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FRONT COVER: Pyongyangites greeting new year 2019
Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un Delivers New Year Address

Followings are excerpts from the New Year Address the Supreme Leader delivered on New Year's Day in 2019:

Having seen out the year 2018, in which we adorned the history of the motherland, the revolution and the nation with meaningful events leaving another indelible imprint in the history, we are seeing in the new year 2019 full of hope.

As we see in the new year, I extend heartfelt greetings to all the people and service personnel, and wish that homes across the country will brim with affection, hope and happiness.

My warm new year greetings go also to the compatriots in the south and abroad, who shared our will in writing a new history of reconciliation, unity, peace and prosperity of the nation.

I wish success in the work of heads of state and other foreign friends who are making efforts for social progress and development and global peace and justice.

The year 2018 was a historic year, in which remarkable changes took place in the internal and external situations and our socialist construction entered a new stage thanks to our Party's line of independence and strategic decision.

Thanks to our proactive and positive efforts, a peace-oriented current was created on the Korean peninsula and the international prestige of our Republic continued to be raised, and in the midst of this we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of the glorious DPRK in splendour with great

dignity and self-confidence.

Through the celebratory events held in September, the might of the DPRK, which achieved the ideological oneness of the whole society and the single-hearted unity of the Party and the people and which possesses a reliable self-supporting economy and self-reliant defence capabilities, and the ardent will of the heroic Korean people to fight to the end for the victory of the socialist cause were fully demonstrated in front of the eyes of the world.

This year we are faced with the task of expanding the country's capability of independent development to open up bright prospects for taking a step forward towards socialist construction.

We have the strength and foundations to bring forward a brighter future of socialism by our own efforts, and we have also developed our own strategy and creative methods to this end. When we strive hard with an indefatigable spirit on the principle of self-reliance by adhering to the Party's new strategic line, our country's strength will redouble and our people's dreams and ideals will come true.

"Let us open a new road of advance for socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance!"—this is the slogan we should uphold. We should bring about a revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction by regarding self-reliance as a treasured sword for prosperity, a spirit which has always been a banner of struggle and driving force for a leap forward in the whole course of the Korean revolution.

The might of the independent socialist economy should be further strengthened.

We should rely on our own technical forces and resources and the high creative spirit and revolutionary enthusiasm of all the people so as to succeed in attaining the strategic goals of national economic development and enter a new stage of growth.

We should properly plan and thoroughly implement the national operations aimed at maintaining, reinforcing and re-energizing the national economy as a whole.

The state should promote talent training and sci-tech development purposefully and increase its investment in them.

Every sector in the national economy should give impetus to hitting the targets of the five-year strategy for national economic development.

The politico-ideological strength of our socialist state should be increased in every way possible.

It is necessary to unite the broad sections of the masses solidly around the Party by thoroughly applying the Juche-oriented view on the people, a people-oriented philosophy, in Party and state activities.

We should accelerate the building of socialist civilization.

The national defence capability should be solidified.

The munitions industry should, on the one hand, steadily raise the national defence capacity to that of the world's advanced countries by stepping up the effort for making the defence industry Juche-based and modern, therefore guaranteeing the peace on the Korean peninsula by force of arms, and, on the other, should actively support economic construction.

In order to successfully carry out the militant tasks facing us this year, officials, leading members of the revolution, should make redoubled efforts and struggle with determination and courage.

Today young people should play a large part in promoting socialist construction.

It is needed to decisively increase the role of Party organizations.

Last year was a stirring year which witnessed a dramatic change unprecedented in the history of national division spanning over 70 years.

It is unprecedented that three rounds of inter-Korean summit meetings and talks were held in a year amid great expectations and interest of peoples at home and abroad, and this clearly showed that north-south relations entered a completely new stage.

All the nationals should hold high the slogan "Let us usher in a heyday of peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula by thoroughly implementing the historic north-south declarations!"

It is our steadfast will to eradicate military hostility between north and south and make the Korean peninsula a durable and lasting peace zone.

Inter-Korean cooperation and exchanges should be expanded and developed in an all-round way so that national reconciliation and unity can be consolidated and all the fellow countrymen can practically benefit from improved north-south relations.

For the present, we are willing to resume the Kaesong Industrial Park and Mt Kumgang tourism without any precondition and in return for nothing, in consideration of the hard conditions of businesspersons of the south side who had advanced into the Kaesong Industrial Park and the desire of southern compatriots who are eager to visit the nation's celebrated mountain.

When north and south join hands firmly and rely on the united strength of the fellow countrymen, no external sanctions and pressure, challenges and trials will be able to hinder us in our efforts to open a broad avenue to national prosperity.

We will never tolerate the interference and intervention of outside forces who stand in the way of national reconciliation, unity and reunification with the design to subordinate inter-Korean relations to their tastes and interests.

Last year, our Party and the government of our Republic exerted responsible efforts to safeguard the peace and security of the world and expand and strengthen friendship with different countries.

The historic, first-ever DPRK-US summit meeting and talks brought about a dramatic turn in the bilateral relationship which was the most hostile on

the earth and made a great contribution to ensuring peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region.

It is the invariable stand of our Party and the government of our Republic and my firm will to establish a new bilateral relationship that meets the demand of the new era as clarified in the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement, build a lasting and durable peace regime and advance towards complete denuclearization.

Accordingly, we declared at home and abroad that we would neither make and test nuclear weapons any longer nor use and proliferate them, and we have taken various practical measures.

If the US responds to our proactive, prior efforts with trustworthy measures and corresponding practical actions, bilateral relations will develop wonderfully at a fast pace through the process of taking more definite and epochal measures.

We have no intention to be obsessed with and keep up the unsavoury past relationship between the two countries, but are ready to fix it as early as possible and work to forge a new relationship in line with the aspirations of the two peoples and the requirements of the developing times.

As evidenced by the reality of north-south relations that made rapid progress last year, nothing is impossible to a willing heart, and dialogue partners will reach the destinations that are beneficial to each other without fail if they put forward fair proposals on the principle of recognizing and respecting each other by abandoning their dogged insistence broadmindedly and conduct negotiations with a proper stand and the will to settle issues.

I want to believe that our relations with the United States will bear good fruit this year, as inter-Korean relations have greeted a great turn, by the efforts of the two sides.

I am of the opinion that, while meeting and holding talks beneficial to both sides with the US president in June last year, we exchanged constructive views and reached a consensus of understanding for a shortcut to removing each other's apprehensions and resolving the entangled problems.

I am ready to meet the US president again anytime, and will make efforts to obtain without fail results which can be welcomed by the international community.

But if the United States does not keep the promise it made in the eyes of the world, and out of miscalculation of our people's patience, it attempts to unilaterally enforce something upon us and persists in imposing sanctions and pressure against our Republic, we may be compelled to find a new way for defending the sovereignty of the country and the supreme interests of the state and for achieving peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

The neighbouring countries and international community have to support our sincere stand and efforts for promoting the positive development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and fight against all practices and challenges that wreck peace and run counter to justice.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will continue to bolster up unity and cooperation with the socialist countries and develop relations with all countries that are friendly to us under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

We are beginning the journey of the new year as we brace ourselves once again with the resolve to work devotedly for our country, our motherland, and the happier laughter of younger generations.

What we are convinced of once again as we proudly review the past year when we made rapid progress while paving our way by our own efforts with belief in our own strength in the face of harsh economic blockade and sanctions, is the truth that our state is fully capable of dynamically advancing along the road of development of socialism of our own style by dint of our people's great strength and efforts, without any external assistance or any other's help.

This year, too, we will face constant obstacles and challenges in our progress, but no one can change our determination and will and stop our vigorous advance and our people will successfully achieve their beautiful ideals and goals without fail.

Let us all work energetically and with one mind and will for the prosperity and development of the genuine people's country, the socialist motherland.



Supreme Leader's Visit to China

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, visited the People's Republic of China between January 7 and 10, 2019 at the invitation of Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and president of the PRC.

The Supreme Leader was accompanied by his wife Ri Sol Ju, and leading officials of the WPK Central Committee and the SAC of the DPRK.

The Chinese Party and government warmly welcomed the Supreme Leader,

who visited China as his first political schedule for the new year, with best possible sincerity as their VVIP.

The train with the Supreme Leader on board arrived in Dandong, border city of China, at 9:30 p.m. local time on January 7.

Kim Jong Un got off the train together with his wife and exchanged warm greetings with the Chinese leading officials.

He had an amicable talk with Song Tao, head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, on the train.

Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing at

11:00 a.m. local time on January 8, and was greeted by senior Party and government officials of China.

Kim Jong Un met Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People on the afternoon of that day.

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.

Kim Jong Un expressed thanks to Xi Jinping 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.

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

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

The ceremony was followed by talks between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People.

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.

The bilateral friendship was forged



Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju had a photo taken with Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan

and developed by the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and is developing more successfully under the special situation, Kim Jong Un said, stressing that 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.

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



The Chinese Party and government warmly welcomed the Korean Supreme Leader as the VVIP with best sincerity



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



Talks between Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping

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.

Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju entered the banquet hall, guided by Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan.

Xi Jinping made a congratulatory speech at the banquet.

He said that the Korean leader and his wife visited China again with a deep

Xi Jinping gave a grand banquet to welcome Kim Jong Un



friendly feeling of the Korean Party, government and people toward the Chinese counterparts in 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.

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 that he was pleased with the

remarkable successes achieved by 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.

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 of the Korean peninsula and in the region by the





Kim Jong Un and Xi Jinping met again and had a candid conversation

concerted efforts of the two countries.

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

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 Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan, Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju had a pleasant chat with them in an amicable and happy atmosphere.

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 successfully wrapped



Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju visited a branch pharmaceutical plant of the Beijing Tongrentang Co. Ltd., a producer of traditional Chinese medicines



up his historic visit to China and left Beijing at 3:00 p.m. local time on January 9.

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

The Supreme Leader'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 constituted 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 communications between the leaderships of the two countries and safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho



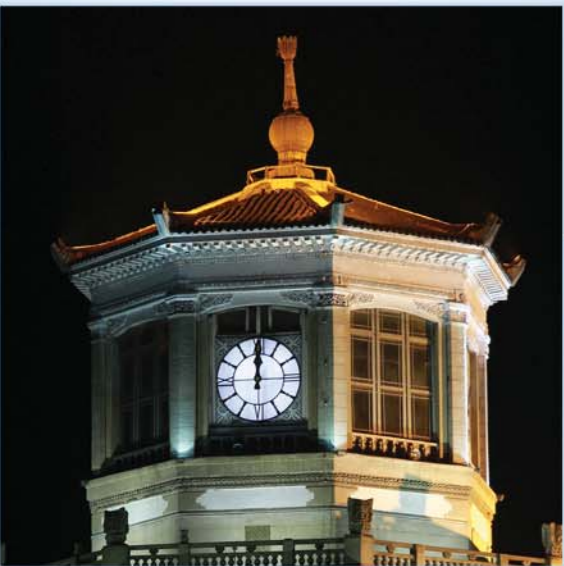
Kim Jong Un and Ri Sol Ju had a pleasant chat in an amicable and happy atmosphere in a luncheon hosted by Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan



Kim Jong Un left Beijing after successfully wrapping up his historic visit to China

Kim Jong Un sent a personal letter of thanks to Xi Jinping, before leaving Dandong Railway Station

2019, New Year Promising a Brighter Future of Socialist Korea



A gala performance in a unique style highlights New Year 2019

Photo: Ri Myong Guk, An Chol Ryong, Choe Won Chol, Hong Kwang Nam

New Year Performance of Schoolchildren, *Blessed Snow Falls on New Year's Day*

A New Year performance of schoolchildren for 2019, *Blessed Snow Falls on New Year's Day*, was given at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on December 31 last year.

In the performance which began with prologue, *We Offer New Year's Greetings to Fatherly Marshal*, the performers extended New Year greetings to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Put on stage were colourful numbers in which the performers sang of the lives of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who showed boundless love and benevolent affection for children, always putting them forward as the kings of the country.

They also represented the features of happy children who are preparing themselves to become the pillars of future, acquiring ample knowledge, developing noble morality and building strong body, under the loving care of Marshal Kim Jong Un.

The performance given by the schoolchildren on the eve of the New Year 2019 left a great impression on the audience as it convinced them of the promising future of Juche Korea advancing with a stirring vitality.

Article: Choe Ui Rim
Photo: Ri Kwang Song, An Chol Ryong



New-model Tractors Are Mass-produced

Last year the Kumsong Tractor Factory, situated in Kangso County, South Phyongan Province, put the vertical milling machines and cylinder grinders on a CNC basis and renovated various production lines, like painting and gilding, thus opening a bright vista for increased production.

Innovative measures were taken to raise the processing accuracy of various machine accessories and parts and a campaign was conducted to improve the machine operators' technical knowledge and skills. As a result, the efficiency of products was raised.

With a pride of having fulfilled their yearly plan by late October last year, the workers and technicians of the factory are resolved to create new records and criteria from the first day of the New Year.

Founding, steel-casting and forging workshops in charge of materials supply and processing are waging campaigns of overtaking and learning from others and swapping experience with them.

Sheet metal processing shop, gear shop, processing shops Nos. 1 and 2 in charge of machine accessories and parts processing, and assembly

shops Nos. 1 and 2 are proactive in introducing new technically innovative ideas to tractor production.

The factory is striving to turn itself into a manpower-saving factory by introducing

automation, flow line and robot into all its production lines.

Article: Mun Kwang Bong
Photo: An Chol Won



Innovative measures are taken at the manufacturing, assembling and other shops to increase tractor production





For the Increase in Nonferrous Metals Production



Workers of the Tanchon Smeltery, a leading nonferrous metals production base in the country, are increasing the production with a determination to supply larger amounts of nonferrous metals to several sectors of the national economy.

Last year, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, they achieved successes conducive to increasing production and promoting the development of the country's nonferrous metal industry.

They adjusted and reinforced the lines for recovering such valuable metals as silver and lead and set up additive production lines, by their own efforts and technology.

In this course, workers and technicians of the smeltery designed and manufactured a large number of equipment and proposed and introduced new technical methods like that of firing calcinating furnace with pulverized coal.

All production lines including zinc, valuable metals and zinc oxide production lines are now operating at full capacity.

Officials take positive measures for strengthening contact and cooperation among all production units ranging from supplying of raw materials to packaging, organizing and guiding production with high ambition.

Keeping deep in mind the importance of technical and equipment management, workers, technicians and officials of the calcinating workshop, the heart of zinc production, are keeping the furnaces and other facilities in a good state of repair.

In the liquefying workshop, technical initiatives

for improving liquefying lixiviation are introduced into production, raising the actual liquefying extraction.

The electrolytic workshop puts an effort to raising the quantity and quality of products by improving the efficiency of electricity.

By dint of the spirit of self-reliance and self-development and science and technology, all employees of the smeltery are opening a broad vista for increased production.

*Article: Kim Mi Ye
Photo: An Chol Ryong*



Water purification ground



Casting workshop



Analysing room



Fertilizer Producers

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex situated in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, a leading base of chemical industry in the country, pushes ahead with the Juche fertilizer production.

In recent years, the workers of the complex have completed a large-scale expansion project for production capacity.

This year of a great importance in implementing the tasks of the five-year strategy for the development of the national economy, officials of the complex set a higher goal, organizing management activities more scrupulously from

the early days of the year and enlisting the creative wisdom and enthusiasm of technicians and workers, so as to demonstrate the spirit of collective innovation in all workplaces.

Campaigns of overtaking and learning from others and swapping experience with them are sweeping the whole complex.

The raw materials workshop is increasing the production by strengthening relations among crushing, sieving and drying lines.

The gas generation workshop, in accordance with the increased number of generators in operation, actively introduces innovative working

methods to increase productivity to the maximum. The steam workshop has introduced valuable technical initiatives to decrease heat loss as much as possible in boilers and operate them at full capacity.

The water electrolysis workshop, synthesis workshop No. 2, gas purification workshop, nitrogen workshop No. 2 and ammonium nitrate workshop take measures for operating their equipment in winter and enhance the role and sense of responsibility on the part of machine operators.

Scientists and technicians of the complex make scrupulous arrangement for the technical

management of all fertilizer production lines like reproduction of catalyst for synthesizing ammonium, production of catalyst for accurate desulphurizing of carbon dioxide and reproduction of ion exchange plastic for purifying water, and continue to hasten the work to upgrade major production lines with up-to-date technologies and expand the production capacity.

Thanks to the high enthusiasm of the workers, who are determined to supply larger amounts of fertilizer to cooperative farms by regarding the self-development spirit and science and technology as motive force, the fertilizer production is on steady increase.

Article: Kim Phil
Photo: An Phyoung Hyok





Creators of Colourful Night View

Officials and researchers of the Songyong Research Institute of Light Decoration and Illumination strive to add beauty to the country whose appearance is being transformed day after day.

Established in June 2007, the institute took its first step by illuminating the Grand People's Study House and the Statue of Chollima; it has now developed into a reliable base with R&D and technical service capability in its specialist area.

Over the past years, it completed designs and installations of light decoration and illumination devices for the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Sci-Tech Complex, Mirae Scientists Street and many other grand monumental edifices across the country in conformity to the national tastes and modern aesthetic feelings.

Recently, with high creative ambition and courage, they developed a rhythmic LED point lamp and rhythmic control device for large-screen poster and manufactured LED lamp devices with holophotal effect, directional illuminators and various kinds of interior illuminators. These sci-tech achievements have contributed to illuminating the streets and buildings in the capital city.

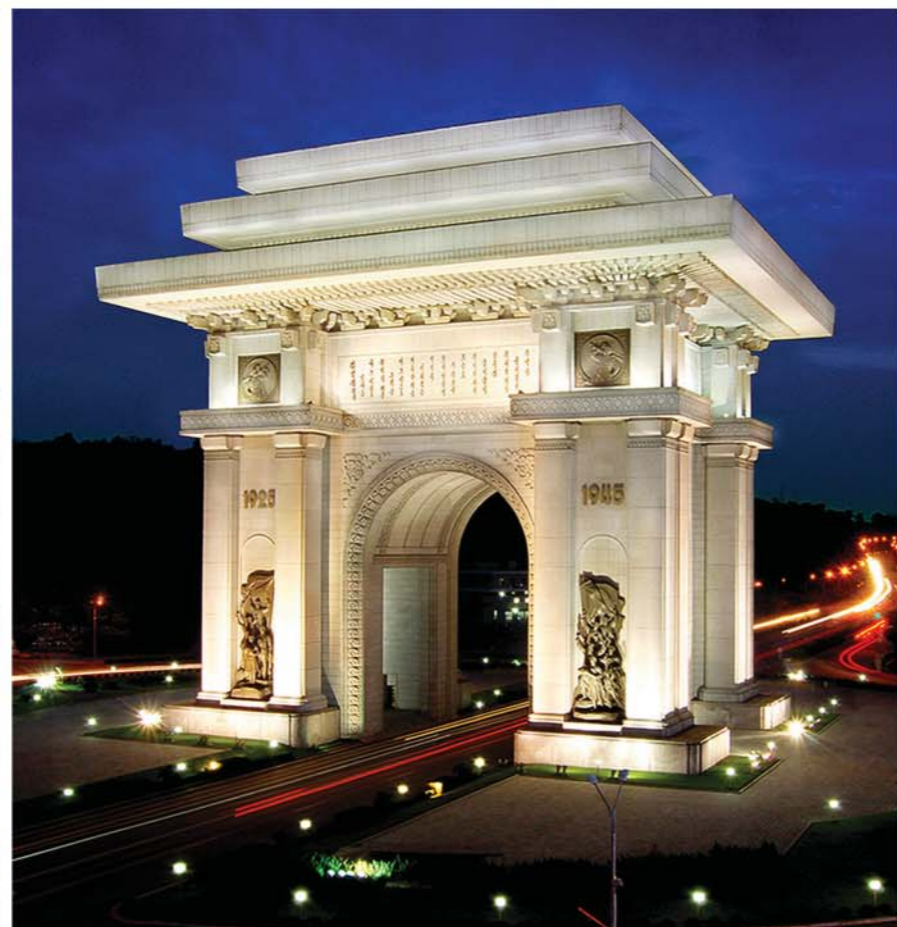
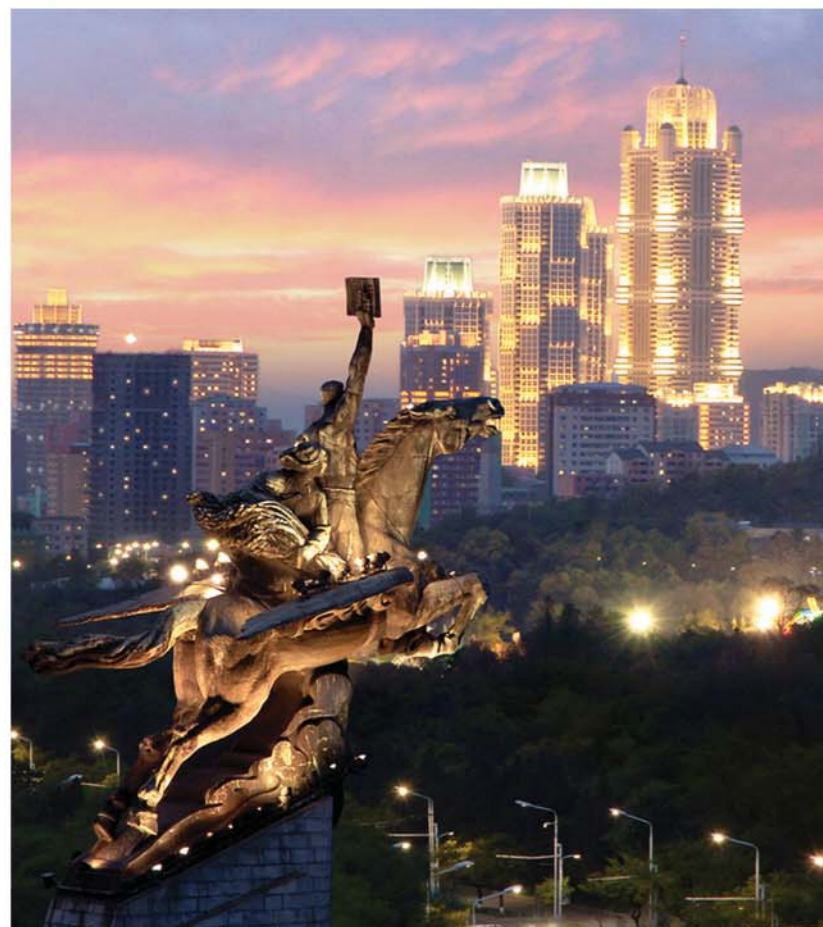
Typical examples are the colourful night view of the magnificent Ryomyong Street and the outer walls of the Ryugyong Hotel, the largest architectural structure in the DPRK, which have turned into large screens.

They are making strenuous efforts to present refined and weighty illuminations that embody the Juche-oriented ideas of the Workers' Party of Korea on architectural and aesthetic beauty.

Article: Kim Phil
Photo: Choe Won Chol



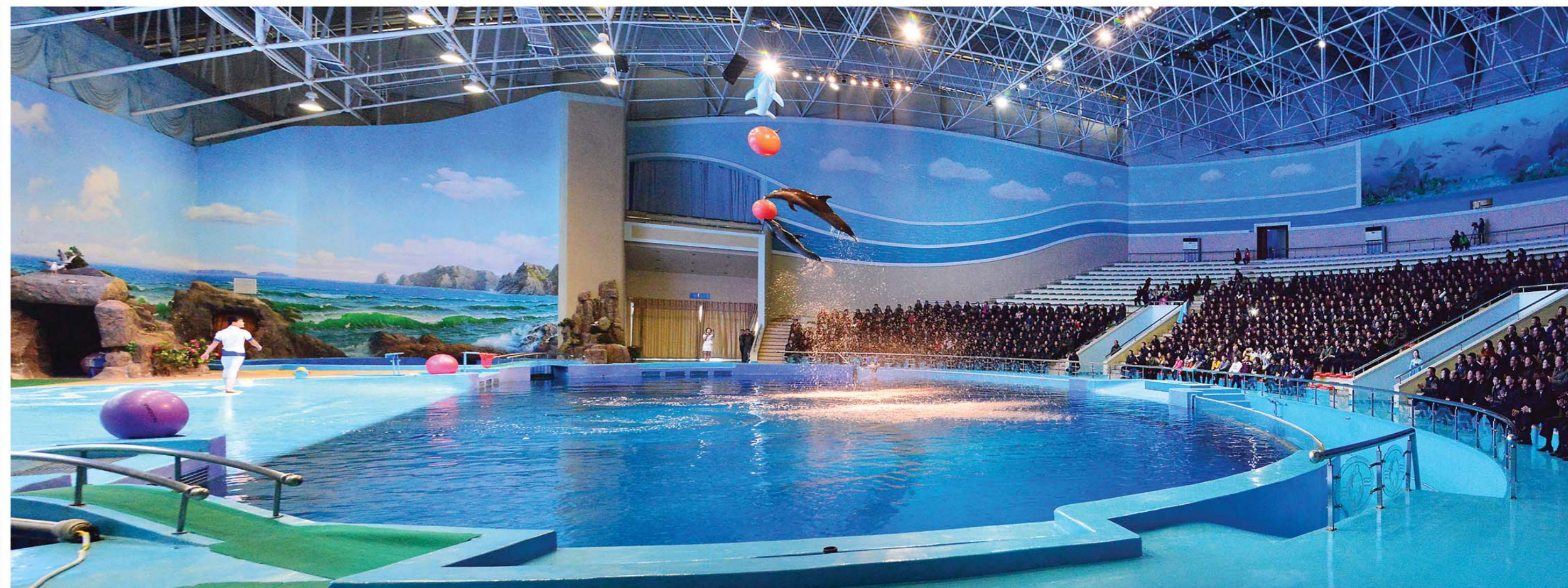
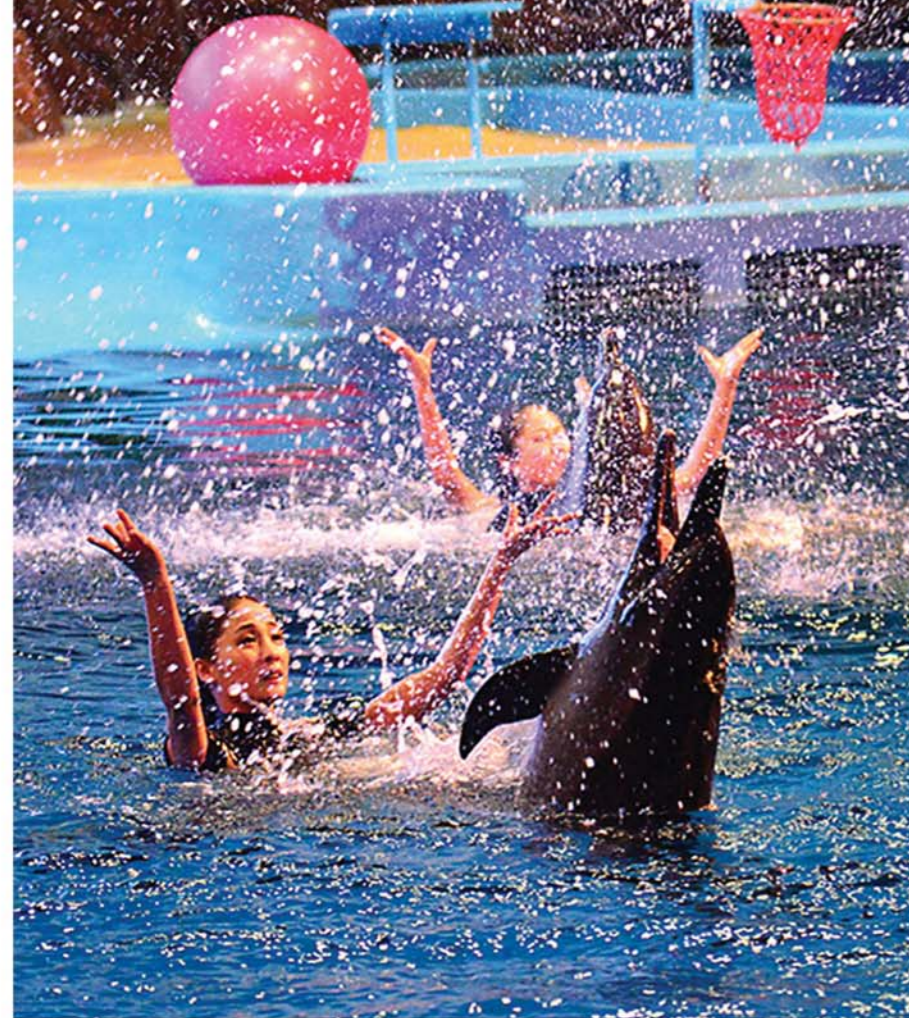
Researchers make efforts to complete designs and installations of light decoration devices in conformity with the national tastes of the Korean people and modern aesthetic feelings



The Statue of Chollima, the Arch of Triumph and other monumental structures in Pyongyang decorated with splendid illuminations, adding charm to night view



Marine Animals Attracting People



At the Rungna Dolphinarium situated in Rungna Island on the Taedong River meandering in the central part of Pyongyang, show of stunts by marine animals is held every day.

Dolphins, which presented in their debut simple movements such as leaping, turning rings, kissing and shaking “hands” with a person, now skilfully perform difficult movements, enjoying admiration of the audience.

Called *Rungna* Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and *Pyongyang* Nos. 1, 2 and 3, they leap together to hit hanging balls with their snouts and present rhythmic movements with trainers underwater.

Big hands are given whenever they solve mathematical problems, compete with a volunteer guest for turning rings and put balls into a basket set up above water.

Not only dolphins but also seals demonstrate various technical movements, adding pleasure to the audience.

Seal “performers” on the stage frolick with two balls each on their snouts and hind flippers while standing on fore flippers, pass a ball over a mini-net for volleyball games and throw balls into a basket. Some of them swim quickly while receiving rings thrown by a moving trainer on their necks and performing very difficult technical movements.

When the announcer tells it to kiss a girl guest, seal No. 2 covers its mouth with its flippers as if it is shy, making the house full of laughter.

After the 50-minute performance, a large number of audience do not leave their seats. Many a people visit the dolphinarium again to enjoy the marine animals’ fantastic show.

Article: Kim Mi Ye
Photo: Ri Myong Guk



In Korea, birth of triplets is regarded as a propitious omen for the country, an auspicious event, and the triplets are reared at state expense.

It is only when the weight of each exceeds 4kg that they are allowed to leave the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and up to the age of four they are brought up at the Pyongyang Baby Home and similar institutes in provinces.

At present, six triplets are growing up at the Pyongyang Baby Home built in October 2014 on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River.

Here each set of triplets have several mothers; they are nurses and doctors who are responsible for their health and nursing.

As the saying goes, birth is much, but breeding is more; they take care of the triplets with such motherly affection that the kids call them moms. Every month they measure the triplets' heights and weights, and work out nutrition management plans for every child in close consultation with the experts.

The triplets undergo medical checkup every quarter at the Okryu Children's Hospital which is also responsible for their health. Once an abnormal symptom is discovered, they are admitted to the hospital there and then given intensive care. The staff of the baby home also try to find the children's talents while keeping an eye over their growth.

Whenever their parents visit the baby home, the triplets' growing healthy bring pleasure to them.

The father of the three-year-old male triplets, Won Kang Song, Won Kang Dae, Won Kang Guk, said, "I was worried about their health just after they were born. But now they are in good health thanks to the staff of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Pyongyang Baby Home, and I don't know how to thank them enough."

Article: Mun Kwang Bong

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



Dear Home of Triplets



Triplets are growing healthy at the Pyongyang Baby Home amply provided with living conditions



Manager with Doctor's Degree



Kang Nam Ik, winner of Order of Kim Jong Il, Labour Hero, PhD

Factory.

The man was Kang Nam Ik.

He had been a battalion commander of the Korean People's Army. But he lost his one eye as he saved his comrades-in-arms in a very critical situation, and was demobilized at the age of 32.

However, he was not disappointed with his condition as he was always aware of being a disabled soldier, the title awarded by the state.

Cherishing this honour, Kang made redoubled efforts when he worked for a district people's committee in Pyongyang, and was appointed the manager of the factory.

The factory established in the 1970s for the disabled soldiers was composed of several one-storey buildings and a small-scale producer of only a few kinds of plastic goods, so it was little known to even local residents.

Looking round the factory, he noticed its pitiful operation, and was lost in thought.

Nobody would blame us for the present situation of the factory. But we, honoured disabled soldiers, should not seek comfort in it.

He, therefore, set forth a goal of reconstructing production buildings, cultural and welfare service facilities, as well as building dwelling houses for the employees at the same time. Though the construction project covered over 10 000 square metres in total building area, Kang, qualified construction engineer, never hesitated to stubbornly carry it out.

But he was most afraid of his poor field supervision owing to the lack of technical qualifications in economic practice, chemistry and machinery.

Resolved to improve his technical and practical qualifications, he studied hard for a year.

The construction of a modern factory was not a smooth going. When new machines were brought to the factory, nobody knew their operation methods,

failing to run them.

Kang made it an occasion to raise a wind of studying science and technology throughout the factory and took the van in the campaign.

He encouraged scores of factory employees to be simultaneously involved in the study-while-you-work system to acquire the professional engineering technologies. He himself achieved successes in several research projects, which earned him the doctorate in engineering in 2015. His exemplary deed inspired the whole staff to turn out in a dynamic technical innovation drive.

In the course of this, the factory has developed into a modern, comprehensive producer of a wide variety of essential plastic goods including food packets, containers and pipes, and become widely known across the country.

Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: Ri Chol Jin



Frequent consultative meetings are conducive to new product development



Lecturing by invitation



At the fitness room

One April day in 2000 there was one man walking in the compound of the Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods



Kang always mixes himself with workers to enlist their collective wisdom in solving knotty problems in production

Little Oungum Players



Prizes awarded to Sin Jong Hyon, Pak Ye Hwi and Jang Ye Jong for their *oungum* trio ensemble at the 15th international festival *Moscow Welcomes Friends*



deep impression to the audience through guitar quartet at the 9th international festival and other international events. It also decorated the recent festival with the *oungum* trio ensemble.

Members of the festival preparation committee and other art experts said that they expressed their thanks to the DPRK government for sending the talented children to the festival, and that they were

struck by the Korean little prodigies' high artistic ability and excellent performance.

Article: Mun Jin Yu
Photo: Kim Yun Hyok

“*Oungum* trio ensemble *Our Home Full of Merry Laughter* performed by my kindergarten children created sensation among the audience. Captivated by the little players' 170-second-long performance, they gave a big hand and encored continuously,” says Min Hye Ran, teacher at Kyongsang Kindergarten, who took her kindergarteners to the 15th international festival *Moscow Welcomes Friends* held in Russia in October last year.

The six-year-old Sin Jong Hyon, Pak Ye Hwi and Jang Ye Jong were the youngest among all promising music prodigies from over 20 countries taking part in the festival.

Oungum is a string instrument of the Korean nation, which consists of sound box, fingerboard and head, and is played

by thrumming four iron strings fastened to the bridge with a plectrum.

It is not an easy job for a 6-year-old to play this instrument skilfully.

But the talented children from Kyongsang Kindergarten played it so skilfully that they were encored in their debut and performed three consecutive times, an event that broke the set pattern of the festival.

They began to learn playing *oungum* only one year ago. Ye Hwi used to cry at the sight of her blistered fingers, and Jong Hyon felt so difficult in thrumming that he insisted on playing the piano.

Looking back upon how they learned to play the *oungum*, the teacher said frankly that she worried about them when they made their international debut.

Kyongsang Kindergarten had given





Ice sculpture festival, an annual event, instills people with hope for bright future and optimism

Traditional Ice Sculpture Festival

Every winter ice sculpture festival runs with splendour on the bank of the Taedong River in Pyongyang and in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province.

A large number of people across the

country visit the festival venues.

On display are a fascinating ice and snow world and sculptures of various ideological and thematic contents, giving deep impression to visitors.

The scale of the festival grows larger

every year as many people of all strata present their sculptures.

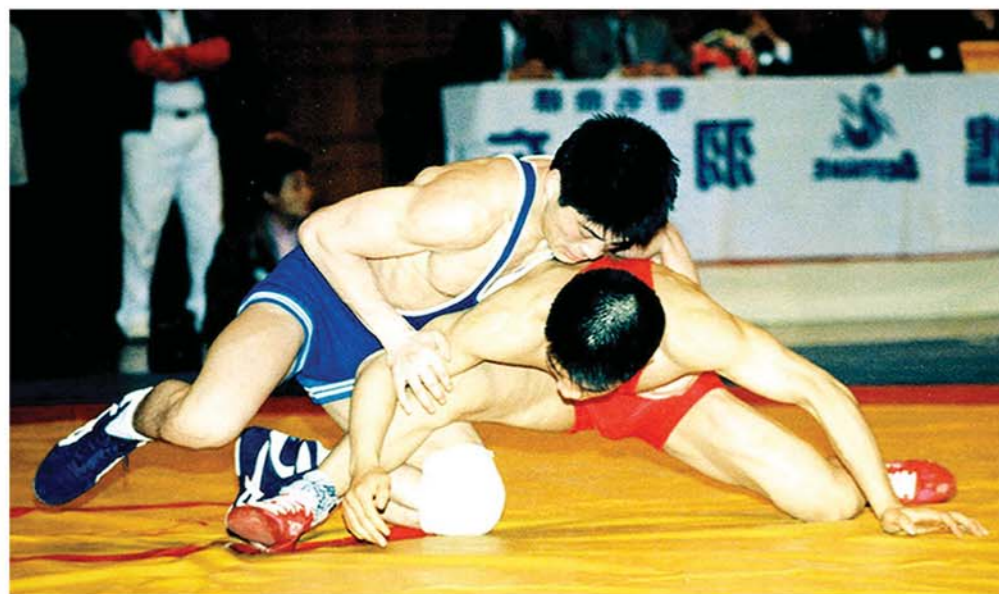
Article: Pak Pyong Hun

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam, Kim Yun Chol





Kim Il won two gold medals at the 48kg event of men's freestyle wrestling consecutively at the 25th and 26th Olympic Games



Kim Il won the prize at the 25th Olympic Games held in Barcelona, Spain

Yesterday and Today of Twice Olympic Champion

It was one day 35 years ago when a 13-year-old boy went to the then juvenile sports club in Sosong District, Pyongyang, to see his brother. He curiously watched for a while the wrestlers training hard.

Where are you from? The coach asked him.

The little daring boy suddenly asked him to teach how to play wrestling. He was Kim Il.

This was how he became a wrestler. He trained hard with an ambition to be a world champion.

He introduced various Korean *ssirum* techniques into freestyle wrestling and set it as his special technique to throw opponents to the ground by dint of leg hold. He drew the attention of experts just after he took up the sport. He further honed his skills, thus snatching gold medals in the men's 48kg events at the World Junior Freestyle Wrestling Championships and the 8th Asian

Freestyle Championships. He also claimed the title of the 48kg freestyle wrestling at the 25th Olympic Games in 1992, bringing glory to the country.

That year he was awarded the title of People's Athlete and became the thrice Asian champion by working hard to live up to the expectations of the country.

As he won another gold in the 48kg freestyle wrestling event at the 26th Olympic Games in 1996, he became the twice Olympic champion and the country conferred on him the title of the Labour Hero, the top honour of the DPRK citizen.

When he finished his career as a wrestler, he entered the physical education faculty of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. After graduation of the university, he was appointed a staff member of the then Korea Sports Guidance Committee. He works now as secretary general of

the Wrestling Association.

He has paid close attention to drawing up the training curriculum and teaching programmes in keeping with the requirements of the developing times and the Koreans' constitution and training promising reserve wrestlers.

Therefore, he contributed greatly to producing such excellent wrestlers as Yang Kyong Il, a twice world champion, and Yun Won Chol, a world champion, both People's Athletes.

Still, he devotes his all to the training of wrestlers.

He always says to players that they should live a worthwhile life today so that they can recall it proudly tomorrow.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: Kim Yun Hyok



Kim is now acting as secretary general of the Wrestling Association



Family of Stamp Collectors



Some of postage stamps collected by the family



All family members of Ri Kwang Son, living in Ryomyong-dong, Taesong District, Pyongyang, are stamp collectors.

Ri, associate professor at Kim Il Sung University, began stamp collection more than 30 years ago.

Since he was admitted to Kim Il Sung University in 1982, he was active in correspondence with his parents, siblings, relatives and friends. By the time he came to be graduated from the university, a headache was how to deal with the letters that filled his suitcase. The letters reminded him of the university days when he had studied hard at the highest institute of education cherishing his parents' requests and his friends' encouragement. Feeling ill at ease, he decided to keep the stamps.

He was surprised not by the number of stamps filling a book, but by the voluminous knowledge given by the stamps that showed the country's developing reality, history, geography, folk customs and the like.

He felt anew that a postage stamp was not merely for payment for the cost of postage, and an interest in collecting stamps began to develop in him.

Learning the methods of collecting, arranging and preserving stamps from senior collectors, he grew more fascinated with stamp collection. He would travel a

long way to collect even one stamp.

After becoming a teacher of the mathematics faculty of Kim Il Sung University and getting married, he continued to spend his free time collecting stamps.

Picturing the developing country through stamps, he felt that he was living in such a great age of creation. There were times when a new math formula crossed his mind while feeling such happiness. "Methods and knacks of stamp collection have given me a great help to develop new teaching methods and apply them to improve the effectiveness of lectures," says Ri.

He has so far collected more than 3 000 stamps, and is highly appreciated in the nationwide exhibitions of Korean stamps.

His stamps were put on display in international festivals for cultural exchange held in Tianjin, China, in June 2006 and June 2007, respectively.

He is now a member of the stamp fans union of Korea and also an honorary member of the national stamp academy of Russia.

Like their father, his daughter and his son are also enthusiastic stamp collectors.

Article: Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Kim Sol Hui

Newly Discovered Relics in Mt Paektu

Last year a research group of the History Faculty of Kim Il Sung University and the general prospecting team of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu discovered a new historical relic in Mt Paektu.

It is an altar, about 9 metres tall, from the period of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392-1910), which is located in a small basin of Hyangdo Peak on the shores of Lake Chon.

It is almost square with its base being 36 metres

long and wide and its top being 15 metres long and 12 metres wide.

On top of it are 24 letters inscribed on a stone, 140cm long and 80cm wide, which say that sacrifices to the god were performed to pray for power for the founder-king of the feudal Joson dynasty.

Another stone slab, 26cm long and 20cm wide, with 26 letters of Indian ink handwriting, was discovered in the relics, which says that sacrificial

rites were performed to pray to the heaven and earth for good health of a princess.

The relics serve as a material evidence proving that the Korean ancestors had already built a state altar on Mt Paektu and offered sacrifices long ago. They also show fully that the Koreans had historically regarded and worshipped Mt Paektu as their ancestral mountain and the sacred one of the nation.

Article & photo: Choe Ui Rim



Stone slabs found in the altar relics



Tok Islets, Inalienable Territory of Korea

Tok Islets that lie 92.6km southeast of Kannyongmal on the southern tip of Ullung Island in the East Sea of Korea, are recognized historically and by international law as an inalienable part of the territory of Korea.

It is clearly seen in many Korean historical records including *Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* (1145) and *History of Koryo* (1451), as well as in Japanese books including the *Collection of Waterways along the Korean Coast* and *Chronicle of Shimane Prefecture*.

After the Second World War, vanquished Japan officially admitted that Tok Islets did not belong to its territory. Contemporary maps compiled by the United States and Britain also marked the islets as part of Korea's territory.

Historical materials proving Korea's ownership of the islets continue to be discovered.

A map of Japan published by a geological survey office under the then

Japanese ministry of agriculture and commerce and maps published for textbooks for secondary schools, in 1888 and 1889 respectively, were made public in 2016, and they did not even mark Ullung Island and Tok Islets. And a map of Asia which was carried in a geography textbook compiled by Yamagami, a representative Japanese geologist, marked the islets outside the borderline of Japan.

Nevertheless, the authorities and rightists of Japan insist that Tok Islets

belong to their territory.

Having instituted the Day of Takeshima (Tok Islets in Japanese), it has held an event on every February 22 to play up the "validity" of its claim to the islets.

A Blue Book of the government on foreign policies defining the islets as part of the territory of Japan was issued. The man in power frequently says that the islets belong to Japan in view of historical facts and international law. Many people re-register their families on the islets. School textbooks imbue the students with the idea that the islets belong to Japan.

The preposterous moves of the Japanese reactionaries to seize Tok Islets, instead of apologizing and compensating for their crime-ridden past, are the prelude to their bid to realize the long-sought ambition for reinvasion and territorial expansion against Korea and other Asian countries.

Tok Islets are an inseparable part of Korean territory at present, as in the past, and will be so in the future as well.

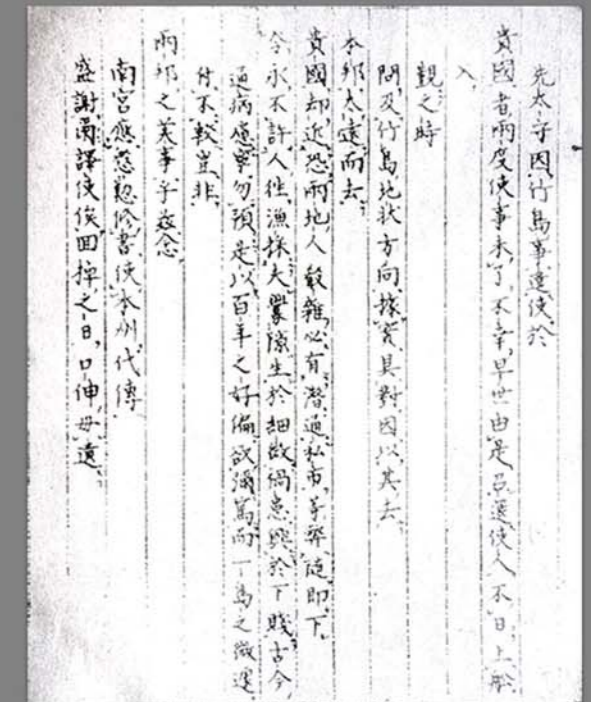
Japan must realize that facing up to the history and reality is very favourable to itself.

Article: Jong Ki Sang

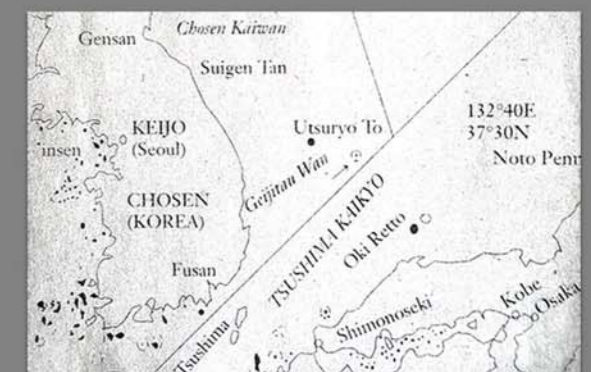
Historical materials proving that Tok Islets are an inseparable part of Korean territory



General Map of Eight Provinces (1530)



Official document of Tokugawa Shogunate that Ullung Island and Tok Islets belong to Korean territory



Map attached to the agreement by the Allied Powers on the settlement of Japanese territory after WWII

