

# The Pyongyang Times

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## MEETING

# Conference reviews last year's agricultural work, commendations awarded

The conference for reviewing the work in the agricultural field in 2019 took place from Jan 17 to 19 in Pyongyang.

It was attended by farmers, officials of rural primary organizations, scientists and technicians in the field of agricultural science research who distinguished themselves in agricultural production last year, innovators in the fields of animal husbandry, agricultural machinery, irrigation, land rezoning and tideland reclamation and other officials concerned.

The platform was taken by Pak Pong Ju, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, and other leading officials of the Party and government, chairmen of provincial Party committees, chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Workers, exemplary farmers, agricultural scientists and technicians and officials of relevant units.

A congratulatory letter sent by Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, to

the participants in the conference was read out by Pak Pong Ju.

"Over 390 farms, 4 000 workteams, 15 500 sub-workteams and 102 900 farmers could become high-yield units and high-yield farmers in the efforts to carry out the Party's policy on the agricultural revolution and significantly increase grain production," said Premier Kim Jac Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and member of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, in his keynote speech.

A sure guarantee for increased cereals production lies in decisively improving soil fertility by holding fast to scientific farming as lifeblood, he noted, adding that it is the

invaluable experience gained in the campaign to implement the Party's policy on the agricultural revolution last year that farmers can achieve successes in grain production when they lay solid foundations for agricultural production.

He called on all farms, workteams, sub-workteams and farmers to burn with a fierce zeal for collective competition and effect a greater upswing in agricultural production, so as to glorify this year of the 75th anniversary of the WPK with unprecedented achievements in agricultural production.

Officials, agricultural workers and scientists made speeches.

The speakers analysed and reviewed their work with the main focus being put on

positively exchanging and sharing the experience of having reaped a good harvest on the agricultural front, which achieved the most phenomenal success even under the worst conditions, and on tapping much more reserves favourable for increased production.

The meeting exchanged the precious successes and experience gained last year in increasing the number of high-yield farmers, sub-workteams, workteams and farms true to the Party's agricultural policy, and analysed and reviewed last year's shortcomings and lessons and, on that basis, discussed the tasks and ways for attaining a new cereals production target set by the Party for the first year of the offensive for making a

frontal breakthrough.

At the meeting, prizes were awarded to farms which distinguished themselves in implementing the Party's policy on the agricultural revolution.

Party and state commendations were awarded to farmers, officials, scientists and technicians who produced high grain and potato outputs last year.

Eight persons were awarded the title of DPRK Labour Hero, Gold Medal (Hammer and Sickle) and Order of the National Flag 1st Class and several others received watches bearing the names of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and the citations of WPK Chairman Kim Jong Un.

The Order of the National Flag 1st Class was conferred on 55 persons, Order of Labour on 11, March 5 Memorial Order on 58, Order of the National Flag 2nd Class on 418 and Order of the National Flag 3rd Class on 526.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES



The conference for reviewing the work in the agricultural field in 2019 takes place in Pyongyang.



Party and state commendations are awarded to exemplary farmers, officials, scientists and technicians.

## ECONOMY

# Production goes up as sectors turn out for surge

A production surge is being effected in different economic sectors which have turned out to implement the decisions of the December plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station carried out its electricity production plan for Jan at 102 percent by Jan 15.

It increased power generation more than 1.1 times with a small amount of water as compared to the same period of last year by introducing a technical innovation plan conducive to raising the efficiency of generating facilities and

scrupulously managing hydraulic structures to meet winter conditions.

The Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex produced thousands of tons of more coal than scheduled in a fortnight.

The February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine raised blasting efficiency and concentrated manpower according to mining conditions, thus producing over 1 500 tons of more coal than planned. The Chonsong youth and Ryongdae coal mines boosted the coal output per shift by introducing technical innovation plans for increasing the proportion of pit work done

by machines.

The Joyang Coal Mine of the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex maximized the load factor of coal pits to overfulfil its coal production plan by more than 3 percent every day.

The Chongjin Railway Bureau transported over 1 000 tons of more freight than planned in a little over a fortnight by scrupulously organizing and controlling transport to ensure in a responsible way the transport of materials for major economic sectors and the third-stage construction project of

Samjiyon City.

The Osoksan Granite Mine overfulfilled the plan for January by 40 percent until Jan 16 by increasing its daily production more than two times from the outset of the year.

The Rangnang Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory overfulfilled its daily plan by over 30 percent,

the Pyongyang Mushroom Farm produced 10 percent of more mushroom as against the same period of last year and many other industrial establishments are pushing the production of ordered equipment to be sent to the Suncheon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory.

By Yun Kyong Il PT



Workers monitor a production line at the Songyo Knitwear Factory in Pyongyang.



## EDITORIAL

# Revolutionary spirit of Paektu carried on

The will of the Korean people to carry forward the revolutionary spirit of Paektu is growing more intense.

The revolutionary spirit of Paektu is the spirit displayed by the anti-Japanese guerrillas during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle which was organized and victoriously led by President Kim Il Sung.

As he recalled the revolutionary spirit of the anti-Japanese fighters, the President said in his reminiscences *With the Century*:

**“The conviction of sure victory, an unbreakable fighting spirit, the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, devotion and self-sacrificing spirit—these qualities are now called in our country the ‘revolutionary spirit of Paektu’.**

**“We emerged victorious in every battle with the enemy at all times and in all places, because we were full of confidence in victory, and maintained an indefatigable fighting and self-sacrificing spirit without losing our**

**composure and hope, even in confrontation with an enemy force, which was dozens of times stronger in number.”**

The revolutionary spirit which was created during the protracted struggle for national liberation has thoroughly been maintained throughout the course of a new Korea building, Fatherland Liberation War and socialist construction.

The DPRK has been able to advance victoriously without knowing any frustration and failure in the course of the revolutionary struggle spanning over 70 years since it has the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and all the people regard it as their lifeblood.

The battlefields in the period of the anti-Japanese war have been preserved in their original state to implant the revolutionary spirit of Paektu into the minds of younger generations.

Samjiyon City, where Mt Paektu is located, was splendidly rebuilt last year as a hub of education in revolutionary traditions, a place for practically experiencing them and an immense edifice

for the education.

Touring the revolutionary battle sites in Mt Paektu through virgin snow in the van despite the biting cold of last December, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un referred to the need to establish the social atmosphere of further strengthening the education in the revolutionary traditions so as to instil the indefatigable revolutionary spirit of Paektu into Party members and other working people, service personnel and youth and students.

A wind of making study tour of Mt Paektu is sweeping the whole country, true to his intention.

Study tourists continue to go to Mt Paektu while directly experiencing the ennobling spiritual world of forerunners who dedicated their prime of youth and lives.

As the country has the revolutionary spirit of Paektu and the younger generations who are firmly carrying it forward, the DPRK’s cause of a powerful socialist nation building will advance victoriously in the future, too.



Tens of thousands of young people gather at Pyongyang’s Kim Il Sung Stadium on Tuesday to vow to implement the decisions at the December 2019 Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

## TREND

## Study tour of Mt Paektu continues unabated

The study tour of Mt Paektu is now all the rage in the DPRK.

Mt Paektu is the sacred mountain of the revolution where the Korean revolution began.

The secret camp President Kim Il Sung used when he waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle is preserved in its original state in Mt Paektu. In it there is also the Paektusan Secret Camp where Chairman Kim Jong Il was born and spent his childhood.

Kim Jong Un climbed up snow-capped Mt Paektu on

horseback twice last year and said education through the study tour of revolutionary battle sites should be intensified to make the tourists know the idea of the great leaders and the revolutionary idea and indomitable revolutionary spirit of the Workers’ Party of Korea. After the Supreme Leader’s march on horseback, a buzzword, “Paektusan University”, was coined and it has become a social trend to graduate from “Paektusan University”.

In December last year Party information workers from across the country embarked on the study tour of the revolutionary battle sites in the Mt Paektu area for the first time, followed by young people and students and working people from all walks of life.

Following in the footsteps of the anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners, the study tourists acquire their unwavering faith and will and bear in mind ardent patriotism and revolutionary optimism of them who visualized the future of the liberated country though they slept on snow.

They experience the iron discipline and orderly way of life of the Korean People’s Revolutionary Army as they visit the publishing house, ordnance repair shop, sewing shop, the sites of buildings for soldiers and campfire and other relics and sites.

During the tour they hold study sessions of the reminiscences of the anti-Japanese guerrillas, poem recitation, chorus contest of revolutionary songs and dancing party.

“As we trekked through the battle zone of Paektu braving knee-deep snow, biting cold and raging snow blizzards, we hardened our resolve to carry forward the noble soul and fighting spirit of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters in the face of grim trials and difficulties,” said Ri Song Il, a staffer at the Central Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

## Nationwide

### Worker risks life to assemble equipment

A worker prevented a serious accident at the risk of his life during the assembly of equipment at the construction site of the Sunchon Phosphate Fertilizer Factory in the DPRK.

When a piece of equipment was being lowered from the height of some ten metres on a narrow space surrounded by steel structures, the wire rope got loose, upsetting its balance.

At that juncture, the worker called Mun Chi Bok climbed up a steel structure to wind a rope round the apparatus and fixed its other end to an emergency pulley to ensure safe assembly.

### Old people’s home built in South Phyongan

An old people’s home has been inaugurated in South Phyongan Province.

The two-storey building crowned with the Korean-style gabled roof is furnished with dozens of bedrooms, a dining hall, a fitness hall, amusement games halls, a library and other service facilities.



### Farmers keep school safe from encroaching landslide

Recently, a senior middle school building in the seat of Taechong-ri of Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, was about to be partly buried in earth sliding down from the hill at the back of it.

Local farmers came out to remove a large amount of earth and cleared the environs of the school building.

### Posters call for offensive for frontal breakthrough



New posters have been produced in the DPRK to inspire all the people to carry out the decisions of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

They call for turning out in the offensive for a frontal breakthrough under the unfurled banner of self-prosperity and

self-development.

They also appeal to the metal and electric power industries, agriculture and the field of science to smash straight through the manifold difficulties by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Others call for bringing into full play the advantages of the socialist system by developing education and public health, producing more quality goods favoured by the people and pushing ahead with the economization and recycling drive.

### Drought-stricken farm builds underground reservoir

An underground reservoir has been built in the Munhyon Cooperative Farm in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province.

Having suffered substantial damage from heatwave and drought last year, the farm removed hundreds of cubic metres of earth to build the reservoir that can irrigate dozens of hectares of fields.

### Woman thanks her rescuer again after two decades

A woman, who was miraculously rescued by a soldier during her falling from the 18th floor of an apartment house in Pyongyang, has recently reunited with her rescuer after the lapse of nearly 20 years.

Aged 3 at the time of the accident, Ri Sin Ae has remained unaware of the whereabouts of her rescuer Cha

Kyong Su since their meeting when she was eight years old. Recently, she, together with her husband and her mother, found out Cha living in Nampho City and had an impressive meeting with him.



### Cold, damp lands brought under cultivation

A brisk activity for reclaiming cold and damp land is underway in Sepho County, Kangwon Province, the DPRK.

The mountainous county has already reclaimed and rearranged a considerable area of wetlands.

### City improves river, acquires some patches

Manpho City, Jagang Province, conducted a river improvement project in Hamburi where farmlands used to be flooded and the threshing ground and houses damaged in the rainy season every year.

The embankments were built with gravels and earth dug up while dredging the river and clearing the site, adding some patches to the ri’s arable land.



## INNOVATION

# Technical innovation movement stimulates economic development

In January 1980, the DPRK organized technical innovation shock brigades by involving competent technicians, workers, inventors and officials in all economic sectors and units.

The technical innovation shock brigades were named after April 15 in October that year with a well-knit command system. Since then, they played a pivotal role in solving technical innovation problems arising in factories and enterprises.

The April 15 technical innovation shock brigade movement has fully demonstrated its advantage and might in developing the country's economy and improving the people's living standards over the past four decades.

The shock brigades contributed greatly to shining the 1980s as the annals when a golden age was opened up in socialist construction and making the national economy Juche-based, modern and scientific. During the Arduous March and forced march, when the country was experiencing trying ordeals, they were instrumental in reviving the factories and

enterprises that had stopped operation and revitalizing the country's economy. In the course of this, a UHP electric arc furnace which could be claimed to be the essence of the modern metallurgical industry was built and the flames of CNC and industrial revolutions in the new century were kindled throughout the country.

In recent years, the technical innovation shock brigades across the country made notable successes one after another in further consolidating the foundations of the self-supporting economy and laying foundations for improving the people's livelihood.

Those at the Hwanghae and Kim Chaek iron and steel complexes contrived and introduced hundreds of technical innovation plans to establish an iron production system based on oxygen blast furnace. The one at the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine under the Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex laid several kilometre-long cableways for the transport of coal for the first time in the country, as well as hundreds

of metres of ground cableways for carrying muck.

Last year, the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea hosted the national technical innovation competition to mark the 40th anniversary of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade movement.

The nearly one-year-long competition drew hundreds of shock brigades from leading economic, basic industry, agricultural, fishery and light industry sectors. During the competition, thousands of technical innovation goals were attained and hundreds of valuable innovations and original ideas introduced.

During the past four decades, the shock brigades invented and introduced over 2.6 million valuable technical innovation plans and resolved lots of sci-tech problems through over 120 rounds of sectoral competitions.

Now the shock brigades have more than 100 000 members in over 10 000 units across country.

By Ri Sang Il PT

## Technicians help mines increase coal output

Members of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigades in coal mines throughout the country have contributed to increasing coal output by introducing advanced technologies into face work.

Those at the Ryongdung Coal Mine under the Kujang Area Coal-mining Complex newly secured a large amount of reserve coal by contriving practical technical innovation plans for preventing flood in a test pit.

Technicians at the Munchon Coal Mine of the Chonae Area Coal-mining Complex brought out a new method conducive to developing coal beds with rich deposits after newly explaining the makeup of overall coal beds. The Chonsong Youth Coal Mine and the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine of the Suncheon Area Coal-mining Complex devised and introduced several advanced blasting methods to cut the consumption of materials for blasting and raise the efficiency of blasting.

Members of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigades contribute to improving the mechanization level of coal mining and conveyance.

The Hoan Youth Coal Mine of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex manufactured and introduced highly-efficient inertial loaders and flexible shaft face equipment into coal pits.

The Jenam Coal Mine of the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex installed useful airtight coal truck wheels, while Tokchon Coal Mine ensured the normal operation of flexible shaft face equipment by applying a new jig.

The coal mines in Suncheon and Pukchang areas introduced such efficient face equipment as scraper conveyor and multi-functional inertial loader.

The Namdok Youth Coal Mine under the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex carried out the coal production plan by 100 percent last year by introducing a new mining method using multi-functional inertial loader into coal faces.

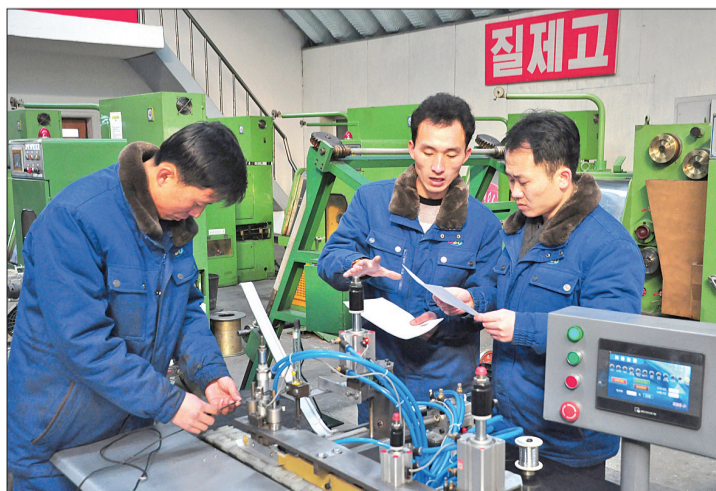
The Inpho Youth Coal Mine of the Pukchang Area Youth Coal-mining Complex applied continuous wet concrete gunning machines that can operate without electricity to several pits, with the result that it doubled the speed of propping up of pits and economized on

a lot of wooden or concrete props.

The Joyang Coal Mine of the Kaechon Area Coal-mining Complex made a one-chip computer-controlled automatic butt welding machine and developed its control programme to recycle broken drills and iron props 100 percent.

The coal mine annually recycles over 2 400 drills by welding 200 broken drills on a monthly average.

By Yun Ki Song PT



Researchers work on a technological project at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326.

## Engines kept under good maintenance

"Last year, our shock brigade invented and introduced dozens of valuable technical innovation plans to lay firm material and technical foundations of our own," said Pak Ho Chol, head of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade of the West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps.

According to him, his shock brigade members made and installed an engine roof lifting machine at the locomotive maintenance line to reduce the repair time of engines by one third and save much repair cost per engine.

They also shortened the repair time of engines more than 1.3 times by making a

compound hydraulic pump-based hydraulic system with the pressure of 30 Mpa, a wheel press and an automatic small gear dismantling jig.

"The plasma welding machines our shock brigade manufactured are winning popularity among users as they help restore the original performance of cracked machine parts or prolong their serviceable life several times," Jo Hyon, the chief of staff of the shock brigade, said proudly.

An oxygen cutter reduces electricity consumption by one fifth as compared to previous ones, but raises working efficiency remarkably.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT



Researchers hold a consultative meeting to manufacture a wheel press at the West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps under the Pyongyang Railway Bureau.

## Taking the lion's share of innovation

The April 15 technical innovation shock brigade of the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326 encourages production with technical innovations.

According to chief engineer Kim Song Un, the shock brigade members take a big share in the development of new products in the factory and many of their developments went into production.

One of their recent developments is copper stretching oil, which is used to make cost-effective and environment-friendly emulsion with a long lifespan as compared to the imported one.

They set up a protective polyethylene production line to improve the quality of coating and introduced an eccentric measuring device using X-rays.

They designed and modelled a bundle of wires for vehicles and established a corresponding production line and produced a bundle of wires for 5-ton truck for the first time in the country.

They also introduced several technical innovation plans into electrolytic copper plate processing, high-purity aluminum production and overall elongation of communication cables.

Especially, they introduced a new method into cable production, saving much energy and time.

By Kim Il Jin PT



## APP

# New app endears Samhung to users

"It has been nearly 10 years since the establishment of our company, but it has already developed hundreds of products with the number of users amounting to millions," said Ryu Jong Hak, staffer of the Samhung Economic Information Technology Company.

Users say that they favour Samhung-brand IT products as they contain abundant data, clearly reflect their necessity in life and are convenient to use.

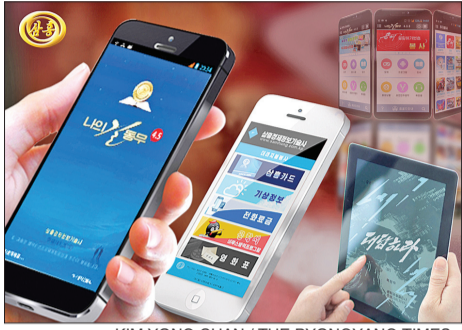
Among the preferred products is general browsing app My Companion.

"This app is my good companion in life as it contains all kinds of books, videos, application programs and games as the name suggests," said Kim Hak Chol living in Chukjon-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

Most recently, the company made karaoke an independent product that can be used wherever there is a Bluetooth microphone.

The other popular product is New Century, a multilingual dictionary which was exhibited at the national exhibition of achievements in informatization-2019.

According to its developers, the app incorporating the deep



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

**Samhung Economic IT Company releases a new app available on mobile gadgets.**

neural network technology, a latest artificial intelligence technology, can recognize letters in 0.5 second with the accuracy of over 95 percent. With more than 1 740 000 entries it is able to translate foreign materials in six languages.

In addition, there are functional game apps including Companion which guides you along roads in Pyongyang, Shortcut which guides you along roads all across the country, Building of State-of-the-Art City which helps realize the ideal of new city building, and Card Game for Five, a Bluetooth game.

The Samhung Economic Information Technology Company was chosen as one of the top ten IT businesses in 2017 and 2019 and My Companion, New Century and several other products were registered as best IT products.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

## R&amp;D

# Portable H<sub>2</sub> generator consumes less power

The Unha green products development company has recently developed a hydrogen generator based on heavy-pressure water electrolysis which produces high-purity hydrogen with little electricity.

"We placed the focus of research on keeping electrolytic cells airtight and improving the structural safety of electrodes," said Kim Chang Jin, lead developer and head of a department.

His team developed the heavy-pressure water electrolytic cells and electrodes by way of pressing asbestos on extensive gratings and nickel-plated metal laths. Thus, they could completely seal up the electrolytic cells even in the high pressure of over 5MPa and reduced the size of the device to one twentieth and the power consumption per cubic metre.

They newly designed and

manufactured parts of the generator like electrolyte cooler, pressure equalizer and liquid level indicator so as to ensure ease and safety of operation.

They converted the mode of cooling the cells from water circulation to air circulation and made the generator portable.

It can produce 2-10m<sup>3</sup> of hydrogen of 99.7 percent purity in an hour under 1-5MPa and costs only one third of the imported ones as it does not use the expensive alkali pump.

The safety of the electrolytic cells is guaranteed by the newly developed diaphragm pressure equalizer using reference pressure setting mode and the water sealer with a check valve.

The hydrogen generator was introduced into the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex and other units.

By Kim Kum Myong PT

## PHARMACY

# Traditional medicine producer sharpens competitive edge

The Phyongchon Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory in Phyongchon District of Pyongyang is staffed with only 30-odd employees.

However, the factory has been exalting its honour as the model unit of the nationwide Koryo medicine production sector for the past 10 years by producing over 100 kinds of traditional medicines with a competitive edge.

The secret of its success lies in the scientific business strategy.

In its incipency, the factory set the establishment of the line for the mass-production of a small number of varieties as its business strategy.

It only brought an immediate, limited success and profit, and it had no guarantee of sustainable development.

Therefore, the factory set an ambitious goal to build a three-dimensional line capable of producing various traditional medicines.

It found a key to success in steadily improving traditional medicines by relying on the cutting-edge technology to meet age, constitutional and seasonal features and developing new ones.

Among the newly-developed technologies, it first introduced into production those which were badly needed for improving the Koreans' physical constitution and possible to produce with its existing facilities.

After developing the natto selenium product and setting up its production process, it set another goal to develop new products and brought to success the development of new products.

In the course of constant technological development, it produced such highly-efficacious and popular new products as golden dandelion sugar-coated hepatitis tablet and dozens of kinds of health foods including the motherwort stenocardia sugar-coated tablet and *Bupleurum scorzoneraefolium* and parsley liver protection tablet.

According to technical staffer Yun Jin Ok, the factory's traditional medicines and health foods are especially efficacious for the treatment of cerebral nerve, cardiovascular and urological system disorders as well as bone loss and pruritus and prevent damage by computer electromagnetic wave

and radiation.

"Another important link our factory has maintained in implementing the business strategy is to improve the quality of products," said manageress Mun Sun Ok.

The factory set it as an important task for improving the quality of products to standardize products, establish a strict system for quality management, upgrade technologies and equipment and improve the technical knowledge and skills and responsibilities of producers.

The factory also laid a foundation for systematically improving the quality of products while increasing production by making with its own effort scores of effective production facilities, especially a double-side film-type concentrator capable of raising productivity 13 times as compared to previously while saving much electricity.

"The demand for over 50 kinds of newly developed traditional medicines, to say nothing of household medicines, is on the rise," said Mun Sun Ok.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

## ORDER

# Service provided both online and offline

"Our province produces lots of famous products and commodities including those from the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and Songdown General Foodstuff Factory. These were piled up in factories and enterprises in the past, which prompted us to establish a supply system according to customer needs," said Kye Myong Jin, staffer of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee.

Accordingly, an online order

service system was set up and a commodity order service station came into being to receive orders for goods produced in the province and deliver them to destinations.

According to Pak Yong Son, staffer of the station, it makes files on the products manufactured by industrial establishments in the province and transmits them to every city and county. Then the trade networks there survey customer demands for them based on the files and inform the station of

the results.

The commodity order service system in the province has gained public favour from both production units and service networks.

As consumers' demands for commodities are grasped in time and they are supplied in keeping with their needs and opinions, neither surplus goods are piled up at factories and shops nor goods on demand are in short supply, and it encourages producers to make better and various products.

The Wonsan Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory gets consumers' feedback from the deliverers of the station and improves the quality of goods as it corrects their defects, according to Manager Yom Chol Jin.

Kang Song Ok, saleswoman of the Wonsan Department Store, said that the goods sold to order in the store account for 70 percent, adding they timely inform the station of the consumers' demands.

"Our order system is a system of producing and supplying goods in a planned way to meet the demands of the people. We will work to further develop socialist commerce," said Pak Hyon Jin, director of the commodity order service station.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

**Employees discuss how to improve the service at Kangwon Province's commodity order station.**



## EDUCATION

# Disabled soldiers study under special medical care

"You will be surprised when you hear that a university keeps the case histories of its students from the early period of their enrolment to graduation. Our university actually keeps both college registers and case histories of our students who were disabled during their military service," said the president of Sinuiju Disabled Soldiers' University of Economics.

The university was established in 1951, when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height in Korea, as an institution of learning for the disabled soldiers who were injured at the front. Since then, lots of disabled soldiers from across the country studied at the university in the past nearly 70 years.

According to Han Ok Sil, director of the university clinic, the clinical record of each student is made at first at the clinic after enrolment.

The records contain detailed contents including the cause of injury, name of injury, symptoms of complication, health conditions from childhood and such living customs as regimen.

"With the help of these records, we give out correct prescriptions for students when they are ill and take timely measures," said Han.

The university does a regular check-up on several occasions every year and the clinic is always open to take timely measures in case of emergencies.

"We are very pleased to

have the clinic in the university dormitory," the disabled soldier-turned-students say. When they complain of a pain in early morning or at midnight, doctors come readily and take good care of them for a long time without leaving their bedside, they said.

"That is not all. Our students receive university uniforms and other things gratis during their university days, as well as stipends and subsidies for disabled soldiers," said Kim Kum Ryong, director of the instruction section.

More than 70 percent of its lecturers are disabled persons who graduated from the university.

Last year alone, many of its students took part in festivals, exhibitions and public presentations in different scientific fields, especially the 2019 national exhibition of achievements in informatization and the 34th sci-tech festival of North Phyongan Province.

Among their achievements, the simulated banking business practice support system and the teaching activity support system were registered as the best IT products.

"I'm now working on a master's thesis, and I'm going to write a doctoral thesis before graduation. My dream is to become a competent economic official," said Kim Jin Song, fourth-year student of the finance course.

Many of its graduates play their part in achieving the country's economic development.

Having fulfilled its mission as the training base of economic experts in the western area since last year, the university admits not only disabled soldiers but also middle school graduates and working people from Pyongyang and North and South Phyongan and North and South Hwanghae provinces.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT



Students attend a lecture at Sinuiju Disabled Soldiers' University of Economics.

JANG KYONG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## PROFILE

# Man devotes over 50 yrs to porcelain making



A streaky porcelain belongs to the Korean nation's excellent pottery which represents the harmony of natural colours.

The porcelain which was made in a unique ceramic-making technique that had been developed in the late period of Koryo (918-1392) is earning fame worldwide as it consists of lifelike patterns that give the feeling of infinite space and fantastic designs in formative artistic representation, delicate, free and well-framed patterns, and those consisting of the shapes of wave, wind or cloud.

A researcher's painstaking efforts are permeated in the inheritance and further completion of the streaky porcelain-making technique.

He is Yu Kwan Jun, chief of the ceramic production office of the North Hamgyong Provincial Fine Art Studio.

He has been dedicating nearly 50 years which can be claimed to be the whole of his life to the making of the streaky porcelain.

He came to know about the porcelain in his 20s when

he served at the Kyongsong Ceramic Factory as a technical preparations staffer.

Fascinated by the porcelain-making technique of the Korean ancestors in the course of deepening research, he came to learn about the streaky porcelain which was created in the period of Koryo Kingdom.

He worked hard to collect materials for the porcelain while delving into historical records.

"Yu made research into the streaky porcelain in leisure hours of his main task," said Jong Ko Bong, chief of a production unit under the fine art studio. "He always felt short of time, but he never showed any sign of tiredness. He was full of a resolve to add brilliance to national treasure even by dedicating his whole lifetime."

"When we were young, our father always wore a working uniform. After having been away on business trips for a few days, he always returned home only carrying a backpack of earth, rather than sweets and cakes for us, and as he always buried himself in the study of soil and stone at home, we often thought he wasn't a nice father. But as we grew older, we came to understand our father's mind," his eldest son Yu Song recalled.

Yu's research into the porcelain continued for decades, during which it was turned into an undertaking comprising his wife and children.

Yu finally found out the streaky porcelain-making technique after 33 years of research and brought out the first streaky porcelain on the basis of the orthodox secrets of ancestors.

"I can never forget my excitement at that time. I felt even ancestors would be so glad they would embrace me," said Yu.

Later he further developed the technique and applied a Korean painting decoration technique to the porcelain, thereby breaking new ground in the making of the porcelain.

The streaky porcelains created by him were appreciated highly at national art exhibitions and the porcelain-making technique was inscribed on the national intangible cultural heritage list in 2018.

His seven porcelains, especially a streaky-patterned gourd-shaped bottle, streaky ceramic vase depicting the principal sights of Mt Chilbo and flower-patterned streaky ceramic pot with square-shaped annual-ring pattern decorations, are preserved at the Korean National Art Museum as national treasures.

By Pang Un Ju PT

## VACATION

# Farmers enjoy winter vacation at holiday camp

Winter vacation is in full swing at farmers' holiday camps in all parts of the DPRK.

Located halfway up the picturesque mountain of Kyongam in North Hwanghae Province, the Sariwon City farmers' holiday camp is also packed with holidaymakers.

The camp which is crowned with Korean gabled roofs is as beautiful as a picture when viewed from a distant place as it blends in well with icy Lake Kyongam and folk street, a special beauty of the city.

Holidaymakers do sports activities at the court yard.

According to Won Sol Hyang, director of the camp, sports and amusement games are most popular with vacationers, especially running while carrying a ball on the head, escaping from a ring,

tube drawing, running while hearing a sound with covered eyes, volleyball, basketball and table tennis. Most noticeable is a straw-rope twisting game.

"Twisting straw rope is now a thing of the past, but most of the farmers have not forgotten how to twist straw rope which represents the appealing flavour of farm villages," said Jang Song Nam, farmer at the Mangum Cooperative Farm in Sariwon.

After the games are over, sumptuous foods are served to the holidaymakers.

Cook Han Jong Sim said that they render all sincerity to serve more distinctive dishes to the farmers. Special spreads are offered to those who mark their birthdays during the period of vacation.

Another distinctive routine is

the playing of *janggi* (Korean chess) and *yut* (four-stick) games at the tunnel-shaped recreation room, which was built in a unique style on a hillside of Mt Kyongam. Happy



Holidaymakers have a good time playing chess at the farmers' holiday camp in Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province.

CHAE MYONG RIM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

laughter continues to be heard at the foot of the mountain as the games enable farmers, to enjoy the spectacular view of a new environment and devote themselves to the games with great enthusiasm.

Every evening, they hold a recreation party in a spacious hall of the camp.

The state supplies everything for the camping of vacationers.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



## HISTORY

# Japan guilty of poisoning Korean emperor

On January 22 1919, Emperor Kojong, the supreme representative of the feudal Joson dynasty, was poisoned to death.

At that time, Japan was establishing its domination over Korea on the pretext that it would defend the royal palace of the dynasty and help Korea with its civilization.

Much upset by such aggressive moves of Japan which was getting even more arrogant with each passing day, Kojong rejected its coercive request for signing the Ulsa five-point treaty in 1905 and, after the treaty was cooked up, tried to nullify it through secret diplomatic activities and maintained his anti-Japanese attitude.

And in order to announce to the world the illegality and invalidity of the treaty and injustice of Japan's colonial occupation of Korea, he dispatched three emissaries to the Second International Peace

Conference held in The Hague, the Netherlands, in June 1907.

Taking this incident as an opportunity, the Japanese openly coerced him into abdicating from the throne, threatening they would declare a war against Korea as the dispatch of emissaries without the permission of the "resident-general" was a hostile act against Japan since Korea transferred its diplomatic right to Japan.

Despite his strong rejection, they forcibly dethroned him by resorting to every dirty means and, not content with that, killed him with poison to remove the big obstacle in the way of implementing their colonial rule.

They arrested those who conducted an autopsy on him and asserted he was poisoned and assassinated his maids who knew the details of his death in a bid to cover up their crime for good.

However, the truth behind the crime was brought to light after all.

The entry for Oct 30 1919 in the diary of Kuratomi Yuzaburo who was the then director of the audit bureau of the ministry of the imperial household of Japan says that Terauchi, Japan's first governor-general of Korea, ordered Hasegawa, the then commander of the Japanese army in Korea, to poison Emperor Kojong as he refused to recognize the Ulsa five-point treaty.

According to the second declaration of independence published by the "Korean Provisional Government" in Shanghai, China, in 1921 and an autograph letter written by Prince Uichin, a child of Kojong, many red spots were found on the whole body of the Emperor as he died.

"Japan was daunted by Kojong who inspired Koreans to the independence movement as he was a supporter of it, I think. Such circumstances amplify the possibility that Japan would have killed Emperor Kojong with poison," said a professor

of an American university.

In actuality, the Japanese had already murdered Empress Myongsong to realize their aggression on Korea long before they poisoned the Emperor.

The truth of history could not be forgotten nor covered up no matter how frantically they tried to play down and embellish their crime-ridden past.

The poisoning is just a small fraction of the innumerable crimes Japan has committed against the Koreans.

By Choe Yong Nam PT



Emperor Kojong of the feudal Joson dynasty who was poisoned to death by Japanese.

## CONCERN

## Global warming blamed for disasters

The world is now suffering severe damages from extreme weathers caused by global warming.

It is giving rise to such catastrophic consequences as melting away of glaciers, rising of the sea level, acidification of the ocean, petrification of coral reefs, frequent droughts and fires, severe heat waves,

destructive storms and extinction of animals and plants.

Field fires and floods hit Australia and Indonesia early in January, and it rained in the DPRK on Jan 6, or *Sohan*, which the Koreans regard as the coldest day in winter.

According to a recent report on world climate, the global average temperature in November last year was the

second highest in the last 140 years, next to 2015.

A French national science and research centre report suggests that by 2100, the world's average temperature would rise by 5.8°C at the most.

Scientists predicted that if global warming continues to be accelerated at today's rate, the sea level would rise by over 1 metre with more than 40 percent of the world's glaciers lost at the end of the 21st century.

Now with the world average temperature risen higher as compared to the pre-industrial period, the world is suffering badly. And if the temperature

rise persists, it would bring even worse disasters to mankind in future.

The secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization expressed concern that if global warming goes on to proceed, the earth would become 3°C hotter than the pre-industrial period at the end of the present century.

The DPRK is trying hard to protect local ecosystems from possible damages of climate change and establish a nationwide crisis management system to cope with natural disasters.

By Song Jong Ho PT

## SPACE

## Bid for space militarization

Japan is trying to rename the Air Self-Defence Force "Aerospace Self-Defence Force".

Japan has already launched into examination of this and will start the coordination for revision of laws, including the law on the SDF, with an eye to completing the renaming by 2023.

In September last year Prime Minister Abe said that the "Air SDF's evolution into the Aerospace SDF is no longer a dream" as he insisted on the formation of a space operation corps of the Air SDF at a meeting of the SDF high-ranking officers. The current Japanese moves have demonstrated that his remarks are being materialized.

Such moves made under the pretext of "building up defence capacity in space" constitute a dangerous and reckless attempt to expand the SDF's sphere of activity even to outer space, so as to realize the wild ambition to become a military giant at any cost.

It can never be overlooked that Japan, which launched a war of aggression against mankind and committed all sorts of heinous crimes in the last century, slavers after outer space that should be used for peaceful purposes.

The international community still sees Japan as a war criminal state as it makes desperate bids to glorify and repeat its sinful past and a warlike force as it dreams of

overseas invasion.

Worse still, all the moves of Japan are being rapidly directed to the realization of its wild dream of becoming a military giant and launching overseas invasion.

From the beginning of the year, the Japanese have pushed ahead with turning the pacifist constitution, which stipulates the renunciation of the right of belligerency and possession of combat power, into a war-oriented constitution, insisting that "it is high time to press ahead with the building of a state aspiring after a new era".

Since the appearance of the Abe regime, Japan's defence spending has reached a record high in history every year and the defence ministry's budget

for the next year contains the cost for space-related plans like that for the organization of the space operation corps amounting to 50.6 billion yen.

Japan is going to organize the space operation corps of the Air SDF with 20 men this year and increase its number up to 100 by 2022 to operate it in full swing from the following year.

Since its defeat in the Second World War, Japan has increased the SDF's attack capability to the world level and expanded its sphere of activity to all parts of the world under the signboard of "exclusive defence".

It is as clear as noonday what Japan seeks through the constitutional revision and the bid for space militarization.

Space should never be reduced to a theatre of activity for the warlike country.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

## Briefly

## Russia

### US, West branded as obstacles to world stability

Russian interim foreign minister Sergei Lavrov in the annual press conference on Jan 17 branded the US and the West as major contributory factors of the international instability.

He illustrated his point with the abrogation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty by the US, poor prospects of prolonging the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, NATO's growing military moves near the borders of Russia and attempts to hold sway over the multilateral control system for preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

## China

### Contraband from US confiscated in Hong Kong

Weapon parts and ammunition smuggled from the US have recently been uncovered and confiscated in Hong Kong of China.

According to the Hong Kong police, over 360 rifle bullets, 150 pistol bullets, fuses, aiming devices, knobs and other parts of weapons were exposed from among the express deliveries that were brought in from the US between Jan 7 and 10.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong police arrested a 27-year-old man and confiscated his weapons on Jan 17.

## Cuba

### Cuban President clarifies stand to protect social gains

Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, in an interview with foreign journalists on Jan 17, said that Cuba would defend the gains of society from the US that is intensifying the hostile policy. Cuba is safeguarding its social gains although its development is being hindered by the cruellest war of aggression and massacre and the tightest ever blockade in the history of mankind.

## Palestine

### PLO denounces Israel's territorial scheme

The general secretary of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization hit out the Israeli prime minister through Twitter on Jan 18.

He described Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's scheme to annex the West Bank in collusion with the US as an attempt to provide a favourable condition for the general election slated for March.

He emphasized that the whole Mideast community would get into rage, if Netanyahu is re-elected prime minister of Israel.

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## CUSTOM

# Korean custom of lunar New Year celebration

Today is Lunar New Year's Day the Koreans celebrate as one of the biggest folk holidays.

Lunar New Year's Day has traditionally been celebrated in Korea since olden times.

According to Kim Son Yong, researcher of the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, the Korean custom of celebrating Lunar New Year's Day dates back to the period of ancient states as seen through the records from the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) which say that people played a stone-throwing game and snowball fight by the riverside on Lunar New Year's Day.

On the threshold of the holiday, women prepared new clothes and spring-cleaned

their houses while men repaired or secured farm implements, which reflected their wish for a bumper year.

Every household pasted up pictures of ten objects symbolic of longevity including pine tree and crane and on Lunar New Year's Eve they sat up all night making food and preparing for folk games, which enlivened the atmosphere.

The events of the holiday included a simple memorial service in honour of ancestors, greetings, serving of holiday dishes and folk games, and ceremonies started from early in the morning.

After the memorial service was over, bows were made to the seniors of the family and then New Year's calls were paid

to seniors in the village, senior relatives and teachers.

That day, old people gave gifts to visiting children and served foods to adult visitors. And New Year greetings were exchanged between friends.

Serving holiday food is a major element of the custom of lunar New Year celebration.

"In Korea which has been called a country of good manners in the East since olden times people did not make light of the reception of guests even if they were kids," said Kim.

The Koreans mainly prepared rice cake, various side dishes, fruits and liquor for the holiday. Especially, rice-cake soup was a must on the day.

The soup was usually cooked with pheasant, but when it was unavailable, chicken, beef or pork was used instead. Hence, the Korean proverb "Chicken can substitute for pheasant".

Even at the present time when there are lots of entertaining games incorporating information technology, the Koreans play various folk games like *yut*, seesawing, kite flying, sleigh-riding, windmill turning and top spinning, which add to the festive mood of the day.

*Yut* game was played in most families and villages.

A national intangible cultural heritage element, the custom of lunar New Year celebration has been preserved and developed generation after generation.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Students from Pyongyang University of Publishing and Printing Engineering say Happy New Year to their teacher Pak Tong Won, PhD and department chief of the mechanical engineering faculty of the university, and his wife, on lunar New Year's Day.

## FOLKLORE

## A winter folk game

Children's sledging is seen in all parts of the country.

The sledge ridden by Korean children consists of a wooden board on which a child can sit and two strips beneath the board. Cables or metal blades are installed at the strips so that the sledge can slide well on ice.

Sledging is one of the winter folk games which is most popular with the Korean children along with kite-flying, shuttlecock game and rope-skipping.

"As sledging reminds me of my childhood, I'm eager to sledge together with children," said Ri Yong Sim living in Kyongam-dong of Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province.

When winter comes, the picturesque Lake Kyongam turns into a silver mirror.

Here, children do skating and sledging, which has become one of the winter scenes of the city.

Kindergarten children take double-runner sledges, but middle-school students ride on a single-runner sledge. Two sticks with sharp ends are needed for riders of the latter sledge to keep the balance, and they can travel faster and change directions more easily than those riding the former one.

Middle school students flaunt their skills while performing dexterous movements. Kindergartners, divided into two groups, compete for a race of travelling a certain distance on a sledge or a relay race while some children run as fast as they can so as not to be caught by a "tiger". These make pedestrians stop their way and see them for

a while.

"It is really thrilling when I slide on ice at full speed. I can't feel even the cold," said Ri Chung Gil, a pupil at Kyongam Primary School in Sariwon City.

Sleighs are often used in mountainous areas with heavy snowfall.

By Jong Chol PT

## TAEKWON-DO

## School blessed with many martial art practitioners



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Pupils practise the traditional Korean martial art of Taekwon-Do at Hasin Primary School in Pyongyang.

Hasin Primary School in Sosong District, Pyongyang, is well known to the country for having many Taekwon-Do dan holders.

The Korean martial art of Taekwon-Do has 24 patterns and its practitioners obtain gup and dan, according to their degrees of advanced proficiency in them.

According to Ri Chol Jin, staffer of the education department of the Sosong District People's Committee, all the students of graduating class of this school have fifth or sixth gup, teachers seventh or eighth and headmistress Ri Kyong Suk first dan.

He said such school is rare to be found.

As to the secret of the success, the headmistress said: "The most difficult problem was the question of instructor who would teach us Taekwon-Do. Fortunately, I happened to hear about Kim Sun Hui who after marriage retired from the Taekwon-Do club of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee. So I asked her to be our Taekwon-Do teacher."

As a result, the former international instructor who toured the world leading the Taekwon-Do exhibition group came to the school and its Taekwon-Do group was set up.

"When my boy began learning Taekwon-Do, I disagreed because I feared naughty children would abuse the martial art in their punch-ups," recalled Ri Un Mi, mother of second-year pupil Om Wi Gang who is especially enthusiastic about Taekwon-Do.

Despite her objection, Om kept going to the group, cultivated manners and became more polite and helpful to others.

"Taekwon-Do is not for injuring others but for self-defence. Its primary spiritual basis is courtesy. As they practise the national martial art, pupils train their bodies and minds and build up physical strength to fight against injustice," said Kim Sun Hui.

Ri Kyong Suk is said to have kindled the zeal for Taekwon-Do at the school.

Though she was over 60, she practised the sport together with pupils every day, touching the heart of both teachers and pupils.

She often says that teachers are members of the nation before being educators, adding that is why they are obliged to not only impart knowledge to younger generations but also instil the spirit and fine traditions of the nation.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

## Traditional way of greeting

Korean bow is the manner of greeting peculiar to the Korean nation.

It consists of sitting and standing bows.

It is customary to make a sitting bow inside the room and a standing bow outdoors.

Korean bow is also classified into deep, common and half bows according to the degree of bending the back and the head.

"The sitting bow originated from the custom of the Koreans who have lived in *ondol* (under-floor heating system) rooms since ancient times as seen in the tomb murals from the period of Koguryo Kingdom in Susanni and in Yaksu-ri," said Kim Son Yong, researcher of the Academy of Social Sciences.

In old times, the sitting deep

bow was made during the first visits by brides and bridegrooms to each other's parents or during parents' birthday parties and memorial services for the dead.

The sitting half bow was practised by elders in acknowledgement of juniors' greetings.

The standing deep bow was practised to pay the greatest respect to elders and seniors.

The standing common bow was intended for peers or in-laws who should be treated with courtesy.

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

