



# KOREA TODAY

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Juche 108  
(2019)

# **The 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victorious Great Patriotic War (1941–1945) Commemorative Medal**



**Chairman Kim Jong Il received the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victorious Great Patriotic War (1941–1945) Commemorative Medal from President D. A. Medvedev of the Russian Federation in May 2010.**



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**Front Cover: A scene from the National Folk Art Troupe's performance**

*Photo by  
Hwang Jong Hyok*



**Back Cover: Moran Hill in spring**

*Photo by  
Hwang Jong Hyok*

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# Self-reliance, Motive Force for Economic Development

**I**N APRIL LAST YEAR A NEW STRATEGIC line of concentrating all efforts on the economic construction was set forth at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. After the meeting the economy of Korea began to develop at a rapid speed.

Last year the generation capacity of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, one of the major power production bases of the country, was increased remarkably, the Kim Chaek and Hwanghae iron and steel complexes and other metallurgical works built on their successes in establishing the Juche orientation in production, and dynamic efforts were made to strengthen the independent foundations of the chemical industry. The quality of various vehicles and light-industry products was raised to a higher level and their mass production was realized. And the agricultural sector produced a large number of high-yielding units and farm workers even in adverse weather conditions.

Such successes were not the result of favourable conditions and environment or a certain country's help at all. On the contrary, the Korean people are suffering from a huge hindrance in their economic construction owing to the unprecedentedly tougher sanctions. The steady development of the country's economy even in its unfavourable conditions and environment is attributable to the Korean people's steadfast spirit of self-reliance and their mode of

struggle.

Commenting on it, the Cambodian newspaper *Khmer Times* wrote as follows:

Korea, indeed, is a country strong in the spirit of self-reliance. Its people established a genuine socialist system by dint of self-development. The word *Juche* implanted deeply in the minds of the people can be heard anywhere in the country. Juche is the source of energy promoting its economy. The people are creating their life despite hardships and advancing while breaking through trials and difficulties in the spirit of Juche and with the strength of self-reliance.

The banner of self-reliance of the Korean people is not a temporary countermeasure adopted to cope with the economic sanctions which check their right to existence and development, but a constant line they have adhered to invariably in the whole course of the Korean revolution.

Self-reliance is the spirit of being responsible for all problems arising in the revolution and construction and solving them by one's own strength, and it is based on the Juche idea that one is the master of one's own destiny and has the strength to carve it out. The Juche idea is a guiding ideology of Korea, and the Korean people, from the outset of their building of a new society, have laid a firm foundation of the self-supporting economy which develops with its own strength, technology and resources under

**Steel production based on domestic fuel and raw materials is on the increase at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex.**



# Spare Nothing for Workers

## Mechanical Noise

ONE NOVEMBER DAY in 1974, President Kim Il Sung visited a branch of a factory.

He dropped in at a press workshop, where operators were quickly making products with big and small presses assiduously. Looking at them for a good while, he had a shadow pass over his face. Then, he cupped his mouth in his hands and whispered in the ear of one of officials that the roar of the machines would be very harmful to the workers' health.

Having thought for a while, he said that they should silence the noise and taught how to cover both sides of a press by gesticulation. Only then did the officials come to understand why he had a shadow pass over his face.

After a while he turned to a coating workshop he had already passed by, and moved slowly. Out of the workplace, he took a few steps before stopping again to listen to the press sounds. Then he stressed that if a glass door covered the entrance to the press workshop well, it would be able to prevent the noise from spreading to other workshops, and that the door had to be fixed well so as to check the noise. Mentioning that the door had to be installed to check the passage between the coating workshop and the press workshop without giving the impression that the passage was blocked, he taught in detail how to make the de-

vices to silence the press sounds.

Thus a glass wall appeared between the two workshops, and the workers became free from the noise.

## Spare Nothing for Workers

One June day in 1977 Chairman Kim Jong Il was reported by an official that middle-aged workers of the then Hungnam Fertilizer Factory and other factories and enterprises and of mines in South Hamgyong Province were suffering from their poor teeth.

Reproaching the official for referring to the matter only then, the Chairman said anxiously: Production is important. But more important is the workers' health. But for the workers, no fertilizer can be produced. You officials should think of the workers' health before production.

Then he taught in detail how to build a modern hospital.

One day when the hospital construction was near to completion, he acquainted himself with the project once again. Then he proposed to equip the hospital with a complete set of the best facilities in the world even at a great expense, saying that they should spare nothing for the workers.

Thanks to his scrupulous guidance and concern there soon appeared a modern dental preventive hospital in the industrial city of Hamhung.

## Hotel for Workers

One day in June 2016 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill.

Looking around different places of the factory, he acquainted himself with its actual production and management activities in detail. Then he assigned some tasks to the factory, and said that he would build the best dormitory for the workers. And he himself selected the building site. Afterwards he examined a scale model of the dormitory, sent a powerful construction force for the project and solved all problems arising in the construction.

When the construction was completed in January 2017, he visited the newly built dormitory. Looking around the entrance, corridors, a dining hall, a birthday party hall, sports and recreation rooms and examining in detail bookcases and wardrobes and dressing tables in bedrooms, he said with great satisfaction that it was built to suit women's psychology and to have nothing wanted even in the future.

Then he went on to say: I hear that the employees of the factory are referring to the dormitory as a workers' palace or hotel which can be seen nowhere else in the world. I'm also pleased to hear they like it. Such a wonderful building for workers can be built only in our country for the working class.

*Choe Sol Mi*



The Samjiyon Orchestra Theatre.

► the banner of self-reliance as required by the idea.

The solid foundation of the self-supporting economy, fruit of the Korean people's self-reliance, guarantees that the country's economy develops continuously in a planned way without being affected by any global economic upheavals or economic sanctions.

In recent years wonderful streets and modern cultural and welfare facilities went up in succession, including Changjon Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Ryomyong Street, People's Theatre, Samjiyon Orchestra Theatre, Masikryong Ski Resort and Munsu Water Park in the country. And gigantic construction projects, including the development of Samjiyon County and the construction of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area, are proceeding in a three-dimensional way and on a grand scale. This vividly shows the stout mettle of socialist Korea which is advancing forward unremittingly with its own strength, and the inexhaustible potentials of its independent economy.

This means that no difficulties can check the Korean people's ardent aspirations towards living and developing with their own strength, and their indefatigable struggle. Their zeal to build a socialist power as early as possible by dint of self-reliance is growing stronger day after day.

Now the Korean people are bringing about a revolutionary upsurge in the socialist construction in order to successfully attain the strategic targets of national economic development and switch over to a new stage of growth under the slogan "Let us open a new road of advance for socialist construction under the uplifted banner of self-reliance!" set forth by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un in his New Year address 2019.

It is the law of history that a new era opens and a new history is created when a great idea and spirit change into physical strength.

The Korean people who hold fast to the Juche idea as an ideological weapon of carving out their destiny and have acquired self-reliance will surely realize their dream and ideal—this is an inevitable truth showed by their history of self-reliance and the reality of today.

*Min Ok Hui*



New models of a tramcar and a trolley bus.



# KEY TO INCREASED TRANSPORT

RECENTLY THE WEST Pyongyang Locomotive Corps under the Pyongyang Railway Bureau is increasing the haulage on schedule without accident.

It overfulfilled its plan of haulage last year, and has overfulfilled its plan of haulage month after month as of April this year.

Ju Song Ho, a senior staff member of the locomotive corps, says, "The secret of our achievements lies in that we have thoroughly applied the principle of self-reliance in doing everything."

The locomotive corps has built a base where there can be done overall, small, temporary and other repairs on locomotives, thus making it possible to repair and put locomotives in good order in time. The base not only produces and supplies dozens of sorts of locomotive parts by itself but also recycles various bearings including coaxial bearings.

It also recycles main parts such as main valve spring, main body of compressor and compressor crankshaft on a scientific basis, helping hasten the repair of locomotives, and thus makes a contribution to their run on schedule without accident.

Ri Chol Nam, leader of the

coaxial bearing recycling workteam, says, "The coaxial bearing is a large-sized bearing for locomotive wheels. Previously there was no problem in repairing locomotives under the state supply system. But at present, the supply of important parts is almost blocked due to the imperialists' consecutive economic blockade. So our workteam has decided to repair wagon wheels by our own efforts. In contact with scientists and technicians of relevant units, we have solved sci-tech problems arising in the wheel recycling. And we are now able to repair wagon wheels as we want by introducing an advanced working method."

Meanwhile, a self-reliance workshop of the base manufactured a special cutter by itself and uses it to cut materials, a job formerly done by welding with lots of welding rods. The new cutter makes it possible to save a lot of electricity and raw materials.

Last year the base built by itself an induction furnace of several hundred-ton capacity to mould workpieces of pinions for traction motors, brake pads and cast iron resistance chips to be used in repairing locomotives. This helped engine drivers shorten the round-trip time for centralized transport.

Besides, the base introduced scores of inventions in repairing locomotives, thus making a great contribution to ensuring the number of working locomotives.

The base's achievements heightened all the engine drivers and crews' enthusiasm for the drive for extra-haulage on schedule without accident. In contact with relevant units, the locomotive corps frequently inquired how much freight was secured and took a measure to transport them in good time.

The control section of the corps established a strict organizing and commanding system for passing centralized transport trains to loading places without delay and sent loaded wagons promptly so as to minimize their stoppage time. In addition, the engine drivers voluntarily changed locomotives and did district transfer in order to carry goods to important projects in time, thus increasing the transport results.

Pak Chol Ho, head of the locomotive corps, says, "Our *Pulgungi* locomotive drivers and all other workers will always take the lead in the struggle to implement the five-year strategy for national economic development under the banner of self-reliance."

*Sim Hyon Jin*

# With Their Own Strength and Techniques

IN SONGYO DISTRICT, Pyongyang is located the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory established in April 1952. In its early days it was a small manufacturer of textile machine parts. Later it developed into a mother factory in the sector of the textile machine industry capable of producing and supplying spinning and weaving machinery and relevant parts.

The factory's sci-tech achievements made in the course of actively inventing and introducing new techniques as required by the developing reality won gold prize twice at international sci-tech festivals.

The factory, which had previously produced sack weaving machines and shuttleless looms, began to produce flexible shaft looms in the 2000s.

In recent years it accelerated the project of making its equipment CNC-based, from which it is benefiting. When the work got started there arose not a few problems. But officials of the factory, with confidence in the strength and technology of their workers and technicians, started with introducing CNC technology into machine tools of machine workteam No. 1 of

the tool workshop. Above all, leaders of the workshop's workteams were inspired to kindle a flame of new technique invention. And the chief engineer and technical officers gave instructions on new technology in the sci-tech learning space for an hour every day. In the course of this the ability of the workteam leaders improved day after day, which helped push ahead with making the aforesaid workteam's equipment CNC-based. This was followed by the full-scale project of turning all other equipment of the factory CNC-based.

Meanwhile, many workers of the factory attended an on-line college learning new technology, and a drive to make technical innovations was launched.

Then the factory decided to make an air jet loom as required by the developing reality. Sin Tong Nam, head of the technical development department, says, "In the course of renovating the equipment of the factory we came to know well that when we are determined we can do anything. As a result, we succeeded in making the new loom with our own efforts."

Technicians of the factory de-

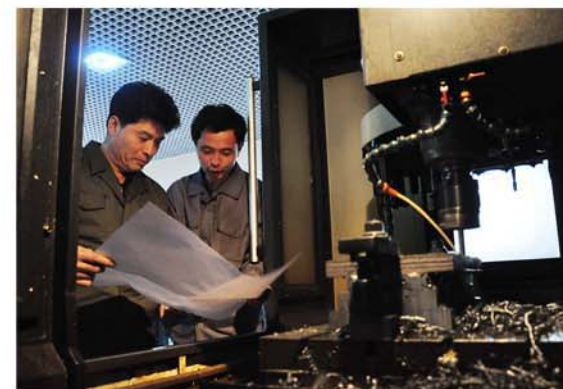
signed the motor section of the loom, the most difficult job, in their own way, making it possible to make the loom. Teachers and researchers of Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering volunteered to help them. Thus they made the loom successfully.

All textile mills required such looms as the machinery is fast in operation and consumes almost no textile fittings.

In those days the ability of the factory's technical group reached a higher stage. Not content with the achievement, managers of the factory regarded it as important to make textile machinery modern and based on domestic materials, and combined production with science and technology. The technicians, by pooling their creative wisdom, intensified the research to increase the revolution of textile machinery and raise the proportion of domestically produced equipment, which bore fruit.

Production is increasing steadily at the factory thanks to the creative enthusiasm of its workers who firmly believe in their strength.

*Rim Hye Gyong*





At the sci-tech learning space.

## Accepted Practice Vanished

A process of silk thread production from raw cocoons.



**T**HE KANGSO SILK MILL under the Sericulture and Silk Industry Bureau has newly established a silk thread production process based on raw cocoons.

In the past it was an accepted way to use dried cocoons for silk thread production in the sector of the silk-reeling industry. The cocoon production companies used drying furnaces to turn raw cocoons into dried ones, and sent them to silk mills.

Now the Kangso Silk Mill has installed the raw cocoon-based silk thread production process, thus putting an end to the long-standing accepted way.

The silk mill thought of the new process because of the actual extraction rate of silk thread.

Technicians of the factory paid attention to the fact that the actual extraction rate of silk thread was raised when they installed a silk-spinning machine directly at a mulberry field.

In general, the actual extraction rate of silk thread from raw cocoons falls owing to their deformation during transportation. So, officials of some cocoon production companies, who had been accustomed to dried cocoons, were anxious about the matter.

Officials of the silk mill solved the problem of containers which can prevent raw cocoons from deformation during

transportation and found out the optimum conditions for cocoon freezing and storing and cocoon boiling. In the course of this they also solved different scientific and technical problems.

According to Ri Kyong Su, a technical staff member, those workers who are attending the online college of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry had a large share in the endeavour. They did experiments scores of times to find out an ideal numerical value for cocoon freezing and storing. When they were dispirited due to repeated failures, Kim Il Hyon, general manager of the silk mill, brought them newly-published technical books, and encouraged them, saying, "If changing of an old thing into a new one is as easy as speaking, how can we call it innovation? As the saying goes, 'Well begun is half done,' you've done a lot of things." Supported by officials and skilled hands of the mill, the worker students finally found out the optimum conditions for cocoon freezing and storing and cocoon boiling.

The drying process was removed after the establishment of the new process, which led to a reduction in the number of inferior cocoons, and improvements in the storage of cocoons and the extraction of silk from them. And reduced was the consumption of power and fuel previously needed

for the operation of a drying furnace, which brought about progress in the work to establish an energy-saving production process. This was accompanied by a remarkable increase in the actual extraction rate of silk thread.

Now the workers of the silk mill are producing silk thread under the banner of the modernization, domestic production and quality improvement. Having found the key to normal production in science and technology they, after their shift, go to the sci-tech learning space to acquire new techniques.

The number of workers attending the online college is on the increase. And it is a commonplace for them to go to the sci-tech learning space during a break or after their shift. They say that they should prepare themselves in keeping with the developing reality, and that the level of their sci-tech knowledge is that of their ability.

The officials of the mill are scrupulously organizing the operation of the sci-tech learning space to suit the growing enthusiasm of the workers. When the visitors to the mill ask them about the secret to their success that renders a benefit to the state, they say it lies in giving priority to science and technology.

*Kim Il Bong*





## Working People Celebrate May Day

Every year Korea holds different functions in celebration of May Day, an international holiday of the working people of the world.

The holiday is marked with colourful artistic performances and sports and amusement games all across the country.



# Pledge

**I**N HIS NEW YEAR Address 2017 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un said, “Previously, all the people used to sing the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*, feeling optimistic about the future with confidence in the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. I will work with devotion to ensure that the past era does not remain as a moment in history but is re-presented in the present era. On this first morning of the new year I swear to become a true servant loyal to our people, who faithfully supports them with a pure conscience.”

His words intensively express his outlook on the people and life.

In 2018 his pace for the people’s happiness further quickened. Especially, he visited scores of units in the hottest period of summer when an exceptionally high temperature and sultry weather lasted long. His field guidance continued amidst the fierce heat, the temperature being 40°C, from North Phyongan Province to Ryanggang Province, from North Hamgyong Province to Kangwon Province, from South Hwanghae Province to South

Phyongan Province, and back to North Hamgyong Province and Ryanggang Province.

One July day he visited nine units in North Hamgyong Province, including the construction site of the Orangchon Power Station, the Chongjin Shipyard and the Chongjin Bag Factory.

The day he visited the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory and the Songsan Tramcar Station, it was so hot that people hesitated to go outside. But he, who was always anxious to solve the traffic problem of Pyongyang citizens, was greatly satisfied to see new-type trolley buses and tramcars, saying that they really had done a great worthwhile job for the people, and that he now felt light as if he had plucked stars from the sky. That night, while giving guidance to the trial run of a new trolley bus and a new tramcar, he said with joy that it would be marvellous if the trolley buses and tramcars of Korean make run along the streets, and that the people would be happy to see them.

Last year he visited the Samjiyon Potato Farina Factory twice. Potato farming is the main trade in Samjiyon County. And potato starch had been made there. Two years ago the factory was built true to his intention.

He visited it in the summer and autumn of that year, taking the relevant measures one by one for its operation.

Potato powder production is greatly profitable as its actual rate is two times greater than starch. Consequently, the country with an unfavourable climate and poor soil has changed into the one producing the largest quantity of grain in the country.

Wherever he goes, the Supreme Leader says that he is very happy when he finds and does a worthwhile job for the people. When he sees that some officials do not perform their duty well, he is so sorry at the thought of the people’s inconvenience, and takes relevant measures on the spot until late at night. He regards the people as his own kith and kin, has a clear conscience by which he makes exact demands on himself to adopt a proper attitude towards serving them, and unstintingly devotes his all to them—this underlies all his thinking and practice.

The Korean people keep deep in mind their belief and trust in the leader, who regards “The people are my God” as motto of his life, and are convinced of their better civilized future.

*Rim Ok*



The Monument to the Victorious Battle of the Musan Area.

From President Kim Il Sung’s reminiscences “With the Century”

## Battle of Taehongdan

**T**HE QUESTION OF OUR advance into the homeland, which was brought up at Nanpai-zi, came to a final decision at the Beidadingzi meeting.

My men were eager to advance into the homeland as soon as possible. They wanted to fight a larger battle in Korea than those fought at Pochonbo or Ji-ansanfeng to shake the world. We were afraid of nothing because we were strong, having become as tough as steel through the Arduous March of more than 100 days.

The final objective of the many large and small military operations we had conducted in

northern and eastern Manchuria had always been to advance into the homeland and liberate the country. We had concentrated all our efforts on this goal.

A careful timing of the operations in Korea was important. As June 1937 was the right time, so was May 1939. Why? The prevailing situation, our own strong desire and the hopes of the people back in the homeland made a KPRA push into Korea imperative.

In May 1939 the Sino-Japanese War was raging in the East and World War II was brewing in the West. The Japanese imperialists were trying to wind up the

dragged-out Sino-Japanese War, concentrate on the possibility of invading the Soviet Union and draw up a strategy for advancing towards the south. In order to build up their home front, they stepped up their offensive against the KPRA, while intensifying their economic plunder and fascist repression of Korea. A typical example was the “Hyesan incident”.

Following this incident, the enemy continued to spread the lie that the KPRA had perished. In some places they held celebrations for our “destruction” and their “victory”. Some revolutionary organization mem-

► bers who had been deceived by the false propaganda about our supposed demise reasoned this way: “If it is true that something has happened to General Kim Il Sung, the Korean revolution is as good as finished. What’s the use of carrying on a hopeless struggle?” They came in person to our political operatives’ camp to find out if the rumour about me was true.

In this situation, the best way to bring about a resurgence in the anti-Japanese revolution was for a large KPRA force to advance into the homeland and strike the enemy hard to show that it was still alive to those at home and abroad.

...In the spring of 1939 the KPRA units advanced into the Musan area.

We crossed the Amnok River at Dam No. 5.

Just as we arrived at Chongbong, the fog lifted and the sun came out. The weather was perfect. I still remember that we built a campfire and dried our leggings, which were wet with dew.

We bivouacked overnight at Chongbong and then moved to Konchang the next day.

At dawn the next day we left Konchang and marched towards Pegae Hill. That day the fog was so dense that we could not see an inch ahead.

On arriving in Pegae Hill, I ordered the unit to bivouac and sent out reconnaissance parties. They discovered a splendid, newly-built highway that ran through the primeval forest east of Pegae Hill. I confirmed that this was the Kapsan-Musan guard road, which I had already been informed of. It was a road for emer-

gency use, connecting uninhabited areas between Kapsan and Musan. This road was supposed to be for moving the “punitive” forces by mobile means to any spot on short notice in case the KPRA pushed into Korea. I was told that because the project had been finished only recently, the road was kept clear for inspection, and no unauthorized traffic was allowed. The scouts said that “Off Limits” notices had been put up everywhere.

We marched in fine array along the straight highway in broad daylight, reached Mupho on the Tuman River on that same day and pitched camp there.

I was told that when the enemy found out later that we had marched in the daytime along their guard road, they groaned in despair and called our bold move an “unprecedented oddity”.

The march made a greater impact than the annihilation of several enemy regiments or divisions.

We left Mupho the next morning and arrived at the Taehongdan tableland. On arrival we had lunch in the vicinity of a mountain shrine and moved our forces in two directions....

Seeing our sudden appearance in the Musan area, the people exclaimed in great excitement and joy that it was a colossal lie of the enemy that the entire KPRA had frozen to death last winter. They wondered how it was possible for so many soldiers to appear suddenly in their midst from nowhere.

I foresaw that the enemy who had been hit at Singaechok would naturally chase us, and made a decision to destroy them in the Taehongdan tableland, where

the terrain features were in our favour. After leaving Sinsadong, we lay in ambush on a low hill on the tableland, waiting for O Jung Hup’s 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment to return from Singaechok.

I realized instantly that the helmeted soldiers coming in the wake of our regiment was an enemy force.

As soon as the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment had passed by the area of our ambush, I signalled the supply-service men and lumbermen to throw themselves on the ground, then ordered my men to open fire.

Most of the enemy who encountered us in Taehongdan were killed.

The Japanese imperialist invaders were astonished at the news that the KPRA had appeared in the Musan area, annihilated a large number of their troops at Taehongdan and crossed back over the Tuman River safely. The mere fact that the KPRA had appeared on Korean soil was enough to drive the enemy mad.

Along with the Battle of Pochonbo, the operation in the Musan area was the largest-scale action of the greatest significance in the military operations we performed in the homeland. The Battle of Pochonbo demonstrated that Korea was not dead, but very much alive, whereas the Battle of Taehongdan was an event of historical significance in that it showed in a concrete way that the KPRA was not only still alive, but also had grown stronger and was dealing a crushing blow to the Japanese imperialists even as the enemy was going around claiming that it had been destroyed. □

## Exhaust Gas Oxygen Analyser Developed

RECENTLY RESEARCHERS of the Nano-material Institute, Nano-engineering Branch, the State Academy of Sciences, have developed and introduced an exhaust gas oxygen analyser of great economic significance.

It is a device for real-time quantitative analysis of oxygen concentration in high-temperature exhaust gas from a boiler or an industrial furnace. It makes it possible to establish a new method of control that ensures a condition for the optimum operation of a boiler or an industrial furnace, thus laying a material and technical foundation conducive to making production process modern and IT-based.

Boilers for power and steam production, heat-treating furnaces, kilns, cracking furnaces and revolving furnaces, during their operation, release dust-laden exhaust gas at over 700°C. So the researches are under way widely to solve the problem. But previous similar devices were not used properly as they caused a danger of explosion because their sensor structure was not

rationally set.

The scientists of the institute including researcher Ri Song Bom intensified the study of relevant documents to develop the aforesaid analyser in keeping with the global trend and the actual conditions of the country. In the course of this, they developed a high-performance sensing unit on the basis of nano ceramic.

They also determined a rational structure of a sensor for continuous real-time measure in the high-temperature dust-laden exhaust gas from a revolving cement furnace and so on. Meanwhile, they established a new method which makes it possible to control the temperature of a furnace to suit its optimum condition by measuring the oxygen concentration in high-temperature exhaust gas with high accuracy and adjusting the amount of supply of fuel such as coal, and found out a rational condition for installing and using the analyser. As a result, they succeeded in developing the analyser of great economic significance in a few years.

The analyser is the same as or better than imported ones in technical properties such as measurement range, resolution capacity and response speed, can be used in the furnaces whose temperature is below 700°C, and costs much less, thus winning favour with its users.

The scientists of the institute introduced the device in the Suncheon Cement Complex, the Chonnaeri Cement Factory and other units, which proved that the analyser helps further improve the quality of cement clinker, save much coal and markedly reduce the emissions of harmful gas. The introduction of the device in the boilers of thermal power stations helps raise the heat efficiency, thus making it possible to maintain the existing generating capacity while saving much coal.

The “ZrO<sub>2</sub> exhaust gas oxygen analyser” developed by the institute received the certificate of excellent IT product.

Now the researchers are actively pushing ahead with the introduction of the device in different units across the country.

*Sim Yong Jin*

## Motive Power

THE IT CIRCLE OF THE Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace is well known for good extracurricular IT education.

In recent years members of the circle won victory after victory at national festivals and programming contests, for example, two consecutive victories at a national schoolchildren's festival of loyalty and three consecutive victories at an IT circle members' programming contest held in August every year.

What enables them to make such achievements? To know the answer a *Korea Today* reporter visited the palace.

The predecessor of the circle came into being as a computer circle when the palace was established on May 2, 1989.

With the beginning of the new century it was renamed IT

circle. And in 2015 the circle underwent a radical change with state investments. In its early days it had only ten-odd members, but it has now expanded to accommodate over 150 members, provided with improved educational conditions and environment.

The activities of the circle have since been conducted more briskly. The instructors have made increasingly exact demands on their charges in study, and invented new teaching methods. Pak Nam Hyok, a young instructor of the circle, initiated the invention of new teaching methods. Among his charges were three boys, Jin Hyon U, Kim Kwang Myong and O Kum Song by name. Jin was well grounded in mathematics and correct in analysis, but not quick in programming. Kim al-

ways decided the correct way to solve problems, and O was very quick in programming. *If the three boys pool their wisdom it will bear greater fruit.* With this thought the young instructor oriented everything towards having them develop a cooperative spirit. He led them to cultivate the attitude whereby to understand, help and value one another in and out of study, and saw to it that the attitude was directly displayed in their study: he inspired them to candidly exchange their opinions and knowledge in all aspects such as analysis and judgment of problems, deciding of the way to solve problems and programming. As a result, the three boys won the programming contest of the 21<sup>st</sup> national schoolchildren's festival of loyalty held in April 2018.

The IT circle members are engrossed in extracurricular studies.



## Promising Teacher

THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL Workshop on Security 2015 was held in Nara Prefecture, Japan. Presented in the meeting were 56 essays, and 18 of them were published. One of them was the *New Fast Algorithms for Elliptic Curve Arithmetic in Affine Coordinates* presented by Jo Myong Song from Korea. In 2017, a US professor commented that the essay was the best in the result of high-speed arithmetic in elliptic curve until then, and that it was presumed that it would be difficult to see something better than that.

Jo is a teacher of Kumsong Secondary School No. 2. He teaches programming. His ambition to train able program developers in their teens has turned him into a fiery enthusiast. He thoroughly studied the global trends in the IT development and domestic IT achievements, and developed different programs though busy giving lessons and doing new teaching methods research, for example, the development of a financial IC card settlement system introduced across the country. As hundreds of thousands of cards were to be settled a day, he volunteered to solve the problem of getting cards recognized fast and

safely. It was not merely development of a system. His lessons supported by the experience and knack he had got during the development and his high ability have become interesting, guiding the students to the shortcut to the development of programs. When the school was to introduce electronic blackboards, he developed many educational multimedia and other programs needed for the blackboards.

What he put emphasis on in education is to have students become the masters of their study by developing their thinking. What is important in solving math problems is not the number of the problems solved but how they are solved—this is his method of appreciating students' ability. Some of his students, whose ability was not high when he took charge of them, have now become those with the highest ability in their grade. The students who learned programming from him ranked among the winners of a national programming contest.

It is only six years since he began to work as a teacher. During the period, however, he received several certificates of invented teaching aid and those of registered new teaching method,



and was highly rated at several exhibitions including a national IT achievements exhibition. He also wrote *The Must-know C Language 495 Problems* and other reference books which are helpful to students in learning programming.

Jo is fond of music. His singing is good enough to cast even professional soloists into the shade. His father, who is a *tanso* (a Korean short bamboo flute) master, always emphasized that an educator should be comprehensively qualified. So he does not neglect studying music in his spare time.

Now he is 30, and every day he is busy striving to train the students into competent IT talents in keeping with the daily shortening update cycle in the IT field.

*Kim Chul Hyon*

On the basis of the experience the instructor formed study groups of four or five each with his charges. This enabled them to pool their mind in solving problems, thus finding correct answers quickly. And their unyielding spirit further intensified in the course of competi-

tions between the groups. Thus their ability improved remarkably.

After winning a programming contest last year, Kim Kum Song, one of the circle members, said, "It is an elementary law of dynamics that united might is great. My instructor led us

to win victory by means of such might."

Members of the circle are pooling their strength and wisdom to attain the goal of guaranteeing the future of the country with science.

*Kim Son Myong*

# School with Many Model Educators



Emphasis is put on improving the teaching ability.

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED THE TAEBO Primary School in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

There I met O Yong Sun, head of the school, and she referred to it as her school's pride that almost all its teachers held the title of October 8 Model Teacher, leading me to a noticeboard on the ground floor. On the top of it was written the slogan "Let us make a leap forward by dint of science and guarantee the future by dint of education!"

Introduced below the slogan were teacher Pak Song Hui who always took the lead in inventing new teaching methods and improving the students' ability under the title of *No. 1*, and teacher Hong Kyong Hwa who led the district in making multimedia to enhance the efficiency of education under the title of *For more multimedia*.

Citing the saying that goes "A drop of water reflects the universe," I asked the head to introduce me to the aforesaid teachers, and she guided me to the room of class 2-1 first.

In the classroom my eyes were caught by the

title *Fruits and Vegetable Making* written on the blackboard. Before the blackboard were standing several students with handcrafted clay grapes, watermelons or radishes in their hands. Their works were marvellous, and they admirably expressed before other students what they had thought while making them. A boy said that he resolved to become a botanist to cultivate grapes as big as apples, and a girl mentioned her will to grow watermelon larger than pumpkin to the delight of her parents.

According to their teacher Ri Song Hui, such a teaching method was a new content added to the teaching plan in accordance with the universal 12-year compulsory education programme, and the method was invented by her department chief Pak Song Hui. And she said that Pak, together with other members of the department, always thought about how to apply even in a single lesson a new teaching method suited to the students' psychology, and made strenuous efforts to obtain another data. In the course of this, she added, they improved their teaching methods and qualifications, and she herself was highly appreciated at a teaching contest of the district and became an October 8 Model Teacher.

Then I dropped in at the room of class 4-1. Kim Ryon Hwa, the teacher in charge of the class and a department chief, was, too, a model teacher held in respect by other teachers and students. The head of the school told me that the class headed the others in the school. She continued to say: It is true that students' performance depends on a teacher's unique method of teaching and high qualification, and Kim is a passionate woman admired by all the other teachers. She is always engrossed in teaching materials.

Kim told me the following story.



Two years ago she received the certificate of October 8 Model Teacher after winning special prize at a national seminar on teaching methods. In the second year she relaxed as her students' ability was high. Gradually, however, there began to appear a disparity of ability between the students. At that time the head of the school said that their goal was not to receive the certificate of October 8 Model Teacher, and that their duty was to train students into excellent talents required by the country.

She also said that now the teachers of the school were waging a dynamic campaign to overtake others, learn from others and swap experience in order to improve teaching ability and qualifications, and that the headmaster with an over four decade-long career as a teacher and those fresh out of college were no exception.

I also visited the Taekwon-Do circle room. In the room the circle members were in intense ba-

sic training. Their instructor Sin Kwang Hyok is a Merited Athlete and a DPRK umpire. He has put efforts in guiding his charges in training for over ten years to add lustre to Taekwon-Do, the orthodox martial art of the country, and thus they won scores of gold and silver medals. And he made a contribution to his pupils' winning first place at the competition of primary schools of the 44<sup>th</sup> Jongilbong Prize National Schoolchildren's Sports Contest held last year.

While looking round a foreign language laboratory, a nature study room and an IT study room, I could understand well how hard the teachers of the school were striving to train the students, the future of the country, into its fine pillars.

I left the school with the conviction that the future of the country is guaranteed by such teachers.

Sim Chol Yong



## Life Dedicated to Studies of Acupuncture and Moxibustion

**T**HE PYONGYANG Municipal Koryo Medicine Hospital is widely known for its active contribution to the treatment of people's diseases and their recuperation.

Some time ago a *Korea Today* reporter visited the hospital, and met Dr. So Yong Sik, head of the acupuncture and moxibustion department who is dedicating his whole life to the development of acupuncture and moxibustion.

\* \* \*

It was in the early 1970s that Yong Sik got familiar with the medical circle. Scientific systematization of acupuncture and moxibustion was just his goal at that time. He did not choose his career as a doctor not because he had an inborn talent for medicine. In his childhood he wished to become a footballer. When he was 15, he had hurt his femur seriously during football training, so he had to have a caput femoris transplant. Thus he became unable to realize his original desire, but he wanted to give the joy of rebirth to those who had lost their hope owing to their diseases. Now he decided to become a doctor, and became a doctor of the acupuncture and moxibustion department of the aforesaid hospital. From then on, he displayed an astonishing zeal in the study of acupuncture and moxibustion and the treatment of diseases. He would sit up all night to study the contents of the Koryo medical classics such as *Tonguibogam* and *Uibangryuchwi* and work on problems arising in the treat-

ment of diseases.

On his way to and from his hospital or during a break he would avidly read different medical books. He often went to the Grand People's Study House after work and became the last to leave the house. After study he experimented on himself first by sticking needles into certain acupoints. He went on to do so for over 30 years, and in 2002 he compiled *The Acupoints Dictionary* which comprehensively systematizes relevant acupoints and the methods of treatment based on them. Thus he was awarded a doctorate.

He is still busy treating patients. Most of the patients are those with obstinate diseases including slipped disk and atrophic facial paralysis. Paek Yong Bong, a resident in Chilgol-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, who got treatment from the doctor in November last year, said, "I hurt my waist in an accident five years ago. Later I got hospital treatment several times, but I could hardly move my body. Then I heard that acupuncture and moxibustion could cure slipped disk, so I went to see Dr. So to get treatment from him. Now I have no pains however hard I do exercise."

The doctor has cured hundreds of patients with obstinate diseases.

He also conducts research on treating methods and apparatuses. He developed a local injection therapy by which to directly inject medicine into a certain acupoint unlike sheer acupuncture and moxibustion that cause



persistent pain to the human body. He also made treating apparatuses such as a portable spine traction apparatus and a comprehensive ear diagnosing and treating apparatus. A comprehensive diagnosing and treating apparatus he made can apply simultaneously different Koryo therapies such as acupuncture, moxibustion and cupping, and it was highly appreciated at an exhibition held in Moscow in June 1987.

Writing is part of his invariable daily routine. He has compiled several medical dictionaries including *The Koryo Acupuncture and Moxibustion Dictionary* and the *Complete Collection of Koryo Clinical Medicine*.

Now the doctor is 66, but his zeal knows no decline. He is still dedicating his wisdom and effort to the development of Koryo medicine, the traditional medicine of the Korean nation, and finds pleasure of life in his job.

*Kim Son Myong*

## Important Matter in Medical Service

**T**HE PHYONGCHON District People's Hospital in Pyongyang has improved its conditions and environment for medical treatment and raised the level of its medical service, and thus it is very popular with its patients.

Jong Mi Ok, director of the hospital, says, "Result depends on how a goal is set, I think. What is important above all in improving the quality of medical service is to improve the qualifications of medical workers. If we set only a possible goal taking into account what was possible or impossible, we couldn't have made success like today."

The hospital has established an operation support system capable of ensuring observation of and discussion about operation and treatment on a high level and a comprehensive information system to get sci-tech knowledge through the state network at any place, which makes a contribution to medical service and the improvement of the medical workers' qualifications.

Having introduced IT into its comprehensive management and operation, the hospital con-

trols all procedures and processes of medical service, for example, patient reception, consultation and dispatch, by computer.

When the introduction of IT in the hospital was suggested, some of its medical workers shook their heads. They were satisfied with the then conditions of the hospital, so they held that the suggestion meant looking for trouble as there would be not a few problems in the project including programming.

Then the hospital had them visit model units, including the Okryu Children's Hospital, the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and the Changsong County People's Hospital.

After looking round the hospitals whose medical services were made IT-based, they varied in opinion. But it was not easy to introduce IT.

While developing necessary programs and laying material foundations one after another, the hospital paid a primary attention to improving its medical workers' qualifications and steadily pushed forward with it.

First of all it had department heads and above give computer technology lectures so they had to learn relevant knowledge. Emulating them, all other medical workers studied hard conscious that they could not advance even a single step without learning.

The competitions by departments and individuals became a guarantee for establishing the habit of giving definite priority to science and technology in all medical services. This led to the improvement of the medical workers' qualifications.

Last year alone, various medical appliances and medicines from the hospital were highly rated at a Pyongyang municipal medical science and technology festival, a medical appliances exhibition of the Ministry of Public Health and so on, and it received 79 certificates of various sorts.

Based on the achievements, the medical workers of the hospital are still devoting their all to improving the people's health, and constantly raising the level of medical service with a higher goal.

*Pak Yong Il*



# Best Coach Kim Un Ju

**I**T IS NATURAL THAT A fine teacher is behind a fine disciple.

Korea has now produced many world-class artistic gymnasts including Ri Se Gwang. This is attributable to their coaches' unstinting care and efforts for their growth and development. Among the coaches is Kim Un Ju, artistic gymnastics

coach of the Pyongyang Sports Club.

With a natural aptitude for sports Un Ju has many episodes.

On her wedding ceremony over ten years ago someone asked her whom she loved the most, and she replied she loved artistic gymnastics to the surprise of the participants.

She was so fond of sports that

she married Pak Yong Thae, a shooter of a sports club, and is now training her son Thae Ryong into a gymnast.

She spent her childhood at a farm village on the outskirts of Pyongyang. At that time her school's physical education teacher particularly favoured her as he was pleased to see her unhesitatingly and tenaciously mount on a climbing bar and an iron bar which even boys were afraid to do. So the teacher, in his spare time, taught the girl how to grasp the iron bar and mount on the climbing bar, and the ABC of artistic gymnastics.

As she was quick-witted and nimble, she easily understood whatever the teacher taught and redoubled her efforts. She often told him, "I'll become an artistic gymnast when I grow up." Then he, patting on her back, said, "It is easy to become a sports person, but not so to win victory. Such victory reflects not only the honour of a sports person that one might fail to attain even throughout one's life but also that of one's home and country which have brought one up. You should remember this."

The young girl has since regarded the teacher's words as her motto and the principle of her life during her career as a player and a coach. She put emphasis on inspiring in her charges aspiration after fame and vol-

untary zeal while maintaining the traditional method of training players by which to select reserve players with suitable physical constitution, give scientific training and supply nourishing food. While guiding them in training and daily life she taught them what the honour of a sports person is and how they should live up to it.

Her efforts bore fruit. Those trained by her won national games and achieved successes in international competitions.

In 2017 Kim was selected as the artistic gymnastics coach of the national team, and in May that year Kim Su Jong and Sim Hae Won of the team snatched one gold medal and several silver and bronze medals at the 7<sup>th</sup> Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships and the 14<sup>th</sup> Asia Juvenile Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

Thus she was chosen as one of the ten best DPRK coaches 2017. In 2018 she was selected again as the coach of the national team, and led Kim Su Jong to win medals including two gold medals at the 11<sup>th</sup> FIG Artistic Gymnastics Individual Apparatus World Cup and the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Games.

In January last she was chosen once again as one of the ten best DPRK coaches 2018.

*Kim Son Myong*



# Korean Folk Songs

**T**HE KOREAN NATION with a long history of five thousand years has created an admirable culture of their own. Typical of the culture are Koreans' favourite folk songs which constitute an important part of their spiritual and cultural wealth.

## Yangsando

*Yangsando* is a typical folk song from western provinces. From of old, the western provinces (South and North Phyongan provinces, Jagang Province and South and North Hwanghae provinces at present) are well known for a large number of folk songs. These songs are usually based on mild and pleasant tunes with a bright and optimistic emotion.

The word *yangsan* is an acronym of Yangdok and Maengsan. The lyrics of *Yangsando* sing of the great prides of the beautiful mountains and streams by presenting the beautiful landscape of Yangdok and Maengsan and Moran Hill in Pyongyang—all along the Taedong River.

The song is performed in different forms to suit the aesthetic sense of the times.

## Ryonggangjinari

*Ryonggangjinari* is a typical one of the Korean folk songs reflecting the Korean people's working life. Its lyrics depict the working life of the people in the Ryonggang area and its tune is also fluent and melodious.

As it is characteristic of folk songs from western provinces, it was widely sung anywhere

there were people working at their jobs—rice-planting, weeding, mowing grass for fertilizer and spinning—with the passage of the time.

When you go to Ryonggang and Kangso areas, you can still hear a story about *Ginari* that travellers stopped to appreciate the beautiful song of the weeding girls and stayed there enjoying it till the sunset.

## Ballad of Phyongbuk Nyongbyon

The *Ballad of Phyongbuk Nyongbyon* is a new-born folk song about Yaksandongdae in Nyongbyon County, North Phyongan Province, which is one of the eight scenic spots representing North and South Phyongan provinces and Jagang Province.

In Nyongbyon you can see the beautiful Yaksan (hill of medicines) which is skirted by the crystal-clear Kuryong River. The hill abounds with medicinal herbs and mineral water, hence the name Yaksan.

The lyrics of the song tell about the beautiful scenery of Yaksandongdae which is aflame with pink azaleas. Its melody consists of two parts relying on an organic combination of syncope-type tune and smooth trill to make cheerful and pleasant emotion. In the refrain, it brings a long upsurge of emotion to enlarge the extent of musical presentation—it is just the merit distinguishing the song from other songs. Now it is widely sung by female folk song soloists.

*Pak Thae Ho*

# DYNAMO IN ASIAN FOOTBALL



**H**AN UN GYONG, 52, IS THE VICE president of the DPRK Football Association. She is slender, neat and dignified.

She was born a daughter of a fisherman in Sinpho, South Hamgyong Province. From her childhood, she liked sports very much. In particular, she was fond of playing with a ball. Some people thought that she was going to enter the world of artistic gymnastics as she was slender and brisk.

But in her primary school days she used to play football with schoolboys in a small playground of her village after school. This astonished the villagers because it was beyond imagination at the time.

Only Un Gyong's father who worked at the Sinpho Fishery Station rendered active support to her unusual aspiration. He loved her, the youngest of his four children, very much.

After graduating from Korea University of Physical Education, she went out into the world as a staff member of the DPRK Football Association. She soon distinguished herself with her profound knowledge of football, which put even old football professionals to shame, and her excellent command of a foreign language.

In 2004 she began to work as an executive secretary of the International Affairs Department of the DPRK Football Association. Later she became the



vice president of the association.

In 2011, she was elected as a member of the AFC Women's Committee, thus joining the AFC. And she worked as a member of the Organizing Committee for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup from 2013 to 2016, and began to work as a member of the FIFA Member Association Committee in 2016, a member of the AFC Executive Committee in 2013 and the vice president of the AFC Associations Committee in 2017.

Whenever she made a speech in an international conference held by the AFC, the other members of the confederation were struck with admiration by her judgment and perfectly logical analysis of matches. She is the only one from East Asia among the five women members of the AFC.

Un Gyong is both an enthusiastic lover of football and tender-hearted woman who loves her family very much. Her husband works in the field of foreign affairs, her daughter has just been married and her son is a student of Kim Il Sung University. Though very busy with her work, she always devotes her affection on her husband and children.

Every Sunday evening all her family members have a good time chatting about football. Her son and daughter mention the names of famous football-



ers and talk about their technical fortes, and her husband, once a footballer in his youth, tells about his own analyses of international and domestic football matches. However, the final decisions are made by Un Gyong.

She is wont to say that she will strive to help international football matches promote peace, friendship and harmony as well as the development of the country's football.

*Sim Chol Yong*







# Believe in Yourself

*(Continued from the last issue)*

## Six Years Later

**B**ACK TO SINPHO AGAIN  
Kyong Hwa did not give up football.

Shortly afterwards, she enrolled in the physical education course of Kim Chol Ju University of Education.

One day she happened to meet on the playground of the university Kim Kwang Min, once a coach of the April 25 Sports Club's women's football team.

Kwang Min first recognized Kyong Hwa perhaps because she had previously impressed him.

"What has brought you here?" he asked.

"I was told that only when I was good at my studies would I be able to play football well..." she replied falteringly.

"Is that so? Well met! A month ago I began to work as senior coach of our country's women's football team of university students. Today we're here to do a general training. And I'm glad to see you. Now I declare you belong to my team," he concluded.

Kyong Hwa began to train as a member of the team thanks to his positive proposal.

The senior coach was quite strict in his demand on the women footballers. He rejected even good members' dribbling while running or kicking. It was the same case with Kyong Hwa.

"Why don't you use your head in dribbling? And you've failed to organize an attack in due time, and you're still weak in middle-and long-distance shooting. You cannot score a goal in that way," he told her off.

Such words, however, would inspire her to brace herself up, keep up her nerves and screw up her courage.

Her strong zeal for training bore fruit at last. During an examination match with a Pyongyang municipal team before leaving for a Universiad, she smartly succeeded in middle-distance shooting 20 minutes after the beginning of the match.

With great delight Kwang Min ran up to the sideline, shouting to Kyong Hwa, "That's it! It's just the shooting I've wanted."

Shortly afterwards, Kyong Hwa's name was put in the list of the members of the women's football team to participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Universiad.

Kyong Hwa was greatly excited to think that she would take part in the international competition, and that as a member of the national team, which she had been eager to do.

In mid-August 2003 the university students' team left for the Pyongyang International Airport to go to participate in the aforesaid Universiad.

The games were opened in the Taegu Stadium, south Korea. With the attendance of similar teams from over 100 countries, the Universiad took place in different gymnasiums and stadiums, divided into special events.

The next day the Korean women's football team had the first match with the German team, a likely winner of the event at the games.

The Korean team soon got the first goal through well-organized teamwork and tactics

► of surprise attack and went on to get another two goals successively, thus winning the first half of the match by 3 to 0. During the second half Kyong Hwa, with confidence, creditably organized attack and defence by dribbling nimbly. The German team, in an attempt to make up for the lost goals, launched an all-out attack, consistently menacing the Koreans' goal area. On one of such opportunities a back of the Korean team took the ball away from a rival, and passed it between two opponents to Kyong Hwa who was rushing into the midfield. Getting the ball, she began to counterattack. Then, on a spot 28 metres away from the goal of the opponents, she powerfully kicked the ball towards the goal. The ball hit the goal post and fell into the net. Extremely delighted, she, in spite of herself, ran around the ground with her arms open wide like a sea gull.

The Korean team also won the next match with the French 9-0.

During their match, the last of the group preliminaries, with the Mexican team, Kyong Hwa organized attack well, thus helping score two goals, and she herself succeeded in a midfield shooting. This convinced all people that it had never been by chance that she made a strong shot in the match with the Ger-

mans.

In high spirits the Korean team won the semifinal match with the Chinese Taipei team 5-0 to advance into the final. Kyong Hwa, however, could not succeed in her midfield shooting during the semifinal as the rival backs persisted in man-to-man defence against her.

During a break Kim Kwang Min cautioned her, saying, "You should try a midfield shot only when there is a good opportunity. In an unstable posture you should not do it. If you continue to do it adventurously, you will only lose the ball to the rivals. Don't forget this."

The final match took place between the Koreans and the Japanese with the stadium packed to the full. From the outset the Japanese tried to score a goal first through an all-out attack based on their high technique of dribbling and their well-organized teamwork. Still, the Koreans had thorough command of the midfield and did collective defence well, frustrating the rivals' every attack and menacing the latter's goal area continuously through fast counterattacks. About ten minutes after the beginning of the match Kyong Hwa passed the ball between two rivals to the Korean right winger, who dashed into the opponents' goal area and shot to score the first goal. About

32 minutes later the Koreans, by means of well-organized teamwork tactics, tricked even the rival goalkeeper and scored another goal. During the second half of the match, the Koreans gained ascendancy over their rivals engrossed in a general attack, and scored still another goal through a fast counterattack, thus winning the match by 3 to 0.

The Koreans ran around the ground flying their national flag when all the spectators stood up bursting into a storm of cheers, and the stadium just seemed to be split.

Kyong Hwa could hardly calm herself as she stood on the honour platform with her gold medal hanging around her neck, looking up at the flag. She felt a lump in her throat at the thought that she was the happiest girl in the world who had studied and learned football to her heart's content as a child and developed into a student player.

On their arrival at the Pyongyang International Airport, they were warmly welcomed by students, young people and schoolchildren and other citizens of the city. This was introduced by the mass media across the country, and a congratulatory meeting took place for the footballers.

*(To be continued)*

# Able Footwear Designer

**K**IM JONG HWA, A 46-year-old member of the technical preparation section of the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, is a woman promoted from ordinary worker to trainers designer. She sewed uppers for over 20 years since her girlhood before beginning to work as a footwear designer nearly ten years ago.

Working as a needle worker Kim always thought how to

make smart, diversified, multi-coloured and comfortable trainers. She often drew the shapes of trainers she had thought of, and made the shoes herself. Later, she had a better understanding of footwear while studying in the study-while-you-work system. This added fuel to her ambition to make new types of shoes. At last, she drew designs for various trainers for men and women, and designed them with

two- and three-dimensional programs, thus succeeding in making samples and trial products, and the trial products were rated excellent.

From then on she created many designs for trainers. She used printing decoration to design scores of kinds of trainers including men's, women's and children's for spring and autumn, and the designs were highly appreciated at a national

Kim works hard to design new models of shoes.



A discussion on new products.

► sci-tech festival and a district sci-tech festival.

Soon afterwards, she not only received a footwear engineer's certificate of authentication but also became a designer of the technical preparation section.

In order to design more trainers of new types she often went out on streets during the morning rush hour, and visited sportspersons to acquaint herself with different shapes of trainers. Once she stopped a passer-by to ask in detail about the trainers he wore to his wonder.

One day she dropped in at a shop to know the extent of peo-

ple's demand for the trainers from her factory. A girl around five, holding her mother's wrist, was grumbling as if something were wrong with her. Then she came to know that the girl's mother had bought new shoes for her, but the child disliked them as they were not lovely. Feeling guilty as a producer of shoes she was leaving the shop when she saw a child walking into the shop with a balloon in his hand. Drawn on the balloon were different pictures interesting children. *Children, too, have their own world,* she thought.

Back to the factory the de-

signer started to draw different designs for children's shoes, decorating them with red stars and petals of flowers. The designs were favourably commented upon at the deliberations.

Afterwards, she created designs for different trainers including those for table tennis, volleyball, basketball, marathon, weightlifting and tennis, thus rendering a great service to the factory's win at the national footwear exhibition 2018 held in October last year.

She is now working on designs for new shapes of trainers.

Sim Chol Yong



Kim Hyong Jik University of Education students win the title of the International Grandmaster of Memory in the 27<sup>th</sup> World Memory Championships.

## GIRLS OF STRONG MEMORY

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> WORLD MEMORY Championships was held in Hong Kong, China. The DPRK team, participating in the competition for the first time, won 19 medals and four trophies, and two of them won the title of the International Grandmaster of Memory. They are girl students of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education.



### Pang Un Sim, lover of numbers

Pang, who is a student of the Mathematics Faculty, has unusually loved numbers since her childhood. Born in an ordinary worker's family in Rason City of northern Korea she already distinguished herself by counting well in her kindergarten days to the surprise of the teachers and adults. And it is said that in her days at Rason Secondary School No. 1, her seniors tried to challenge her to compete with them in mathematical ability only to give up.

As a steady and assiduous girl she won special prize and first place two times at a national quick reading contest in her secondary school days.

She says that she feels light once she delves into the world of numbers.

When a journalist asked her about her impression from winning the title of the International Grandmaster of Memory, she replied, "It seems like a dream that I participated in the intellectual competition, and mental war, of the largest scale in the world. I broke the world record at the one hour Random Numbers and five minutes Random Numbers events, but I will not keep remaining in the state. Through the championships I have hardened my confidence."



### Ri Song Mi, avid reader

Ri, a student of the Life Science Faculty, also was born in Rason. Her forte is memorizing faces and names of people and words. She says that the secret of her forte lies in that she has read lots of books. Especially, she loves to read novels. She regards this as a method of memorizing much more words rather than falling into the emotional world of characters.

In her first year at the university she took part in the fourth teacher training university students' quick reading contest to win special prize. She also demonstrated her ability at the first university students' memory contest.

The day she won the title of the International Grandmaster of Memory, she wrote on her diary, "As I've got congratulations for my participation in the World Memory Championships, I feel as if I have grown up a span of hand more. I hardly get to sleep with the ambition to set a higher record next time."



### Kim Su Rim, enthusiast

Kim, a student of the Foreign Language Faculty, distinguished herself by memorizing words well in her days at Sariwon Foreign Language School. In the second grade of a senior middle school she won second place at a national quick reading contest.

She is fond of sports, regarding them as good opportunities for not only physical training but also cultivation of competitive spirit and perseverance.

She is good at one hour cards and one hour random numbers. Though she broke the world record at the one hour Random Numbers event of the aforesaid world championships, she feels sorry that she did not achieve a better success.

In the wake of the championships she has set a higher goal. With good concentration and great enthusiasm she is redoubling her efforts to translate her determination into practice.

*Pak Yong Il*

# Popular Dish

**K**IMCHI, ONE OF KOREANS' traditional foods, is now recognized as one of the five health foods and a popular dish in the world.

In Korea kimchi takes such an important share in every family's diet that it is called half food in winter. Now the dish is produced by an industrial method to meet the people's demand and taste as

required by the developing reality, thus serving the convenience of people and enhancing the pleasure of the table.

The Phyongchon Kimchi Factory in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, produces varieties of delicious kimchi for the residents of the district, thus gaining public favour.

All its industrial kimchi production processes are automated and flow line-based on a scientific basis: Bok choy is exactly cut in half by a halving machine and sent to the next processes regularly to be preserved with salt, washed and drained.

Sin Chun Hwa, a staff member in charge of production, says, "The method of making kimchi varies according to seasons and materials, and the dish is quite various in kind. Its kinds known up to now number over a hundred. Now every family makes kimchi, but it is not easy to make various ones." Then she added that the factory was producing and supplying tens of kinds of kimchi liked by people.

The factory is also putting in an effort to make the most of the dish's characteristics. Ham Myong Hwa, a staff member in charge of technical preparation, says that putting various artificial lactobacilli into the dish at the same time was a decisive key to adding to the flavour of the food. The factory has furnished its experimental and analytical lab

► with a general kimchi analyser and other latest analytical facilities and is operating them efficiently to raise the quality of the dish and fully ensure its hygienic safety, she added.

In addition, it is making the most of kimchi's unique tastes by various efficient processing methods. And the producers themselves go to kimchi stands in dongso to listen to the residents' opinions, teach them how to improve the dish's taste and learn from the latter so as to make their products better.

With an annual production capacity of hundreds of tons the factory is now producing not only whole bok choy kimchi and *kkaktugi* (cubed radish kimchi) but also pickled sliced radishes seasoned with pepper, *chonggak* kimchi, white kimchi, cucumber kimchi, bean-sprout kimchi and wrapped-up cabbage kimchi according to people's demand and seasons. Meanwhile, it is producing a variety of vegetables preserved in soy sauce such as radish, cucumber, cabbage, green pepper and garlic, and fermented fish such as Alaska pollack, codfish, hard-finned sandfish and squid.

Hwang Myong Suk, a woman living in Ansdong No. 2, Phyongchon District, says, "It takes much labour for us women to make various kimchi. Now, however, we can easily take kimchi to our tastes at any time in any season."

An Kum Yong, a woman living in Ponghak-dong of the same district, says, "Delicious kimchi from the factory is supplied to every dong every day. This

is a great convenience for us."

Ri Kum Hui, manager of the factory, says, "We'll put the production of various kimchi on a normal basis while making the most of the highly nutritious and delicious dishes' tastes, making it possible for the people to take the dishes all the year round."

Seeing packages of various delicious kimchi, I pictured the district's residents being glad to eat the refreshing and savoury dishes.

*Pak Thae Ho*



Different kinds of kimchi are produced to be supplied to local residents.

# World of National Costume Makers



**T**ODAY IN KOREA, THE study of Koreans' traditional costume custom has been intensified, and priority is being given to improving the quality and level of national costume. The National Costume Workshop of the Korean Folklore Museum can be cited.

The workshop had previously solved scientific and technical problems arising in designing and producing national costume by relying on a few technicians including creators and designers. Then it decided to make the solving of such problems mass-based true to the state policy of making all the people well versed in science and technology. It established a sci-tech learning space in a short span of time, thus laying a foundation for doing study and research via the state network. Since then the workers of the workshop have made it a part of their daily life to study the history and tradition of national costume in the sci-tech learning

space.

Every Thursday at two o'clock in the afternoon they study in earnest the origination of national costume and the change of their styles in each age. After study they have a discussion about samples. Presented in the discussion are different samples of national costume and trinkets that each of them conceived of and sewed by hand in a week. Photos of those samples favourably commented upon in the discussion are pasted in the workshop's sample book, and the samples go directly into production. The workshop has several similar books. With the increase in the number of the books all the workers have developed into inventors and masters of ingenuity. And their knowledge of national costume has improved enough to put even the experts in the shade.

Their attachment to their job and their pride in their workplace are unusual.

Every day they make national costume to the taste and liking of many people, men and women, young and old, or those of different occupations like scientists and artistes. The people who have their clothes made in the workshop always say in unison, "The national costume made here is the best."

They always take unusual pride in seeing their customers smile brightly wearing the clothes they made. Out of the pride they put their heart and soul into making various forms of national costume and relevant trinkets for different seasons, ages and places. It is their ideal to choose soft and bright natural colours, and mild and unique patterns to make graceful and elegant national costume to suit the people's sentiments and emotion. Especially, they put emphasis on further developing and enriching the nation's costume culture by combining harmoniously the tradition and the modern aesthetic taste in making national costume. Thus the national costume they made won special prizes and first places consecutively at the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> rounds of the national Korean costume exhibition.

Ri Mi Hwa, leader of the workshop who has devoted her whole life to the making of national costume, says, "Maintaining the flavour of the nation is just our aim and principle." Her words just reflect the mind of all the workers there.

Kim Hyon Ju

## National Intangible Cultural Heritage (30)

# Principle of *Hunminjongum* Creation

**H**UNMINJONGUM IS THE Korean alphabet created in January 1444 (in December 1443 in the lunar calendar).

*Hunminjongum* literally means "correct sounds to teach the people." In other words, it means fine letters to put down right words enough to teach the people.

The alphabet was created by Jong Rin Ji, Choe Hang, Pak Phaeng Nyon, Sin Suk Ju, Song Sam Mun, Kang Hui An, Ri Kae and Ri Hyon Ro (Ri Son Ro) under the supervision of Sejong, king of Korea from 1419 to 1450.

Its creation is based on the principle of modelling after the shapes of speech organs.

*Hunminjongumhaerye*, an explanatory book completed in October 1446, reads: "Initial sounds (consonants) number 17 in all. The molar sound of ㄱ is modelled after the shape of the tongue root touching the soft palate while blocking the throat; the lingual sound of ㄴ is patterned after the shape of the tongue tip touching the upper gum; the labial sound of ㅁ is shaped after the mouth; the dental sound of ㄷ is formed after the shape of tooth; and the guttural sound of ㅇ is made after the shape of the throat."

The shapes of *Hunminjongum* letters make it possible to know well the values of the sounds expressed by the letters and which speech organs make their sounds theoretically and by intuition.

*Hunminjongum* is based on the principle of adding strokes to identical basic letters.

*Hunminjongumhaerye* says: "ㄱ was made by adding a stroke to ㄷ because the former's sound is louder than the latter. Likewise ㄷ was derived from ㄴ, ㅁ from ㅂ, ㅅ from ㅈ, ㅊ from ㅌ, ㅋ from ㅋ, ㆁ from ㆁ, and ㆁ from ㆁ. The meaning of adding strokes to the basic letters after their sounds is all the same."

The basic consonants were fixed first on the basis of the five speech organs such as back tooth, tongue, lip, tooth and throat, followed by the classification of the letters with louder sounds into a category. This shows that such letters were created by a method of adding strokes to the basic letters.

*Hunminjongum* is also based on the principle of repeating same letters.

*Hunminjongumhaerye* reads: "ㄱ, ㅋ, ㆁ, ㅈ, ㅊ and ㆁ are voiced sounds. ... Double consonants produce voiced sounds because a mixture of clear sounds produces such sounds."

Because a mixture of clear sounds was considered to produce voiced sounds, two same consonants were repeated to make fortes. Thus merely the sight of a letter makes it possible to know theoretically the speech organ producing its sound, the articulation position of the organ and the value of the sound.

*Hunminjongum* is based on the principle of making strokes simplest. The consonant letters such as ㄱ, ㄴ, ㄷ, ㄹ and ㅇ are the simplest in shape as compared with lots of letters of

other nations existing as pictorial symbols or phonetic signs such as alphabetic characters and syllabic characters in the world.

It is the same with Korean vowel letters such as ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅟ and ㅡ.

Combining consonant letters and vowel letters by means of such simple strokes makes it possible to pronounce words of any foreign languages.

Part of a textbook published by Harvard University in 1960 says that the Korean alphabet is probably based on the most scientific system among those of all alphabets in use now in the world.

It was introduced in the July 2004 issue of the Chinese magazine *General Science* that the college of linguistics of Oxford University, which prides itself on being the best in the world of language research, put the Korean alphabet in the first place when it decided the rankings of all alphabets of the world on the basis of their individual rationality, scientific accuracy and originality, and that written Korean was estimated as the most suitable alphabet and recognized as the simplest and most excellent one among the world's over 2 900 languages that were put to analysis from 1998 to the end of 2002.

The principle of *Hunminjongum* creation was registered as No. 71 on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Ro Yong Jun

# DEVELOPING NATIONAL ARTS



Efforts are made to create new singing and dancing programmes.



At the dressing room.



**I**N OCTOBER 1947 THE OPERA TROUPE of North Korea was founded in Korea after its liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, as an art organization to eradicate the aftereffects of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule, and create and perform music, dance, opera and other theatrical productions that embodied national sentiments.

As the predecessor of the present National Folk Art Troupe, the opera troupe started the first performance with the opera *Kyonujingnyo* (*Eight Fairies of Mt Kungang*). From then on it conducted its activities with the main stress put on creating and performing dances and one-act operas which reflected the contemporary realities while doing those based on national classics such as legends and tales.

Later, the troupe created and performed operas and song and dance acts based on national classics, and turned over a new leaf in opera based on reality. In creating the productions based on national classics it put in an effort to develop the music of Korea's own to meet the people's sentiments and aspirations. Jong Won Chol, vice-director of the troupe, says, "Creating national classics-based productions in such a way as to command public sympathy is a very complicated and difficult problem in view of aesthetic practice."

Many problems were awaiting solution in creating productions based on national classic works, which reflected politics, the economy, life, social conditions and customs in those days, to meet the requirements of the reality. For example, the story line of *The Tale of Chun Hyang* has long been known to the public, and it was adapted for the screen, *Changguk* (a Korean classical opera) and opera several times in the past. In 1988, however, the troupe adapted the tale for a national opera



► with a new artistic interest for the people. It was attributable to the creators' new portrayal of the work as the one national in style and socialist in content.

In creating song and dance acts of new style the troupe put emphasis on developing national arts as required by its character and mission. A song and dance act is a short performance in which performers sing and dance. The troupe pioneered a new form of performance mainly based on song and dance acts, thus producing the national song and dance act *The Country of Morning Calm*. As it reflected the love of the country in a national form, the act won great admiration. Afterwards, the troupe was renamed National Folk Art Troupe and promoted the development of folk art.

Last year it fully demonstrated its ability in the creation of the grand mass gymnastics and artistic performance *The Glorious Country*. Each scene of the performance which reflected the DPRK's history of 70 years in a fresh and unique way deeply impressed the people. The scenes in-

cluded the large-scale *kayagum* ensemble *Our Tune Is Wonderful* participated in by over 1 200 *kayagum* players, national percussionists and folk dancers, which was loudly applauded for its displaying the nation's characteristic feature vividly.

The music of the folk song *Moran Hill*, which is widely known to the people, as its main melody, was accompanied by that of the folk song *Arirang*, thus adding to the national taste and flavour. And the *kayagum* players, national percussionists and dancers performed in unique harmony with the music, heightening the artistic effect of the large-scale *kayagum* ensemble. Especially, an aged player near 70, a player in his forties and an 8-year old child played in good harmony a tune deep in national sentiments, testifying to the fact that national musical heritage is being carried forward generation after generation.

The creators and artistes of the troupe are now developing and enriching the folk art of the country.

Kim Hyon Ju

National identity-showing performances are put on the stage.



# At Dried Flower Workshop



NOT LONG AGO I visited the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute in Taesong District, Pyongyang. Passing flower greenhouses where all sorts of fragrant and beautiful flowers were growing I arrived at the Dried Flower Workshop. Ri Hyong Sik, leader of the workshop, welcomed me. He said that though not long since it was established, the workshop achieved many successes, and guided me to a dried flower exhibition hall.

It was not so large, but I was struck with admiration as it was decorated with beautiful flowers. I wondered whether they were

▶ real or made of paper or cloth. Though they were dried flowers, it seemed that they just emitted fragrance, and that bees and butterflies fled to them.

When I asked Kong Yong Sim, a staff member in charge of technical preparation, if they were really dried flowers, she said yes with a smile. Mentioning that each of the flowers was made by dint of painstaking study, high technique, sincerity and nice workmanship, she said, "There are two kinds of dried flowers. The first is the desiccated and the other is the one retaining the colour and flexibility of natural flowers. The first breaks but the latter does not break however much one touches it, and it keeps almost its original properties."

She went on to say that all the employees studied the latest documents and data to complete the technique of making dried flowers. Despite repeated failures they kept making strenuous effort to the end. In the course of this, she added, they invented a method of making freshness-preserved dried flowers, which received a certificate of state patent.

There were dried flower bouquets, baskets and vases in the hall, and what especially attracted my eyes were dried rose pots and lily vases. Kong said that the rose and its stem were processed by a special method, so they kept almost all its original properties, and that it would boast its own beauty for a long time.

The lily vases of different

colours were also distinctive. And dried flower-decorated souvenir boxes, various kinds of dried flower baskets and congratulatory cards decorated with such flowers resembled works of art.

After looking around the hall I went to the production site, where some workers busied themselves making dried flowers. The leader of the workshop said, "It is no more than a beginning. In the future, we will make more diversified and wonderful dried flowers in larger quantities to make an active contribution to the people's cultural and emotional life."

Picturing people who will be glad to see the flowers I left the place.

*Pak Un Yong*





# COOPERATION GETS CLOSER



**A** KOREA TODAY REPORTER recently interviewed Thierry Ribaux, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) mission in Pyongyang on the occasion of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (May 8). Excerpts:

**Would you please tell me about the International Committee of the Red Cross?**

The ICRC was created in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the first element of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement that was created in Geneva, Switzerland at the time. It is entrusted by the community of states to perform some duties or to offer humanitarian services in a variety of situations. In general, the ICRC conducts assistance activities for people—for example, providing food and clean water, and providing support to hospitals. It

▶ also provides services for the restoring of family links when family members cannot communicate with each other because of destroyed communication lines in case of crisis or war. It also can help the families to trace their missing relatives.

We promote and implement the international humanitarian law which is called Geneva Convention.

**I would like to know about the cooperation between the DPRK Red Cross Society and your committee.**

We ICRC have a long history in the Korean peninsula since we worked during the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953). But we established our presence in the DPRK in 2002.

All activities we carry out are done in collaboration with the DPRK Red Cross. We direct our effort to the field of public health. Relating to the medical work, we support the physical rehabilitation centre. The final objective is to contribute to making sure that people with disabilities are fitted with new prostheses and then return to their life and become as autonomous as possible. It is joint work between the ICRC, the DPRK Red Cross, and the Ministry of Public Health.

In the field of health we have supported orthopedic surgery units in three or four hospitals for a couple of years. We are just now renewing a new project here in Pyongyang—in the Pyongyang Medical College Hospital [of Kim Il Sung University]. We work in the emergency department of this medical facility.

Our idea is to work jointly on the capacity

building of the personnel and the organization of the emergency department on one side, to work on the physical infrastructures we have erected or we have launched, and also to make sure that adequate equipment and materials be provided.

We also work in the field of providing safe and clean water, that is to say, the main project the ICRC started to work for in 2014. They mainly consist in the rehabilitation or reconstruction of wells or pumping stations or water lines.

In 2015 we started to work on something very specific for the Ministry of People's Security. It's a joint activity that aims to improve the capacity of the DPRK Ministry of People's Security to ensure safe disposal of the unexploded ordnances, the remnants from the Korean war. We have developed new joint activities: the training of experts from the Ministry of People's Security for this safe disposal and a discussion between the Ministry of People's Security and the ICRC.

The last field is the joint work with the DPRK Red Cross on their own capacity, for example, the strengthening of the capacity to respond to disaster and other emergencies and this kind of humanitarian situation.

I arrived [in Pyongyang] in mid-December last year. But I'm somehow a bit familiar with the Korean peninsula. Before this assignment, two years ago, I was in the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and I was the deputy director for East Asia. So I had the honour and pleasure to pay a visit to the DPRK. I'm very happy to be back permanently—now for a long period. □



# Mt Kumgang (3)

Kwimyong Rock.



## Outer Kumgang (2)

THE MANSANG VALLEY of Outer Kumgang boasts rugged and graceful peaks like Seji Peak and fantastic rocks resembling various things.

On the middle ridge of Seji Peak (1 025 metres) there is a fantastic rock which looks like three children sitting side by side. Above the rock are two rocks which look like two standing candles. The rocks are called Tongja (boy) Rock and Chottae (candle) Rocks respectively. Around the rocks are Yakdae (camel) Rock, Mangaji (foal) Rock shaped like a hesitating foal with its head raised, and Mal (horse) Rock formed like a running mother horse.

The Manmulsang of Outer Kumgang was named so because it seems that objects of all shapes are gathered there. At the entrance of the Manmulsang soar three fantastic rocks side by side. When clouds float, the rocks seem to move as if spirits were descending, hence the name Samson (three spirits) Rock. Each of the rocks is over 30 metres high. The first rock is pointed like a spearhead, the second is stubby like a sack and the last one sticks up obtrusively like a fist. On a cliff beside the rocks stands Tokson Rock, which has a legend that once upon a time four spirits descended to Mt Kumgang to play *janggi* (Korean chess) and that one of them made so many suggestions to others that he was utterly ignored and placed alone.

Kwimyong Rock, which is on the opposite side of Samson Rock to the northwest, is a monster-faced rock with a round stone on its top, which is really fantastic. Halfway up Seji Peak is Jolbu Rock called

so because it seems that a powerful man chopped the rock with an axe. It has a legend that an unmarried woodman, struck by the beauty of a fairy who descended from the heaven to see the magnificent view of Mt Kumgang, was so anxious to meet her that he chopped the rock with an axe.

Going down Chonju Peak, you can see a place that seems to be cut with a bold stroke. Here is Chonson Rock where it is said fairies often descended to play charmed by the scenery of Mt Kumgang. Located on a high spot in the centre of Manmulsang the rock commands a panoramic view of rocks of myriad shapes. And you can see the beautiful scenery of Mansang Valley, Kwanum Ryongbong and Jipson Peak behind Samson Rock. There can be seen five peaks of Mt Obong—Sokga, Rahan, Chonju, Seji, Chonnyo peaks—whose fantastic rocks of various shapes stand displaying their distinguished appearances. Halfway up the cliff northwest of Chonson Rock there are two round hollowed-out stones where it is said fairies played and made up their faces before ascending to the heaven. Called Chonnyohwajang Pond, the hollowed-out stones of fantastic shapes are full of clean water in all seasons. Chonson Rock and Chonnyohwajang Pond are associated with the legend *Silky Girl and Flower of Heaven*.

Mangyang Rock at the east end of Seji Peak overlooks the scenery of the East Sea of Korea, fantastic rocks of all descriptions in the range of the peak running southeast, Chonson Rock and the Chonson Valley and Onjong Pass and Sangdung Peak behind the rock and the valley.

*Pak Thae Ho*

## Kim Jong Ho and Taedongyo Map

**K**IM JONG HO (THE EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> century–1864) was a patriotic geographer who made the Taedongyo Map (Korean map) which gave origin to the modern map which reflects the whole territory of Korea.

From his childhood, he had a deep interest in geography and cartology, and studied them hard. Growing up, he decided to make a detailed map that would inform the people of the country's mountains and streams in greater detail and be useful in the fight against foreign invaders, and buckled down to the work.

At that time there were neither decent facilities for observation nor proper travelling vehicles. He never hesitated to do the work, though. He carried all the heavy facilities on the back and made field surveys. Despite all the difficulties he met with while designing a map away from home for over ten years, he always read books and studied hard the cultural heritage of the Korean ancestors. And thus he made a map called Chonggudo in 1834. As a complete map of Korea which served as the basis of the Taedongyo Map, Chonggudo showed physiographical features, including big mountains, rivers and lakes, and certain historical and economic characteristics. But it was not so accurate with many defects.

So he left his home again to draw a map that would be more comprehensive and detailed in content. He climbed all the mountains and crossed all the rivers in the country for nearly 30 years. He climbed Mt Paektu, the ancestral mountain of Korea, twice for cartological investigation.

His painstaking efforts produced the Taedongyo Map in 1861, the one reflecting the whole territory of the country in detail. Though with many defects as compared with the modern map, the map reflects the high level of mapping rare at that time.

The map divides the land of Korea into 22 latitudinal zones, and each zone was drawn on a piece of paper in the form of a folding screen. All the 22 parts joined together make up a large map (33 m<sup>2</sup>) of Korea, drawn on a scale of 1 to 162 000.

To make the map more useful, Kim added to the map the natural conditions such as topographies and things on the ground and wide-ranging contents related to the economy, culture and military affairs.

He also made use of both letters and symbols in

depicting seas, coasts, rivers, lakes, mountains and fields and other distinctive terrains, and recorded in detail important objects—the boundary of regions such as province, county and sub-county, residential districts including *pu*, *up* and *ri*, mountains and forests, reservoirs, bamboo thickets, royal palaces, temples, private schools, roads, bridges and even rocks under the sea—and other things necessary for traffic.

The map is now in serviceable use in studying the contemporary time and geography. It is well kept as national treasure.

*Hyon Il Bong*



## Where Does Wild Dream Lead Japan?

**J**APAN IS STILL recklessly claiming that Tok Islets, undeniable part of Korea's territory, are its own.

Disregarding the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Declaration that clearly prescribed stripping Japan of all the territories it had seized by force out of avarice, the country is insisting that the islets are "part of its own territory."

At the same time it is keen on giving the impression that it lost the islets to Korea. In 2005 it instituted the "Day of Takeshima (Tok Islets)," and has observed the day every year. In 2013 it began to have high-ranking government officials participate in the event and make propaganda by circulating posters on "dominium over Tok Islets" in large quantities.

Educational institutions are also infecting students with a distorted history. Having already marked Tok Islets as "Japan's territory" in primary school textbooks, they intend to do so in all senior middle school textbooks.

Meanwhile, the Japanese ultra-right politicians put on the Internet a video aimed at impressing upon people at home and abroad the country's "dominium over the islets," and held the opening ceremony of a "territorial sovereignty exhibition" in the centre of Tokyo, absurdly arguing that Korea had illegally occupied the islets. In February 2018 they desperately tried to prevent Koreans from using the One Korea flag with

the inscription of the islets during the Winter Olympic Games.

Japan is scheming to use Korea as a stepping-stone to realize the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere." It is trying to implant in its citizens including the rising generations the wrong idea that they were "deprived of the islets" so as to make them nurse thoughts of revenge and use them as a shock brigade.

Another intention is to get support from its citizens with ease for amendment of the constitution and turn the country into a one capable of going to war for reinvasion. Now schemes to the end are growing more ferocious. The special adviser to the Japanese National Security Council, talking about Japan's vulnerability to the "existing north Korea's threat" at a forum held in Washington, argued for his country's need to have the "capability to carry out a preemptive strike against the country."

Recently Japan has consecutively raised its war expenditure to the unprecedented maximum for several years. Not content with this, it is concentrating a huge sum of money on the modernization of its "Self-Defense Forces" by cunningly adding supplementary budgets. As a result, huge land, sea and air forces of the "Self-Defense Forces" are expanding their spheres of activity even to cyberspace and outer space, completely free from the yoke of "total defense."

For over 70 years since its

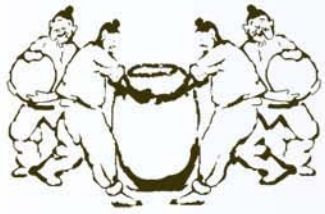
defeat in August 1945, Japan has tried hard to shake off its image as a war criminal and obtain a new status of a "pacifist state" and a "normal state." It has extensively used the word *peace* in its foreign policy, for example, "pacifist constitution," "era of peace," "peaceful development," "positive pacifism" and "achievement of peace." But the abovementioned facts show that Japan's favourite word of *peace* is nothing but a veil to cloak its scheme for reinvasion of Korea.

Since its defeat, Japan has been following the road of resurgence of militarism in politics, the economy, the military affairs, culture, diplomacy and all other fields behind the smoke screen of "peace." The present Japan full of invariable ambition of invasion just reminds people of the Japanese fascists who massacred Koreans singing Kimigayo (a hair-raising song sung by the Imperial Japanese Army) under the bloody colours of Hinomaru.

In the past century Japan invaded Korea and unleashed the Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895), the Russo-Japanese War and the Pacific war while advocating "peace in the Orient" after planting the word *peace* in the name of the "Japanese era." At present it is going to launch reinvasion under the cloak of "peace" once again.

What Japan does not know yet is that its attempt to reinvade Korea will lead it to irretrievable ruin.

*Kim Il Bong*



# Pyongyang Soju, National Liquor of Korea

NATIONAL LIQUOR REFLECTS A GIVEN country's geographical conditions, national customs and history of wine making.

The national liquor of the DPRK is *Pyongyang Soju*.

Pyongyang liquors have long been developed centring around Pyongyang, the cradle of the Taedonggang culture.

The following is a legend related to the place.

A king of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) decided to move the capital to the south, and dispatched an official to Pyongyang who was familiar with topography.

On arrival in Pyongyang, the official dropped in at a country house to ask for a bowl of water. The master of the house fetched water from a well near the house for him. Strangely, he felt relieved of fatigue and invigorated after drinking the water. He thus took a good rest that night. The next day he looked round many places which impressed him. Pyongyang had not only good water but also fantastic and beautiful landscape. After returning to the royal palace, he told the king what he had seen. "Pyongyang is really a beautiful place, and that might be why the sage king Tangun (the ancestral and founding father of the Korean nation) chose it as the capital," the king said, and decided to move the capital to Pyongyang.

With such good water Pyongyang was well known for good liquors including *Kamhongno*, one of the three old famous liquors of Korea, and other famous liquors *Pyokhyangju* and *Kwansogyedangju*. Especially, *Kamhongno* was representative of Pyongyang. With its sweet and strong taste and crimson colour it ranked as the best among red-coloured liquors. The liquor was made by putting jujube, dried persimmon, apple and pear or medicinal materials such as longan, orange peel and *pangphung* (a medicinal plant of the family *Umbelliferae*) into soju. *Pyokhyangju* was made by putting cinnamon powder and honey into *Kamhongno*.

Pyongyang has long been famous for its production of soju. The old method of making the liquor is as follows:

Pour boiled and cooled water into cooked glutin-

nous rice, polished rice, millet or kaoliang, and mix it with malt before keeping it in a jar for a week. Then put it into a pot and boil it to be distilled.

Soju was called *hwaju* as it was made by boiling, *roju* as it was made by cooling the vapour or *paekju* as it was clear and white.

It is the strongest among Korea's traditional liquors. The following tells why soju became the main liquor of the Pyongyang area.

In the past, Pyongyang belonged to Phyongan Province. The temperament of the people in the province was referred to as *maenghochullim* which means that a fierce tiger comes out from forest. Their characteristics—courageous, optimistic, enterprising and open-minded—were reflected in drinking liquor: they preferred strong liquors to mild ones. In the latter half of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) *chongju* (refined rice wine) and *makkolli* (unrefined rice wine) were the main national liquors together with soju.

In 2009, the Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory was built in a place with fresh air in the East Pyongyang area. It uses the water of the Taedong River to produce liquors which reflect the sentiments and tastes of the Korean people. Among the liquors the 25-percent one is called *Pyongyang Soju*, and the 30- and 40-percent ones *Pyongyangju*.

Pyongyang Soju is the most popular among the people. Its main raw materials are white rice and corn. As a colourless liquor, it tastes pure, suave and sapid, and is aromatic. Its fusel oil and aldehyde contents are below 0.002%, so one does not have a headache after drinking it.

The trademark of the national liquor depicts on a white and grey ground the Korean ancestors distilling liquor with the Taedong Gate symbolizing the Walled City of Pyongyang for a background, and is fixed with the red stamp *Joseon Myongju* (Korea's famous liquor).

The liquor won the February 16 Sci-Tech Prize, the top sci-tech prize of the country, and the December 15 Medal of Quality which is awarded to the best domestic products.

It was designated as the national liquor on June 24, 2015.

Rim Ok



