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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visits China, meets with Chinese counterpart

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, visited China between January 7 and 10 at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The Supreme Leader was accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju.

Among his entourage were Ri Su Yong, Kim Yong Chol and Pak Thae Song, members of the

Political Bureau and vice-chairmen of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Yong Ho, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of Foreign Affairs, No Kwang Chol, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of the People's Armed Forces, Kim Yo Jong, alternate member of the Political Bureau and first deputy department director of the WPK Central Committee, Ri Il Hwan and Choe Tong Myong, department directors of the WPK Central Committee, and other leading officials of the WPK Central

Committee and the DPRK State Affairs Commission.

The train with the Supreme Leader on board arrived in Dandong, border city of China, at 9.30 pm local time on January 7.

Seen at Dandong Railway Station were Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee, Chen Qiufa, secretary of the Liaoning Provincial Party Committee, Lu Dongfu, general manager of the China Railway Corporation, Li Jinjun, Chinese ambassador to the DPRK, and Ge Haiying, secretary of the Dandong City Party Committee,

who came to greet the DPRK leader.

Song Tao gave him a hearty warm welcome upon authorization of General Secretary Xi Jinping and the CPC Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un had an amicable talk with Song Tao on the train.

He expressed thanks to the latter for coming all the way to the border city every time he visited China to warmly welcome him and according him warm hospitality and showing him heartfelt sincerity as he guided him to Beijing.

Song Tao said that Xi Jinping and the Chinese Party and government gave them special instructions to

render good reception to the DPRK leader, setting great store by his current China visit made at a special time of vital importance, and that he would do his best for the successful meeting between the top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries.

Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing at 11 am local time on January 8.

He was greeted at Beijing Railway Station by Wang Huning, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, and

Cai Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee.

Ji Jae Ryong, DPRK ambassador to China, was also there to greet him.

Kim Jong Un met Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People at 5 pm on January 8.

The DPRK leader and his wife were warmly greeted by the Chinese counterparts at the hall.

As they met again at the beginning of the new year, both the leaders gladly shook hands with each other and had a photo taken.

Warmly welcoming Kim Jong Un who started his external activity in the new year by visiting China, Xi Jinping said the current visit would mark a specially important occasion in successfully guiding the development of Sino-DPRK relations.

The DPRK Supreme Leader expressed thanks to the Chinese President for making time to plan the detailed itinerary for him and showing meticulous concern despite his tight schedule at the beginning of the new year.

The Korean leader and his wife had a photo taken with the Chinese counterparts against the background of the flags of the two countries.



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A grand ceremony for welcoming Kim Jong Un's China visit was held at the Great Hall of the People.

Both the Korean and Chinese leaders shook hands with senior Party and government officials of the other countries respectively before mounting the reviewing stand.

Kim Jong Un, guided by Xi Jinping, reviewed the honour guard of the three services of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

As the leaders reached the lines of children, they heartily welcomed them waving the flags of the two countries and bundles of flowers.

The ceremony was followed by talks between the two leaders.

The talks were attended from the DPRK side by Ri Su Yong, Kim Yong Chol and Ri Yong Ho.

Present there from the Chinese side were Wang Huning, Ding Xuexiang, member of the Political Bureau, member of the Secretariat and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, Wang Yi, state councillor and minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and Song Tao.

Exchanging greetings with each other once again in a comradely, sincere and friendly atmosphere, the two leaders had an in-depth and candid exchange of views over the issue of further boosting the friendship, unity, exchanges and cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries as required by the times and over the international and regional issues of common concern, especially the joint study and coordination of the management of the situation of the Korean peninsula and the process of negotiations for denuclearization. They expressed mutual understanding, support and solidarity for the independent stands maintained by the Parties and governments of the two countries in external relations.

Kim Jong Un expressed thanks to Xi Jinping and the intimate comrades of the Chinese Party and government for warmly inviting him at the beginning of the new year despite their tight schedule and



enthusiastically according cordial hospitality to him, and conveyed the best wishes from the Korean Party, government and people to them.

He said that his current visit would play a very important role in putting the DPRK-China friendship on a firmer stage and making it more developed relations in this year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in the wake of last year which was recorded as a year that opened a brilliant page in the history of the bilateral friendship and unity, adding that the two countries, through the occasion, would convincingly demonstrate once again to the world the immutability and invincibility of the DPRK-China friendship.

The bilateral friendship was forged and developed by the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and is developing more successfully under a special situation, he said. The WPK and the DPRK government will as ever act in unity with the Chinese side and make fresh efforts to continuously consolidate and develop the friendly ties by inheriting the tradition of close cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries, he noted.

Saying that he was encouraged as

he witnessed the confident Chinese people advancing straight along the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era and the reality of China developing with each passing day under the seasoned leadership of the CPC, he expressed the firm belief that the Chinese Party and people would achieve fresh successes and great victories in the efforts for performing a new miracle of the Chinese nation.

Xi Jinping warmly welcomed Kim Jong Un to China once again on behalf of the Chinese Party, government and people, saying that his visit at the outset of the New Year 2019 is of very special and great significance in light of time and shows that he attaches importance to the bilateral friendship and places deep confidence in the Chinese Party and people.

In the course of in-depth exchanges of views with Kim Jong Un, close comrade and friend of the Chinese people, there were brisk interchanges and cooperation between the Parties and in different fields including culture, and the friendly ties between the two Parties and the two countries witnessed historic development and further promotion, the Chinese President said.

He said that last year the Korean leader put forward the new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction and took several important measures by making a courageous and wise decision to show the international community the hope and expectation of the peace-loving DPRK that aspires to development, thereby increasing international influence and winning great support, understanding and warm welcome from the whole world.

This proves that Kim Jong Un's strategic decision was correct and was in the Korean people's interests and in line with the trend of the times, Xi said. He highly praised the Korean Party and government for achieving wonderful successes at home and abroad and said that he, as a comrade and friend, is convinced that the WPK would achieve greater and fresh successes in accomplishing the socialist cause under the leadership of Kim Jong Un and that he sincerely wishes for them.

Both sides had also in-depth exchanges of views on international and regional issues of common concern.

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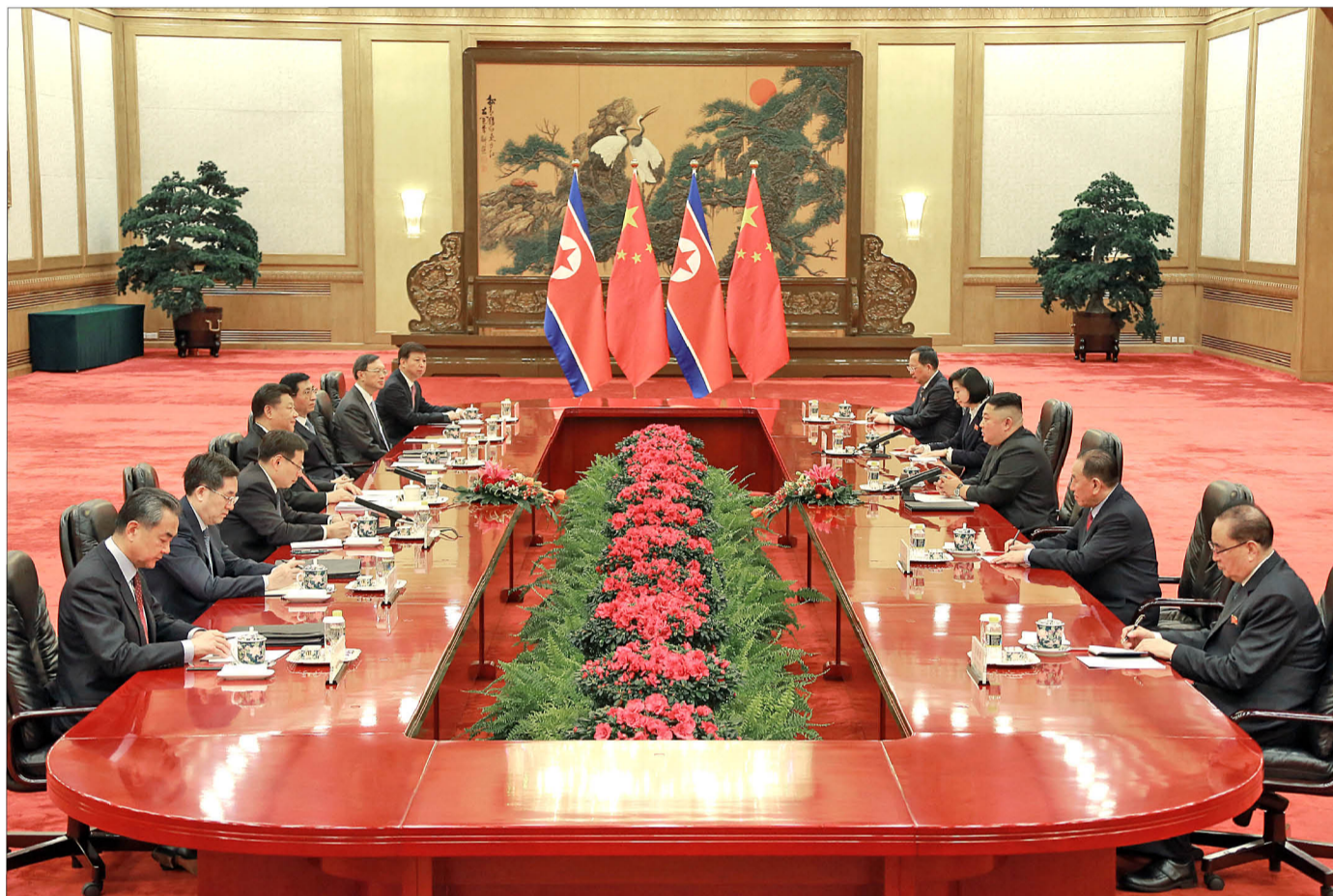
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They highly appreciated that the top leaders of the two countries brought about and promoted the beneficial development of situation through close communications, open-hearted exchanges of views and tuning over the Korean peninsula situation, thereby defending the interests of both sides. They unanimously agreed on continuously maintaining the stand for ultimate and peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in the interests of the international community and all sides around the peninsula by properly managing the peninsula situation that has entered a time of vital importance.

Kim Jong Un said that the DPRK remains unchanged in its main stand to keep the goal of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, sincerely implement the joint statement adopted at the Singapore DPRK-US summit talks and seek negotiated peaceful settlement, and referred to the difficulties and concern, which have arisen in the process of improving DPRK-US relations and of negotiations for denuclearization, and the prospects of settlement as well.

Xi Jinping said the matters of principle maintained by the DPRK side are natural demands, he fully agrees that its reasonable points of concern should necessarily be resolved and it is a correct choice for the parties concerned to prioritize and reasonably tackle them. The Chinese side would as ever play a positive and constructive role for the defence of the fundamental interests of both sides and the stability of the situation on the peninsula as the reliable rear and staunch comrades and friends of the Korean comrades, he stressed.

The two leaders agreed on the new plans for keeping up, expanding and developing the traditions of high-level visits in political, economic,



military, cultural and other fields in the new year marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Kim Jong Un invited Xi Jinping to make an official visit to the DPRK at a convenient time and the latter accepted the invitation with pleasure and informed the former of the plan.

The talks proceeded in a warm,

comradely and friendly atmosphere.

Xi Jinping gave a grand banquet at the Great Hall of the People on the evening of January 8 to welcome Kim Jong Un.

Present there at invitation were the entourage of the DPRK Supreme Leader, the DPRK ambassador and his embassy staff members, and senior Party and government officials

of China also attended it.

Xi Jinping made a congratulatory speech at the banquet.

He said that Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju visited China again with a deep friendly feeling of the Korean Party, government and people toward the Chinese counterparts at

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the auspicious and beautiful time of greeting the new year in order to open up a prelude to the development of Sino-DPRK relations, and warmly welcomed them.

Kim Jong Un's three rounds of visits to China within 100 days last year and his China visit at the beginning of the new year fully show that he sets great store by the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship and cherishes a friendly feeling toward the Chinese people, Xi said, adding he would join efforts with Kim Jong Un to write a new history of visits between China and the DPRK.

Saying that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, he proudly noted that for the past seven decades the two Parties, two countries and two peoples have advanced as they supported and encouraged each other by forging lips-and-teeth relations and achieved great successes in their socialist construction.

Sino-DPRK relations have already opened a page of new history and entered a new stage of development and the Chinese Party and government have attached high importance to the traditional bilateral ties, Xi said. He clarified again that it is the consistent and steadfast stand of the Chinese Party and government to defend, consolidate and develop the Sino-DPRK relationship with credit.

Saying he was pleased with the remarkable successes the Korean Party and people made in the socialist revolution and construction,

he expressed his conviction that they would implement without fail the new strategic line set forth at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Party Central Committee under the leadership of the WPK headed by Kim Jong Un so as to step up the cause of socialist construction in the DPRK and thus achieve signal successes.

Kim Jong Un spoke in return. He said that he visited China as his first political schedule for the new year with the firm will to bring about all-round rejuvenation of the DPRK-China friendship in line with a new great history and brilliant era of bilateral relations as he greeted the new year after seeing out last year full of epochal events unprecedented in the history of the development of the relationship between the two Parties and the two countries.

He expressed his profound thanks for the warm hospitality and close concern of the Chinese Party and government for his visit made at the beginning of the new year and extended warm new year greetings to Xi Jinping, all the CPC members and other Chinese people on behalf of the WPK members and other Korean people.

The meetings of last year between the top leaders of the two Parties and the two countries served as a firm foundation and a powerful engine that boosted the bilateral ties in line with the requirements of the new era, he said. He expressed his determination to join hands with the Chinese comrades this year, too, in order to go on writing a beautiful epic of the



DPRK-China friendship to be envied by the world and handed down to posterity, and safeguard peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region by the concerted efforts of the two countries.

He sincerely wished the fraternal Chinese people nonstop success in the long journey for attaining the "Two Century Goals" and realizing the dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, united closely around the CPC with Xi Jinping as the core in this year of the 70th anniversary of the birth of a new China.

A special art performance was given by the Chinese artistes in honour of his historic visit to China at the banquet.

Kim Jong Un presented a basket of flowers to the performers who gave an enthusiastic and wonderful performance.

The Korean leader and his wife mounted the stage together with the Chinese counterparts to express thanks to the performers and had a photo session with them.

Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping met again at Beijing Hotel on January 9.

They had a candid conversation, further deepening their special comradeship and close relations.

Having a luncheon hosted by the Chinese President and his wife, the DPRK counterparts had a pleasant chat with them in an amicable and happy atmosphere.

Kim Jong Un expressed heartfelt thanks to Xi Jinping for hosting the luncheon once again with sincerity at a special place in a distinctive atmosphere.

After the luncheon Kim Jong Un

and Xi Jinping exchanged farewells.

The Korean leader expressed satisfaction with the successful, worthwhile visit he made without slight inconvenience thanks to the special care and hospitality shown by the Chinese counterpart as he thanked him.

Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju said goodbye to Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan, promising to meet again.

Earlier, that morning, Kim Jong Un visited a branch pharmaceutical factory of the Beijing Tongrentang Co. Ltd. together with his entourage.

Kim Jong Un wrapped up his historic China visit and left Beijing at 3 pm local time on January 9.

Before leaving Dandong Railway Station, he sent a personal letter of thanks to Xi Jinping for his great hearty welcome and sincere warm hospitality.

Kim Jong Un's China visit made at the outset of the new year amid great interest of the peoples of the two countries and the international community constitutes another event to be etched in the history of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries and a historic occasion of weighty significance in boosting the strategic communication between the leaderships of the DPRK and China and defending peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

The Supreme Leader arrived at Pyongyang Railway Station at 3 pm on January 10 after wrapping up his China tour and extended his warm greetings to all his beloved people.

Compiled from KCNA



ECONOMY

Industrial sectors increase production from the outset

Notable achievements are made in different economic sectors which have turned out to carry out the tasks set forth in the New Year Address of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

The Wonsan Army-People Power Station overfulfilled its power generation plan for the first day of the new year by 0.2 percent.

It scrupulously takes technological measures so as not to waste even a drop of water and a watt of electricity as it manages such hydraulic structures as dam, waterway and water intake in a responsible manner despite unfavourable weather conditions in winter by channelling efforts into water conservation. Power station unit 1 registered good results from the beginning of the new year by conserving water and managing facilities in a responsible manner in keeping with the characteristics of multi-tier power station, while power station unit 2 maximized the output of each generator.

The coal industry sector puts more spurs to production.

According to statistics, coal mines under the Ministry of Coal Industry produce well over a thousand tons of more

coal every day from the outset of the year.

The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex produced 1.3 times more coal than the plan in three days and the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex digs out more than 1.4 times of coal every day. The Kangdong Area Coal-mining Complex fulfilled its production assignments for the first week at 103 percent by producing hundreds of tons of more coal.

The rail transport sector increases transport.

The Hamhung Railway Bureau organizes and commands transport scrupulously to carry in time more freight needed in various industrial establishments in the Hungnam area, the construction site of the Tanchon Power Station and other major projects. The Hyesan Branch Railway Bureau intensively transported a great deal of freight needed in the Samjiyon County renovation project on the first day of the new year.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill hit the first-day target of the new year at 101 percent.

It overfulfilled its first-day quotas by repairing and keeping equipment in good working

conditions and ensuring the full operation of all machines. The spun rayon fabric workshop maximized the working ratio of hydraulic looms to carry out its first-day plan 1.2 times more than before.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill overfulfilled the first-day silk thread production plan by 52 percent.

It exceeds its daily task by improving cooperation between processes and strictly observing the requirements of technical regulations.

Innovative achievements are being made every day at the tideland reclamation sites in the West Sea of Korea.

Honggondo tideland reclaimers launched into the second-stage project for section 2 on January 6. The General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of North Phyongan Province finished all preparation works including hundreds of metres of road works and carried out a series of blasting to secure enough rubble stones and earth needed for the project.

The General Tideland Reclamation Enterprise of South Hwanghae Province executed a 100 000-cubic-metre blasting, providing a firm guarantee for completing the section 4 project in Ryongmaedo tideland reclamation before the set time.

Thanks to the devotion of the working people in the forestry sector, the plan for the production of timber from mountains of the Ministry of Forestry is carried out every day in the new year.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Production picks up at the Sangwon Cement Complex.

RESEARCH

Institute gives impetus to mining industry with new feats

The Central Mining Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences has recently been successful in the research.

Typical research feats are a large-capacity air mechanical flotation machine and mine ventilator, a low-grade chromium ore flotation process and a manganese ferroalloy production process relying on low-grade wad.

The air mechanical flotation process with an annual capacity of millions of tons has been established at the Komdok Mining Complex. The upgraded process is four times larger in capacity than

previously and ensures the highest indexes of lead and zinc ore concentrates and over 90 percent of their concentration rate. It has reduced by half the manpower, production area and electricity consumption and can prevent environmental pollution by ore residue. Researchers established the main production process and proceeded to install modern flotation equipment in the sorting process, thereby making it possible to produce thousands of tons of more concentrated ore.

The double-suction centrifugal ventilator, which has been introduced into

the Tokchon Coal Mining Complex, other coal mines and construction sites of waterway tunnels, proves effective. This ventilating facility is simple in manufacture, installation, structure and operation and reduces the ventilating time by half and saves electric power by 30 percent. It is over two times more efficient in removing various harmful gases and dust.

Researchers have also set up the manganese ferroalloy production process relying on low-grade wad at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex. The process using a new chemical dressing method that suits the local conditions ensures over 80 percent of manganese concentration rate.

The institute also came up with other plans including flotation for low-grade chrome.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

Election to be held

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK decided to call an election of deputies to the 14th SPA on March 10 2019, according to Article 90 of the

Socialist Constitution of the DPRK.

The decision was made public on January 8.

Compiled from KCNA

RESOLVES

At the forefront of building self-supporting economy

Upon receiving the New Year Address delivered by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, officials and workers of our complex are filled with enthusiasm to give a powerful impetus to the country's economic development by boosting coal production.

This year, we should channel efforts into supplying coal to thermal power stations in our charge so that they can ensure the normal generation of electricity.

We need to keep increasing output by giving precedence to prospecting, concentrating manpower on tunnelling and perpetuating tunnels in parallel with the provision of material and technical conditions.

We will also introduce advanced hewing methods including pit boring, coal mining based on prop bundles and level mining in every coal pit.

This year, we are faced with a task to make the process of conveyance automatic on a higher level so that the mass hewing and hauling system will

continue to prove effective at coal mines under the complex. We will build up coal conveying capacity by ensuring the full operation of conveyor belts and applying in time the cableway system to coal faces where a conveyor belt is inaccessible.

It is also one of our important tasks that should be tackled this year to provide coal miners with more affluent material and cultural living conditions by activating welfare supply service bases.

Only when we increase coal production, can we satisfy the fuel and power needs of different economic sectors and provide a firm guarantee for the development of the self-supporting economy.

We will work hard to mark this year, the fourth year of implementing the five-year strategy for national economic development, with proud achievements.

Choe Yong Il,

manager of the Sunchon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex

Informatization programme to proceed apace

Greeting the new year, the researchers and officials of the General Bureau of National Software Industry are filled with the resolve to step up modernization and informatization in a Korean way in line with the requirements of the age of knowledge economy.

The IT work in our country has entered a new stage of development.

In the process of implementing the national informatization strategy for 2016-2020, the economy, culture and all other domains have come to develop based on information technology and other information resources, and the country is taking on the appearance as an IT-based society.

Endeavours are being made to rationally integrate and readjust information communications networks and speed up the establishment of informatization infrastructure for building comprehensive information service bases and developing standardized information

resources.

And IT and information industry are being developed rapidly in order to develop, introduce and generalize lots of standardized and Juche-based IT products.

This year, we are planning to concentrate on informatizing economic management, production and business activities according to the five-year strategy for national economic development and conduct work to ensure the planned and balanced development of informatization in all fields.

In particular, dynamic efforts will be made to create informatization models in each economic sector.

We will put spurs to the informatization programme with our own efforts, technology and resources so as to promote socialist economic construction.

Ri Myong Chol,

director of the General Bureau of National Software Industry

PROFILE

Film director tops off his life with box-office success

Last year grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* was given as the focus of public attention at home and abroad, enjoying unsparing admiration of all. Among its producers was Pak Jong Ju, a director at the Korean Film Studio who is the winner of Kim Il Sung Prize, Labour Hero and People's Artist.

His heart stopped beating in the period when the performance was given, but he is remembered by the people along with the masterpiece of the times.

It was in early May last year when the 70-year-old veteran film director was involved in the production of the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance, tasked with introducing techniques of representation based on three-dimensional images into it.

In fact, it was a new and uphill task even for the veteran director to produce 3D images to give more weight to the theme and artistic value of the performance which would encapsulate the 70-year history of the country.

He, who had never complained about possibility nor hesitated in artistic creation, fully displayed an indefatigable creative spirit even young artists felt hard to follow.

The production campaign heated up from the representation of pictures for its prologue "The sun rises on Mt Paektu". Discussion took place dozens of times of how to

depict Mt Paektu, the ancestral mountain of Korea where the bright morning of the country dawned, as magnificently, majestically and meaningfully as possible. Among a series of representation plans Pak's for showing the water-spout that occurs in Mt Paektu won unanimous support of all participants. The enormous natural phenomenon that seems as if the whole water of Lake Chon spins up toward the sky in column and golden glow cast by the rising sun that followed added to the majesty and mystery of Mt Paektu to the full, grasping the heart of the entire audience.

When there was a suggestion that a ceremony should be held to fly the national flag before the beginning of the performance, he gave his opinion that a picture of green lawn bearing such figures as "1948" and "2018" should be unfolded on the floor of the venue on which men and women carry a large national flag to give a weighty impression on the sacred 70-year history of the DPRK. He depicted monumental structures as a course of rising from the low-storey to multi-storey ones at the scene showing the golden age of construction, to visually accentuate the legendary construction speed and changes in the country. He also proposed representing a screen to give the viewers an impression that they are looking forward through the watch window on board an engine in the scene

of national reunification in which a train running along the rail stops and whistles in front of the signpost of the Military Demarcation Line, in order to emphasize the pain of national division suffered by the compatriots. His skill as a film director was fully demonstrated in the production of other scenes.

He not only put forward plans for screen representation. He worked day and night to finish one scene after another.

He sometimes drifted in and out of consciousness and could not work properly as he wished due to months of battle-fatigue and aged body, but he went into hospital after finishing the production.

His mind, however, was always on the production of that work of art. He so burned with the enthusiasm for artistic creation that he died at the computer table.

Today his friends recollect him, saying that his commitment to the production of the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance is the aggregate of the ardent zeal and pure conscience of the director dedicated to film direction for over five decades.

He is said to have put his heart and soul into every piece and every scene of the many films he had directed.

Last year Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent a wreath to the grave of Pak Jong Ju to express his deep sorrow over his death.

By Ri Sang Il PT

ONLINE LEARNING

Workers keep abreast of new technologies online



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees acquire knowledge online at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

Technical innovations which guarantee the revitalization of production have been made in succession at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill. A noticeable thing is that all the achievements are the fruition of passion of quest of its technicians and workers.

Officials and workers of the mill attribute the achievements to the sci-tech learning space.

The operation of the learning space which has been going on for several years is getting brisker as the days go by.

After rationally setting the diffusing time of science and technology for each workshop so as not to hold up production, the mill updates its database with the latest sci-tech data on a constant basis and carries on an undertaking for improving the practical effect of technical study including the making of multimedia presentations.

Through the operation of the

sci-tech learning space, employees had a scientific understanding of their work, which stimulated innovations and helped them come up with new inventions.

Technicians and workers joined efforts to make a lot of sci-tech achievements of national significance. In particular, the power take-off of the silk-spinning machine and other inventions developed by ordinary silk reelers and testers made it possible to markedly improve the quality of products.

This year alone, the mill devised and introduced over 20 technical innovation plans through the mass technical innovation movement, including the making of automatic cocoon sorting machine and the development of PLC program for automatic silk-spinning machine. At present, more than a hundred workers are enrolled at distant education colleges of Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry and other universities, and university graduates number dozens.

Kim Jong Hyang and Pak Il Ju, silk reelers who are known throughout the country as labour innovators by carrying out their two- and three-year economic plans ahead of schedule, are also students of online college course of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.

"After daily work we learn efficient working methods that can boost production at the sci-tech learning space. It is very profitable to work on the basis of deep understanding of the technical features of machines we operate," they said.

Electric light does not go out until late at night at the sci-tech learning space, where silk reelers work hard to broaden their knowledge. This is the scenery of the silk mill.

The silk mill won the title of model sci-tech learning space this year.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

PROGRAM

Local Linux system upgraded

Red Star 4.0 server operating system has recently been developed.

The developers established Red Star in accordance with the liking and emotion of Koreans and has improved the OS by making the most of the fertile features, performances and security elements of Linux.

According to server managers, Red Star 4.0 offers several service setting tools to make it convenient to manage and maintain the server.

The OS is compatible with computers equipped with UEFI function and mass-storage devices and its bonding for increasing network throughput has been

improved remarkably.

The developers have applied migration which keeps the network and service configurations of the previous version, thereby reducing the time for configuring the server during installation. And they have added more than thirty system and service daemon management tools such as tools for boot configuration, disk management and integrity monitoring, in order to make the server management much easier than other Linux-based server OSs.

Red Star 4.0 was highly appreciated at the 29th national exhibition of IT achievements.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

RESOLVE

Medical services to be improved

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's New Year Address inspires all the people with optimism and confidence in the future of our socialist country which will be more prosperous.

The role of medical workers is very important in giving full play to the advantages of socialism of our own style embodying the people-first principle.

This year, we will further improve the quality of medical services.

We will regularize and standardize the management and operation of our hospital and take good care of modern dental apparatuses and other medical facilities to make greater success in medical treatment.

We will make persevering efforts to improve the clinical

skills of health workers and conduct outreach health service activities more briskly.

In addition, we will play our part as a medical centre of the dental sector by proactively applying advanced diagnosis and treatment methods to implant, correction and conservation treatment and continue to increase the rate of Koryo therapy in treatment.

By resolving the issue of medicines and materials with our own efforts in the spirit of self-reliance and self-development, we will lay firm material foundations of curative and preventive work.

Ri Myong Chol,

first deputy director of the Ryugyong Dental Hospital

CHARITY

Disabled soldier couple wins public heart

Visitors continued to flow into flat No. 2 on the second floor of Neighbourhood Unit No. 22 in Phyongchon-dong No. 2 of Phyongchon District, Pyongyang all day long on New Year's Day when families and relatives gather to exchange New Year greetings.

As soon as the employees of the Korea Chinson (Friendship) Corporation left the house, a group of students of Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce arrived.

It was the home of a couple of honoured disabled soldiers, Ho Chol U and Kim Jin Mi.

They had a happy smile on their faces, surrounded by the visitors who came to say Happy

New Year to them before visiting their own parents and relatives. It was five years ago when they got married and moved into the house.

"Jin Mi and I are both discharged and disabled soldiers. So we fell in love with each other as soon as we met and got married. But when we began our married life, I was afraid whether I could lead a family. Now I have many fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters who care for me in place of my late parents. I am very thankful to them," said Ho.

"We have never thought they are strangers," said Sin Chun Sim, head of the neighbourhood

unit. "They are our proud son and daughter who devoted their youth and even their bodies to national defence. It is a virtue in our society to put forward such young people as honoured disabled soldiers and take good care of them. It is too natural that we look after their living."

Whenever something pleasant happens or special foods are prepared in the families of the neighbourhood unit, they visit Ho's house to share good with them and enjoy food together.

And whenever a helping hand is needed for house repair or kimchi making, members of the neighbourhood unit visit the family one after another to help them.

"The more I visit the family of the disabled soldiers, the better understanding I have come to have of their noble mentality," said Ri Kum Chol, a student of Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce. "They devoted their all to the country and comrades and lost a leg, but they lead their lives optimistically full of hope for the future. And it greatly impresses me and my friends."

Many people visited Ho's home on New Year's Day and unanimously wished the couple good health and happiness.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The disabled soldier couple is greeted by students from Pyongyang Jang Chol Gu University of Commerce on New Year's Day.

REPORTER'S LOG

Centenarian happy with her life

I recently visited the home of Kim Rok Ju in Neighbourhood Unit No. 55 in Janggyong-dong No. 1, Sosong District, Pyongyang. She will turn 100 in February this year.

I was greeted by Kim Thae Son, her eldest son who looked much younger than his age of 76.

He guided me into her room where she was scrubbing the floor clean. He smilingly said his mother still does needlework as good as young women and

she is a "workaholic".

The neat and tidy room evinced her assiduity. As I said hello to the warm-hearted and healthy elderly woman, I asked her if longevity runs her family.

She shook her head smilingly and told me about her past life.

Kim Rok Ju was born into a peasant family in then Onchon County of South Phyongan Province in 1919 during Japanese military rule, as the eldest daughter of five siblings. Under



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kim Rok Ju (third from right), who is to turn a hundred in February, has a good time with her family members.

harsh colonial rule, though her parents worked their fingers to the bone, the family remained extremely poor and her three brothers starved to death.

They were so destitute they married their daughter to a good-natured man in the same village as soon as she grew to maturity. But she still failed to escape grinding poverty and her months-old baby succumbed to an illness.

She could lead a life worthy of a human being only after the country's liberation.

Land was distributed free to her family, too, and her couple did farming to their heart's content and led a happy life raising their two sons.

During the Fatherland Liberation War her husband fought bravely on the front and she worked hard in the rear to assist the Korean People's Army soldiers on the front.

In the periods of postwar reconstruction and socialist construction she overfulfilled her grain production assignments every year as an exemplary farmer.

Then the ringing of the doorbell interrupted her story and the head of the neighbourhood unit and the family doctor at the dong clinic came into the room.

As she was registered as a macrobian, she is under special care of the clinic and the doctor

WHAT THEY SAY

My country is best

Words fail to express my joy of having participated in the schoolchildren's new year performance in the homeland.

An annual event held as one of the important celebrations of new year, the performance is the focus of all schoolchildren in the homeland.

It seems to me like a dream that I have taken part in such an excellent performance.

In fact, the Korean schoolchildren in Japan fail to sing national songs to their heart's content.

It is dangerous for Korean schoolgirls to leave home in Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) and the Japanese cast a menacing look to us when we hum a tune of Korean song.

But we sang Korean songs to our heart's content in the homeland and gave a performance to mark the new year.

Renowned teachers in the homeland spared no pains for the training of us and such good places as the People's Palace of Culture and Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace were offered as practice grounds.

When I practised singing alone at a hotel hall in the evening as I was unsure of my



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Kang Il Jin, member of the Korean schoolchildren's art troupe from Japan.

ability, the hotel staff praised me as an encouragement.

This is my homeland, in which everybody warmly embraces and teaches us and unsparingly offers best things to us.

I received a new collection of songs from the teachers in the homeland as a souvenir.

Though I live in Japan, I will steadily carry on the patriotic national spirit, the proud tradition of Chongryon (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), cherishing national songs in my heart.

Maintaining national identity with songs



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Jang Yu Rim, member of the Korean schoolchildren's art troupe from Japan.

This is the second time for me to take part in the schoolchildren's new year performance in the homeland.

calls on her on a regular basis, said the granny.

She devotedly supported her family members to be honourable members of society and among her grandchildren there is a Labour Hero, the head of the neighbourhood unit said proudly, adding that as her descendants look after her with all filial devotion, the whole neighbourhood unit admires her family.

According to her eldest

Last time I performed a dance, but I sang a song this time.

My artistic ability was poor as it was not so long since I took up vocal music, but I have learned a lot in the homeland.

Vocal and speech training teachers in the homeland taught me one by one how to produce sound, take breath, represent emotion and pronounce words.

Thanks to their devotion, our performance won a big hand from the audience.

As we sang in song *We Will Defend Our School's Toll*, I will defend national dignity and soul with songs.

It is my dream to become a singer of the Kumgangsan Opera Troupe so as to give great strength and encouragement to the Korean residents in Japan.

daughter-in-law aged 72, she still does kitchen work, excels in making glutinous rice-cake and a boiled ground bean dish and likes to listen to music.

"Songs come by themselves under the meticulous care of the state. My only worry is that I cannot repay the favour, so I always tell my children to work hard for the grateful country," said the senior citizen.

By Pang Un Ju PT

SPORTS

Best players and coaches of 2018 chosen



The DPRK selected top ten players and coaches of 2018, as well as top ten football and Taekwon-Do players and coaches.

Top ten players

1. Om Yun Chol, weightlifter from Amnokgang
2. Ri Se Gwang, artistic gymnast from April 25
3. Pang Chol Mi, boxer from Kumgangsan
4. Rim Jong Sim, weightlifter from Kigwan-cha
5. Pak Myong Won, shooter from Korean People's Army Defence
6. Rim Un Sim, weightlifter from Kigwan-cha
7. Kim Su Jong, artistic gymnast from Pyongyang
8. Jong Myong Suk, wrestler from April 25
9. Pak Yong Mi, wrestler from Pyongyang
10. Kim Un Ju, weightlifter from Kigwan-cha

Top ten coaches

1. Ro Hyon Chol from Amnokgang, weightlifting
2. Sin Myong Su from April 25, artistic gymnastics
3. Pak Chol Jun from Kumgangsan, boxing
4. Kim Chun Hui from Kigwan-cha, weightlifting
5. Ri Sung Il from the KPA Defence, shooting
6. Kim Un Ju from Pyongyang, artistic

gymnastics

7. Yun Tong Gon from April 25, wrestling
8. Kim Kuk Song from Pyongyang, wrestling
9. Ri Chol Nam from April 25, weightlifting
10. Jon Yong Sok from Taeryonggang, acrobatic gymnastics

Top ten footballers

1. Om Chol Song from April 25
2. An Tae Song from the same club
3. Rim Kwang Hyok from Kigwan-cha
4. Sin Hyok from the same club
5. Kwon Chung Hyok from April 25
6. Kim Hyang Ran from the same club
7. Jon Un Gyong from Amnokgang
8. Ri Yong Mi from the same club
9. Kim Chol Ok from April 25
10. Rim Chol Min from the same club

Top ten football coaches

1. O Yun Son from April 25
2. Han Won Chol from Kigwan-cha
3. Kwon Ryong Jun from April 25
4. Sin Yong Nam from Ryomyong
5. Ri Won Il from Amnokgang
6. Pu Kyong Nam from Pyongyang
7. Ri Song Ho from Wolmido
8. Ho Sok Gwang from Sobaeksu
9. Jang Won Myong from Rimyongsu
10. Pak Myong Hun from Sobaeksu

Compiled from KCNA

PROFILE

Ri proves himself as vaulting horse ace



Ri Se Gwang gives a salute to the national flag at the awards ceremony.

Ri Se Gwang from the DPRK shook the world's gymnastic circles by winning the gold medal in the vaulting horse event of the 48th IGF World Artistic Gymnastics Championships held in Doha, Qatar, last year.

Foreign media outlets lavished praise on the three-time world champion and gold medallist of the 31st Olympic Games, describing him as the "world vaulting horse ace raising the successive whirlwind" and saying that he has continued to be considered as a mysterious being.

He started to practise artistic gymnastics at the age of seven at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace under the coaching of Jo Hun.

"Se Gwang's sturdy body and hard eyes captured my fancy at a glance," said Jo Hun looking back upon that time. "He jumped higher than others and chinned 12 times, even though other fellows in his age group only stayed at two or three times, to the admiration of all trainees."

As he was unusually unyielding and persevering, he acquired basic yet hard movements faster than anybody else and his skills grew markedly.

He was picked up by the April 25 Sports Club since he emerged victorious in succession at the national tournaments of juvenile sports schools in his teens. He came to hold sway over the domestic front through intensive training and bagged the first gold medal in the vaulting horse at the 15th Asian Games in 2006.

He came third in the same event of the 40th World Artistic Gymnastics Championships the following year, for the reason that the degrees of difficulty

of his technical movements were not so high.

He hardened his resolve to win the world championship without fail by performing new vaulting horse movements.

He, with the help of head coach Ri Man Sop, conceived new technical movements with high degrees of difficulty,

especially three forward somersaults with bent body and 180-degree side turn and two backward somersaults with bent body and 360-degree side turn, and launched into training.

He excelled in speed, upper body strength and jump, but it was not an easy job to complete the new movements.

He did not succumb to difficulties and trials: he repeated the movements with high degrees of difficulty, in which even a slight mistake may endanger his life, despite injuries while overcoming heavy physical burden by dint of strong willpower and death-defying spirit. His painstaking efforts bore fruit.

He stood on the winners' podium at the 5th Asian gymnastics championships in 2012 by performing the new movements.

At the time he told journalists that he is proud of his gold medal as he snatched it with the vaulting horse movements of the DPRK.

He was also triumphant in the 6th FIG ART Challenge Cup in 2013, the 45th and 46th IGF world artistic gymnastics championships in 2014 and 2015 and the 31st Olympic Games in 2016.

The International Gymnastic Federation named the movements created by him "Ri Se Gwang movements 1 and 2", and publications described his movements as "world-level" and "very adventurous and passionate".

Ri Se Gwang now enjoys the love and respect of locals as the Labour Hero, People's Athlete and model of Korean sportspersons.

By Jong Tang Song PT

