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MEETING

Exemplary farmers meet to share good experiences, vow to hit grain targets set by the Party

The Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field took place at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on December 25 and 26.

The meeting analysed and reviewed the achievements, experience and lessons drawn in the efforts to carry out the Workers' Party of Korea's policy on the agricultural revolution and discussed tasks and ways for attaining the agricultural production goal set forth by the Party by giving the fullest play to the spiritual strength and creative enthusiasm of the officials and workers in the agricultural field and by raising the hot wind of scientific farming and intensifying the high-yield movement.

Present there were Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, Ro Tu Chol, Pak Thae Dok and Kim Nung O who are senior Party and

government officials, Ko In Ho, deputy premier of the Cabinet and minister of Agriculture, Ri Chol Man, department director of the WPK Central Committee, chairmen of the provincial committees of the WPK, and exemplary farmers, junior rural officials, agricultural scientists and technicians across the country, leading officials in the field of agriculture and officials of ministries, national agencies and relevant units.

Pak Pong Ju made a report.

He said that the history of the high-yield movement in the country is the history of noble patriotic devotion of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who opened a broad way for the development of the Juche-oriented agriculture and the proud history in which the might of Korean-style socialism and collectivism has been displayed prominently.

He referred to the achievements made by the agricultural officials and workers under the leadership of the Party through the dynamic struggle for making a fresh leap forward in agricultural production.

He underscored the need to attain the goal of grain production set forth in the

five-year strategy for national economic development by conducting a dynamic high-yield movement initiated by the Party, and work hard for the final victory in building a socialist power.

He was followed by speeches.

Party and state commendations were awarded to the agricultural workers, officials, scientists and technicians who rendered distinguished services.

They researched and

introduced new scientific farming methods and waged a dynamic high-yield movement, thus contributing to increasing grain production in this year of the 70th founding anniversary of the DPRK.

The awards ceremony was held at the April 25 House of Culture in Pyongyang on Wednesday.

Kim Jae Nam, So Kwang Ok, Yun Ryong Sok and Ri Hyong Nam were awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero, Gold

Medal (Hammer and Sickle) and Order of National Flag First Class and Kim Song Chan, Ri In Sun, Kye Yong Suk, Ri Yong Ok, Choe Jong Ha, Ri Kyong Bok, Han Kyong Sam and Choe Man Bok the citation of WPK Chairman Kim Jong Un.

The Cabinet of the DPRK gave banquets at the People's Palace of Culture and the Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang in honour of the participants in

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The Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field takes place in Pyongyang.

REMEMBRANCE

Chairman Kim Jong Il extolled as peerlessly great leader

Meetings to remember Chairman Kim Jong Il took place in Nepal, Mongolia and Denmark on Dec 11 and 12 to commemorate the seventh anniversary of his demise.

Madav Kumar Nepal, former prime minister of Nepal, said that by pursuing Songun politics, Kim Jong Il developed the DPRK into a political, ideological and military power no formidable imperialist enemy dares to provoke.

He noted that the DPRK is fully demonstrating its dignity as a great country, as Kim Jong Il successfully settled the issue of succession to the leadership, though he passed away.

C. P. Mainali, general secretary

of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), praised the Songun revolutionary feats of Kim Jong Il who decisively frustrated the imperialists' moves to stifle the DPRK and defended the sovereignty of the country and the happiness of the people.

J. Lomvo, chairman of the Mongolian Mt Paektu Association for Independent Development, said President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il were the great leaders who dedicated their all to the development of friendly relations between Mongolia and the DPRK and the building of prosperous DPRK, adding that the friendly ties provided by the preceding leaders of the two countries have excellently

developed for long.

Anders Kristensen, chairman of the Denmark-DPRK Friendship Association, said that Kim Jong Il was a prominent thinker and theoretician who developed in depth the Juche idea into a guiding ideology in the era of independence and a defender of socialism and justice.

Messages to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un were adopted at the meetings held in Nepal and Denmark.

Similar meetings took place in India, Pakistan, Belarus and Bulgaria from Dec 12 to 14.

Attending the meetings were figures of all social standings and other people in those countries.

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RENOVATION

County town renovation project progresses apace

Amid the rapid progress in the project for sprucing up Samjiyon County of Ryanggang Province, successes have been made in the construction of dwelling houses and public buildings in the county town.

The internal work of houses for well over a thousand families has almost been completed.

Units under the construction brigade of ministries and national agencies of Construction Division 216 finished the internal work of houses for over a hundred families and construction brigades 618 and 922 increased the number of completed houses.

Along with this, rapid

progress is also being made in the final process of construction of public service establishments and in the laying of roads in the county town.

Soldier-builders and units under the brigade of ministries and national agencies are going on a campaign to complete the internal work like the installation of furniture and lighting apparatuses as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, units under Construction Brigade 618 are speeding up the construction of public service facilities as well as the laying of roads in different sections.

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INAUGURATION

Projects completed to boost fishery, deepen research into crop and fish farming

A comprehensive and modern fishery station has been built in the Monggumpho area near the central fishing ground in the West Sea of Korea, furnished with fish loading and processing ground, a hostel and cultural and welfare facilities for fishermen.

An inaugural ceremony took place on December 23.

It was attended by Vice-Premier Ri Ryong Nam, officials concerned, builders, fishermen and other employees.

Speakers at the ceremony said that the fishing base is the fruition of the energetic leadership and devoted efforts of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who cares much about the development of the country's fishing industry and improvement of the people's livelihood.

Referring to the fact that he, busy as he was with his revolutionary leadership, checked the master plan for the construction of the

Monggumpho fishery station and took measures to complete the construction as soon as possible, they called for scrupulously managing and operating the fishery station true to the intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to ensure a good supply of fish and enrich the people's diet so as to substantially improve the people's living standards.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

The participants looked round the newly built fishery station.

The maize institute and dry crop institute under the Academy of Agricultural Science have newly been built and opened.

The institutes are modern scientific research bases furnished with scientific research rooms, labs, e-libraries, hostels and greenhouses.

An opening ceremony took place on December 24.

The speaker at the ceremony



PHOTOS BY KCNA

High-yielding varieties are bred at the maize institute of the Academy of Agricultural Science.

stressed the necessity for all employees to step up the drive for pushing back the frontiers of science and technology in agricultural research to breed good and high-yielding varieties of crops that are acclimatized to local climate and soil in order to carry out the decision of the historic April Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Advanced technologies should widely be applied including bioengineering technology to breed more high-yielding varieties with which to increase per-hectare crop yield and introduce them into agricultural production so that people will actually benefit from them, he noted.

After the ceremony, the participants looked round the institutes.

The central fish culture institute of the Academy of Fisheries was inaugurated.

The institute consists of modernly-built fish breeding and resources survey research offices, fish ponds and fish farming experiment ground.

At the opening ceremony on December 25 Vice-Premier Ri Ryong Nam called on the officials and employees of the institute to breed good varieties of freshwater fishes to suit the specific conditions of the country, widely introduce water- and labour-saving techniques and improve the quality of fish feed in order to promote the growth of the country's fish culture scientifically and technologically.

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A modern fishery station built in the Monggumpho area near the main fishing ground in the West Sea of Korea.

WMC

Students win World Memory Championship

Students of the DPRK proved successful in the 27th World Memory Championship.

Hundreds of students from 18 countries and regions including the DPRK, China, the US and Japan attended the championship held in Hong Kong of China from Dec 20 to 22.

In the championship, students of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education bagged seven gold medals, seven silvers and five bronzes, winning four trophies and renewing four world records.

Two students were awarded the international memory master prize, top one of the World Memory Championship.

In the senior contest, Pang Un Sim took the first place, winning five gold medals, three silvers, one bronze and the international memory master prize.

In the junior contest, Ri Song Mi gained two gold medals, three silvers and two bronzes together with the master prize.

Korean students returned home on Tuesday.

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Meeting: Exemplary farmers enjoy stay in Pyongyang

FROM PAGE 1

the Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field on Wednesday.

Present there at invitation were exemplary farmers, junior rural officials and agricultural scientists and technicians.

They were attended by Premier Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, and other senior Party

and government officials.

The participants in the Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the sacred temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, on Saturday.

The participants paid homage to the statues of the great leaders.

At the halls of immortality where the great leaders lie in state, they bowed to them in humble reverence, looking back upon their revolutionary careers.

They made the rounds of the halls where the orders the great leaders received are on display and the halls that house

cars, electric car, ship and train coaches used by them during their field guidance and foreign tours till the last moments of their lives.

The participants in the Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field visited Mangyongdae, the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung.

They looked round historic relics showing the greatness of the President and the outlook on life of his family members at the old home in Mangyongdae after visiting the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Museum.

During their visit to the Korean Revolution Museum they paid tribute to the coloured statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at its general review room and looked round different rooms.

They also toured the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and the Sci-Tech Complex.

The participants in the Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field toured Pyongyang during their stay there.

They visited the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong.

In front of the statues of revolutionary martyrs they



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Visitors look round exhibits at the landscape and handicrafts exhibition held at the Korean National Art Museum to mark the 101st birthday of anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk. On display are some 110 pieces of Korean and oil paintings, embroidery works and craftworks including acrylic painting "Best wishes of all people".

cherished deep in their hearts the spirit of devotedly defending the leader and the indomitable fighting spirit displayed by anti-Japanese forerunners who held President Kim Il Sung in high esteem as the centre of leadership and unity and dedicated their lives to the sacred struggle for the independence of the country and liberation of the people.

They looked round the historic relics and data on display at the hall dedicated to education with revolutionary relics in the Academy of Agricultural Science.

They also saw the materials about the agricultural sci-tech achievements at the Agricultural Science Exhibition House.

They made the rounds of the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District which has been spruced up as a model of modern socialist rural communities and a fairyland in the era of the Workers' Party.

They visited the Central Class Education House and spent a pleasant time at the Central Zoo.

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Participants in the Fourth National Meeting of Activists in the Agricultural Field on a visit to the Central Zoo.

LIGHT INDUSTRY

Consumer goods production goes into top gear with tangible results

This year many factories in the light industry sector including the footwear, cosmetics and foodstuff industries stepped up the upgrading of various production processes by relying on local technology, equipment and raw and other materials, providing a guarantee for diversifying consumer goods in kind and form and improving their quality.

Modernization drive

Central and local light industry factories carried out important programmes to upgrade production processes at a high level and establish new ones.

The Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory completed the second-stage modernization project. It established an automatic control system of the overall production processes and further updated the integrated manufacturing system with which to manage all production activities of power supply, process control and quality control in real time. It set up processes for specially producing basic, healthcare, makeup and cleansing cosmetics and established a purified air supply system with a capacity of tens of thousands of cubic metres in the maturing and injection processes and container washing and storage areas to make the cosmetics production area germ- and dust-free. Hundreds of pieces of solar panels were also fixed on the roofs of production buildings to build an annual power generating capacity of tens of thousands of kWh and ultrapure water supply and industrial water recycling systems established at production sites to carry out the modernization scheme in a short time.

The Kyongsong Ceramic Factory more than doubled its production capacity by carrying out a renovation and upgrading project. It built a main production building with a floor space of thousands of square metres and seven other production buildings, made a modern gas generator and ceramic kiln based on local fuel and finished the installation of hundreds of pieces of equipment including crushers, pulverizers and presses of various kinds.

A powdered milk production process has newly been built at the Phyonggang Meat Processing Factory. It rationally arranged various processes of condensation, spray and packaging in the production area while completing the construction of powdered milk production place by a dry method

in a short time. It established an automatic control system in the newly added production processes and linked it with the integrated manufacturing system to informatize all production processes at a high level.

The Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory set up a large-capacity cereal chip production process which is economically profitable in the ratio of cost to production of goods. A drive was pushed ahead to build processes for the production of various processed maize foods at provincial general foodstuff factories.

The Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Sinuiju, Kusong and other textile mills stepped up the modernization of equipment. Marked progress was made in the drive to upgrade production processes at local industrial factories and consumer goods production units across the country.

Self-reliance

A great deal of energies were directed to improving the people's living standards by relying on domestic raw and other materials.

The knitting industry produced knitted goods including students' sportswear with locally available materials. The Pyongyang Children's Knitwear Factory and Hamhung, Kangso and other knitwear factories increased textile production with home-made rayon yarn while introducing new dyeing materials.

The Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory succeeded in extracting functional materials for toothpaste from cereal byproducts and the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory developed with local raw materials dozens of kinds of products to be used as raw materials for cosmetics including hyaluronic acid and collagen resolving materials.

Researchers also succeeded in separating and extracting over a dozen kinds of high-grade perfumes from Koryo medicinal materials and developed a natural raw material for high-quality wine.

The Hamhung Adhesive Factory is increasing the production of adhesives for shoemaking. The new adhesive with local raw materials as solvent has higher adhesive strength and costs far less than the previous ones. The factory first chose raw materials which can be used for making the adhesive and found out a catalytic material suitable for synthesis reaction. On the basis of this, it set up a production process large enough to satisfy the needs for adhesives at



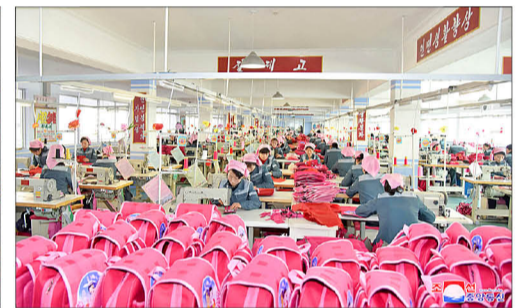
RI KWANG SONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

Blankets with various designs are produced at the Pakchon Silk Mill.



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A variety of trainers are manufactured at the Ryuwon Footwear Factory.



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School bags are produced in large numbers across the country.



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Kumsanpho pickled fish products processed in an industrial way.

footwear factories across the country.

Yonhan County of North Hwanghae Province is noted for making effective use of mountains to promote economic growth and improve the livelihood of the county population. It stepped up the programme of turning forests which make up over 64 percent of the county area into forests of economic value for different management purposes in a planned manner to put production at dozens of locally-run factories on normal track. In recent years it reclaimed low hills which had been overgrown with weeds and covered with rocks to grow plants to be used as raw materials for processed fruit products, soap, hair oil and other consumer goods.

Changsong County of North Phyongan Province harvested several hundred tons more wild fruits than last year, providing a sure guarantee for increased

production, and established a new process for the production of sugar with locally available raw materials.

Sakju County of the same province, Usi County of Jagang Province, Munchon City of Kangwon Province and many other cities and counties have ensured the domestic production of dozens of kinds of foodstuffs and daily necessities.

"Many more production units stepped up the development of products and put production on normal track with domestic raw and other materials than last year. It is an inevitable result of the noble spirit to create more material wealth by their own efforts and domestic materials, I think," said Kim Jong Ho, an official of the Ministry of Light Industry.

Commodities on increase

Growth of light industry can be seen in several exhibitions

held this year, including the seventh national 206-kinds of consumer goods show, the national August 3 consumer goods exhibition, national footwear exhibition-2018, the 29th national consumer goods show and the 10th Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 commodity show.

The exhibitions gave strict and clear assessment of the quality of the exhibits.

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, which was highly appreciated at national footwear show-2018, introduced over a dozen valuable technical innovation plans this year alone to produce a large quantity of new products. It put production on normal track at a high level by applying highly efficient cutting and outer rim processing methods while steadily developing various shapes of stylish shoes.

The Ryuwon Footwear

ANNIVERSARY

Drawing the country's waterway map

Shortly ago, the irrigation design institute of the Ministry of Agriculture celebrated its 65th anniversary.

The large-scale irrigation systems stretching to the fields of the country like cobwebs and the gravity-fed waterways running to standardized fields are associated with the efforts of officials and designers of the institute.

The institute worked out designs for major irrigation projects on the highest level, including the "plan for national irrigation networks" and the "master plan for tideland irrigation waterways", as well as those for dozens of other irrigation projects throughout the country to suit the specific conditions of the country.

Typical examples are the Phyongnam irrigation project, the country's first large-scale irrigation work, and the Kiyang irrigation project for drawing the water of the Taedong River to tens of thousands of hectares of fields in the areas along the west coast.

The institute made notable achievements in upgrading the existing irrigation system based on pumping facilities into a gravitational irrigation one as required by the new century.

In the 1990s, the country pushed ahead with a land

rezoning project for turning all the fields in the country into standardized ones, while carrying on a gravity-fed waterway project to make rivers flow into reservoirs and paddy fields.

Designers of the institute ensured the making of designs and the laying of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong Waterway, the first gravity-fed one in the country, the Paengma-Cholsan Waterway in North Phyongan Province and the Miru Plain Waterway in North Hwanghae Province by conducting the field surveys, measurement and confirmation of bench mark in relevant areas.

The changeover of the irrigation system relying on pumping facilities on the west coast into a new gravity-fed irrigation system made it possible to supply enough irrigation water without using hundreds of pumping facilities. The gravitational waterways running through mountains, fields, roads and rural villages add beauty to the scenery of the country.

The institute is now laying a waterway in South Hwanghae Province and the gravity-fed waterway that links the Chongchon River to the Phyongnam irrigation system after finishing their designs.

The well over a hundred kilometre-long waterway in South Hwanghae Province is to irrigate such main granaries as Ongjin, Kangryong, Pyoksong, Chongdan and reclaimed Ryongmaedo tideland areas, while the dozens of kilometre-long gravity-fed waterway is to wet the Yoltusamchholli Plain with the water of the Chongchon.

The construction of the waterways will round off the establishment of a gravitational irrigation system for the granaries on the west coast, which take the lion's share in the grain production of the country.

In addition, the institute pushes the designing of a gravity-fed waterway for irrigating the southern area of Pyongyang and the Kindung Plain in Hwangju County of North Hwanghae Province, as well as those for forming small and medium-size gravitational irrigation systems in provinces, cities and counties.

In order to optimize designs, the institute introduces fluid and structural analysis programs and conducts the geological survey and structural analysis of relevant areas in detail to save a large quantity of building materials and complete construction ahead of schedule.

"Farming is unthinkable apart from water. We will reliably guarantee the country's agricultural development by drawing up every waterway design in a responsible manner," said Kim Yong Ho, director of the institute.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



KCNA

Part of the Kaechon-Lake Thaesong Waterway, the DPRK's first gravity-fed canal.

Goods: Commodities turn out in bulk

FROM PAGE 3

Factory, Pyongyang Leather Shoes Factory, Pothonggang Footwear Factory and other footwear and leather shoes factories across the country have made innovations in the production of men's and women's shoes of various shapes and colours that are lighter than before.

This year the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory developed dozens of kinds of new Unhasu-brand products.

The Sinuiju Cosmetics Factory widely encourages the

development of new products while ratcheting up the serial production of hundreds of kinds of cosmetics.

Notable achievements have also been made in the foodstuff industry sector.

A fish pickling factory was built to improve the people's living standards. Various kinds of fishes and other marine products processed by an industrial method, the Kumsanpho pickled fish products are winning growing popularity for the rich flavour peculiar to those of the West Sea of Korea and high quality safety.

The Sonhung Foodstuff Factory improved quality

indexes of hundreds of kinds of products and launched dozens of kinds of new products. The Paeksong General Foodstuff Factory continues to develop new products in great demand by holding products shows effectively. The Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople and other foodstuff factories across the country are now paying a great deal of attention to improving their brand image to make their products famous ones favoured by the people.

"The demand of people for better life is growing with each passing day, and it does not allow any stagnation or repetition. Of course, such a

SEAWEED

Double harvests help boost seaweed output



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Cultivators gather the first crop of *Undaria pinnatifida* of the year.

The Kangwon provincial cooperative fishery economy committee increases the production of *Undaria pinnatifida* by introducing a new method.

The demand for the seaweed, which is called the "king of iodine", is on the rise in the world as the days go by.

It is rich in nutritive elements: it contains three times more iodine, two times more protein, three times more lipid and 1.5 times more vitamins than kelp.

Its culture is good for the protection of ecological environment of the sea and the multiplication of marine resources as it purifies sea water and provides fish and bivalve with habitats and spawning beds by creating submarine forests.

According to Ri Kum Il, director of the new technology introduction centre of the committee, double harvests of *Undaria pinnatifida* or kelp were not available in the world as well as in the DPRK.

Double harvests mean the cultivation of the same crop twice a year in the same area.

Technicians intensified research with an idea to introduce "double cropping" like in agricultural production in order to increase the per-hectare yield of *Undaria pinnatifida*.

It was an established method for raisers to carry seedling

frames to the sea from the breeding ground in late October. The growth of seedlings was soon deterred by the drop in seawater temperature and they began to grow the following spring and were gathered in mid-April.

"We applied a new technology to the stage of seedling culture to break down the old method," said key developer Kim Jun Hyok. "We made sure that slow action fertilizer for culture was adhered to the weft thread, where the spores of *Undaria pinnatifida* seedlings grow attached to it, to ensure enough initial nutritive elements, thus promoting the growth of the seedlings. We took those seedlings to the sea first in mid-September, the most suitable period for the growth of *Undaria pinnatifida*, when the temperature of seawater is about 22-23 degrees centigrade and the seedlings grown in the conventional method a month later. The seedlings grew healthily so we could primarily gather *Undaria pinnatifida* of high-commodity value in late December and ensure their second harvest the following spring."

He added that the per-hectare yield of *Undaria pinnatifida* was increased by more than 1.8 times as compared to previously, thanks to the introduction of double harvests.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

pioneering spirit is cultivated only when we believe in our strength and rely on science and technology," said An Sok Min,

an official of the Ministry of Local Industry.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



CHOE WON CHOL / PICTORIAL KOREA

Various kinds of juice roll off the production line at the Kumkhop General Foodstuff Factory for Sportspeople.

CONSTITUTION

Socialist constitution guarantees fulfilling life

The Korean people are proud of their popular legal system on the occasion of the Day of the Socialist Constitution on December 27.

The constitution strictly guarantees the popular policies that are in force in the DPRK and the fulfilling, happy life of its people. It fully embodies the demand that everything in society should serve the people and all problems arising in the revolution and construction be solved by relying on their strength.

The independent demands of the masses of the people are reflected in the characters and guiding ideology of the DPRK, the supreme principles of its state activities and the fundamental rights and duties of its citizens, which are all specified in the constitution.

This is evidenced by the benefits the Koreans have enjoyed in this year of the 70th

founding anniversary of the country.

A ski resort opened in the suburbs of Kanggye, Jagang Province, as a mass sporting service centre at the outset of the year, followed by the inauguration of the provincial indoor stadium and the renovation of the Jangjasan Children's Camp in February.

As the whole society has attached importance to education, a national campaign has been conducted to improve educational conditions and environment, and football and technical senior middle schools were established in Pyongyang and provinces.

The advantages of the socialist healthcare system, whereby the state takes responsible care of the lives and health of people, have been brought into fuller play.

Every family has benefited from the free medical service,

those who were in the jaws of death were saved miraculously and centenarians received birthday spreads from Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

War veterans and other old persons spent good times at sanatoriums for war veterans and old people's homes throughout the country, and government organs at all levels took warm care of them, while sports games of the aged were arranged at scenic attractions, parks and pleasure grounds.

The Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant was built in a distinctive style on the banks of the Taedong River in Pyongyang. New types of tramcars and trolley buses run along streets in the capital to provide more convenience to passengers.

Nice dwelling houses and public buildings are rising up in Samjiyon County in the northern tip of the country, according to a project for turning the county into a model of modern city in the mountains. The construction project for the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area is also being pushed to spruce up the east coastal scenic spot of Myongsasipri.

In addition, a large number of sports and other cultural facilities have undergone renovation.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



KCNA

An educator and his family are excited to see their flat given by the state for free.

Briefly

Liquor brewed from soybean paste

An indispensable food of Koreans, soybean paste stimulates appetite and has high nutritive value.



Liquor brewed by harmonizing the taste and nutrition of bean paste.

Food researchers have brewed distinctive liquor by harmonizing the taste and nutrition of bean paste with liquor.

The liquor distilled from kaoliang or maize is matured for over three years after nutritive substances of bean paste are added to it.

Preserving the savoury taste of soybean paste, it does not cause headache, thirst and sour stomach even after overdrinking.

Fermented soybean products

It is widely known that fermented soybean is an anti-oxidation health food.

Soybeans are soaked for six to eight hours at the temperature of 20 degrees centigrade before removing their skin. Then

they are heated with steam at 100 degrees centigrade for 60 minutes and fermented with bacillus subtilus natto. Fermented soybean is used to prevent cerebral thrombosis, arteriosclerosis, headache and indigestion and is effective in protecting the liver and intestines, retarding ageing, refreshing mind and relieving fatigue.

The Ryugyong Fermented Soybean Factory turns out a variety of products, especially fermented soybean paste seasoned with garlic, ginger, red pepper and salt, powdered fermented soybean and fermented black soybean.

The fermented soybean paste is appetizing as various spices have been added.

The powdered fermented soybean is applied to foods or dissolved in water to drink.

The fermented black soybean made of black soybeans is more effective in dissolving

RESONANCE

Bioresonance applied to make health products



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

New products made by applying biological resonance.

All substances, large or small, have their own natural vibrations, and resonance which is produced by substances with similar frequencies is applied to many fields.

Tuning a TV or radio and ringing a person up on a mobile phone which is in wide use in our daily life are, in essence, producing resonances by finding necessary vibration frequencies.

Such a physical phenomenon of resonance is also an object of research in the medical field. Many scientists around the world have long been engaged in the study of living body's electromagnetic field.

They believe that bio-electromagnetic fields revitalize physiological activities.

On the basis of the belief, the Samryon Technology Trading Company made a bioactive radiator, bioactive radiation health card and curative waistband from natural substances with strong radiation intensity.

The bioactive radiator, which was made by processing over 60 kinds of locally-abundant minerals and several transition elements with the help of an advanced technology, stimulates physiological activities by dint of bio-electromagnetic field radiation, a great deal of anion generation and water absorption enhancement.

When the bioactive radiator is put into water, it releases strong electromagnetic waves to break off the hydrogen bonds

of water with high association, developing them into smaller molecule water which is easily absorbed by the human body. At the time, many anions are produced in the water due to the electromagnetic waves.

The drinking of this water strengthens bio-electromagnetic fields as the absorbed electromagnetic waves are transmitted to cells.

The bioactive radiator also proves effective in the agricultural sector.

According to key developer Kim Tong Sam, the seed processing by way of burying bioactive radiators in bags of grain and vegetable seeds was simple, accelerated sprouting and improved the absorption rate of fertilizer, thereby significantly increasing the yield of crops and vegetables this year as against previous years at the Posan Cooperative Farm in Kangso District, Nampho City.

The bioactive radiation health card and curative waist belt, which are easy to carry and handle, change the bioelectric current and biorhythm for their structural and combinational characteristics without the help of light or any other external energy sources.

"Resonance helps mankind in many ways," said Kim. "It emerges afresh as it gives them many expectations and fantasies. People will see more developed bio-resonance products in the near future."

By Ryang Kum Chol PT

thrombus, preventing cancer and retarding ageing than the one made of common soybeans and it is also favoured by those who dislike the smell of fermented soybean as there is little smell in it.



CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Some of the fermented soybean products.

By Ri Sang Il PT

EXTRAVAGANZA

Gala performance documents DPRK's 70 years

Grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* was given in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the DPRK and is known as a special masterpiece produced by the country's culture and art sector in 2018.

Similar performance *Arirang* earned fame as one of "eight wonders of the world" in the history of human civilization sixteen years ago and was later honoured with Kim Il Sung Prize, and the later art work also drew the attention of the world.

The Glorious Country is a work that shows the 70-year history of the DPRK, which has advanced under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea, with rich artistic representation.

Showcasing the DPRK's image, the work introduces the audience to its past, present and future.

At the beginning, Mt Paektu reveals its imposing appearance in the background as clouds break away in the deep space and its surroundings get bright with the morning glow, when the floor turns into a large fluttering DPRK flag and well over a hundred luminous drones circle around in the nocturnal sky to form the letters of title *The Glorious*

Country.

The work that grips the hearts of the audience with a strong emotional impact from the beginning unfolds the scenes of the periods of a new Korea building, the Fatherland Liberation War, postwar reconstruction, grand Chollima advance and Arduous March, the country's stirring reality in which a great golden age of construction is ushered in and epochal events happen in succession in the course of the efforts to accomplish the great cause of the nation and the prestige of the DPRK that opens up a new era of peace and prosperity.

The act of "International friendship" also attracted unstinting praise of the audience. Performers in national costumes of different countries executed distinctive dance movements while rendering foreign songs flawlessly.

The work comprehensively incorporates various art forms like music, fine art, dance and acrobatics and employs techniques of 3D image processing, laser projection and various illuminations, thereby drawing the audience into the world of mystery and trance.

More than 17 490 schoolchildren spread out

kaleidoscopic scenes with flash cards in the background like wonderful computer animations.

According to an insider, an average of 2 000 to 3 000 performers acted in each scene of the work on the floor and 7 000 at the maximum.

The massive performance was staged at May Day Stadium with 150 000 seats, but the audience felt as if it was given in a theatre as all elements of representation by the performers blended in so well.

The tens of thousands of performers were ordinary working people, students and children.

Despite sweltering heat and wind and rain, they displayed a strong sense of organization and discipline, power of unity and creative spirit to perfect the large-scale ensemble, unity of action and skills in a matter of some months.

The youngest were the four-year-old unicyclists.

The performance can be claimed to be a model work representative of the times as it was produced on the strength of single-minded unity and by employing advanced scientific and technological methods of representation. Politicians and other foreign viewers lavished praise on it, saying "it is the best masterpiece of the world that can only be seen in Juche Korea" and the "fact that such an art work exists is just the pride of the human world".

The Korean people will cherish grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country* as a proud and beautiful memory along with the DPRK's 70-year history.

By Pang Un Ju PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*.

ACTIVITY

Housewives play their part by conducting performing activities



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A group of housewives give a performance to inspire builders at a construction site.

Though the freezing winter set in, construction sites are buzzing with activities in keeping with the pace of the country which advances by leaps and bounds with creation and innovation.

The artistic motivational teams of the women's union cut a conspicuous figure at the building sites to which lorries laden with materials rush and which ring with the sounds of various machines as builders work vigorously.

Among them is such team of the Pothonggang district women's union committee in Pyongyang that fires builders with enthusiasm for innovation with stirring performances at the construction sites of the aviation club and football school in the capital city.

Every builder likes to see the shows consisting of various numbers including solo, chorus, dialogic poem, witty talk and vocal and instrumental ensemble playing accordion, guitar, harmonica, drum and the like.

Even biting cold cannot stop the team members from going to the construction sites every day as they are eager to see builders delighted with their gig and structures rising up beyond recognition with each passing day.

They go to the building sites with not only songs but some aid. They bring with them

gloves and hot teas for builders.

"I hardly expected that my song and humble aid would give them such great encouragement. As I received deafening applause and heard them affectionately address me as 'mother' or 'sister', I was filled with the pride that I also did something for construction," said Ri Su Yong, a team member.

The motivational team's visits are not confined to the construction sites in Pyongyang.

They occasionally go to those of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist zone and Samjiyon County which is turning into a model of modern city in the mountains.

They stay there for a few days as they conduct motivational activities, help builders with their laundry, give them haircuts and make tasty foods for them.

"It is no easy job for housewives to visit construction sites every day for artistic motivational activities. But they bloom as the flower of the country and society as well as their families in the embrace of the Workers' Party of Korea that highly appreciates what they do for society," said Song Yang Ran, chairwoman of the Pothonggang district women's union committee.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

VOLUNTEERS

Urban students volunteer to rural areas inspired by leader

One scorching July day this year, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, envisaging a plan to build a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm.

When a 100-hectare greenhouse farm is built there the demand of the provincial

people for vegetable will be fulfilled, he said, and specified the general direction for carrying out the construction project.

On hearing about the inspection of the Supreme Leader who is so anxious to supply the people with various vegetables all the year round even in the unfavourable climatic conditions of the northern areas, Jon Kyong Il, a final-year

student majoring in vegetable science at Chongjin University of Agriculture, was lost in deep thought.

He announced to his class that after graduation he would go to work at the Onpho greenhouse farm to be built in Kyongsong.

Ri Chung Song was the first to welcome his intention, saying he would join him as he wanted

to repay the favour shown by the state that gave him a new home when his village was flooded two years ago.

Following them, five more classmates volunteered to work at the farm.

When the Supreme Leader came to the farm again in mid-August, he was informed of this and praised it as very commendable.

Inspired by their example, their fellow students of other departments offered to work at the places to implement the leader's far-reaching plans.

Most of the volunteers were married and city-bred.

Their wives hesitated to follow them at first as they were stranger to rural life, but they agreed to go with their spouses, realizing that happiness is more precious and beautiful when they achieve it by themselves.

On September 30, the 39 volunteers who graduated from the university made for their workplaces with the blessings of their lecturers and students.

The praiseworthy deeds of the graduates of Chongjin University of Agriculture left a deep impression on university students across the country.

By Jong Chol PT

COMMENTS

Another anti-DPRK farce over human rights

During the Second World War, the notorious propaganda minister of Nazi Germany undertook a misleading propaganda campaign on local and world peoples, saying if you tell a lie 100 times it becomes truth.

Now the US seems to laboriously copy Goebbels in its ceaseless "human rights" racket against the DPRK and other countries.

The US noisily clamoured against north Korea over its "women's human rights" and "human trafficking" and, as a result, another "human rights resolution" was fabricated against the DPRK in the plenary session of the UN General Assembly on December 17.

The "resolution" is filled with fabrications which viciously slander the DPRK, talking about "wide-ranging and serious human

rights violations", "immediate discontinuation" and "attributing of blame" and calling for the "examination of the conclusion and recommendations of the UN commission of inquiry on the human rights situation in north Korea" including the "selective sanctions against those who are most to blame for the abuses". It also says that the "International Criminal Court urges the north Korean leadership to ensure the prosecution of assailants and judicial settlement".

Earlier, on December 11, the US Department of State issued a statement to put the DPRK and nine other countries including China, Iran and Myanmar again in the list of the "countries of particular concern over religious freedom" for the reason that

"there has been no sign of improvement in religious freedom and human rights in north Korea this year", and it refers to the need to "continually pressurize north Korea for religious freedom and improved human rights".

The US has launched the new anti-DPRK provocation not because it is concerned about human rights and religious freedom in the DPRK.

World media and experts say the Trump administration is expanding the scope of sanctions in order to pressurize north Korea, take the initiative at the DPRK-US negotiations in deadlock and suppress the local anti-Trump forces' opposition to the bilateral summit.

By Om Ryoung PT

Bent on becoming military power

Japan conducted the test-fire of an interceptor missile together with the US in Hawaii on December 11 while speeding up the introduction of interceptor missile system Aegis Ashore.

It is a serious challenge to the atmosphere of peace in the Korean peninsula and the region.

Such a move has been timed to coincide with the government's approval of the largest ever military expenditure.

According to the new defence programme passed by the Japanese Cabinet on December 18, Japan's military spending in five years will be US\$ 282.4 billion, which is equivalent to that by the world military powers.

Japan plans to massively purchase new-model stealth fighters, long-range missiles and other military hardware in five years. It is going to buy dozens of F-35 and other fighter jets to

deploy them on Japanese islands along the coastline of the East China Sea.

It made the possession of aircraft carrier fait accompli for the first time after the Second World War as it unveiled a plan to remodel helicopter transport ships Izumo and Kaga to carry F-35B fighters.

Foreign media reported that the new defence programme clearly reveals Japan's wild ambition to become a military power in the region against China's military buildup and Russia's resurgence.

By Kim Yong Chan PT

Don't play on public sentiment

On December 13, the Liberal Korea Party in south Korea made public a new north policy, called a "peace plan of liberal Korea".

What is absurd is that the LKP used such words as "peace without nukes", "economic cooperation" and "common prosperity" for the first time.

The LKP talked about the declarations of termination of war and peace based on denuclearization first, saying they "will propel the declarations when irreversible denuclearization is provided", and about the inter-Korean economic cooperation "accompanied by firm security".

They advertise the new policy shows that the LKP is a political party with a blueprint for peace on the Korean peninsula.

Such moves are nothing but a trick to win public favour by making a feint of relaxing or changing some provisions of the north policy for fear that

they would be more isolated and rejected if they persist in the conservative and cold-war-era north policy while running counter to the amicable circumstances provided by the historic north-south summit meeting and talks and the changed public sentiment.

The peace plan may look like an "innovative change" of the conservative party at a glance. However, it is, in essence, a copy of "no nukes, opening and 3 000 dollars" or "trust-building process on the Korean peninsula", a policy of confrontation with the fellow countrymen put up by the conservative groups in the past, as it is intended to realize "unification by absorption" in conspiracy with outside forces.

It is evidenced by the fact that they came up with the "north's complete denuclearization" as a precondition for the realization of

the peace plan and unreasonably linked inter-Korean relations to the nuclear issue.

The conservative clans are going to sustain the remainder of their political life by sticking to anti-north confrontation more firmly on the pretext of the nuclear issue and gain public favour with honeyed words.

As the saying goes, "A crow cannot be whiter for often washing." Though the conservative clans of traitors wear the veil of "peace" and "common prosperity", they can never cover up the true colour as a "warlike party", "confrontational party" and "anti-reunification party".

Genuine peace and prosperity desired by all the fellow countrymen can only be achieved by thoroughly implementing the historic Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration which the north and south agreed and solemnly declared to the world.

The LKP, a stumbling block to peace and reunification, should not play on the public with a pun.

By Song Jong Ho PT

OPINION

World seen through friction and dispute

The world situation was very complicated this year.

The focus of world attention was the trade conflict between China and the US.

The largest ever conflict in history started in July, developing into a global issue.

The US imposed high tariffs on imports from China with the latter taking immediate retaliatory actions.

From July the US levied 25 percent tariffs on Chinese goods worth US\$ 50 billion allegedly to counter China's over US\$ 370 billion black figures in trade with it, infringement on intellectual property rights and theft of high technology, but the latter resolutely responded to it with corresponding countermeasures.

In September the US raised the tariffs on Chinese goods in the order of US\$ 200 billion to 10 percent and additionally sued China to the World Trade Organization, before threatening to build a 25 percent tariff wall against all Chinese goods worth over US\$ 500 billion.

At present the conflict between the two countries has a huge adverse effect on the growth of the world economy. The world financial market was in turmoil, causing global market sell-off.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a report that the growth rate of the world economy would diminish by 0.8 percent by 2021.

It is none other than the contending parties that suffer the most from the conflict.

It is said the US' GDP growth rate may drop by 0.25 percent and the inflation rate may rise in 2019, while China's GDP growth rate may fall by 0.3 or 0.5 percent.

The friction between Russia and the US also grew shaper, attracting the attention of the international community.

In October the US declared that it would withdraw from the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty.

Russia said that the US is building an offensive infrastructure against the treaty, adding it would take the most resolute countermeasure against it if the US continues to secede from international agreements. The INF Treaty is an arms control and disarmament treaty concluded by the former Soviet Union and the US in 1987. The international community still believes that it is of great significance to maintain the treaty.

The world media argue that if the US withdraws from the

treaty, its intermediate-range missiles will be deployed in its allied nations in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, aggravating the arms race between big powers.

The growing Russia-US antagonism found expression in various aspects, especially the establishment of a US military base in Poland, economic sanctions against Russia, friction over the Central Asian region and scramble for hegemony in outer space.

Japan tried in every way to realize its wild ambition to become a military power by revising the "pacifist constitution".

The ultra-rightists thronged the Yasukuni Shrine to honour the memory of class-A war criminals. Prime Minister Abe revealed his intention to specify the existence of the Self-Defence Forces in the constitution by saying that "it is the responsibility of present-day politicians to readjust the environment" as he reviewed the parade of the SDF.

Trans-Atlantic relations have also increasingly split apart.

The discord between the US and Western nations surfaced in trade and military expenditure. As soon as the US, which triggers trade war on both enemies and allies indiscriminately, declared in March that it would impose high tariffs on imported iron and steel and aluminium products, the European Union and its member nations published statements one after another to denounce the US. They strongly reacted to it, charging the US to the World Trade Organization for violating its rules and regulations and drawing up a list of more than 100 items on which retaliatory tariffs will be imposed.

The US persistently demanded NATO member nations increase military spending, arousing disappointment from among them. Today they feel a sense of betrayal by the US.

Other sensational events included the sharpening conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the Kerch Strait incident, the worsening antagonism between Palestine and Israel, the contradiction between Europe and the US over the establishment of the European forces and the friction between Russia and Japan surrounding the dominion over the four islands between Kamchatka and Hokkaido.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

PROFILE

Former player proves herself as coach

With more students aspiring to be basketball players, the women's basketball group of Central District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang is much sought after.

The group has retained the title of the annual national basketball competition of juvenile sports schools for over ten years.

Recently, it won gold for Pyongyang at the National Inter-provincial Games-2018.

An official of the school ascribed the team's high reputation to methodical

training underpinned by coach Kim Ok Sun's unrivalled quality.

The coach in her forties selects, instructs and trains players in a scientific way according to their ages and physical conditions.

In keeping with the characteristics of early training, Kim prioritizes teaching basic skills to trainees and improving their physical fitness. Especially, she constantly updates teaching and training methods in keeping with the development

of the sport.

In the course of this, she devised training methods for dribbling and balancing according to different tactics.

Though it was not easy to apply the new training methods as they put heavy physical burden on players, she worked out plans carefully in consideration of their physical and technical preparedness and made exact demands on them.

Videos of basketball stars at national and international matches she obtained online always inspired her to set a higher goal.

She records the whole course of training on a videotape and shows it to players so that they realize their deficiencies and quickly overcome them.

"I hope to train more talented players and I want them to add glory to the country in international events," said Kim who played for the national team over a decade ago.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Girls of the basketball group in a training session at Central District Juvenile Sports School in Pyongyang.

By Jong Tang Song PT

FOLKLORE

Peasant dance full of national sentiments

Among Korean folk dances is a peasant dance which was created and developed through a long working life of the Korean people.

The peasant dance with the longest history among other folk dances is a popular dance which has been loved and favoured by Koreans.

Historically, it had various names such as *ture*, *phungmul* and *kollip*, but it came to be called as it is in modern times.

It reflects the agricultural working life of the Korean nation.

As farming has been the main occupation in Korea for a long historical period, there are many folk dances related to the life of farming, including the hoe dance in the Cholsan area of North Phyongan Province and the flail dance in the Paechon area of South Hwanghae Province. But they only represent farm operations in fragments.

The peasant dance, however, portrays in detail the whole process of farming from sowing to piling up of rice stacks.

It is featured by rich national colour and combination of different forms of the arts.

National percussion instruments, especially gong,

janggo (hourglass drum) and drum, and such wind instruments as saenap (brass wind instrument) and thungso (Korean bamboo flute) are indispensable means for doing the dance.

The most spectacular is a dance turning round decorative tassels on cap.

The peasant dance always climaxes with the dance turning round decorative tassels. The tassel cap was modelled after the feather decoration on a soldier's felt hat in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.

It is really a sight to behold when a 12-fathom tassel turns

round to the hwimori (rattling) tune.

The dance which accentuates the soft, elegant, active and vigorous characters of peasant dance along with the upbeat sentiments of the Korean people is widely known to other countries.

The peasant dance was included in the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*, prompting a whirlwind of positive reactions across the world.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A man performs turning round a decorative tassel in the peasant folk dance.

RELIC

Cliff-hanging hermitage still draws

There is a hut at the side of a 20-odd-metre-high precipice in Manphok Valley in Inner Kumgang of Mt Kumgang.

It is Podok Hermitage, which was built in the period of Koguryo Kingdom (277 BC-AD 668) and rebuilt in 1675 during the feudal Joseon dynasty.

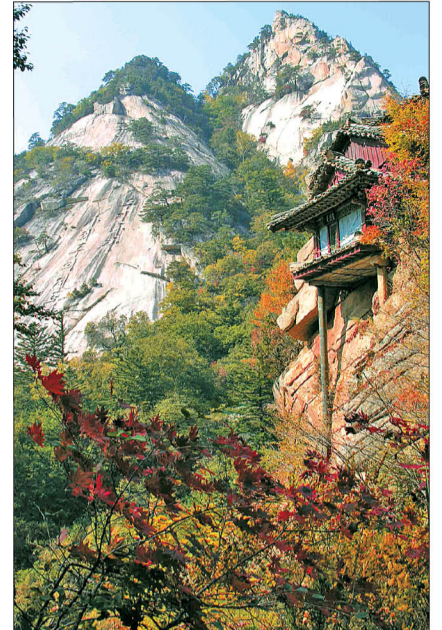
The single-room building supported by a 7.3-metre copper pillar seems to be hanging on the cliff and is noted for its rarity and singularity in style among ancient buildings of Korea.

The pillar and iron wires firmly fastening the building to the rock were fixed in 1511.

As the structure rests on a single pillar, it sways when strong winds blow and four to five persons walk on the floor, but it has remained intact for centuries.

When seen from the outside, the one-room hut looks like a three-storeyed building as it has three layers of roof.

Ri Je Hyon, a Koryo poet in the late 14th century, saw the hermitage and recited a poem which partly goes, "As I look upward at the precipice leaning on the cane, I can see the hip that seems to be flying over the clouds and trees."



KIM SONG CHOL / PICTORIAL KOREA

Podok Hermitage in Mt Kumgang.

The main building is linked with Podok Cave at the back.

The name of the natural cave is derived from the name of a tender-hearted woman who is said to have attended to her widowed father in the cave.

By the stream of Manphok Valley below the cave there are a spring site which is said to be the place where Podok washed her hair and a rock near the site where she is said to have hanged her towel after washing.

Kim Un Jin, lecturer of Pyongyang Tourism College

ICH

Therapeutic fomentation traditional Koryo medication

Koryo medicinal fomentation is a method of preventing and treating diseases by repeatedly stimulating human skin and mucosa with traditional Koryo medications for a certain period of time.

The Korean people have widely used the treatment as a folk remedy since olden times.

As materials for the treatment are easily available and the treatment method is very simple, the Koryo medicinal fomentation can be applied by anyone as well as medical specialists. And it has a wide range of treatments, clear curative effects and no side effects.

It can be divided into systemic, partial and local poultices according to the field of application and into hot and cold fomentation according to the application temperature.

There are also natural, vegetable, animal and mineral

Koryo medicinal fomentations according to the materials to be applied.

Treatment methods include rubbing, sticking, dipping, soaking, covering and washing.

Rubbing diseased parts of body with Koryo medications promotes blood circulation and enhances immunity by relieving congestion and restoring health. Koryo medicinal fomentation is mostly done by sticking.

More than 300 kinds of Koryo medicinal materials have widely been used for fomentation so far.

The therapy is mainly applied to the treatment of skin, nervous system, external and internal medicine, gynecological, ENT and cervical surgical, dental and eye diseases.

Koryo medicinal fomentation has been registered as a national ICH element.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

