



KOREA TODAY

10

Juche 107

(2018)

Socialist Korea Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

SEPTEMBER 9 IS THE FOUNDING anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). On the day this year the country celebrated its 70th birthday. The history of the DPRK, spanning 70 years, is the one of tremendous changes and great victory. Over the years the Korean people, under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, have worked energetically to build a powerful socialist country—independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence—as masters of their destiny.

Founding of the DPRK and the Course of Its Heroic Struggle

It is well known that Korea had been under the

military occupation of the Japanese imperialists for more than 40 years. When it was liberated on August 15, 1945, it had neither state administration nor an official name. Kim Il Sung, who later was elected as the eternal President of the DPRK, saw through the critical situation in which the Korean people might either fall into the slavery of foreign forces again or become able to take hold of their own fate. At this juncture he appealed to the people to achieve the historic cause of building an independent sovereign state immediately. No more than five days after national liberation he set forth the line of building a prosperous and independent sovereign state with the Koreans' own effort.

In hearty response to his policy of nation building, all the patriotic-minded people rallied firmly and

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un acknowledges the enthusiastic cheers of the participants in the military parade and the public procession of Pyongyang citizens in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK in September 2018.



► solved all problems relating to the state building by dint of the unity. Thus came the first ever democratic state in the history of the Korean nation spanning 5 000 years.

Kim Il Sung founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 9, 1948, which was an epochal event that brought to accomplishment the cherished desire of the Korean people for a genuine state power of the masses of the people. With the establishment of the Republic the Korean people emerged as a new dignified and powerful people with their destiny in their own hands, and Korea which had been eclipsed from the world map





Kim Jong Un waves back to the cheering crowds in September 2018.

► launched into the international arena as a proud independent and sovereign state.

Since its founding the DPRK has steadfastly marched along the road of building a powerful socialist country. Maintaining the Juche idea as the guiding ideology of the state, President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il built up the country as a genuine socialist country by solving all problems arising in state building and activity from the Juche-oriented stand. Over the years the country strengthened and developed into an independent state that regards independence as its lifeline and maintains the principle of Juche consistently.

The DPRK government has developed all the fields of politics, defence, the economy and foreign relations in its own way by thoroughly applying the policy of independence in state building and activity. As a result, the Republic has been able to follow an original course in its development without any vacillation.

The history of the DPRK can also be called the course of the country developing into a genuine people's state where the popular masses are the masters of everything and everything serves the people. President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, adopting "The people are my God" as the fundamental idea in state building, consolidated

the government into the representative of the people's right to independence, the organizer of their creative abilities, the administrator responsible for their livelihood and the protector of their interest. Many valuable and beautiful structures in the country have the word "people" in their names and popular policies were enforced invariably without interruption even in the hard time—this is eloquent proof of the popular character of the Republic.

By administering the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of prioritizing, respecting and loving the people, the government has become the most stable and secure state power that enjoys the absolute trust and support of the masses. The government and the people deem it as a thing of infinite pride and honour that they have faithfully maintained the ideal of national independence and love for the people—ideals set forth in the days of nation building—over the past 70 years which have witnessed a lot of vicissitudes in the world.

Demonstration of the Will to Build Powerful Nation

Now the DPRK has entered a booming time in its effort to build a thriving socialist nation under the wise guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. ►

► The leader is giving sagacious guidance to the effort to hold fast to the revolutionary character of the Juche-type socialist state and accomplish President Kim Il Sung's and Chairman Kim Jong Il's patriotic desire for a prosperous nation under the banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. Supported by the rapidly growing force of the spirit of self-reliance plus science and technology, a new era of radical change is opening for successful materialization of the people's dream and ideal and general mobilization of the potentials of the self-sufficient economy. The reality is convincing the Korean people of the future of their

country which will develop into a more prosperous socialist country.

The Koreans have demonstrated their conviction through the recent celebrations of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

A national meeting took place on the occasion in the presence of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

On September 9 a military parade and a public procession of Pyongyangites took place in Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang as part of the celebrations. It was attended by Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, Chairman ►





Scenes from the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance “The Glorious Country” given in September 2018 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.



► of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and Supreme Commander of the Korean People’s Army. Present on the occasion were Li Zhanshu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China; Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Salvador Antonio Valdes Mesa, first vice-president of the Council of State and first vice-president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba; Helal Al-Helal, deputy regional secretary of Syria’s Arab Socialist Baath Party; Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko, chairwoman of the Russian Federation Council, and heads of Party, state and government delegations, special envoys and personages from various countries, who were on a visit to Korea to participate in the celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

The military parade was followed by a grand procession of Pyongyangites. Keeping in step with the melody of the songs “The Glorious Motherland” and “Ode to the Motherland” the column bearing the DPRK flags passed, and when the columns carrying the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il entered the square the characters representing the names of the national leaders appeared in the square, followed by the characters denoting “Celebration 70,” “Juche,” “Single-hearted Unity” and others. Then there came columns of meritorious people, wives of service personnel, farm workers, sportspeople and Children’s Union members who were carrying floats and slogans bearing the phrases of “70 Years of Victory and Glory,” “Birth of Juche Korea,” “Happy Home Guarded by Chairman Kim Jong Il,” “Great Socialist Family,” “We Are the Happiest in the World,” “Along the Socialist Road” and so on. Columns of the workers, scientists, teachers and other people also marched forward holding placards including the one of “All out in the struggle to implement the decision of the April 2018 plenary meeting of the WPK Central Committee!”

After a number of groups passed, there appeared the demonstrators who, flying the flags of the Party and the Republic, passed by the square proudly in step with the tunes of the songs “We Will Follow Our Party Forever” and “We’ll Travel One Road Forever,” displaying their pledge that they would follow the road of revolution without vacillation.

Through the military parade and ►

▶ procession the Koreans gave a strong demonstration of their intrepid spirit to build a powerful socialist country of Juche on their land without fail under the leadership of their great Party.

One of the extravaganzas in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK was the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance “The Glorious Country.” Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju saw the performance. Consisting of the prelude “Sunrise on Mt Paektu,” “Our Socialist Homeland,” “Victorious Road,” “New Era in the Offing,” “Reunified 3 000-ri Land,” and “International Friendship,” the entertainment unfolded an ecstatic world of art dedicated to the display of the truth that the power and dignity of socialist Korea yesterday and

today and the prosperous future of Kim Il Sung’s and Kim Jong Il’s Korea are all attributable to the guidance of its great leaders. The performance was crowned with the finale “We Have the Great Party.” It was a dynamic display of the single-hearted unity of socialist Korea united firmly behind the Workers’ Party of Korea as well as the image of the great nation that is marching forward in high spirit and with confidence in their own efforts.

The indomitable will of the Korean people to push ahead with the building of a powerful socialist country under the leadership of the Workers’ Party of Korea was evident in other celebration functions.

Yom Song Hui

Scenes from young vanguard’s torchlight procession “Youth, forward, demonstrating valiant mettle of heroic Korea!” held in September 2018 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK.



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Monthly journal *Korea Today* is printed and posted on the Internet site www.korean-books.com.kp in English, Russian and Chinese.



Front Cover: With a dream of becoming a space scientist

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Manmulsang in Mt Kumgang in autumn

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok

13502 ☎ - 1882032

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Magazines 2018

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Land of Education

IN KOREA THE UNIVERSAL 12-YEAR compulsory education is in force amid the flames of a revolution in education in the new century, and a nationwide, all-people campaign is under way to improve educational conditions and environment.

When they recall the compulsory education, the Korean people do not forget the immortal feats of President Kim Il Sung who took pains to establish the best education system whereby all people learn. He already put forward the compulsory free education programme in the *Ten-point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland* during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. After liberation of Korea in August 1945 from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation he further developed and enriched the programme, thus advancing an idea of the universal free education.

The idea requires that on a principle whereby a socialist state takes full responsibility for education of the people, that all members of the society from children to the elderly be regarded as eligible for free education, and that the state take financial and material burdens related to all sorts of educational

expenses including those for preschool, school, social and adult education.

Thanks to the idea an intensive drive to abolish illiteracy was in full swing in the liberated Korea, and thus millions of working youths possessed the knowledge of primary school graduate standards in a short span of time. And a system of the state scholarship for college and university students was enforced from September 1, 1947 according to the decision on granting scholarship to college and university students. Later, the number of grantees of scholarships increased gradually.

The victory of the socialist revolution and the establishment of the advanced socialist system in the country in 1958 enabled all members of the society to become socialist workers. In keeping with the reality the Cabinet decision "On the universal abolishment of the students' school fees" was adopted in 1959 in order to thoroughly implement the principle by which the state takes full responsibility for education of all the working people, and it was proclaimed that the universal free education system would be enforced from April 1 that year. As a result, all the working people and their children came to be free from all

At a computer lesson.



▶ sorts of school expenses for ever.

The country founded educational institutions of various levels from primary school to university in a short span of time after its liberation and, based on a well-organized democratic education system, it enforced the universal compulsory education stage by stage as the revolution and construction advanced and the economy developed.

The publication of *Theses on Socialist Education* on September 5, 1977 laid a solid foundation for further developing socialist education in the country. The theses elucidate in a comprehensive way the theory of socialist pedagogy, principles to be maintained in education, contents of education, method of teaching and other issues in developing socialist education. The publication of the theses laid a fundamental guideline for training independent, creative and revolutionary talents in the country, thus making it possible to push ahead with education vigorously. The universal 11-year compulsory education that covered one-year compulsory preschool education and ten-year compulsory school education was enforced successfully, and a policy came into effect which enabled all the working people to study compulsorily enrolled at a certain education system.

After publication of the theses on socialist education, schools at all levels increased in the country. And primary and secondary education systems, a higher education system and a study-while-working system were established in an orderly manner. A system was laid to educate gifted children, and conditions were provided to enable all people to study, for example, the Grand People's Study House. The contents, forms and methods of education were improved radically as required by the developing era, and school education, social education and home education were combined organically. Schoolchildren's palaces and camps and other bases for extracurricular education appeared on the best spots in the country. Branch schools were built each for a few children in the secluded islets and mountain villages, and school trains and boats were put into operation.

Chairman Kim Jong Il carried forward the idea of the universal free education. A well-organized system of educating gifted children was established across the country, and free compulsory education was carried on without interruption during the hard time of the Arduous March and the forced march. The university education and the secondary general education were improved as required by the new century, and educational conditions and environment were bettered in many universities and schools,

including Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology and Mubong Senior Middle School in Samjiyon County.

Today the Juche-oriented education in the country has entered a new stage of its development thanks to the guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. He originated a unique idea of making all the people well versed in science and technology and effected the universal 12-year compulsory education. And a distance education system and a sci-tech dissemination network covered the whole country. The Sci-Tech Complex where all people can learn was built, and school buildings and extracurricular education bases have been updated in such a way as to meet the pedagogical requirement and the educational environment of the new century.

The higher education sector chooses the type of talents and the goal of their training in a scientific and realistic way, and accordingly perfects the education system. And universities at all levels are speeding up the unification of education in keeping with their mission and duty as a hub of scholarship, information, data service and distance education. Meanwhile, a study-while-working system is steadily

▶ readjusted in accordance with the requirement of the era, thus actively promoting the work of making all the people well versed in science and technology.

In the secondary education sector higher technical schools are on the increase according to the regional characteristics and the demand for the technical personnel. And it develops a new extracurricular education system which closely combines extracurricular education and edification with school education. A nationwide distance education system for teachers in active service was completed in a short time, and the online education in teacher-training colleges is developing rapidly.

With the constant updating of the contents, forms and methods of primary and secondary education, the textbooks and reference books for teaching are written on the principle of putting primary and secondary education on a theoretical basis.

Now the whole country has turned out in the struggle to bring about again a new turn in education, true to the historic slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!" put forward in the April Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Sim Chol Yong



The Sci-Tech Complex.



Primary Attention to Education

Building of State Organ Changes into School Building

ON APRIL 1, 1954, EIGHT MONTHS AFTER the ceasefire, Kim Il Sung made the rounds of schools in Pyongyang on the occasion of the beginning of the new school year. When he saw the war-ravaged schools and the children studying there, his heart hurt.

Time passed, and officials told him that it was past lunch time. Then Kim Il Sung said that as it was a significant day that school started for children, he would look around one more school even if he skipped his lunch, and went to the then Pyongyang Primary School No. 19.

Stepping into a classroom of the school he carefully looked at the furnishings of the classroom, including glossily-cleaned desks different in shape and size and the blackboard. Now he turned his eyes to a noticeboard (it was made by the pupils) hanging on the back wall of the room. Pasted on the board was an emulation graph showing how many bricks each pupil collected. After seeing what were drawn and written on the noticeboard Kim Il Sung told the accompanying officials that the children were admirable, and earnestly said that they should build schools for children as early as possible.

The officials had thought that it was unavoidable that they could not pay attention to the construction of schools as everything was in short supply in the country at that time. While correcting their wrong thinking Kim Il Sung looked around the interior and exterior of the school before coming out of it. Suddenly, he pointed at a building opposite the school and asked the officials what the building was. One of them replied that it was

a new office building of the Ministry of Commerce. Then he asked them if it could be used as the building of the school. They did not give a ready answer for they knew that there was no other building for the ministry if it vacated the building at that time.

Mentioning that the ministry could construct another building by itself and that the officials of the ministry could do their work in a small house for the time being, he determinedly said that the building should be vacated for the pupils. So the office building, to which they were busy moving, changed into the school.

Later, he had the construction of schools included in a major construction plan, and took revolutionary measures for ministries, central organs, agencies and enterprises to turn out for the construction of schools in a short span of time.

First E-library in Korea

On September 19, 2001, Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected Kim Chaek University of Technology. Looking around the education and science exhibition hall and the sci-tech information reading room of the university the Chairman praised the teachers and researchers for their successes, and corrected the shortcomings of their educational and scientific work. Then he sat knee-to-knee with professors and doctors of the university to concretely teach them how to improve the qualifications of teachers remarkably.

That day he saw a relief map of the panorama of the university and learned in detail about the state of construction of its library. At that time, the frame of the library had been finished. Advising that the library should be built into an e-library he said that the design was not good as

▶ the architectural model of the library showed, and that the building should be large if it was to contain all necessary books. But if it was rearranged into an e-library, it did not need to be so large, he added and went on to say that it should be redesigned and built nicely by referring to e-libraries of other countries so that it could become the best e-library in Asia.

It was a global trend at that time to build an e-library to store and use information in keeping with the rapid development of science and technology and the explosive increase of the sci-tech information as good as “information flood” and “information crisis.” However, the construction of an e-library needs a huge sum of money, for it requires the establishment of information communication network and information service system. So, even developed countries arranged e-libraries by equipping the existing libraries with some information equipment. At the time every penny counted in Korea, and officials could not think of constructing an advanced e-library.

On January 4, 2006, he revisited the university and looked round the completed e-library. Soon afterwards he took measures to renovate the e-library in terms of technical equipment and operation, saying that however difficult the country’s situation was, it should be arranged well enough to have nothing wanted in the future.

The four-storey e-library has a total floor space of 16 535 square metres. Consisting of 15 e-reading rooms and 11 reading rooms it can share information with other institutions, including Kim Il Sung University, the Grand People’s Study House and the State Academy of Sciences, via the State network. And it makes it possible to have access to the global trend in sci-tech development and necessary data and knowledge through the Internet.

Best Apartment Houses for Teachers

▶ On September 28, 2013, Supreme Leader

Kim Jong Un visited again the construction site of the apartment houses for teachers of Kim Il Sung University, which were near to completion.

Early in January of the year the Supreme Leader proposed to build the best apartment houses for teachers of the university. After the project started, he came to the site to learn about its progress and took necessary measures.

That day he looked into Flat No. 301 of Block No. 2. He said that an oval mirror should be hung on the wall near the door so that they might comb their hair or primp themselves before it before going out, and that a bookshelf should be fixed on the wall above the desk in the study so that they might keep on it the books they usually read. In this way he taught in detail what the officials and builders had not thought of before.

Back out of the flat he asked if the lift was in operation. One official answered that it was in control test after its installation. Then he asked where the indoor recreation hall was. Told that it was on the 17th floor he said he would go up there, heading for the stairs. The officials repeatedly entreated him to go up later by the lift when it was in normal operation. But he said that he should walk up for exercise and began to go up the stairs. Elderly officials followed him, then he told them to remain on the spot as it would be hard for them to climb the stairs.

It was still hot, and the inside of the building was humid, so sweat would roll down the back when climbing one or two storeys. Dripping with perspiration he reached the hall. Saying with satisfaction it was well arranged in a unique way, he acquainted himself in detail with the plan of finishing its floor, and instructed that artificial grass should be laid beneath the windows.

Coming out of the building the Supreme Leader said in delight that the apartment houses for teachers of Kim Il Sung University were really wonderful and that he felt satisfaction.

That day he climbed 272 steps. □

Pioneers of Pedagogy

THE ACADEMY OF PEDAGOGY HAS MADE a tremendous contribution to the development of education by studying and expounding theoretical and practical problems arising in improving the nation's education since it was founded in December 1959. It is now well known across the country.

The academy consists of the Higher and Normal Education Institute, the General Education Institute, the Educational Equipment Manufacture and Distribution Centre, the Educational Multimedia Studio, and attached schools in Pyongyang, North Hwanghae Province and other regions.

At the moment the academy is engaged in the planned study of how to decide proper scope and level of education for each stage of preschool and school instruction, and how to work out an accurate educational programme so as to improve teaching methods and management of school. Efforts are also directed to development of modern means and facilities of education.

Choe Kwang Su, member of the research guidance department, says, "If we are to put the 12-year compulsory education on a scientific basis, we have to give definite priority to the study of pedagogy ahead of educational practice."

Recently researchers have energetically engaged themselves in the work of opening a new phase of modern educational theory and distributing it in order to put the nation's education on a scientific basis. The leading role in this campaign is now being played by the researchers of the Higher and Normal Education Institute.

One January day last year a serious discussion was held in the office of the director of the institute with the participation of several department heads and researchers. The item on the agenda was how to keep education in step with the developing reality. Director Jo Song Nam stressed that they had to give precedence to the project of making an accurate estimation of the possibility of educational progress in the future if they were to further develop the educational work of the country.

Now the institute began to study educational prediction with which to make an effective adjustment and control of different kinds of human and material elements in the educational work. It put great efforts in making a profound research into the nation's general situation of higher education, educational

management, strategy of educational development, educational planning and other projects. Researchers from other departments of the Academy of Pedagogy and various colleges offered a helping hand. Thanks to the pool of wisdom and endeavour the researchers made extensive studies about educational prediction, thus publishing the book titled "Theoretical Studies



of Educational Prediction" in only six months. The book serves as the foundation on which to work out strategies of educational management and development and educational plans while pushing the training of talent according to a perspective plan regarding the total demand of the national economy for able personnel, the demand of each sector and region for learned people and rational distribution of them.

Besides, the researchers produced the book "Studies of Theoretical Control of Education," which is of great importance in putting educational work on a scientific and modern basis and improving the quality of education drastically. The book serves as pedagogical foundation necessary for studying systematic educational control and the procedure, form and law of the control on the basis of control science. It also makes it possible to solve a lot of theoretical and practical problems in education on a higher scientific level. In addition, nine kinds of books including "Theoretical Study of College Management," "Theoretical Study of Higher Education," "Study of Teaching Theory of Technical College," and "Comparative Theoretical Study of Higher Education" were written.

The researchers of the General Education Institute finished in a short period of time the writing of new teaching materials for senior and junior middle schools, primary schools and kindergartens (preschool education), which are needed for the implementation of the 12-year compulsory education programme. In particular, the kindergarten books "I Am Going to Primary School," "White Snow Falls" and "The Rainbow Village" were highly evaluated at the examination for their suitability to children's psychology.

The Educational Multimedia Studio has made thousands of videos for subjects of general education and had them introduced into teaching practice. The Educational Equipment Manufacture and Distribution Centre is dynamically pushing the work of modernizing experimental and practice equipment including multifunctional whiteboards and have them introduced in the whole educational sector.

The officials and researchers of the academy are now devoting all their wisdom to pedagogical research under the slogan of "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!"

Sim Chol Yong

Efforts are made to develop facilities and methods of education and edification suited to children's psychology.



Talents Are Growing

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED Changdok School situated in Chilgol-dong No. 1, Mangyong-dae District, Pyongyang.

While entering the front gate I saw good species of trees including pine trees planted around the school going well with faraway high-rise apartments. Indeed the scenery was

as beautiful as a picture.

When I was seeing pupils playing on the playground of green artificial turf, Jon Jong Ho, headmaster of the school, approached and said, "All visitors to my school express their envy. It is because mine is the alma mater of President Kim Il Sung."

Then he guided me to a place where there is preserved a historic building fronted by a statue of young Kim Il Sung in school uniform—Kim Il Sung had studied in the building. We made a bow respectfully in front of the statue and looked round the old building before going to the building of the school.



In an E-reading Room

Inside the building I found the walls of the ground-floor corridor hung with boards dedicated to the introduction of common sense and formulas for pupils' education and edification. Then I heard a melody telling a recess. It was time for pupils to drink soya milk, the headmaster said and guided me to an e-reading room.

"This room enables us to get necessary scientific and technical data through the national network quickly and accurately so as to improve the quality of education steadily," he explained.

In the centre of the room, there was a large oval table on which

computers and necessary equipment were arranged in a circle. And its walls were hung with boards of various common sense. So it made me feel as if I were in a scientific institute.

The headmaster said: In this room the teachers not only get various data needed for the improvement of their qualifications including the advanced sci-tech data and those on the world trend in the development of education and positively introduce them into educational practice but also get distance learning from central universities. And it serves as a venue for teaching contests, discussions of teaching methods and so on to improve the teachers' qualifications.

The old building of Changdok School and a classroom where Kim Il Sung studied.



Pupils' Ability Improves

After looking round the e-reading room, we were passing by the room of 2-6 class. The classroom was furnished with modern teaching tools including an LCD TV and a real object projector, and the pupils were enthusiastically doing something with computers.

They were now having an online examination, the headmaster said and added: All their computers are connected with the school's intranet, so they can read necessary e-data they want, and have an online lesson. When the examination is finished, their marks, the method of solving the problems and the results are dis-

played. This obviously helps the pupils improve their practical abilities.

Jon Kyong Hui, teacher in charge of the network control room, said, "The school established a real-time classwork inspection system, a daily routine execution system based on automatic music broadcasting and a teaching administration and management system and made the experimental and practical education IT-based by means of interfaces."

Listening to her explanation, we looked round the network control room and different laboratories and department rooms. Suddenly we stopped in front of the department of literature.

For Improving the Qualifications

An Jong Ryon, a literature teacher, was giving a lecture before the other members of the department by using the multimedia she had prepared. After her lecture was over, the teachers expressed their opinions.

Choe Pun I, head of the department, said, "Through regular classwork inspection and teaching discussion, we find our merits and demerits for the purpose of improving our teaching effect."

Soon they would have a meet-



A discussion is under way about teaching methods.

ing for judgment of ability by department, she added and guided me to the instruction section where the teachers were gathered. At the meeting there were raised problems in improving their computer-related skills including that of making various multimedia. With education made IT-based on a higher level, the problems and their methods of solving them were unusual, so it was not easy to decide the result.

The headmaster said, "Last year we developed a teacher's program *Multifunctional Teaching-Studying Aid System—Changdok 1.0*, and it is making a contribution to the education and edification. In the future, we'll fur-

ther renovate the educational condition and environment and constantly improve the teachers' qualifications as required by the developing reality so as to train more and more talented persons."

The school has brought about some achievements in the educational work: 95 percent of its teachers have won the title of the October 8 Model Teacher; and a pupil became a thrice winner of the gold medal of the International Math Olympiad.

I left the school picturing a bright future of the pupils growing into talents in such a modern school.

Pak Thae Ho

Experiments help consolidate what is learned in class.



Talent Training by Distance Education System

THREE YEARS HAVE passed since an online college was opened at Kim Il Sung University. Founded with four departments, the college now has 18 departments, and the number of students has grown from 300 up to as many as 11 000. In keeping with the trend of developing distance education worldwide, standards have been established for teaching curricula and operational system, while different processes of the preparation of teaching plans have been updated so as to cut the period of time of preparation and improve the quality steadily. A well-organized distance learning network has been laid and a lot of efforts have been channelled into creating an environment for students to attend lectures at any time and at any place without any inconvenience. As a result the distance education has paid off profusely in reality.

Students enrolled at the online college of the university from the industrial sector have made in-

novations in developing programs envisaged in the state IT strategy. A typical one is *Saengmyongson* (lifeline) 1.0, a simulation program to be used in training workers in continuous production processes, a program that is the first of its kind in the country. The successful invention was introduced in the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex. The version for train-

ing thermal power plant workers makes it possible to finish the training course in one or two years instead of the conventional period of 10 or 20 years. So it is paying off profusely in reality because power plants are short of workers, particularly skilled ones, and the training of workers is lagging behind the developing reality. A national program contest and exhibition held in November 2015 awarded a diploma of Good IT Product of National Importance to *Saengmyongson 1.0*.

One year later *Saengmyongson 2.0* was selected as a 2016 Good IT Product of National Importance at the National IT Achievement Exhibition 2016, thus winning a Good Product diploma.

Meanwhile, other students of the online college have undertaken mammoth IT projects of provincial and national importance. Those of the computer science department developed and introduced large-size projects like Publications Distribution System, Information

System for Integrated Manufacturing and Management at the Sinuiju Streptomycin Plant, helping to put publications distribution service and operation of industrial enterprises on the IT basis.

Students majoring in agriculture are also carrying on sci-tech research projects of national importance successfully. In 2016 one of the old students who had finished a two-year course developed *Ppuri* (root) program, an integrated manufacturing and management system for Sukchon County Agricultural Management Committee, and introduced it widely in the agricultural sector, thus winning a certificate of registered sci-tech achievement and a patent of invention at the 31st National Sci-tech Festival.

In order to give fuller play to the advantages of distance education the college is redoubling its effort to develop a number of programs of worldwide fame, including a system of identifying learners by means of artificial intelligence technology, a real-time dialogue system between teachers and students, an enrolment management system on the basis of FID, and a general distance examination management system.

Kim Chol Ung

A teaching plan of online education is under consideration, and a class is at lecture.



novations in developing programs envisaged in the state IT strategy. A typical one is *Saengmyongson* (lifeline) 1.0, a simulation program to be used in training workers in continuous production processes, a program that is the first of its kind in the country. The successful invention was introduced in the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex. The version for train-

Roots

THREE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN KOREA who are faithfully engaged in training children as talented personnel, and some of them are to be found among those at Pyongyang

Music School No. 1 of Kim Won Gyun University of Music. One of these days I, as *Korea Today* reporter, visited the school to interview some of them.

Source of Happiness

Pak Song Hye is a kayagum instructor of the national instrumental music faculty. Having learned from Jong Nam Hui (1904–1985) who was a famous performer and composer, Pak used to be a popular, authoritative kayagum player. Later, however, she decided to devote herself to training younger generations, changing her career dramatically. She knew that if the attraction and taste of the national music were to be maintained it was important to channel efforts into the training of rising generations as people with the national spirit in their mind.

Since she left the stage of great admiration she has devoted all her efforts and wisdom to education in order to carry on the tradition of national music. Under her tutoring a number of students grew up as famous kayagum players and composers. Meanwhile, she wrote different books like *Collection of Sanjo Music* and *Collection of Kayagum Music*, which are in wide use at the moment.

More than 30 years have passed since she began to teach at the school. In her 70s, Pak is often asked when she feels the happiest. Then, she replies, "I feel the happiest when I see my disciples enjoy affection and respect from the public."

Pak still extracts pride and happiness from educational work that is intended to carry on the national sentiment and the features of national rhythms.

Principle in Education

Kang Thae On is a violin instructor of the Western instrumental music faculty. His students often find it strange that Kang teaches them about the piano, drama, opera and other types of sister art. "It is enough for us violin students to learn how to play the violin, isn't it?" they ask.

But Kang feels never awkward about the question, for it is lessons and truth that he has learned over his long career of instructor that students should have profound and wide-ranging knowledge about cross-disciplinary sciences as well as about their major if they are to be trained to have a versatile ability. His lectures covered ever greater range and content in the fields of ensemble, stage cour-



Kayagum instructor Pak Song Hye.

age, creation, direction and conductorship as well as practical ability. His order to repeat performing was heard more and more frequently, and the level of his requirement rose and rose in determining their practical ability. Meanwhile, he made sure that his students prepared violin solos and ensembles and other programmes and took them to theatres and musical troupes for performances.

Thanks to his strenuous endeavour a lot of students developed into excellent violinists and have distinguished themselves at Samjiyon, Moranbong and other celebrated entertainment bodies.

Ri Kwang Song, a violinist at the National Symphony Orchestra, says, "You can hardly make a suc-

Violin instructor Kang Thae On.



► cessful career if only you wish. Mr Kang taught us the way to success.”

Making education practical is what all the teachers of the school are pursuing at the moment.

“Smart Paediatrician”

Kim Hyon Ok, department chief of the primary course, goes by her nickname of “smart paediatrician.”

One year she found one of her pupils quite good at playing the violin. Always carrying books in her hand the girl had a remarkable memory, and, in particular, her application ability was outstanding among the class. As she had a good deal of common knowledge, she was called “Walking Dictionary.”

While observing the girl closely, Kim decided that she was gifted with rather science than music, and ensured that she was moved to Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1. Her “diagnosis” and “prescription” turned out correct, for the pupil won a national academic contest of primary schoolchildren later.

Under her tutorship Yu Pyol Mi won the top prize and special award at the 56th Schumann International Children’s Piano Contest, Germany, in January 2010, and many other pupils including Choe Jang Hung, Han Si Nae and Ri Yu Jong became world-famous music prodigies and talented artists.

Kim says, “You have to have a good diagnosis and prescription if you are to treat a patient. Likewise, you have to find out the pupils’ preparedness, aptitude and talent correctly and give them proper instruction if you want to train them as brilliant people. In this sense we teachers should become ‘smart paediatricians,’ I would say.”

Kim Son Myong

Primary course department chief Kim Hyon Ok.



Smile Brightly

“PAK WI HYOK! PAK WI HYOK!” She called out the name several times, but still no answer.

It was her first class after she had become a teacher, and she thought there was a truant in her class. She nearly went over to the next name, when there came a weak voice from the back, “Yes, here I am.”

It was the first meeting between Pak Wi Hyok and Kim Un Gyong, a young primary course teacher newly assigned to work at Husan Senior Middle School in Ryonggang County five years ago.

Kim found Pak awfully small and weak. What was worse was that he could hardly walk as a result of serious illness he had suffered soon after birth. When she called at his house, she learned that he had lost his mother early in his years. His father was also depressed, saying that it would be difficult for his son to go to school sooner or later.

It reminded her of her childhood. She also came from Husan-ri, which is located in deep mountains far from town, hence the name. At that time she was a timid and silent girl. Nobody thought that she would become a teacher as she is now. Her parents would say that it would be needless for her to go to school because she came from a mountain village. It would be enough for her to learn some skills for a trade and marry a nice young man, they thought.

But Un Gyong’s class teacher had a different opinion. Saying that her parents were wrong and that she had honesty, composure and a spirit of inquiry which were very important for a student, she encouraged her to work hard at school.

It seemed like a dream. Later, however, she became a university student. She always remembered her class teacher who had helped her take the first step properly and her village people who were so pleased to see the first student in their mountain village.

When she returned to her old school as a teacher after graduating from university, she had an unusual determination. Everything in her home village—rattling sounds of the clear stream, chirps of birds and even sounds of the wind—

► sounded like the voice of her teacher who used to tell her to be a good worker for the prosperity of the home village.

But what about Wi Hyok?

The boy’s image made Un Gyong reaffirm her conviction that it was her duty to bring up all the children well without any failure.

Early next morning she went again to Wi Hyok’s house four kilometres away from the school. From that day, her daily routine of carrying Wi Hyok to school on her back every day started and never stopped even on rainy or snowy days.

Carrying him on her back to school, she used to tell him interesting stories, most of which were about people with disabilities who made a successful career by overcoming their physical handicap with their efforts.

Wi Hyok, who had been depressed for fear of her classmates’ contempt, gradually began to feel cheerful on the way to school. Soon he began to ask her without hesitation whenever he got questions and got on well with his classmates.

Un Gyong was not satisfied with it. Whenever she saw an article on the newspapers or TV about children who were able to walk again, she wrote letters to the hospital doctors who had cured them.

It was from the time when she saw him—who used to be sitting alone on one side of the playground during the PE lesson—hugging the football that rolled to him and reluctant to pass it to other pupils.

She went to some central hospitals to see experienced doctors. They said that it was not right time for him to have an operation because his leg bones might grow wrong as he was very young. Their advice was that careful observation was necessary for some more years while special care was paid to his diet without any physical burden on him.

From then, she was very busy with her daily routine to pay special care to him. In this course he was able to sit comfortably on the back seat of the bicycle.

One day she was pushing her way up a slope with him at the back seat of her bicycle. Suddenly she felt it easier to ride. Looking back, over her shoulder, she found him running awkwardly after her.

It was quite strange, for he had never tried to run before other people, even if she urged him. She felt



Kim Un Gyong (left) still strives to restore Pak Wi Hyok to health.

tears rise in her eyes. She understood the boy’s mind to please his teacher. He came up to her and asked, “Why are you weeping, Miss Kim? So tired?”

“No. I am so happy to see you have grown up. It’s exciting to see you’ve become bright and cheerful,” she exclaimed.

Thanks to her sincerity, Wi Hyok finished primary school with a good result and entered junior middle school with a hope for the future. Now he walks to school on his own feet—cheerfully.

The State recognized the young teacher from a mountain village who did good things. It saw to it that she had the honour of taking part in the celebrations of the 70th founding anniversary of the Korean Children’s Union and receiving an official commendation.

Un Gyong’s effort to rehabilitate the boy has not stopped yet. Her husband Ri Jin Hyok, treasuring her honesty, is giving her a great helping hand. Posing for a photo with the boy on his birthday this year, the teacher said, “Always smile brightly as you do today. I like it best when you smile happily.”

Ri Song Chol



The Workers' Party of Korea and Independence

ONCE PRESIDENT Kim Il Sung, founder of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), said: We are not making a revolution to stand high in someone's favour. Our Party did not look up at others first but saw our people and our country first.

His words reflected the fundamental viewpoint and attitude consistently maintained by the WPK.

Comprehensive expression and systematization of the requirements and will of the people constitute just the idea, line and policy of the Party—this was the political creed the President kept in his whole life.

The Party's policy of agricultural cooperation is a tangible proof. It was a policy creatively formulated and put forward regardless of the preceding theory and experience.

At that time it was regarded as impossible to bring about such a gigantic social change as agricultural cooperation without realization of the socialist industrialization and without modern agricultural machinery. The President, however, took the view that though technical condition was an important factor in demonstrating the advantages of cooperative economy, it was not an indispensable condition for reali-

zation of agricultural cooperation, that when the reality of the country required agricultural cooperation and the revolutionary force was prepared to do it, it could be done, and that it was needless at all to stop or deny it following others' experience.

After the war (1950–1953) agricultural cooperation was raised as a practical task which could not be put off in view of the rural conditions of the country where everything was destroyed, the ensuing urgent request of the peasants aspiring to cooperation and the ideological and spiritual preparedness of the people hardened in the trials of the war. If they followed

▶ others' experience without taking the reality into consideration it would be impossible for them to overtake others soon or realize the people's wish.

At that time the country had almost no modern farm machines which could ensure the collective management of the agricultural production. But Kim Il Sung was convinced that they could carry out the agricultural cooperation when the life of the peasants urgently required the transformation of the old production relations and there was prepared a revolutionary force capable of carrying it out. So he unhesitatingly set forth the unique policy of agricultural cooperation of the Korean style.

All other lines and policies of the country were the result of the independent and creative viewpoint and attitude of the President who attached importance to the actual condition of the country. When one fails to implement one's own line and policy by oneself but depends on others, one cannot escape the fate of being under their control and subordinate to them—this is what the valuable tradition of the Korean revolution shows.

One day Chairman Kim Jong Il said that the Moranbong Theatre, the Statue of Chollima and the Grand People's Study House showed the history of Korea. The buildings are different in date of completion and appearance. They, however, have something in common, that is, all of them are practical evidence of the Korean people's spirit of self-reliance.

The Moranbong Theatre was built in a little over 40 days after liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation. And the Statue of

Chollima was erected at the foot of Moran Hill in 1961 in reflection of the historic reality in which the flame of the great revolutionary upsurge and self-reliance was kindled fiercely across the country in the difficult postwar days. Both of them still teach the philosophical principle of the revolution that one is doomed to be a slave if one yields to difficulties and looks for other's help and that one becomes a miracle worker and victor if one rises by one's own efforts.

The Grand People's Study House, which was completed in a year and nine months in the early 1980s, is a grand monumental edifice in the Juche era.

A saying goes that architecture is a trace left by history. Although the three structures are different in historic period, they are shining as the symbol of the great revolutionary history of self-reliance. In difficulties one can keep living if one maintains independence, whereas one becomes a slave if one depends on others—this a truth still manifested in the current revolutionary practice.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un unswervingly leads the DPRK along the road of independence and self-reliance as the President and the Chairman did throughout their life. At the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK, he set forth a new strategic line to bring earlier the final victory of the cause of socialism by speeding up the advance of the revolution. Mentioning that the country has the masses of the people endowed with inexhaustible creativity, an army of scientists and technicians trained by the Party, and the foundation of the self-reliant economy immune

to any upheavals, he said that the new strategic line of focusing all efforts on economic construction is the most scientific and revolutionary line.

In order to implement the new strategic line the country put it forward as the immediate target to put production on track at all industrial establishments and gather a rich harvest in every field during the period of the five-year strategy for the development of the national economy, thus bringing delight to its all people.

It sees that the only way to solve all problems lies in self-reliance and science and technology. So it gives full play to the spirit of living by one's own effort, not by others' help, and that of overcoming all trials and hardships by dint of science and technology.

In recent years factories and enterprises in the country have attained the high goal of modernizing themselves at an amazing speed, and boosted production by relying on their own strength and technology and domestic raw materials. Factories and enterprises in the sector of the metallurgical industry strive to produce the Juche-based iron, those in the sector of the machine-building industry successfully manufacture equipment needed in different sectors of the national economy, and those in the light industry churn out multifarious consumer goods.

While witnessing all these miraculous achievements the Korean people are convinced once again that they can win victory only when they are under the leadership of the WPK, and that self-development is the only way to live.

Yom Song Hui

Originator of New Era of Revolution

THE DOWN-WITH-IMPERIALISM UNION (DIU) was a revolutionary vanguard organization formed by Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in his early revolutionary career. At the moment he was a student at Hwasong Uisuk School, a military and political school.

In his early teens he entered the school because he saw that military showdown was the only way to defeat the Japanese imperialists and that he would be able to lead the independence movement only when he was well informed of military affairs. With the passage of time he found his expectation for the school withering gradually. Realizing that the outmoded method of the nationalists would never be able to bring about the liberation of the country, Kim Il Sung began to grope for a new path of national liberation.

He avidly read Marxist-Leninist books including *The Communist Manifesto*, and made a deep study of the revolutionary principles suggested by the classics in combination with the Korean realities. In the course of this he was convinced that the path of the Korean revolution consisted in destroying the Japanese imperialists to win independence and building a new society which would provide the workers, peasants and other working people with a rich life.

He considered that, in order to open up a new path for the Korean revolution, it was necessary to train genuine communists of the new generation unaffected by sycophancy and factionalism. To this end he launched a relevant campaign among the students of the school.

Kim Il Sung spread the socialist ideology among the students in close combination with practical matters of the Korean revolution and, in the course of this, helped them adopt a correct view and stand towards the Korean revolution. Thus, the atmosphere of aspiration for a new trend of thought gained force among young people and students, the absolute majority of whom began to follow a progressive ideology.

Meeting the young people and students who were sensitive to the new trend of thought and eager for the socialist ideology, Kim Il Sung gave them revolutionary nourishment and rallied a lot of revolutionary comrades with whom he would be able to share his fate working for the same purpose.

As a genuine path for the Korean revolution, the one of independence, was explored and a hardcore force was prepared, Kim Il Sung channelled great efforts into the work of forming a revolutionary vanguard organization of a new type.

At the time the situation in Korea badly required a powerful political organization, a leading force that could provide coordinated guidance to the labour and other mass movements that came after the March First Popular Uprising, and in reflection of the de-

mand of the time the Korean Communist Party was established in April 1925. But the party failed to play the role of vanguard of the working class because it was devoid of a guiding ideology good enough to light the road of struggle, with little organizational unity and frail mass foundation.

One of the typical failures was the June 10th Independence Movement which swept the whole country under the party's leadership. In the beginning of the 1920s the workers and peasants of Korea launched a strong revolutionary advance while the communists' activities got momentum. With this the anti-Japanese ethos got powerful across the country. The death of Sunjong, the last emperor of the feudal Joseon dynasty, in 1926 gave fuel to the Koreans' hatred for the Japanese imperialists.

Availing themselves of the rising anti-Japanese spirit of the masses, the communists pushed ahead with secret preparations for an anti-Japanese movement to be started on June 10, the day of Sunjong's funeral. As the fighting spirit of the masses rose with the approach of the day, however, the factionalists who had wormed their ways into the ranks of the movement leadership, began to vacillate, causing troubles in the preparation through factional strife. In the course of this a clue of the plan leaked to the Japanese imperialists, helping them carry out a brutal crackdown to foil the movement. In this way the struggle left serious lessons that no struggle could turn out victorious unless it is put under the coordinated guidance of an outstanding working-class leader and a revolutionary party and correct strategy and tactics are employed.

Kim Il Sung decided to form a revolutionary vanguard organization that could lead the Korean revolution, and pushed ahead with the preparations forcefully. On October 17, 1926 he established the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU). In his report to the meeting for the formation of the DIU, titled *Let Us Overthrow Imperialism*, he put forth the immediate task and ultimate aim of the organization. The formation of the DIU was a historic declaration of a fresh start of the Korean revolution, and an epochal event that ushered in a radical turn in the hewing out of the destiny of the Korean people.

With the formation of the DIU the Korean revolution became able to follow an independent path with a clear fighting target and strategy, and the Korean people were able to carve out their destiny by their own efforts on their own responsibility as the motive force of history.

The establishment of the DIU was the beginning of the struggle to found a new type of party in Korea, a revolutionary party of the Juche type, and it served as the glorious root of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Ri Jong Nam

Small But Reliable Factory

THE ANJU INSULATOR FACTORY IS situated in Anju City, South Phyongan Province, Korea. Though not big in its total area and building size, it is taking a large share in producing various insulators and painting materials needed for the important construction projects and the development of the national economy and the improvement of the people's living standards. The materials from the factory were used for the construction of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, Mirae Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street. In this sense, it cannot be said to be a small factory.

Lifeline

At the time of its inauguration in 1982, the factory was producing limited kinds of goods with a few machines, using imported raw and other materials. This often caused many knotty problems in the operation and repair of the facilities and in production. In particular, the collapse of socialism in the former Soviet Union and East European countries and the imperialists' intensified sanctions against the country, made its workers realize that self-reliance is the only way for them to survive.

So the factory established and put a sci-tech reading room and a sci-tech learning space in regular operation to disseminate to its technicians and workers the current global trend in production of insulators and the latest relevant scientific and technical knowledge. On the basis of this, they pushed forward with the reconstruction and modernization of the factory and the Juche-orientation of equipment and raw and other materials in scientific and technical way.

In this course, the factory manufactured all its equipment by itself and made them automatic and CNC-based. Lots of inventions were developed and introduced for using domestic raw materials in production including the use of fish oil to substitute for imported wood oil and linseed oil.

Now it has become a students' factory whose

employees are all engineers and assistant engineers, and over 70% of them are college graduates. And it serves as a nationwide model in production and modernization.

All its workers say: To take pride in their own things and attach importance to science and technology—this is the lifeline which guarantees the sustainable growth and development of production at the factory.

“Now We've Got Confidence.”

Now the factory is producing tens of kinds of goods including the nano SiO₂ glyptal insulating varnish, THEIC modified polyester imide coating varnish, alkyd resin enamel and varieties of insulating cloth.

The products are highly appreciated at national and international exhibitions for their low costs and convenience. In particular, they are very popular for their strong heat resistance, stability and reliability.

The people who have used the goods from the factory say unanimously, “They are not inferior to those from other countries in efficiency and use. Now we've got confidence in our own things.”

The factory not only produces quality goods but also disseminates its insulator production process technique abroad as well as at home.

Final Target

Last January the factory established a 180-ton insulating varnish production process by its own effort and technology. All its equipment was manufactured by the factory's own technical force, and 70 percent of its raw materials are domestic ones.

They are not content with this. Their final target is to secure all the rest of the raw and other materials at home.

The technicians and workers there are now exerting themselves to reach the target.

Kim Son Myong



Some of the products.

The Tradition Continues

THE WORKERS OF THE Ryongsong Machine Complex are making collective innovations in manufacturing equipment for some different sectors of the national economy. The Songun Compressor Workshop developed a new-type compressor of 10 m³ V, and sent it to the Tuk-jang Area Coal Mining Complex. In the past the workshop made varieties of compressors including compressors of 10 m³ and 20 m³ and geothermal compressors and sent them to many sectors of the national economy. However, the compressor of 10 m³ was

inconvenient for use because it weighed three tons.

Last year the workshop put forward a new target of manufacturing compressors of a new type to make up the demerit. In close connection with the designing office of the complex the workshop finished a design in only several days, and then began to manufacture trial compressors. However, they faced quite a few difficulties from the beginning. Hood plate of the compressor's crank did not reach the technical standard. When failures repeated some people argued to import

hood plates from abroad. Kim Song Il, head of the workshop, said, "I know it would be easy if we used imports. But how long do we have to depend on them? When compressors were produced in a serial way I'm afraid that we would have to spend a lot of foreign currency to buy them. Our complex has a good tradition. We manufactured an 8m turning lathe, presses of 3 000t, 6 000t and 10 000t and a high-pressure gas compressor of 3 000kw. Is there anything fearful when we have the tradition? We must manufacture a compressor of a

▶ new type by ourselves using our own materials."

His earnest appeal touched the workers' hearts. Thanks to their concerted effort and wisdom, they finally manufactured the hood plate, and then turned out a new-type compressor some days later. The test operation showed that the compressor fully accorded with the technical specifications. It is appreciated by its users since the compressor weighs lighter with fast manoeuvrability, little noise and safe operation.

The workers are fully determined to produce equipment needed for the development of the national economy in time as their older generations did.

Sim Hyon Jin

New types of compressors are under production.



When You Have a Proper Drink of Water

MAN RELEASES ABOUT 2.4 LITRES OF WATER A DAY. Thus, you should regularly supplement water at meals and on other occasions. Foods you take a day contain about a litre of water, and about 0.3 litre of water comes when nutritive substances are burnt in the body. Thus, you should supplement about 1.2 litres of water a day. It is good to drink water about six or seven times alike—when you wake up, when you have breakfast, lunch and dinner and after dinner time.

People of over 40 are likely to get cerebral infarction and myocardial infarction through thrombus because of clogged blood unless they supplement water in time.

You cannot get water during your sleep and you lose water while breathing. So, it is advisable to put a cup of water at bedside and drink it when you open your eyes in bed or when you wake up.

Those who have a weak heart and kidney are advised to drink about 1.2 litres of water a day, and yet they should drink little by little several times, instead of drinking much at a time. □

Standardization, Impetus to Economic Development

STANDARDIZING IS OF crucial importance in putting the economy of a country on a more rational and scientific basis. Today in the world the role of standardization in the economic development is regarded as more important than ever before, and thus it is developing actively.

What is important in standardization is to fix standards correctly. My institute (National Standardization Institute) is carrying on in an innovative manner the work of standardization including the fixing and introduction of standards, their updating and dissemination of standardization information in keeping with the requirement of the developing reality, thus positively promoting the country's economic development. We are putting a primary effort into fixing standards to suit the most rational criteria in all aspects of the economic development and social life by reflecting new sci-tech achievements, experience in advanced business management, demand of consumers and international standards.

My institute has put the science and technology dissemination system on a standardized basis in order to disseminate the advanced science and technology to the relevant units ceaselessly. First of all it established the Metadata Object Description Schema, the Protocol of Metadata Harvesting and the Role-Based Access Control so as to realize standardization of the database between the Sci-Tech Com-

plex and the sectional data dissemination centres, and among the sci-tech learning spaces at factories and enterprises. We also standardized the electronic salinometer for agricultural use made by agricultural scientists, the one which is easy to use and has the least measurement error, thus laying a foundation for putting the tideland farming on a scientific footing and increasing rice production.

Meanwhile, it standardized a non-destructive inspection method invented by the State Academy of Sciences. It is a scientific and modern test method which ensures promptness and accuracy in inspecting a building without destroying it. The introduction of the method in many construction projects across the country helped accelerate the work of putting construction on a scientific and modern basis, and spend less expenses, labour and time in the test.

And such standards as those of the contact power card input device and the power management system in industrial establishments make it possible to computerize the power contract, payment of charges and so on and manage power in a scientific way in power consumption units at the lowest level so as to save the valuable electric power of the country and do business management in a profitable way.

Standardization information service takes a large share in introducing the fixed standards into

reality actively. My institute is conducting an original standardization service via *Raeil* homepage and the Sci-Tech Complex, and the technical service, consultation and so on conducive to the work of standardization, training of officials concerned and realization of business strategy at enterprises. Thus my institute is making a contribution to expanding new technical achievements and putting the overall economy of the country on a Juche-oriented, scientific and modern footing.

And it is constantly updating standards to meet the requirement of the developing reality and the daily increasing demand of consumers so as to improve the quality of products and the people's material and cultural life.

We will actively promote the country's economic development by further developing the work of standardization.

Jong Yong Ran,
director of the National
Standardization Institute



Secret of Successful Research

RECENTLY RESEARCHERS of the medicobiological institute of the Academy of Medical Science have gained lots of achievements. An example is an injection called Neutropin, a remedy to treat leukemia which is one of modern challenges.

At present we often come across such cases as medicines, however good they are, fail to cure malignant diseases like cancer. This is because of complications caused by different medicines.

Among the complications is leucopenia.

Leucopenia occurs in cancer cases because anticancer medicines extinguish not only schizogenous cancer cells but also leucocytes that function as defences in the body.

Until not long ago there was no medicine to prevent such a phenomenon but something natural extracted from HG-CSF. There is only a tiny amount of HG-CSF in nature, so the development of the natural medicine required the solving of many technical problems. And the necessary expense was not small. Even if such medicine was developed it would hardly become popular because of its high price.

The researchers strove to solve the problem in a new way. In the course of this they found out an original method of enhancing the activity of HG-CSF by changing

some rings of its amino-acid chain, and thus developed the abovementioned injection, a new medicine of derivative type.

The medicine is characterized by the long time of its stay in the blood, the low cost of its production and the possibility of its mass production.

The injection proved efficacious in practice. Its efficacy in the body was three times higher than the previous natural one. The number of leukocytes increased obviously and immediately just like in the case of using the natural medicine. And it hardly decreased however much anticancer medicines were used. The patients who have used the medicine say in unison: Symptoms of anaemia disappeared in a short span of time; the skin showed no different allergic reactions caused by decrease of leukocytes; and they became comfortable again.

Beside the treatment of



Research is under way for remedies of malignant diseases.

leucopenia caused by anticancer medicines, the injection is also used for treatment of leukemia of different symptoms, including congenital, periodic and cryptogenic leucopenia, and the one in the case of aplastic anaemia and myeloproliferative syndrome.

Section chief Ji Su Ryong says, "Only speculation from a new angle can bear new fruit. *Let us search steadily for something new without following others*—this is the basic principle we embody in our work."

Chae Kwang Myong

Ion Exchange Film Developed

SCIENTISTS OF THE State Academy of Sciences developed an ion exchange film for seawater concentration. It is used to produce salt by concentrating seawater in an electrochemical way. The newly

developed film helps mass-produce seawater of proper concentration, making it possible to produce salt. The industrial method can decrease the area of salt field to one tenth of the previous area while saving lots

of manpower and electricity. It also has great economic effectiveness as it helps produce salt on a regular basis without being affected by the climate.

Rim Ok

Dream about Barbell

KIM KYONG RYONG FROM the Democratic People's Republic of Korea won a total of six gold medals in the women's 69kg category of the Asian Juvenile and Youth Weightlifting Championships 2018. Her coach ascribes the victory of the rising star to her basic techniques acquired during her days at juvenile sports school. I know a beautiful flower comes only from a good gardener, and I was gripped with an urge to see her instructor at the juvenile sports school and the training ground where she took hold of the barbell for the first time in her life. This was how I went to the Taedonggang District Juvenile Sports School.

Originally the school was at the foot of a hill some way from the central area, before it was moved to the present place, which is far more convenient for the students to travel. The new school was several times greater in area, I was told.

I found the weightlifting training ground on the first floor. Instructor Ri Yong Chol welcomed me. He was rather a man of medium height, looking generous. I learned a lot of weightlifting reserves had grown up under his wing over the past 25 years. His trainees took the top place eight times and came within the top three a dozen times at the annual national games of juvenile sports schools. They won the trophy which is to be awarded to the three consecutive winner of the games, and gained as many as 200 gold medals at large and small competitions. In the course of this some of the school's old students achieved good results at international competitions.

When I said I had heard quite a few students of his were selected by sports clubs this year, the instructor replied with a smile, "I wish they would be good enough." He sounded quite like a mother who is uneasy about her children

far away from home.

Ri attaches priority to selection of reserves. He believes that a good seed bears good fruit. Every year he goes round primary schools in the district 10 or 20 times to select children appropriate for weightlifting. Over 50 children selected would be screened until there were a few in a month.

There I met a pupil named Rim Sung Won, who I was told had been taken by the instructor in the street. By having him try different kinds of basic athletic movements, the instructor learned he had something of a weightlifter in him, and immediately went to see his parents. Moved by the serious and enthusiastic teacher, the boy's parents agreed to let him enter the weightlifting world. Sung Won is a national champion at the moment.

The secret of success is also to be seen in the instructor's notebook "A Thousand Methods and Means of Training," which describes methods of training re-

▶ serves and knacks of developing special techniques. It is obvious that methods and means of exercises are essential in giving general and individual training to children in accord with their ages, builds and psychology.

I also went round the training ground, when I saw the children engrossed in exercises with their clothes wet with perspiration.

Ri Yong Chol said, "My trainees have a dream of becoming weightlifting stars like Olympic winners Kim Un Guk, Om Yun Chol and Rim Jong Sim who brought glory to our country. And I have a dream of developing their dream into reality."

All the Korean weightlifting aces sealed ties with the event at juvenile sports schools and nourished their dream of becoming a world champion. The idea gave me a new idea of the training ground which was no more than dozens of square metres in area. The ordinary children in there will grow to become weightlifting stars tomorrow and bring glory to their country, attracting the eyes of the world. That was what came across my mind when I left the school.

Kim Chol Hyon

With a dream of becoming weightlifting stars.



National Intangible Cultural Heritage (23)

Medicinal Acupuncture



MEDICINAL ACUPUNCTURE IS A KORYO MEDICAL treatment of injecting medicine into an acupoint so that both acupuncture and the medicine can cure a disease.

When a person is attacked by a disease, different acupoints react to it. If the points are stimulated it will cause different reactions and effects. Medical treatment is based on such characters of acupoints: acupoints are stimulated by a needle and medicine is injected through the needle into the points, thus treating diseases.

The treatment was invented by the Koreans through their history of developing acupuncture and moxibustion. They understood that the injection of medicine into the main acupoints or tender points related to internal diseases (oppressive pain and coagulation) is highly efficacious, and widely used the treatment to cure diseases.

What is important in the treatment is to choose the kinds of medicine and its amount, its combination and the acupoint correctly in keeping with the constitutions of cases and their individual characters like the course of a disease and deficiency and excess.

By combining acupuncture and Koryo medicines developed by the Korean nation for thousands of years, the treatment has brought about amazing successes. It is capable of curing neuralgia, nervous paralysis, inflammation, functional disorder and even obstinate diseases. The treatment is short in period and simple in procedure, thus making it possible to deal with lots of patients with acute and chronic diseases per unit time without inflicting any pain upon cases or causing any aftereffects.

Now the treatment is widely used in many hospitals including the Academy of Koryo Medicine.

Rim Sang Jun

What Gold Medal Mirrors

RECENTLY THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea has produced new sports stars in the international arena. One of them is Won Un Gyong, 18, who won the women's 54kg category at the Asian Youth Boxing Championships 2018.



Until eight years ago Won used to be a naughty girl. The mischievous girl usually played football with the boys, and often went so far as to join the boys' knee game.

One day her mother left for a sanatorium for treatment. She had to stay long there for rehabilitation. Now Un Gyong began to miss her very much. She remembered her mother had repaired her clothes silently whenever she tore them, and that she had put medicine on her caressingly whenever she had had a bruise while playing. Now that she was without the care of her mother, Un Gyong became dispirited, as silent as never before. Quarrelling was a frequent happening to her.

Around the time a boxing instructor of the Kangso District Juvenile Sports School visited her at her school, that is, Kiyang Primary School in Kangso District. He noticed at a glance that she had a remarkable physical preparation. She had a quick sense of movement plus tenacity. Her teacher agreed that she was better than boys at sports when she was in high spirits. Still, she disagreed

to the instructor's suggestion of involving her in boxing. At the moment Un Gyong said fearlessly, "I like boxing. It's easy to tell who the winner is."

The instructor said to Un Gyong's teacher confidently that he would be able to make her an excellent boxer if he developed her strong sense of rivalry, agility and perseverance. He also called on her father at home and managed to persuade him to allow Un Gyong to join the boxing club. This was how the young girl sealed a tie with boxing.

In 2012, two years later, her family had double happy events: Un Gyong won a gold medal at the national championships and her mother returned home in good health after a period of treatment. Her mother said, "While getting treatment, I was most worried about you because you are very mischievous. I was afraid you might acquire a bad habit and a perverted character because you were under nobody's care. But to my great happiness,

our country's socialist education system has brought you up as a good boxer. I hope you will train yourself hard and become a star bringing honour to our beneficial system."

True to her advice, Un Gyong did not spare herself in training. Her efforts brought victory after victory at domestic competitions. Yet she felt far from content. She knew she could hardly pay for the care of the country for her if she failed to keep winning.

When she won a gold medal in the junior 46kg category at the AIBA Women's Junior/Youth World Boxing Championships 2015, she said, "This is no more than my debut."

When she began to distinguish herself, many people grew curious about her life. Her coach Pak Chol Jun says, "I know she cannot do without boxing. Even when she reads, sees a film or goes out of her training ground—this is a rare thing—she always thinks how to attain a perfect forte of her own. Her effort to get a high level of boxing technique reflects her serious and enthusiastic profile."

Un Gyong says, "Whenever I enjoy an expecting and admiring look from people, I renew my determination to add lustre to my country by winning gold medals at competitions."

Ri Song Chol

Able Weather Forecaster

IN GENERAL PEOPLE HAVE AN INTEREST IN weather, but few know the weather forecasters.

Sim Myong Ok, vice-director of the central weather forecasting department, Hydro-meteorological Service, says, "I always make strenuous efforts to forecast the weather. And when my forecast is correct, I am very glad. I feel happy all day long, regardless of whether my job is appreciated or not. This is the attachment to a job, I think."

A Woman Good at Weather Forecasting

Her colleagues call Myong Ok woman born with a gift for weather forecasting.

In her childhood, she wanted to become a noted doctor capable of diagnosing any diseases well. But she became a weather forecaster 39 years ago.

At that time she was in her early 20s with a high ambition. For the reason she underestimated her job of always studying a weather map.

Once she asked her section chief who was engrossed in analysis, "Are you so interested in the work?"

Then the chief answered, "I don't do it for fun. The result of scientific research finds expression in the distant future, but weather forecasting is appreciated by the people the next day. Where can you find such an obvious and responsible job?"

Her words deeply impressed her. From then on she studied hard to understand meteorological knowledge and data. Thanks to her strenuous efforts, natural spirit of inquiry and enthusiasm, her ability developed day by day. In any difficult weather conditions, she nearly made a good guess.

One summer day, a granary of South Hwanghae Province was damaged severely by a heavy rain. At that time Myong Ok guessed that it would rain heavily in the area, but never expected that it rained cats and dogs for nine hours. This impacted on her.

The more important and difficult one's job is, the more glad and responsible one feels about achievements and faults. Since then she was engrossed in the research work not to make such a mistake again in the weather forecasting.

"I never thought I would become a doctor for the research findings," she says.

She became a section chief in 2000 and a vice-di-

rector of the aforesaid department in 2006. And she won the title of Merited Forecaster. Really she became a doctor good at weather forecasting.

"I still have a lot of things to do"

The hydrometeorological work is a very important one to protect our natural resources and the people's life and property. So you should forecast the weather well—this is what Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said to Myong Ok during his visit to the weather forecasting department four years ago.



True to his words, she exerted herself to ensure accuracy of the weather forecasting. She devoted herself to developing a program for enhancing the correctness of forecasting and improving the relevant technical process and developing the relevant science and technique.

But her spirit of inquiry is endless. "Every day we have discussions about the weather forecasting relating to hail, typhoon, fog, and high temperature, and where, when and how much they will be. We also study to tell what we forecast to the people more kindly," she says.

Though she is 60 years old, she is still busy forecasting the weather. She often says, "The weather forecasting is like a reconnaissance in the army, and a weather forecaster is like a scout. I still have a lot of things to train all the other weather forecasters into competent scouts."

Now she is engrossed in her job without knowing the word retirement.

Kim Chol Hyon

Elderly People's Life Improved

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had a talk with Jang Tu Nam, chief secretary of the Central Committee of the Korea Federation for the Care of the Aged on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons. Excerpts:

At present the aging of population is accelerating across the world, and the issue of the elderly is presenting itself as a serious one.

The aging of population is a social issue which affects all the aspects of State affairs related to labour, economic development, public health, transport, housing and national defence in each country. This is why any country should make a strategic plan for the protection of the elderly by reflecting the requirement of the developing reality and of the elderly in a correct way and increase

the depth and scope of its policy of protecting the elderly constantly.

In that aspect, Korea has done lots of things that draw public attention, I think.

Previously, the federation put the main stress on the demographic and public health survey of the elderly in overall census and socio-economic surveys. Recently, it has made a detailed control of the actual conditions and requests of the elderly through a survey of the elderly alone, and had the results reflected in the policy of protecting them, thus making it possible to improve the policy and the relevant measures.

And various training courses, lectures and seminars take place to enhance the practical qualifications of the officials who work at the organs which make and carry out the policy and meas-

ures.

Some achievements are also brought about in the work to provide a proper life to the elderly who have no one to depend on. Thanks to the State's deep concern, the modern Pyongyang Old People's Home was built in 2015 followed by the appearance of provincial old people's homes.

Now it is a social trait in the country to respect and take good care of the elderly. The welfare service and public catering facilities preferentially treat the elderly like war veterans, and such a deed is encouraged and appreciated in a various way.

Training courses and publicity campaigns are conducted to teach family members or relatives of the elderly and volunteers who help them how to take care of them. And publicity is given to the life of the elderly, who positively take part in social activities, through

Elderly people have a good time at the Pyongyang Old People's Home.



► mass media and various meetings and events.

Unprecedented changes have been brought about in the depth and scope of the elderly's activities, I think.

That's right. Like young people, the elderly are displaying their enthusiasm for making a contribution to the socialist construction. By pooling their wisdom and efforts, they are doing good things for the sake of the society and collective and for the younger generations.

For example, some of them organized forest restoration groups to produce saplings and send them to the forest restoration sites, and others organized sub-workteams and are exerting themselves to improve barren fields.

Meanwhile, the elderly are conducting diverse cultural and leisure activities as required by the social trend towards a civilized socialist power and a sports power.

On not only holidays and Sundays but ordinary days, the elderly frequent scenic spots in Pyongyang such as Moran Hill, Mt Taesong, Mt Ryongak and amusement parks to sing and dance, attracting the attention of the passers-by.

The members of the Cultural and Artistic Association of the Elderly of Korea are giving itinerant art performances, which are very popular. The traditional cooking contest of the elderly is very conspicuous.

The number of the elderly on a sight-seeing trip is increasing day by day.

Some elderly people take part in such sports games as badminton and swimming which require high speed and quickness.

Kim Jong Won, who took first place in the badminton game of the elderly held in Pyongyang last year, said, "Enthusiasm for sports is very good. I exercise together with young people at sports parks here and there. Now I've improved my skill, and I feel myself young again." The life of the elderly will keep improving in our country. □

A scene from an artistic performance by the elderly.



A scene from a traditional cooking contest of the elderly.



A scene from a volleyball match of the elderly.



Changed Rural Village

Cultivation of crops is put on a scientific basis.



IN AUGUST THIS YEAR WE visited Poman-ri, Sohng County, North Hwanghae Province.

There could be seen wide fish-ponds and paddy fields in the front of the village. Its surrounding mountains were covered with various fruit trees.

When we nearly arrived at the village off a wide, straight road, Ri Jae Uk, chairman of the Poman Cooperative Farm management

board, welcomed us. He said, "Recently we've renovated lots of buildings in the village including dwelling houses, a kindergarten and a nursery, and newly built a school, a hospital, an agricultural sci-tech learning space, a house of culture, a shop and the Poman Health Complex and over 60 dwelling houses." Then he guided us to the health complex at the entrance of the village.

It is a two-storeyed round building. On the ground floor are a barber's, bathrooms, a beauty salon and a swimming pool, and on the first floor are a table tennis room, a photograph shop, and a restaurant and so on.

Mun Myong Ju, chief of the complex, said, "Our Poman Health Complex is furnished with enough conditions for the farm workers to enjoy as good a





The Poman Fish Farm.



► cultural life as the urban community's." Then we heard laughing of farm workers from a swimming pool.

After looking round the house of culture where farm workers were conducting art activities, we went to the two-storeyed kindergarten. In the front yard of the kindergarten there were children playing with various amusement facilities. Soon they got in lines to sing and dance together with their teachers.

Past the Poman Shop, we went to the agricultural sci-tech learning space, where members of workteam No. 1 were conducting technical study. Kim Kyong Jin, one of the members, said, "Here we learn advanced science

and technology including the scientific farming methods suited to every season. Now we've learned a lot to become able to do farming with ease on a scientific and technical basis. Indeed knowledge is power."

Back out of the learning space, we noticed nice dwelling houses arranged in rows. So we went to one of them. Different kinds of vegetables were growing in thick verdure in its kitchen garden, and short fruit trees were growing around the house. A grapevine over a strip of level ground under the eaves shaded us.

Paek Un Hyok, the owner of the house, said, "We farm workers are enjoying a cultured life in a three-room house like this while

using electricity for cooking and heating. Indeed everything seems like a dream."

The more we looked round the village, the more we liked it. While feeling their happiness, we heard the singing of *Song of Bumper Harvest* by the farm workers who were striving to turn their village into a better one by their own efforts.

*A rich harvest in the
mountains and fields
As the crops are abundant
a bumper harvest has visited.
Jihwaja, what a delight!
Let's dance a harvest dance
before the rice stack.*

Pak Yong Il

Really Wonderful World

RECENTLY I VISITED THE recuperation home of the Pyongyang General Printing Plant. The three-storeyed building with walls decorated with white and green tiles in good harmony with the surrounding landscape, is located in Yokjon Street, Central District, Pyongyang.

Greeting me at the entrance of the home, its manager Kim Song Chol guided me inside. He said that the eighth batch of workers for the year were staying in the home at the moment.

Past the ground floor that has offices, a storeroom and a dining hall along the corridor decorated well with different landscapes and visual aids, I first looked into a room on the first floor. It had all necessary facilities for workers to stay at the home—beds, blankets, bookshelf, wardrobe, TV, video, etc.

Chambermaid Yu Yong Hui told me, "There are rooms like this on the first floor. They are

equipped enough to provide a comfortable life to the workers. Those who come to stay here find it very enjoyable."

She sounded quite proud of the home, helping me to imagine workers having a good time there after the day's work.

Looking round several rooms of the kind, I felt pleasant. Then, I went upstairs. Song Chol explained that there is an amusement hall and a table tennis hall on the second floor, guiding me into the amusement hall. I saw it fully equipped—LCD TV, video, karaoke, chessboards, *yut* boards, *kkoni* boards, and what else. It was quite an amusing sight. Cha Son Suk, attendant of the hall, said that after dinner or on holidays workers visit the place to sing and play games to their liking. Guiding me to the table tennis hall, Cha explained that

the workers staying there had a considerably high technique, unfolding spectacular scenes during games.

For the last time I looked into the dining hall. When I was coming downstairs, I was lucky to see some workers staying in the home leaving the dining hall after lunch, their faces wearing a bright smile. I met one of them, Jon Un Hui who was a well-known model worker of the factory. She said, "While having a good time in this home I thought there would be no other country in the world which would provide ordinary workers with such a treatment as we receive—without paying anything at all. This is really a wonderful world. I know I will work harder

Workers enjoy themselves at the recuperation home.



for the sake of this beneficial system."

When I was leaving the home, I heard the sweet melody of the song *Really a Wonderful World*.

*The Workers' Party of Korea
has made us
Really a wonderful world.
The socialist country of ours is
Really a wonderful world.*

Pak Yong Il

Rose Water Makes Life More Beautiful

ROSE HAS LONG BEEN regarded as a symbol of beauty. Since it was known that rose is best for medicinal or aromatic use, many countries are producing rose goods industrially.

In Korea there is the Ryugyong Rose Processing Factory, which is mass-producing rose water by an industrial method. In general, rose water was used for cosmetics, but in recent years the range of its use is increasing.

On the bank of the Taedong River stands the Ryugyong Rose House, where you can take a bath using rose petals. The chief engineer of the house says, "Rose wa-

ter is strong in germicidal power and efficacious in promoting the circulation of blood and metabolism. It also moisturizes, polishes and unwrinkles your skin, and helps maintain its elasticity. Its high germicidal power helps prevent dermatitis. Its effective ingredients like essential oil, protein and peptide help stabilize people mentally. So if it is sprayed in the air, it has a sedative effect."

Visitors to the factory can hear the explanation about tea culture. The factory is producing rose tea, which is regarded as the best among many kinds of tea in the country.

Its deep aroma and mild taste help even a depressed person feel calmed, so the tea is especially effective in relieving people of fatigue. It also contains a rich amount of anti-oxidization elements and vitamins C and E. If you drink it often, black specks and wrinkles on the face will disappear, and the skin gets elastic and glassy.

You'd better heat the cup first to preserve the heat of the tea long. Only then can you taste its true taste.

In addition, the factory set a plan of mass-producing natural rose-based refined salt. When

▶ roses are pickled with salt, they produce solution. In the sunlight the solution is evaporated leaving rose-coloured salt. The analysis of the salt showed that it is a health substance rich in sugar along with main elements of the flower intact. This experience makes it possible for the factory to develop new products like rose sugar, rose cake and sweet rose jelly.

The manager of the factory says, "The rose perfumes every nook and corner of life, and it is just a fragrance of our bright and cultural life. We'll develop and produce more and more varieties of rose products to make a contribution to the improvement of the people's living standards."

Kim Un Jong



Mt Myohyang

(Continued from the last issue)

Manphok Ravine

THE MANPHOK RAVINE is in the southern slope of Hyangno Peak. It is a famous place for a succession of large and small waterfalls. Manphok means ten thousand waterfalls. It has lots of waterfalls of various shapes—Sogok (prelude) Falls, Murung Falls, Unson Cascade, Yuson Falls, Unjong Falls, Pison Falls, Kuchung Falls (nine steps) and Unha Falls—and many noted pools including Phaldam (Eight Pools). And there are famous rocks with a fine view like Jangsu Rock and Tangun Rock going well with the surrounding scenery.

Sogok Falls, situated in the entrance of the Manphok Ravine, announces the beginning of the “symphony” played by the waterfalls in the ravine, and hence the name. It is not so large, but it is very impressive as it is the first attraction in the ravine.

Murung Falls, which is 250 metres away from the Sogok Falls, is one of the most magnificent and beautiful falls in Mt Myohyang. According to an old tale, eight brothers used to rest there after collecting firewood; the waterfall afforded such a picturesque scene that they considered it equalled Utopia where peach flowers were always in full bloom. Hence, the brothers named it Murung (Utopia) Falls. The water rushes down over a horseback-shaped steep rock face before falling down a nearly 27-metre high cliff, making earthshaking roars. After crossing the rock shelf, it runs against the hollowed-out stone, makes a big half-circle and then slides down

some 50 metres before falling down to a big blue hollowed pool.

Over Murung Falls is Unson Cascade, a peculiar one. It is not so high, but about 100 metres

long. Unlike Murung Falls, it runs quietly along the shady and deep hollowed rock gap.

Yuson Falls is one of the great and famous waterfalls in the Man-



Unson Cascade.

phok Ravine. The name originated from an old tale that fairies would come down there from Heaven for merriment. It is about 60 metres long. The water falls sheer down or slides down quickly over the rock. At the bottom of the falls is a pool called Phaldam and at the top of it hangs the Yuson Bridge, 30 metres long, where you can have a view of the beautiful ravine. The bridge, which reminds you of the heavenly Ojak Bridge, crosses between dangerous precipices.

Pison Falls, a typical vertical falls among the numerous waterfalls in the mountain, is well known for its strange and beautiful appearance. The name originated from a legendary tale that fairies would ascend to Heaven by the rainbow made by the waterfall after having a good time in the ravine. It is 46 metres high. On both sides of the falls are forests. The sky is seen over the cliff of the waterfalls as if its watercourse is linked to the sky. The water falls down in two currents from the sheer cliff. The left current, resembling countless silk threads, flows down the rock and breaks down to the pool. And the right one slides down some way over the rock and then flies down violently to a rock shelf, raising sprays. Besides the falls is Pison Rock with a fine view



Hama (hippopotamus) Rock.

and on the left shelf of the rock is the gable-roofed Pison Pavilion.

Kuchung Falls is a tilted falls next Unha Falls in size. The name originated from the fact that it flows along the nine steps on the slanted bedrock. The water falls 250 metres down a bedrock with a gradient of over 40 degrees, breaking nine times halfway. It reminds you of a great flood. The scenery of this gigantic falls is unrivalled when you look down at it from the Undok Pavilion built on the top of the falls.

In addition, the valley has

some famous rocks and peaks of peculiar shape: Jangsu Rock is famous and awesome in size, rare to be seen in Mt Myohyang and the ravine; Tangun Rock is associated with a legendary tale that Tangun, founding father of the Korean nation, climbed up there every day to have archery training, targeting Chonju Rock halfway up the opposite hill; and Hyangno Peak is covered with aromatic trees and looks like an incense burner, hence the name Hyangno.

(To be continued)

New World Biosphere Reserve

THERE WAS HELD THE 30th session of the UNESCO International Coordinating Council of the Man and Biosphere Programme in Indonesia from July 23 to 28 in 2018, in which 24 spots of 19 countries, including Mt Kumgang in Korea, were officially registered as world biosphere reserves.

The UNESCO registers and

introduces as world biosphere reserves significant regions and spots in the international biodiversity protection and scientific research work, and renders cooperation for preserving and managing them. And over 670 spots of more than 120 countries have been registered as such reserves.

Mts Paektu, Kuwol, Myohyang and Chilbo in Korea were

already registered as similar reserves. Now that Mt Kumgang was registered as a reserve, all the five famous mountains of Korea except Mt Jiri have become world biosphere reserves and a condition was provided to widely introduce Mt Kumgang to the world and expand the cooperation in the field of ecological environment protection. □

Ri Sung Hun and Osan School

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY Japan occupied Korea militarily. Around the time Korea was swept with a forceful patriotic campaign of education, which was part of the national salvation struggle. The pioneers of the struggle and patriotic figures keenly felt that the disgraceful loss of national sovereignty was attributable to the backwardness of their country. Understanding that education was the cornerstone and foundation of self-development and that they could hardly regain independence of their country and modernization of society unless they developed education, they launched a campaign to establish private schools across Korea.

Not only patriotic enlightenment campaigners but also academic societies in different local areas propelled education dynamically. Amidst fierce flames of education and cultural movement sweeping the whole country thousands of private schools sprang up, rousing the nation, which had been in slumber under the yoke of feudalism, from slumber of intellect. Village schools which had been teaching feudalistic Confucian doctrines reorganized themselves to teach modern knowledge, implanting in the rising generations the spirit of patriotism.

Ri Sung Hun was one of the patriotic personages who, regarding education as basis of the independence movement, dedicated all their wealth and heart to this end.

Ri was a rich man with huge real estate. One day when he was in Pyongyang, he heard a speech delivered by a patriotic figure saying that cultivation of knowledge was the basis of independence and salvation of the nation. Greatly impressed, he, on his return home to Jongju, began to engage himself in education. In October 1907 he established Kangmyong Uisuk, a kind of primary school.

Later, the school was reorganized into Osan School, a secondary school, thanks to his efforts. Relying on Ri's private funds, the private school mainly taught modern knowledge while infusing the anti-Japanese spirit into its pupils. As the principal, Ri took charge of physical education and after-school activities himself, teaching military exercises and giving combat training extensively.

The school produced a number of anti-Japanese fighters and patriotic figures. The important centre of anti-Japanese inspiration and education in patriotism was also a base of patriotic intellectuals' activities. For his merit in

education of younger generations he was granted an audience with Emperor Ryunghui, the 27th and last monarch of the feudal Joseon dynasty. No one of the commoners in Phyongan Province had had an audience with any of the emperors for over 400 years. And Ri broke the old practice by meeting the emperor.

In September 1907 he, together with Ryang Ki Thak and Sin Chae Ho, took the lead in organizing the Sinmin Association, an anti-Japanese secret organization. In 1911 he was arrested and imprisoned as an accomplice in the "incident of an attempted assassination of Terauchi," which was manipulated by the Japanese imperialists, and then served a seven year's term in prison. In 1919, when the March First Popular Uprising erupted, he took part in it as a member of the 33 "national delegates" before being sentenced to three year's term in prison.

Ri was not only a renowned pioneer of education campaign in Korea but also one of the patriotic personages and champions of the anti-Japanese independence movement, who kept his national conscience and fidelity to the end of his life.

Choe Sol Mi

Moxibustion

MOXIBUSTION IS A KIND of traditional Korean treatment that dates back thousands of years. The Koreans began to use stone needles and wormwood for treatment of diseases in the Stone Age. Moxa cautery was in full progress in the Koryo dynasty (918-1392), sweeping the whole country.

Medical education was given in different areas including

Sogyong (Pyongyang) in 930 and Kaegyong (Kaesong) in 987 with the emphasis on acupuncture and moxibustion.

In its first part, *Hyangyakjipsongbang*, compiled during the feudal Joseon dynasty, indicates the spots for acupuncture and moxibustion and explains methods of moxibustion to be applied in accord with diseases. Methods of moxibustion are described in

detail in *Chimgugyonghombang* (The Book of Experience of Acupuncture and Moxibustion) compiled in 1644.

Moxibustion is widely applied across the country thanks to the Government policy of preserving the national cultural heritage. It is very effective in treating obstinate diseases and stubborn geriatric troubles. It was registered as national intangible heritage. □

Lifeline of National Reunification

TODAY THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea is waging a vigorous struggle to improve the inter-Korean relations and make a new history of independent reunification. It is the consistent stand of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Republic to achieve the historic cause of national reunification by the nation's own efforts.

In June 2000, there was the historic first north-south summit meeting thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Il's patriotic desire for reunification and bold decision, and the June 15 Joint Declaration was adopted, with the ideal of *By Our Nation Itself* as its core. The event marked a historic milestone towards independent reunification in the new century and brought about a turning point in its realization.

The June 15 Joint Declaration was a brilliant result of the Chairman's love for the country and nation and his firm will to reunify the country. Saying that Korea is like an organism which can be alive when it is one but die when it is divided into two, he devoted his all to hastening the independent, peaceful reunification of the country by the united efforts of the entire Korean nation.

He mapped out a far-reaching plan to end the history of north-south confrontation and usher in a new era of independent reunification, peace and prosperity, and saw to it that a north-south summit meeting was held in Pyongyang for the first time in 55 years since the separation of the nation, and that the historic June 15 Joint Declaration was made public.

The joint declaration with the ideal of *By Our Nation Itself* as its core is a great common programme of the nation for its reunification, which is based on the idea of national independence and consistent with the spirit of love for the country and nation.

Through the joint declaration, the north and the south assured the whole nation and the world that they would settle the national reunification issue independently by their joint efforts.

The validity and vitality of the ideal of *By Our Nation Itself*, which united the entire nation under the banner of independence and unity and pushed them ahead to the struggle to accomplish the cause of national reunification, were demonstrated through the exciting reality of the June 15 reunification era.

Thanks to the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the June 15 Joint Declaration and the ideal of *By Our Nation Itself*, the cause of national reunification could vigorously advance despite all challenges of the history and the motive force for national reunification steadily grew strong prevailing over the anti-reunification forces.

In those days, inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation, travel and exchange in various fields were briskly conducted, and important achievements were brought about one after another promising the future of independent reunification, peace and prosperity.

With a determined will to develop the inter-Korean relations onto a higher level as required by the era of independent reunification and aspiration of all the compatriots and open up the road towards peace and prosperity, the Chairman saw to it that another north-south summit meeting was held in October 2007 and that the October 4 Declaration were adopted, which is the action programme of the June 15 Joint Declaration.

The October 4 Declaration served a guideline for the Korean nation to bring earlier the independent reunification, peace and prosperity by comprehensively implementing the June 15 Joint Declaration.

Today Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is concentrating all his speculation and activities on achieving the independent reunification of the country as soon as possible by firmly safeguarding the undying exploits of the Chairman and fulfilling his lifelong wish and instructions.

In the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, he made clear that it is the firm determination and will of the Party to achieve the country's independent reunification without fail by fulfilling the lifelong wish and instructions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Early in January, the Supreme Leader put forward the line of bringing about a great change in the inter-Korean relations and took many necessary steps. Thus, the situation of the Korean peninsula, which had been the worst, changed dramatically followed by the trend towards the improvement of the inter-Korean relations and the easing of the tension.

Two rounds of north-south summit meetings and talks took place in Panmunjom, and the April 27 Declaration was adopted, which greatly delighted the Korean nation.

The April 27 Declaration is a programme of independent reunification succeeding the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, and the one of national independence and great national unity which proclaimed that the north and the south would open a new era of national reconciliation and unity, peace and prosperity by pooling their will and efforts.

True to the Supreme Leader's patriotic intention and will, the Korean nation is now waging a vigorous nationwide struggle to reunify the country independently.

An Song Duk

Japan—Theatre of Immorality

JAPAN IS FAMOUSLY vociferous about its material advancement. But its spiritual life is more than deplorable.

Cruel Murders

The spiritual and moral depravity has gone extreme in Japan. Horrible crimes are everyday occurrences, which the human society hates to see as it exists and develops on the strength of blood relationship and ethics.

Recently it was revealed that a man made his 21-month-old son starve to death in Iwate Prefecture—a shocking story. Earlier, a man stabbed his wife to death with a kitchen knife in Hatsinohe, Aomori Prefecture while in Hiroshima a woman murdered her mother before being killed by her father. A second-year student of a higher school killed his father with a kitchen knife on the absurd pretext of stopping a quarrel between his parents. A jobless idle man strangled his 76-year-old father with an electric cord, and a 57-year-old man strangled his mother in dotage with his own hand.

Such heinous outrages have occurred without interruption. What is more astonishing is that the murderers do not hesitate to claim the atrocities they committed against their own parents and family members. A huge number of people who are roaming about in the world of unemployment, poverty and depravity tend to give vent to their anger against the world by beating their kinsfolk,

sometimes unhesitatingly taking their lives when they are not satisfied with the beating alone.

Anyone except me in the world is needless—this is the extreme private selfishness that dominates the mentality of the Japanese at the moment. Since the relations between family members are falling into bestial conditions instead of respect and love, fear and apprehension over their lives are prevailing the Japanese families.

No Way to Check Suicides

Suicide has almost become the pronoun of Japan. As many as 21 140 Japanese killed themselves last year. Those who find no way to get out of serious mental pains choose to take their own lives condemning the world—almost dozens of people on a daily basis.

Recently in Kumamoto Prefecture a 17-year-old schoolgirl took her own life leaving behind a note, in which she gave vent to her misery, writing, “really painful” and “I do not want to live any longer.” Earlier in Tochigi Prefecture two schoolgirls who had been anxious about their future and family problems threw themselves down to death from the seventh storey of their school.

The Japanese authorities attribute the increasing number of suicides among the younger generations to the effects of stress. In other words they assert that those who have a moody and silent character choose suicide. This is no more than a poor sophism to

distort the root cause of suicide and defend the rotten capitalist society.

The cause of the serious problem of suicides in Japan lies in the anti-popular society itself. Under the protection of the government capitalists dismiss a lot of workers on the pretext of avoiding financial difficulties and business loss, and thus the ranks of the unemployed are growing and growing. Many of them are graduates from college and the employment rate of college graduates are falling day by day. Students busy themselves with job hunting even before they finish college, but most of them fail to get jobs after graduation and find themselves unemployed after all their attempt. The situation is more deplorable with those who have had no access to college.

Unemployment in the capitalist society simply means death. Young people who lose the right to work and become hopeless about their future choose suicide as they are unable to get livelihood any longer. The prevalence of suicide in Japan is a sign of the true colour of the rotten capitalist society unfit for human habitation, as well as an indication of the inevitability of its ruin.

It is no accidental that the public comment goes that Japan’s fall is accelerating with increasing immoral and decadent practices which are the product of the rotten and diseased capitalist society where money is everything and the law of jungle is rampant.

Yom Song Hui



Jongbuk Temple

THE JONGBUK TEMPLE IS A SHRINE AT the southern foot of Mt Sungam in the Sungam Workers’ District, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province. It was built in commemoration of four persons including Yun Kwan who distinguished himself in defending the northern border area of Koryo (918–1392) and Kim Jong So (1390–1453) who was government official of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

Yun was appointed commander of Tongbukmyon when foreign aggressors invaded the northeast frontier of Koryo in the 12th century. Leading his army he wisely commanded the battles to repulse the invaders.

Kim was once the governor of Hamgil Province (South and North Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces at present) and commander of the province’s army. He made a contribution to strengthening the defence of the Tuman River basin.

The temple was built for the first time in 1437 at the proposal of Kim Jong So, and named Rodang. Later, it was rebuilt in 1721 and renamed Munsukgongmyo. In 1845 the name changed to Jongbuk Temple. In 1868 it was destroyed owing to invasion

of a foreign enemy. In 1901 it was rebuilt on its original site.

The temple is inside the quadrangular wall. Its entrance is called Jongbuk Pavilion. The Yanghyon Hall, a lecture hall, is in the middle of the temple, and the Tongmu (east room) and Somu (west room) flank the front yard. The main hall is behind the Yanghyon Hall. West of the hall is a pavilion housing a monument to the tomb of Yunmunsukgong.

The Jongbuk Pavilion is a two-storey gabled building painted colourfully. The Yanghyon Hall standing on a platform is a gabled house with five bays in front and two bays in side. The left and right rooms of the building have under-floor heating systems. The main hall is a gabled house 7.5 metres in front and 5.7 metres in side. It is also painted colourfully. Portraits of Yunmunsukgong in civil and military uniforms are hanging on the interior front wall of the building, and his name tablet lies before the portraits.

The temple is well preserved as a relic giving valuable data for studying architecture of the feudal Joseon dynasty and history of defending the northern part of Korea.

Kim Kwang Hyok

