spread to offer conditions necessary for the animals' ecological environment. Students were scrambling for dragon head-shaped telescopes to view the reptiles' world.

I also went to the aviary. My guide said that the aviary was patterned after an egg and a feather and that it is divided into temperate, subtropical and tropical areas. There were the Korean national bird of goshawk, owls, vultures, bramblings, seagulls and white-fronted geese in the temperate area, and southern grackles, crowned cranes and parakeets in subtropical and tropical areas.

Ri Jong Rok, a student from the Sopho Junior Middle School in Hyongjesan District, said he had been there several times after the modernization project, that he had learned a lot, and that he would continue to visit it to have more knowledge. Now I went over to another site in the zoo.

Sim Yong Jin



The aviary.



Greetings Card

ON NOVEMBER 16 PEOPLE THROUGHOUT the Democratic People's Republic of Korea celebrate the Mother's Day. That day I went out to a street in Pyongyang. It was unusually animated. I could see people buying flowers in stands and some couples consulting how to congratulate their mothers.

I was attracted by a shop crowded in front of the Pyongyang Railway Station. It was the Pyongyang Card and Souvenir Shop and a lot of people were buying greetings cards. An assistant there said that it had been rather quiet in November earlier and that now it was crowded with the Mother's Day ahead. She told me a story about greetings card.

On November 16, 2012 the Mother's Day was instituted and it elicited a great reaction from the public. It is the anniversary when President Kim Il Sung made a speech entitled *The Duty of Mothers in the Education of Children* at the First National Meeting of Mothers. Celebrating the first Mother's Day, the Fourth National Meeting of Mothers was held and a lot of activities to celebrate the day significantly took place. More than ten kinds of greetings cards were published—some showed beautiful bouquets, some portrayed a happy mother embracing her baby, and inscriptions "I love my mother" and "Congratulations on Mother's Day" were borne. They were designed under the guidance of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un. Every design of the greetings cards reflects children's respect for their mothers. The participants in the Fourth National Meeting of Mothers received such greetings cards at the same time on the morning of the

Mother's Day. Among them, there were those who had a lot of children and received the title of Labour Hero, and those who had worked hard for the sake of society and the collective. They all considered those cards as congratulatory greetings from Kim Jong Un to all mothers across the country in recognition of their services for their families and their sons and daughters. Some kept the cards as their heirloom.

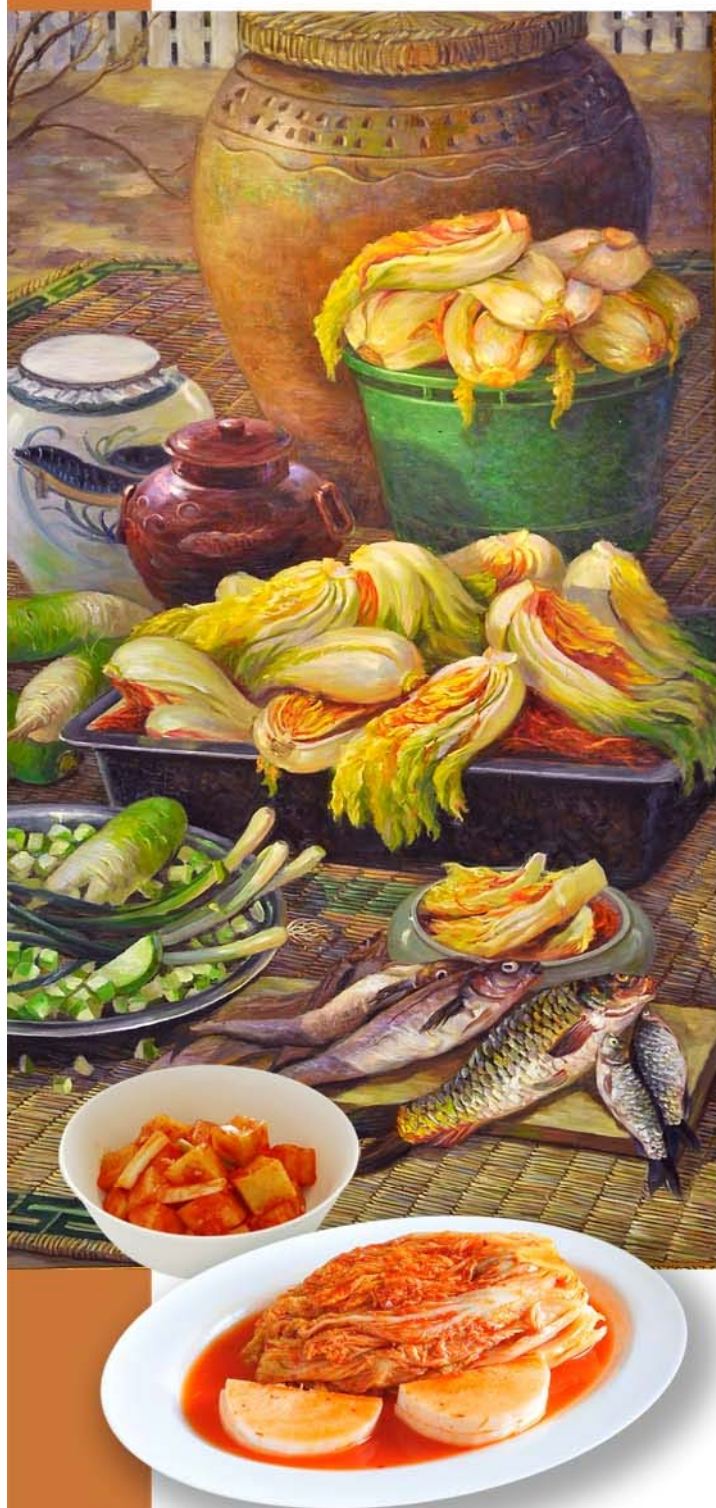
Listening to her story, I looked at the customers carefully. Among them, I could see a young man writing a congratulatory message in the card, a young couple looking at pictures of cards with their lovely baby between them, a middle-aged customer smiling with a card in his hand. I wondered whether they knew the story of the Mother's Day cards.

Cha Su Jong, living in Okryu-dong No. 1, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, said, "No word is holier and dearer than *mother*. The personality of a mother decides that of her children and their morality. It also influences the future of the nation. So mothers try hard to bring up their children as upright people. I feel happy and proud as a mother when I receive greetings cards and bouquets from my children on the Mother's Day. I would send a greetings card to my mother if my mother were alive now."

I left the shop weighing the importance and preciousness of the greetings card which is as small as my palm. I told myself: I will offer this card and greetings to my mother. I will tell people the story of warm love of our leader Kim Jong Un who respects and treats mothers preferentially.

Rim Sang Jun

Kimchi, One of World's Five Health Foods



KIMCHI IS ONE OF THE NATIONAL dishes of Korea, which is tasty, nutritious and appetizing. Every Korean enjoys it. From olden times, Koreans never missed kimchi in the menu, even when rare dishes were prepared. Thus, they rinsed their mouth with kimchi juice after eating good meat and they enjoyed drinking kimchi juice while eating rice cake and pancake. Some say that they could not manage to survive even a day if they failed to have kimchi. The fact that Koreans like kimchi the most is to be verified in the song *Song of Sliced Radish Kimchi*. Part of its words goes that you'll have no appetite without sliced radish kimchi on the table of all delicacies.

Since people considered kimchi important in all seasons, kimchi making developed in various ways. It is uncertain when kimchi began to be eaten in Korea, but it is obvious from existing history books that it has a long history.

An old document, *Songhosaesolryuson*, reads that an envoy of Sui China visited Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) and bought lettuce seeds which he named "Priceless Vegetable." This gives the supposition that vegetables were cultivated in Koguryo, and that Koguryo people must have known how to prepare kimchi because they knew how to grow vegetables.

In winter, when it is unsuitable to cultivate vegetables due to the cold weather, it was by no means an easy job to have a supply of fresh vegetables as in summer. Through vigorous activities to transform nature into more helpful one for people and many years of experience, Koreans developed a method to obtain fresh vegetables in winter—it is just the custom of kimchi making.

Old documents, *Sallim Kyongje* and *Kyuhap Chongso*, show the high level of development of Korean kimchi in the 18th - 19th century.

Koreans regarded kimchi making for winter as an important task and exerted their efforts to prepare delicious kimchi. The kimchi-making season was different from place to place for the differences in local climate conditions. And yet they prepared

▶ kimchi around Riptong, one of the 24 seasonal divisions that falls on the first half of November, and it is reflected in old historical documents. *Tongguksesigi*, an old historical document, says that kimchi is pickled in a jar with radish, bok choy, garlic, cayenne pepper, salt and so on in early lunar October and that it was regarded as a great domestic task. Another historical document, *Haedongjukji*, reads that every family prepares kimchi with radish and bok choy around Riptong, that the job is called Kimjang, that people are busy preparing kimchi made of bok choy and radish seasoned with leaf mustard, ginger, onion and garlic and burying jars of kimchi in the ground. Those documents speak that the 19th century's method of preparing kimchi of bok choy and radish mixed with many kinds of flavourings in the jar and burying the jar in the ground was the same as the one employed later. In this way the methods of preparing and storing kimchi became traditional ones of the nation.

Soft roughages of bok choy and radish, main materials of kimchi, prevent constipation, and other materials including fermented and raw fish supple-

ment protein. While kimchi is fermenting, the protein of the fish is dissolved into amino acid and fishbone becomes the source of calcium supply after it is dissolved. The organic acid in the fermented kimchi stimulates the appetite. As it is of high nutritional value, kimchi is one of the world's five health foods.

A foreign magazine introduced kimchi under the title "Best Health Food in the World" saying that the Korean kimchi, a kind of fermented food, is a low-fat health food with a rich amount of fibroid materials, vitamin A, vitamin B group and vitamin C, germs good for health, and that it digests well and is effective in inhibiting the growth of cancer cells.

Last year, amidst the growing interest in kimchi around the world, the 10th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, held in Windhoek, Namibia, decided to put the kimchi-making custom of Korea in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Kim Il Ryong

Kimchi-making season at the Pyongyang Rest Home.



His Heart

By Pak Yun

(Continued from the last issue)

THE GIRL'S REDDISH gaunt hands holding the paper boat came in and out of his sight. The boy of composed nature was looking at her of his age for fun. Only after a good while he picked up a stick on the riverside and stepped into the water to stretch it out to her. Even in the state of confusion the girl did not fail to hold the boat. She tottered out of the water holding the stick with the other available hand. She said with an angry eye, "You did nothing but keep your eyes shut when I was nearly drowning...."

"Myong Suk, shall we release this boat?" the boy asked.

"No," the girl refused.

"This paper boat will go far to the sea."

"The sea?"

"Yes."

The girl's eyes were twinkling.

"Then we let it go."

For a long while, the boy and the girl looked at the white paper boat receding far into the fog on the stream of thawed water.

...

"Myong Suk, it has been 20 years since we last came here together. That river bend and rock are still there as they were."

"I come here every year with my pupils."

"I myself thought of this place often when I was a soldier. And the paper boat...."

"You have only a few months left before your graduation, don't you?"

"Sure. I think I will go on to the graduate school."

...

"My boy, what are you going to do? Now Ryang Myong Suk is also twenty-nine. The headmaster of

her secondary school is also worrying about her."

"I know, mum. We're the same age. But I am still on the starting line of the race, so to speak."

"Well, just take her to our home, and I will deal with whatever the problems. Don't worry. She's waiting for you.... I've shaken off my chronic indigestion thanks to her sincere devotion, you know."

...

"Myong Suk, you've hated me, haven't you?"

"Everything's endurable... as long as I've got trust."

"Probably you'd have to keep waiting for me with the trust alone."

"I... always think of the paper boat floating to the sea. I'll wait until she develops into a giant steamship."

The paper boat floating to the sea...

The girl grew up to become a wife and a mother! Both time and the river flew to the sea!

"You must have encountered a great challenge, I suppose," I said, talking to Rim.

He made no response but smiled slightly before turning his eyes out of the window of the office.

He is in his late 40s but he has no grey hair, I said to myself. His round face with elastic skin is wrinkleless and harmonious, and it is giving an impression of neatness and kindness. He is of stout physique. The middle-aged man with broad shoulder and still strong muscles... It is an exceptional appearance in contrast to his chequered past of frustrations and trials. Probably it is attributable to the miraculous health food of the new century he has in-

vented.

"Mr. Writer," Rim addressed me finally. "Frankly speaking, a great challenge on the road of scientific research is nothing special. For me, encountering a difficult problem is rather pleasure. My research work was not bound to a laboratory table. It was mostly done in steep mountains and among patients. The pleasure I felt when I saved dying persons—maybe you can hardly understand it.

"When I was university student I once went to a hospital for practice. I can still remember the doctor's face I saw that day. He was a neurosurgeon and then he took charge of an operation on a young shock brigade member who had been injured in his head in a cave-in accident and I joined him as an assistant. When his head bone was cut open, I was shocked to see it. It was an unexpected state unprecedented both in clinical practice and medical theories. Brain tissues were in a mess because of bleeding, and they began decaying. I thought it impossible to revive him. But the doctor—he had been a serviceman—was far from confused. He disinfected his mouth, and carefully sucked out the blood around the brain for a good time before stitching it up.

"Pak Kwon, the neurosurgeon, is still working in the provincial people's hospital. He is now an authority. And the patient now works as first secretary of a city youth league committee. Humanity is fundamental to the man who devotes himself entirely to the medical science.

"Even in difficult situations, you can't waver only if you remain steadfast in scientific conviction and stand. Yielding to your own

► vacillation is maybe the biggest problem.”

Suddenly Rim made a painful expression. His elastic young face became serious and had lines at the corners of his eyes. At the moment he looked old. I wondered why.

Rim’s story continued.

“One autumn day that year I was doing physical labour shouldering a pole carrier at a construction site after I left the research institute following the break of the research team. I was only thinking of giving up everything and rather making a contribution to the country with my sincere labour. At the time Kim Chang Sun called on me again. After the day’s work I went to the hospital to see the new Party secretary as he recommended. Mr. Writer, can you guess who the man was? It was really unbelievable.”

“Who was it?” I asked.

“It was Pak Chol Jin, my political commissar during military service. He had been demobilized after spending years in hospital for his wound he had got in the front line and then he had been working as Party secretary of the large hospital. It was an unexpected meeting....”

“After looking round the hospital, I said I would use an empty warehouse of the supply department of the hospital for my research room. Hearing me, he said, ‘Sin Hae, why are you choosing that isolated place? Your old squad leader Kang Chang Mo used to polish his medical art among soldiers and cure them, but you....’

“But...” I interrupted him.

“He frowned and then smiled stroking me gently on my shoulder.

“You listen to me,’ he said. ‘You’d better take a room in the treatment office of Koryo medicine department and treat patients while conducting your research there. What do you think?

You can always use the laboratory. The hospital director will approve of it. I’m sure that it would be more profitable.’

“I was ashamed to show him my face with tearful eyes, so I couldn’t but mumble with my head down. ‘You are being selfish again. So you want me to do research among patients.... This is to strike two birds....’

“‘With one stone,’ the Party secretary snatched the last words, and, putting his arm on my shoulder, guided me slowly to the park in the hospital.

“‘Sin Hae,’ he said, ‘I heard all from Kim Chang Sun. I know you have had a lot of mental sufferings. The hospital director hesitated at first but not disagreed. Let’s work together. I want to say only one thing. Our medical science should exactly embody the idea of attaching importance to and loving the people. Sin Hae, I know you are going to complete the recent project of modern molecular biology by the folk remedies of our traditional Koryo medicine. What a brilliant idea it is! I received a call from Department Head Choe Jang Su yesterday and I hesitated a little. But I finally made a decision after a night of thinking. When I made a suggestion to the senior Party organization, they also approved of the project with which you’re going to bring profit to the people by pioneering a new medical field. Head of the physiotherapy department Kim Kyong Ho at xx hospital informed us of his intention to help us with our research work using the newly developed function diagnosis program.’

“Mr. Writer, what would be impossible when I worked with such a steady group and had the trust of such honest people? In the days of strenuous research the invention of a substance for control of the central nerve was in steady progress on the basis of Kim Chang Sun’s *Kaengsaeng*

No. 1. So in the next spring we finally succeeded in synthesizing the CGF, which is a special material for promoting growth, the key of the research target. But....”

Choe Jang Su glared offensively at Ma, the hospital director, after looking round the treatment rooms and patients’ rooms of the Koryo medicine department with a voluminous briefcase under his arm.

“I don’t like your work,” Choe said. “I’m here to discuss the problem we talked on the phone.”

“Yes, sir,” Ma responded.

Choe slumped in the armchair in the director’s office and panted occasionally stroking his breast.

“Director, why don’t you obey my bureau’s instruction?”

Director Ma dropped his shoulder with a sidelong glance at Rim who was standing uncomfortably at the door.

“Where is the Party secretary?” Choe asked.

“He is on a business trip.” Ma replied. “Probably he will be here today or tomorrow.”

“Umm,” Choe said. “Mr. Ma, medical technology is related to human life, and it cannot be achieved with a subjective desire alone. We must live as we can, not as would.”

“Mr. Choe, we developed the CGF mainly from Koryo medicinal materials in our country. It has shown its scientific values in several experiments and treatments. And it has never caused any side effects,” Rim said politely, but Choe still drove Ma.

“The relevant jury of my bureau reported me the opposite result,” Choe cried out. “This treatment can never be permitted. It’s so dangerous. Have you already forgotten that *Kaengsaeng No. 1* was suspected for its poisonous substance? Stop the research at once.”

(To be continued)

Mt. Kuwol

MT. KUWOL IS LOCATED in northwest South Hwanghae Province in Korea. It was named Kuwol (September) after its beautiful scenery of golden leaves in autumn. It is associated with the revolutionary activities of Kim Hyong Jik, outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement in Korea, in Unryul County, South Hwanghae Province, around the time when the Korean National Association was formed. The mountain is made of granite and granitite. Having been cut by the action of the weather and erosion, it consists of curious rocks and cliffs, cone- or pyramid-shaped peaks and deep valleys. In the deep valleys including the Sansong Ravine, there are waterfalls—Ryonggyon (dragon pool) and Samhyongje (three brothers) waterfalls which have crystal-clear water making rainbows in the fog overhead—and pools. Streams like Namdaechon and Kuwolchon rise in the ravines. In the middle of the mountain is the famous Sokdam, a spring which is said to never go dry even when there comes a 7-year-long drought.

As a typical forest area in the western region of the province, the mountain has tens of species of trees like pine, oak, chestnut and maple. Various kinds of flowers bloom at the foot of the mountain and the scenes of ripening fruits like chestnut, jujube and persimmon in autumn are so conspicuous. Mt. Kuwol with rich vegetation resources is a nature reserve. In this area, more than 600 species of plants are growing; 86 spe-

cies of them are high trees. Many medicinal herbs—wild *insam*, astragalus, forest asiabell, *Angelica gigas*, *Schizandra chinensis*, *Arisaema japonicum* and wild ginger—grow in the mountain and the animals like roe deer, wild cats, pheasants, orioles, cuckoos and owls live there.

Mt. Kuwol has different sceneries from season to season. The mountain has a good deal of historical remains and relics. There were several ancient buildings like the Phaeyp Temple that were built in the early 9th century. The temple was completely ruined in the brutal bombing of the US imperialists during the Korean war.

And there is a site of the Kuwolsan Fort whose wall runs 5 230 metres around. The wall stood on ridges and peaks with sheer cliffs and dangerous geographical features. Built in the Koguryo dynasty (277 BC–AD 668), the fort is shaped like a ship: high and long from north to south, short from east to west and low in the central part. It is all surrounded by the ridges, but its western section is low letting the water from the ravines run to the west to make a waterfall. The wall was mostly trimmed on both sides leaving some sections untouched on the outer side. It has three gates—one in each of the east, west and south.

There is a site of a kiln used to bake Koryo ceramics in the fort. During the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), storehouses were built inside the eastern and western gates respectively to keep provisions in store: Grains pro-

cured from Sinchon, Samchon, Anak and Unchon areas were kept in the western storehouses and those from Unryul, Songhwa, Kwail, Jangyon and Ryongyon ▶



Samhyongje Pools in Tanphung



▶ areas in the eastern ones.

The Kuwolsan Fort was an important place in managing the administration of provisions and weapons of several regions in South Hwanghae Province centring on Mt. Kuwol.

The fort is associated with the patriotic struggle of the Korean people against the feudal rulers

and foreign invaders. While the Japanese imperialist aggressors were occupying Korea (1905–1945), the patriotic-minded people put up a volunteers' struggle with arms based in the fort. During the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953), the people in the South Hwanghae Provincial area formed the Kuwolsan People's

Guerrilla Unit and used the fort to deal sharp blows to the American invaders and the stooges.

Now the Kuwolsan Fort is an important study of the research into Koguryo's fort building.

It is now a popular public resort for sightseeing and recreation.

Kang Chol Jin



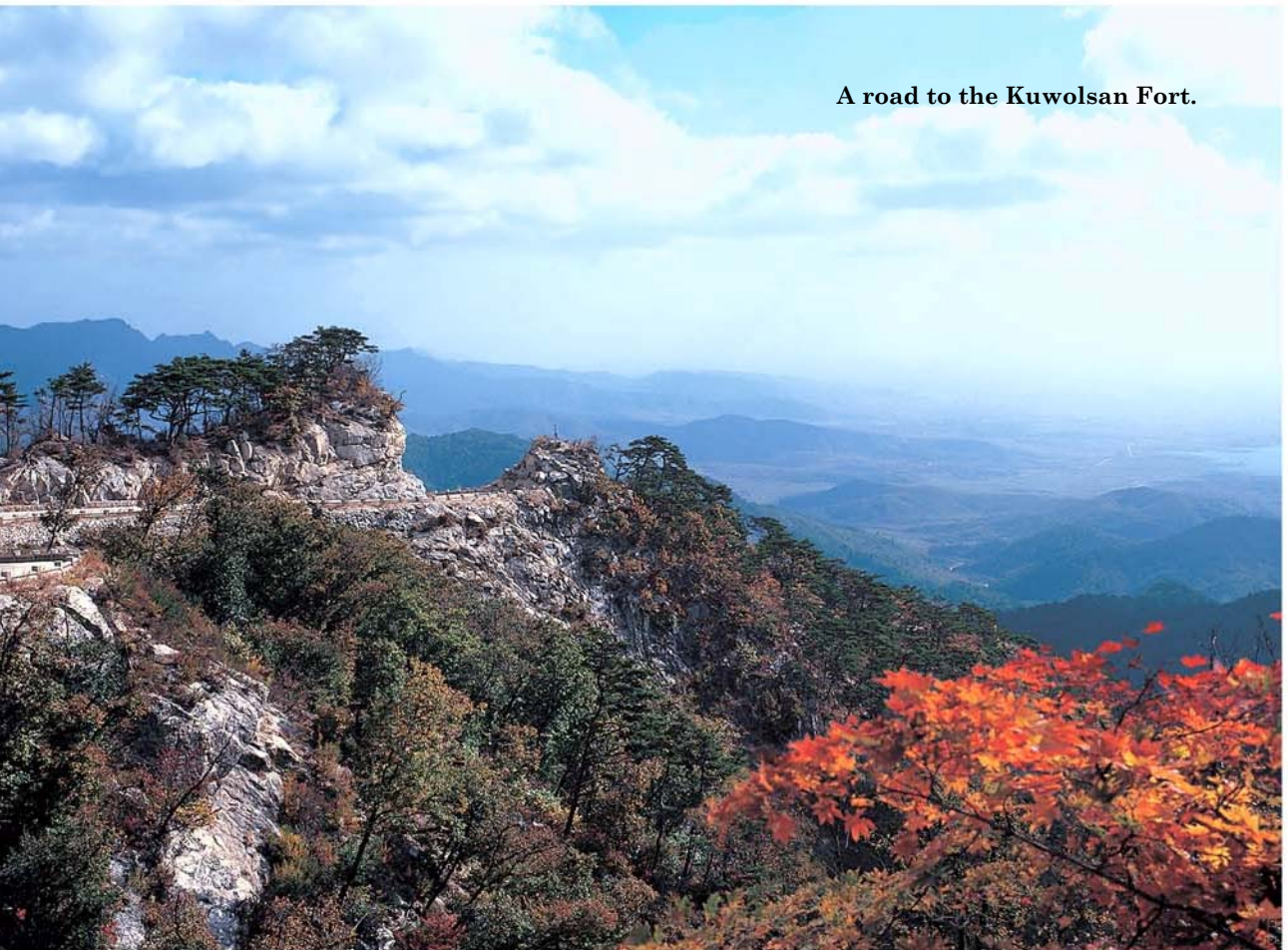
Ravine.



A wall site in Mt. Kuwol.



Frostwork in Mt. Kuwol.



A road to the Kuwolsan Fort.

National Classic—*Muyedobothongji*



MUYEDOBOTHONGJI IS AN OLD BOOK which gives a comprehensive and systematic description of Korea's traditional martial art, the historical root of Taekwon-Do popular in more than 120 countries over the world. Printed in April 1790 with wooden blocks, the book explains movements of the martial arts of neighbouring countries with the main stress on movements of traditional Korean martial arts. Earlier, in the 16th century a book titled *Muyebo* was in use about six types of martial arts, and in the mid-18th century a similar book on 18

types of martial arts was published with 12 types added to the original. By supplementing six types to the 18 types of martial arts, the book titled *Muyedobothongji* (Illustrated Book of Martial Arts) was published. It contains pictures and illustrations of movements with main weapons including sword, spear, bow and stick used on the ground or on horseback in the feudal age. Pictures drawn by Kim Hong Do, famous painter in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty, give vivid description of movements of martial arts.

The book was published as part of the publishing business of the feudal government in the 18th century to be used as manual of martial arts training for the army of the feudal Joseon dynasty, and was published several times later. The book gives a good idea of the historical development of martial arts in Korea as it additionally explains martial arts newly introduced after a war (1592-1598) to repulse the Japanese invaders.

In 1952 *Muyedobothongji* was collected in South Phyongan Province and donated to the then State Central Library thanks to a measure taken by President Kim Il Sung to find out and preserve all national cultural heritage during the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953).

The book is of great importance in studying the traditional Korean martial arts, origin of Taekwon-Do, and the Oriental martial arts that boast the history and advantages of their original martial arts.

The 7th session of the MOWCAP of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held in Vietnam in May last decided to register *Muyedobothongji* in the Asia-Pacific list of the Memory of the World of UNESCO.

The book is available at the Grand People's Study House in Pyongyang.

Ri Song Chol

Royal Mausoleums of Koryo Dynasty Unearthed Newly

RECENTLY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea two royal mausoleums of Koryo dynasty (918–1392) were newly unearthed in the Kaesong area, as part of the work to survey and unearth historical relics of Korea.

The archaeologists from the Archaeological Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, who had excavated two Koryo kings' mausoleums in Koup-ri, Jangphung County years before, made an analysis of old documentary materials including *Koryosa* (History of Koryo) and came to a conclusion that there might be mausoleums still buried in the region of Haeson-ri, Kaesong. Then they carried out a survey of the region. They were positively helped by the students of the history faculty of the Songdo College of Education, teachers of Tapdong Senior Middle School and workers of the Haeson Cooperative Farm in Kaesong City—they regard the work to preserve the Korean national legacies as a national, all-people task.

Finally two mausoleums were found in the southern slope of a hill which is about four kilometres northeast of the seat of Haeson-ri where the Mausoleum of King Wang Kon (877–943), founder of Koryo, stands. The newly found mausoleums are some 250 metres away from each other.

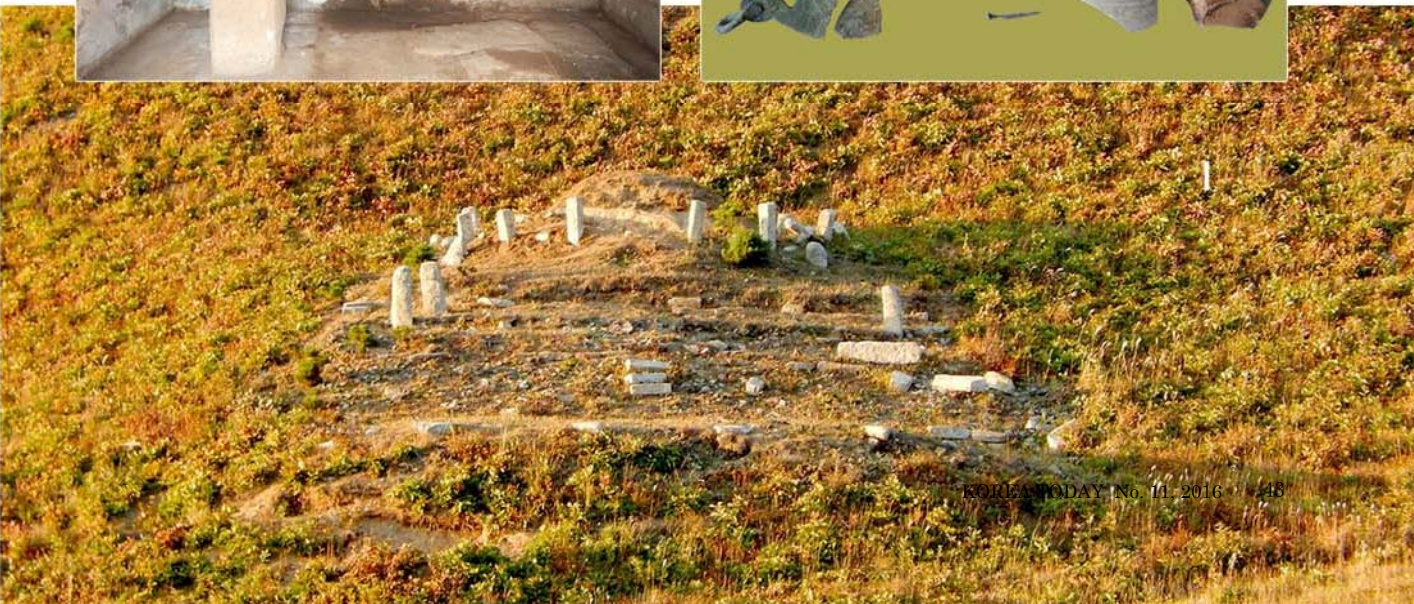
Each of the mausoleum areas is divided into

three sections by granite embankments. In the top section there is a grave mound, in the middle section stone figure sculptures, and in the bottom section the site of memorial service—as a whole this is the well-known architectural style inherent to the royal tombs of Koryo dynasty. The size and building method of the mausoleums are the same as other royal tombs of Koryo ever known. Based on the analysis of archaeological materials and old documentary records, the archaeologists decided that the newly unearthed mausoleums belong to Koryo's 9th king Tokjong (1032–1034) and 10th king Jongjong (1035–1046).

Several stone pillars support the ceiling of the burial chamber of the second mausoleum which stands farther down the slope—this is a new architectural form different from others, so it draws the attention of the academic circle. In addition, there were discovered gilt-bronze arrowheads, gilt-bronze nails, gilt-bronze plaques, silver ornaments, silver ring and broken pieces of celadon like small and large bowls.

The mausoleums newly unearthed in Kaesong that has a lot of historical relics put on the list of world cultural heritage are of importance in studying the historical development.

Sim Hyon Jin



Inter-Korean Agreements Should Be Respected

TO RESPECT AND IMPLEMENT the north-south joint declarations sincerely—this is the fundamental premise for developing the inter-Korean relations and hastening national reunification. If the north-south agreements are made null and void on account of the changed situation and replacement of government, any bilateral agreement to be reached in the future will be useless. Now the Korean nation's precious gains have been totally stamped out, the inter-Korean relations exposed to the worst ever phase of confrontation, and even contact and travel between the north and the south blocked fast. Such a grave situation shows that attitude to the north-south agreements is the touchstone to distinguish patriotism from treachery, and reunification from anti-reunification. Respecting and implementing the agreements of the Korean nation continuously and opening up a vista of independent reunification is a critical issue in ending up the tragedy of the national division and preventing the nation from being reduced to a plaything of the foreign forces.

In June 2000, 16 years ago, a north-south summit meeting took place in Pyongyang, adopting the historic June 15 North-South Joint Declaration for the first time in 55 years since the division of the nation. As soon as the joint declaration was made public, it received wholehearted support and sympathy of all the Korean people from the north, south and abroad, and brought about a dramatic change in the cause of national reunification. The north-south relations which had been hostile for over half a

century changed suddenly from mistrust and confrontation to reconciliation and cooperation. The nation's unity and reunification and cooperation and exchange in several fields were furthered by the agreements made at the inter-Korean minister-level talks from the attitude to prioritizing the Korean nation's desire and interests. Reunification-oriented agreement was also made at several dialogues and contacts between the north and the south, including conferences of the inter-Korean economic cooperation committee and its subcommittees and their working contacts, the Red Cross talks and working talks of the military authorities. In addition, family members and relatives who had been separated over half a century before came to meet several times in Pyongyang, Seoul and Mt. Kungang. South Koreans of all strata went on tours to Mts. Paektu, Kungang and Myohyang and other scenic spots in the north. Severed railways and roads were relinked between the north and the south and even air and sea routes opened.

The October 4 Declaration was adopted in 2007 as the practical programme of the June 15 Joint Declaration, bringing a hope of reunification again to the whole nation. The reality proves that the only way to put an end to the present abnormal inter-Korean relations, achieve the nation's unity and reunification and open up an avenue for independent reunification is to implement the three principles of national reunification and the joint declarations under the uplifted banner of *By Our Nation Itself*.

There will be nothing to be afraid of or impossible to do only if the north and the south share one purpose and join efforts—this is the truth substantiated by the past June 15 era. Now the US is seeking tenaciously after the ill ambition to dominate the whole Korea using the south as the springboard, and the right-wing conservative forces of south Korea are eking out their existence by toeing the US line. They are making desperate attempts to check the return of the June 15 reunification era. This is why the Korean nation's reunification movement is suffering turns and twists.

The Korean nation is steadfast in regarding the inter-Korean agreements like the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration as the milestone for national reunification and carrying them out.

The south Korean authorities should have a proper understanding of the strong will of the nation to improve the north-south relations and hasten the cause of independent reunification of the country. They should make a responsible and reasonable choice at the important crossroads at the moment.

When reunified as has been looked forward to by the entire nation, Korea will demonstrate its grandeur as a dignified world power with an 80 million population and enormous national strength, a nation with an advanced civilization that is superior to others thanks to its indomitable national spirit and unexcelled resourcefulness, and a nation of justice playing the leading role in ensuring peace in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.

Kim Hyon Ju

Human Rights Violations in South Korea

RECENTLY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS Council released a report on poor human rights conditions of south Korea. The south Korean authorities, in an attempt to shake off the public disgrace, are now stumping busily around to save their image, courting denunciation and derision alone from home and abroad. Nevertheless, they are making a fuss about the “human rights” situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, as part of their scheme to conceal the actual conditions of their community which is the worst ever human rights desert and the land devoid of democracy. The revelations in the investigation report of the UN Human Rights Council are nothing but a tip of an iceberg.

Political terrorism, as good as “Yushin” dictatorship

When hearing of time of “Yushin” dictatorship, the south Koreans become indignant. Such a dark age has come back to south Korea. The present south Korean ruler who inherited bad dispositions of her father, the “Yushin” dictator, has resorted to the political terror, unhesitatingly arresting, imprisoning and removing anyone who stands in the way of her dictatorship.

In 2013, the first year of her power, she saw to it that vice-chairman Ro Su Hui and other core members—who were of advanced ages—of the South

Headquarters of the Pan-National Alliance for Korea’s Reunification were arrested for the violation of the “national security law” and forced ideological conversion upon them. And in October that year the National Teachers’ Trade Union, a typical progressive organization in the education circle of south Korea, was branded as the “pro-north organization” and forcibly deprived of its legal position.

In December 2014 she carried out the forcible dissolution of the United Progressive Party. The south Korean authorities hatched a terrible political plot of accusing an MP of the United Progressive Party of forming an underground revolutionary organization and scheming to raise a “rebellion.” They arrested him in the “National Assembly” hall in broad daylight and sentenced him to a severe punishment. With this, the party was disbanded.

International human rights laws including the world human rights declaration and the international rules on civil and political rights stipulate prohibition of cruel and inhumane treatment and punishment like torture as core provisions to ensure the personal liberty. On the contrary south Korea has a growing number of prisoners of conscience, who are groaning in prison or suffering political murders due to forcible investigations of the south Korean judiciary.

In addition in March this year, the “law on prevention of terrorism” was manufactured as an unheard-of fascist law to legalize surveillance of and

South Koreans are out in a struggle against the present regime.



- ▶ crackdown on any people or organizations. Thus it has become “lawful” in south Korea to conduct political investigation which is treated as a felony even in the US, the origin of political terror.

Worst ever crime of strangling democracy

The social being is entitled to elementary democratic rights, that is, the freedom of speech and expression, meeting, association and demonstration. But in south Korea these are trampled on and killed mercilessly.

In the early days of her power, Park Geun Hye declared that she would “not pursue control of the press.” But this was a deception. She has resorted to a more cunning and vicious policy of taking the control of the press than those of her predecessors. She planted her close associates in important offices of the leading mass media by controlling behind the scenes the personnel problems of the public broadcasting stations. She has not allowed anyone to speak, write or make programs against her intention. Park has imposed her “speaking guideline” and “broadcasting guideline” on the press at any time, and forced them to instantly delete articles that hurt her feelings even a little as well as those representing justice and criticizing her dictatorship. She has also labelled pressmen, who were critical of the “government,” as “north followers” and mobilized the National Intelligence Service, public prosecutors and police to crack down on them.

In eight months after she took office, more than 23 790 articles were deleted from Internet sites and hundreds of sites forcibly closed according to the “national security law.” In February last year the Internet newspaper *Jaju Minbo* which had worked for social progress and justice for 15 years was closed by force.

An artist, who had painted a picture showing the present incompetent ruler as a puppet when the *Sewol* ferry sunk, suffered oppressions of all hues. When an overseas Korean woman said that “the beer is excellent and the rivers are very clean in the north” while talking about her impressions from her visit to the DPRK, she was banished forcibly from south Korea on the “charge of praising and encouraging the north’s system.”

The south Koreans of all strata condemn Park’s suppression of the press as “indiscriminate abuse of public power against the press” and “acme of suppression of the press putting the past Chun Doo Hwan junta in the shade.” International human rights organizations and watchdog press have pointed to south Korea as the worst violator of the freedom of speech.

These are not all. Denouncing Park Geun Hye who has changed their land into a worst ever human rights desert and a land devoid of democracy, the south Korean people are vigorously struggling against the present “government.”

Rim Hye Gyong

Crimes Never to Be Erased or Concealed

THIS YEAR GERMANY AND POLAND agreed to compile by 2020 a history textbook (four volumes) covering even the modern ages of Europe. The international community welcomes the positive moves of Germany to break with its unsavoury past, develop friendly relations with neighbouring countries and promote peace in Europe.

On the contrary, Japan, styling itself as a pacifist state, is engrossed in shameless acts, still denying its past crimes. A typical example is that history textbooks which consist of distorted contents passed state examinations without a hitch and are now in use at Japanese schools. In the textbooks, Tok Islets which have already been recognized historically and by the international law as belonging to Korea are described as the “Japanese territory” and there is even the mentioning of such a pseudo-theory as the one on “Imna under Japanese control,” which turned out to be groundless and unscientific long ago. (The Korean historians proved that “Imna under Japanese control” mentioned in the book *Nihon Shoki* (History of Japan) was a synonym of the Yamato state’s official agency or its head in the Kaya (Imna) ministate in the Kibi region in west Japan, and that “Wae,” one of the characters inscribed in the Monument to King Kwanggaetho, which was cited as key proof of the theory on “Imna under Japanese control,” indicates the forces of the Kaya lineage in the area of Itoshima peninsula in northern Kyushu, instead of the Yamato government in the Kinai region. The circumstances, absurdity, reactionary nature, and falsehood of the theory were fully exposed and criticized and it was decided to be a pseudo-theory.) In terms of the past sex slavery issue, under the pretext of the “agreement” with the present south Korean authorities to cover the sex slavery crimes with a trifle of money, the expression “it was legally settled” was inserted instead of the deleted expression “the military was involved in the effort to collect the sex slavery.”

Japan’s distortion of history is not confined to the Korean nation. It reduced and changed much of ▶

Japanese and south Korean students demonstrate for apology and indemnity for sex slavery crimes of the Japanese army.



house for examination and also rejected several times other textbooks until the government's plan of revision was accepted.

Then, what does Japan seek to have through the distortion of history? It wants to realize its ill ambition of reinvasion of Asia and the old dream of "the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere," based on revanchist feelings of the coming generations. As a result,

the Japanese distortion of history is not merely an academic problem, but criminal manoeuvres to revive the militarism.

At present, the Japanese distortion of history is one of the most dangerous political issues in the international community. A foreign press once said: "Abe economics" is nearly on the verge of bankruptcy, "Abe politics" is under suspicion of violation of the constitution and "Abe military science" is racing hard for arms buildup; but even if these are all put together, they will be less dangerous than the harm that "Abe pedagogy" will do to Japan itself and the Asia-Pacific region in the future.

In spite of such an apprehension of the international community, Japan is getting more bellicose. The present Japanese authorities, with a delusion that they could realize the ambition of Tojo who ended up in ruin trying to make Japan "leader" of Asia and claiming the world supremacy, must know one thing clearly: it is a present international current to liquidate the guilty past and head for reconciliation and peace.

Oblivion of the past will bring about a bigger blunder.

Kim Hyon Ju

▶ the data on its crimes in other Asian countries. It publishes and uses the textbooks which deny the present reality and claim its possession in the matter of territory, provoking a strong anger in neighbouring countries.

As mentioned above, it gives the students a distorted historical view by using the textbooks full of lies, thus corrupting the mind of its younger generation. Now among the Japanese young people, "superiority of the Yamato nation" and national chauvinism are rising and Japan's past atrocities are deemed as the "liberator's mistake" and "inevitable sacrifice." More serious is the heavily inclined conception that "Japan is the victim, not criminal," and that "Japan must take revenge on its enemy."

This has all been brought about by the intentional manipulation and high-handedness of the present Japanese government running headlong to the ultraright. In March last, *Asahi Shimbun* disclosed the fact that the Japanese government put pressure tenaciously to make a drastic revision of the contents of the high school textbooks to suit its taste during the state examinations. According to it, the Japanese Ministry of Education and Science gave as many as 206 items of instruction for revision of the textbook *History of Japan* presented by a publishing

How Long Will They Say No?

TODAY MANY COUNTRIES ARE MARVELING at the reality of the DPRK. They admire the country for its manufacture and launch of artificial satellites, its powerful nuclear deterrent, and its energy in pushing the building of a socialist power. However, only the US is neglecting such a reality with constitutional antipathy toward Pyongyang, making a desperate attempt to stifle it while clinging to the policy of sanctions, isolation and suffocation.

Sanctions, Isolation and Suffocation After False Charge

Whenever the DPRK launched a satellite the United States doggedly claimed it as “launch of a ballistic missile,” applying sanctions against the country. When Korea launched its first satellite, the US clamoured about “military countermeasure,” ignoring agreements between the DPRK and the USA in which it commits itself to no hostility but respect for Pyongyang. It went so far as to forge “sanctions resolutions” and “presidential statements” one after another in the name of the UN, enumerating all sorts of sanctions items to isolate Korea. Moreover, it abused the UN arena to instigate its vassal nations.

What makes matters worse is that the US is seeking such a mean policy while it recognizes Korea’s success in the satellite launches. When Korea launched *Kwangmyongsong 3-2*, the North American Aerospace Defense Command recognized it wholly. Nevertheless, Washington fabricated a “sanctions resolution” at the UNSC. Regarding the launch of earth observation satellite *Kwangmyongsong 4* early this year the US strategic forces command acknowledged the satellite’s entering into orbit, and similar voices of acknowledgement were heard across the world. Nevertheless, the US cooked up another sinister “sanctions resolution” with its vassal forces in the name of the UNSC.

Commenting that the Americans’ concern is not what is done but who does it, the Western media judged that to determine legality and illegality by the difference in systems is obviously double standard.

Result of Inherent Antagonism

Over the past decades the United States has seriously violated international laws and neglected the DPRK’s strenuous effort to keep peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the region.

Immediately after the armistice the DPRK proposed to hold a political conference of a higher level to establish a stable peace mechanism in the Korean peninsula, and has since made numerous proposals for peace. Some typical ones are the proposal to hold the DPRK-USA talks in the 1970s, three-party talks

involving the DPRK, USA and south Korea in the 1980s, and negotiation between military authorities of the DPRK and the US to establish a new peace mechanism to cope with the prevailing situation caused by the latter’s moves to wreck the armistice machinery in the 1990s.

On the other hand, the DPRK has made painstaking efforts to remove the US’s nuclear threat. In 1959 it made a proposal to create a nuclear-free, peace zone in Asia, in 1981 the one to create a nuclear-free, peace zone in Northeast Asia and in 1986 the one to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

In recent years the DPRK made proposals of crucial importance to deal with the situation in which the US’s anti-DPRK hostile policy has gone to such an extent of making a reckless threat of nuclear strike against Pyongyang endangering the nation’s sovereignty and destiny. It also proposed that the US make a bold political decision to halt joint military exercises conducted under the cloak of “annual” and “defensive” program while the DPRK taking corresponding practical measures at the same time. The US, however, branded all the endeavour of the DPRK as “camouflaged peace offensive” and an effort aiming at “publicity effect,” aggravating the situation more serious. These days, clamouring about the “possible collapse” of Korea, it is resorting to sanctions and joint military rehearsals to translate its scheme of “occupation of Pyongyang” into reality.

Suffering from the US’s nuclear threat for scores of years the Korean people found their own way out. In March 1993 the DPRK government made public a statement declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and conducted the first underground nuclear test in 2006. And in January 2016 it successfully carried out an H-bomb test. Consequently, the structure of confrontation came into being in the Korean peninsula—between the housebreaker with nukes and the master who is determined to defend himself with nukes. When the DPRK successfully launched its artificial earth satellites exercising its right as sovereign state, the US said “no,” and when there came voices favouring Korea’s deterrent in the international community and even in America, Washington always insisted “no.” It still says “no” to the DPRK’s proposal to terminate the tragedy of division and create a peaceful environment in the Korean peninsula.

Now Korea has enough power to tackle any mode of warfare wanted by the US and is ready to take tough countermeasures against the hostile forces’ violation of its sovereignty and provocation. This is a result from the successive US administrations’ inherent antagonism toward the DPRK. Now it is the US’s turn to answer the question, “How long will you say no?”

Kim Yong Un

Kwangbop Temple

THE KWANGBOP TEMPLE IN TAESONG-dong, Taesong District, Pyongyang, was built during the reign of King Kwanggaetho in the Koguryo dynasty (277 BC–AD 668), and overhauled in 1727. It was completely destroyed in the bombing by the US imperialists in July 1952 during the Korean war, but restored to its original state in 1990.

The temple is composed of the Haethal Gate, the Chonwang Gate, the Taeung Hall, east and west Buddhist monasteries and a five-storey octagonal pagoda. The buildings are arranged symmetrically with the pagoda-crossing line as the axis. It was a common method of building temples in the period of Koguryo to locate buildings on four sides centring on a pagoda.

The Taeung Hall, the main building of the temple, is a grandiose two-storey building with a gabled roof. It has three bays in facade and three bays on side. Inside the hall are placed three Buddhist im-

ages including that of Sakyamuni, and pasted a Buddhist painting. The hall is gorgeously painted. There are carved images of young monks astride an elephant and a lion in the Haethal Gate and those of four heavenly guardians in the Chonwang Gate.

Preserved in the temple are a lotus pond with a long history, a monument to the Kwangbop Temple erected in 1727 and a monument to the extension and painting of the Kwangbop Temple which was erected later. The epitaph on the monument to the temple records a legend about nine dragons and 99 ponds in Mt. Taesongguryong.

The temple in the beautiful Mt. Taesong is a valuable cultural legacy showing the advanced architectural art of the Koguryo people. It is an important study of the history and culture of Koguryo and successive states. It is well preserved as national treasure.

Ri Kyong Chol



