



# KOREA TODAY

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## WPK's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrated

**I**N OCTOBER LAST THE Korean people celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in a grand style.

The WPK birthday brings great festivity to the people.

Since its founding the Party, while leading the state and people through its extraordinary art of leadership, has laid an independent economic foundation being unaffected by any economic sanctions, and built up powerful military forces capable of defending the sovereignty and right to existence of the country and

the people and safeguarding peace in the region.

The greatest of the Party's exploits is that it has frustrated constant violent attempts to invade the country, since the Fatherland Liberation War in the 1950s, thus protecting the people from the ravages of war.

Regarding the people-first principle as its political ideal, the Party has formulated its lines and policies by reflecting the requirements and opinions of the masses and carried them out on the principle of giving top and absolute priority to their interests and convenience.

Now the Korean people enjoy a worthwhile life under the people-centred socialist system.

Over the past 75 years dramatic changes have taken place in the destiny of the country and the people, and the people's confidence in the Party has turned into their unshakable faith.

The celebrations of the WPK's birthday demonstrated the people's absolute confidence in the Party and the extent to which the socialist Korea has developed while advancing dynamically under the leadership of the Party. □

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Front Cover: People cheer full of jubilation  
*Photo by Ri Kwang Song*



Back Cover: The holiday night  
*Photo by Kim Song Chol*

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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un acknowledges enthusiastic cheers of the participants and audience in the military parade held in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 2020.

## Speech Delivered by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un at the Military Parade Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Workers' Party of Korea

**A**LL THE PEOPLE AND service personnel across the country, who are greeting the auspicious October holiday,

Officers and men of the Public Security Forces and members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and Young Red Guards,

Delegates attending the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea, and citizens of Pyongyang,

Officers and men of the units participating in the military parade held to celebrate the glorious October holiday,

Dear comrades,

The founding anniversary of our glorious Party has come.

The night of great glory has come.

On this glorious night we are marking the Party's founding anniversary in a year beset with unprecedented difficulties. I don't know why, but I find this extremely moving.

As we mark the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of our great Party, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, I extend heartfelt

congratulations to all those who have made this splendid October holiday such a worthy and proud occasion.

I extend warm thanks and congratulations to all our people.

Comrades,

On the night of this great holiday, the splendid streets of the capital city and this square are seething with pleasure and pride. But we must not forget the numerous Party members, workers and service personnel of our revolutionary armed forces who, through their unassuming and devoted efforts across the country, are making this glorious occasion possible.

There are so many people who have, by displaying tremendous dedication in overcoming the harsh circumstances this year, helped to bring about and secure this glorious event today!

There have been so many challenges we have had to overcome in order to bring us this far!

In particular, in the face of the unexpected challenges, our service personnel have worked with real devotion this year on the infectious disease prevention and disaster

relief fronts. No one could reflect on their patriotic and heroic devotion without shedding tears of gratitude.

They would say that defending their country, people and revolution is the natural duty of the People's Army. But the pains they have gone to, are too great.

The tasks they have undertaken are too many and the pains they have gone to, too great.

Because of this, I feel great remorse, and it pains my heart that they are not all here with us on this glorious night.

At this very moment, many of our service personnel, in defence of the security of our state and the safety of our people, are battling courageously on the infectious disease prevention front and at the rehabilitation project sites far away from this glorious Kim Il Sung Square.

Our army is performing its mission as the motive force of our national defence with great credit in the face of not only the military threat from hostile forces but also the unforeseen challenges posed by the pandemic and the forces of nature.

I pay the highest tribute ►



► to them for their loyal and filial, ardent devotion to our state and people, and extend warm thanks to all service personnel.

I also offer my militant encouragement and thanks to my most dependable combatants who make up the divisions of WPK members dispatched from the capital city as a hardcore force. They are patriots who deserve to be present here. But instead, they volunteered, after completing their tasks at the rehabilitation project sites, to go to other disaster-hit areas, rather than returning to Pyongyang and their beloved families.

My militant greetings and thanks go also to all the other working people across the country.

I hope that those families that have settled in new villages and homes after recovering from the effects of the natural calamities, as well as other families across the country, will experience nothing but happiness and joy.

I hope that our children will always see their happy dreams come true.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt condolences to all those around the world who are still combating the disease caused by the malignant virus. I pray from the bottom of my heart that health, happiness and laughter can be guaranteed for everyone.

I also send my warm wishes to our dear fellow countrymen in the south. I hope that this health crisis will soon be ended and that the day will come when the

north and south can take each other's hand again.

Comrades,

Tonight in gathering here in this square for the October celebration, we have brought with us the valuable successes and the fruits of our labour, achieved through an all-out effort.

It has not been easy for us to come this far.

We have had to fight one arduous struggle after another and have overcome countless ordeals.

Although the 75-year history of our Party has been fraught with difficulties, every day and every step since the outset of this year has been particularly arduous and trying, due to the unexpected and grave challenges and obstacles we have faced.

We have come to this meaningful venue with the pride and honour of having braved them all.

This gathering, which the whole world would esteem, demonstrates that we have overcome all the calamities that assailed and impeded us, and that we have attained with success our reasonable fighting goals.

Dear comrades,

Today we are marking the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of our Party on a grand scale.

No other country in the world celebrates a party's founding anniversary as a joyous holiday and grand, auspicious event for the entire population, as our country does.

As I stand here on this emotive and delightful night that is brimming over with the great joy of all our people, I am afraid that I do

not know how I should start to address them.

I carefully considered what I might say first at this moment, when we are looking back on every page of our Party's glorious 75-year history. But I have only one heartfelt, sincere word for our people: *Thanks*.

First of all, I thank them for being healthy and free from illness.

This is something I surely wanted to say.

I thank them for their good health, without any one of them having fallen victim to the malignant virus.

The fact that we have protected all our people from the harmful pandemic that is sweeping the whole world could be described as the natural duty and a natural success of our Party. Yet I am moved by this success, and seeing how healthy everyone is I can find no word other than *thanks*.

This victory, which is admired by the whole world, is a great victory achieved by our people themselves.

For our Party, nothing is more precious than the life of every one of our people. Their good health is essential to the very existence of our Party, our state, and everything on this land.

However, in the world today, there are too many unstable elements threatening and attempting to harm the priceless lives of our people.

In fact, at the beginning of this year I was very worried, even fearful, owing to the onset of the global health crisis and the unfavourable situation surrounding us.

Yet our people rose up ►

► and, in a display of great commitment, expressed absolute support for and trust in the measures adopted by the Party and state. In this way, they not only resolutely safeguarded their destiny, but also bravely and with great vigour overcame the severe hardships and trials.

Were it not for such excellent people who worry about, care for and protect one another, and were it not for our socialist society in which these people work together in a spirit of patriotism and self-awareness, we would not have prevented the dreadful catastrophe.

All our people turned out as one in the struggle to defend their state, themselves and their children, voluntarily becoming the motive force in the infectious disease prevention effort. In this way the country's infectious disease prevention sector, which had been backward and lacking in everything, could be revitalized, and stability in the face of the pandemic could be maintained that would be inconceivable to others.

I find it very gratifying and encouraging that everybody is living as part of a large, harmonious family, although they are not yet well-off, and that everybody is healthy, without a single person having fallen victim to the evil virus.

Of all the world's people, ours alone recognize and truly understand that when their state faces a difficult situation, they themselves should handle it by regarding it as a domestic matter.

On this planet, ours is

the only country that is currently facing such huge challenges and difficulties, including dealing with the pandemic emergency and recovering from the catastrophic natural disasters, while everything is in short supply owing to the harsh and prolonged sanctions.

All these hardships are, without doubt, a heavy burden and a source of pain for every family and every citizen in our country.

However, our people are true patriots who place the affairs of the nation ahead of those of their families, who share with the state every difficulty it experiences, and who firmly support their country with their honest sweat and effort.

This is why our Party, in facing up to every manner of national hardship, believes in and relies on the people, since they always respond as one if it unburdens itself of a situation.

Our people have always been grateful to our Party. But it is our great people themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude.

Over the past 75 years, our people have supported the Party with a single heart and defended our sacred revolutionary cause by shedding their sweat, and even their blood, unsparingly and without hesitation.

The secret of how our Party, in following a revolutionary road that is particularly arduous and beset with trials, has adorned this bloody road with victory and glory, is that our people have sincerely trusted and supported it and defended its cause.

It is impossible to conceive of even a moment of our Party's glorious 75-year history without our great people, the all-powerful creators of history. They have always offered it the wisdom and resourcefulness of a wise mentor, infused it with inexhaustible strength and courage, defended it at the cost of their lives, supported it sincerely, and turned its plans and lines into reality.

When it called on them to bring about a great upsurge, our great people responded with the mettle of Chollima; when it mapped out an operation for grand construction, they responded with a speed campaign. In this way, by going through fire and water, they unfailingly carried out the Party's decisions. With such great people as a constant companion, our Party has always been resolute and able to record miracles in the annals of this nation, whatever the adversity.

In achieving the victory of the great October holiday, our people have overcome every manner of hardship by displaying boundless, loyal and filial devotion, an indomitable fighting spirit, and sincere efforts. In their faces I see, with great pride, the overwhelming strength to follow and defend the Party for another 75 years, nay, 750 years, and even 7 500 years.

Comrades,

The trust our people have placed in me is as high as the sky and as deep as the ocean. But I have failed at times to live up to it satisfactorily. For this, I am truly sorry.

Thanks to the trust of ►



► all the people, I have been handed the important responsibility of leading this country, upholding the cause of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Yet my efforts and sincerity have fallen short of ridding our people of all the hardships they face.

Our people, however, have always believed in and fully trusted me, and supported every one of my plans and decisions.

Even though more suffering may lie ahead, our people's trust in me and our Party remains absolute and steadfast.

Their ardent, sincere trust and encouragement are my most valuable asset, which cannot be bartered for fame or millions of tons of gold; they are also a source of inexhaustible strength which motivates me to have no fear and recognize no impossibility.

Because I enjoy greater trust than anyone else in the world could even imagine, I have been able to confront without hesitation every challenge; in doing so, I have been conscious of my duty and will to make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, throwing myself into do-or-die battles that could even lead to war, and acting uncompromisingly in dealing with disasters on a scale unprecedented in history.

I will cherish it as the highest honour to have, serve and struggle for such excellent people.

Here tonight, I solemnly swear once again that I will live up to the people's trust without fail, even if my body

is torn and crushed to pieces in the course of defending their great trust, and that I will remain faithful to it.

Dear guests, and all other people across the country, Thank you, indeed.

I extend my thanks to you with humble reverence from my own heart, and from the hearts of Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Comrades,

It is our Party's and my own duty and steadfast resolve, first and foremost, to firmly defend our people, hold them in higher regard, and ensure that they lead a happy life with nothing to envy.

Our Party has already built up a powerful military capability for safeguarding peace. With it, we can firmly defend socialism, which is the lifeblood of our people and the source of their dignity, and ensure that they enjoy the benefits of prosperity, from one generation to the next, on a land that is free from war for ever.

The massed ranks of today's military parade will clearly demonstrate how the Workers' Party of Korea has trained its revolutionary army, and how powerful this army is.

As everyone will bear witness today, by comparison with the military parade held here to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK just five years ago, our military forces have been radically modernized; the speed of their development is evident for all to see.

We have a large, powerful contingent of loyal and able defence science and

technology personnel and munitions industry workers, who are all firmly equipped with our Party's revolutionary ideology and truly serve the interests of our revolution.

Our military capability has developed and been transformed to such an extent that no one can now belittle it or keep up with it.

We have built a deterrent with which we can adequately contain and manage any military threat that we are facing or may face.

Our military capability, in terms of its rate of growth and its quality and scale, is being transformed in our own style and in accordance with our own demands and timetable.

Our Party has concluded that the most assured and strongest national defence capability is the military capability to respond preemptively and overpower any force that may dare to threaten or infringe on the rights of our people and state to independence and existence. Having made every effort to develop military forces that are able to achieve this purpose, it is now working steadily to attain its upgraded targets.

Our war deterrent is a reasonable self-defence means, and we will continue to strengthen it so as to contain and manage any dangerous attempt and act of intimidation by the hostile forces, including their sustained and aggressive nuclear threat.

Our war deterrent, which is intended to defend our state's right to independence ►

► and existence and to safeguard regional peace, will never be misused or employed in a preemptive strike. But if, and only if, some power infringes upon the security of our state and resorts to military force against us, I will punish them by taking pre-emptive action to enlist our most powerful offensive strength.

I never want our military strength to be aimed at someone else.

We stress that our war deterrent is being developed, not for targeting others.

We are developing it in order to defend ourselves.

Without our own independent strength, we could do nothing other than use our clenched fists to wipe away the streaming tears and blood.

Our Party, with our powerful military strength, will guarantee the sovereignty of the country and the security of its territory, and safeguard for ever the safety, peace and future of our state and people.

Comrades,

Thanks to our revolutionary armed forces, which are equipped with the revolutionary ideology of the WPK, unbounded loyalty and filial piety to the country and people, and with powerful state-of-the-art weaponry embodying the strength and spirit of our people, no forces of aggression will ever be able to belittle our sacred country or dare to check the advance of the Korean people.

What remains to be done now, is to ensure that our people enjoy to the full

a sufficient and civilized life, no longer plagued by difficulties.

Our Party will invariably implement and constantly expand the advantageous policies and measures aimed at improving the people's wellbeing and providing them with greater benefits, and will create as soon as possible the ideal prosperous society our people are dreaming of.

Our Party, in sharing its destiny with the people in the face of severe trials and experiencing their united strength, has become fully aware of what it needs to do in the future.

The Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will advance plans and detailed targets to this end, and our Party's struggle for our people's wellbeing will develop onto a new stage.

The further we develop, the more aggressive the reactionary forces of all hues may become, and the greater may be the scale of the unexpected trials we face. However, they will be nothing compared with what we have experienced in the past, and we have the strength and confidence with which to overcome them all.

The single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses of the people, consolidated in the long course of our struggle, and the skilled personnel and assets for attaining self-reliance developed under our socialist system—these will surely become a powerful force that propels and accelerates our advance.

Our Party and people, who

have achieved things that others would not have dared to attempt by overcoming immeasurable trials and hardships that others have never experienced, will embark on their advance towards fresh development and prosperity with greater courage and confidence, and uncommon passion and preparedness.

I will ensure that every Party organization, the entire government, and all power and military organs make increasingly strict demands on themselves, devote strenuous efforts, and work with sincerity for our people and for bringing them a better tomorrow.

Our people's aspirations are great, and the day when they are realized will surely come.

I will direct every effort to realizing these great aspirations in order to ensure that innovations, development and substantial changes that everyone can feel are made in the struggle for attaining higher goals in socialist construction.

Comrades, we have become strong and are becoming stronger in the midst of trials.

Time is on our side.

Let us all advance vigorously towards a bright future of socialism, towards fresh victory!

Finally, I once again extend thanks to all the people for being in good health, free from any disease.

And I also extend my heartfelt thanks to them for invariably trusting in our Party.

Long live our great people!



# Striking a Chord with the People

ADDRESSING THE MILITARY PARADE IN CELEBRATION of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Party said, "I carefully considered what I might say first at this moment, when we are looking back on every page of our Party's glorious 75-year history. But I have only one heartfelt, sincere word for our people: *Thanks.*"

When he said in a hoarse voice that although the people have always been grateful to the Party, it is the great people themselves who surely deserve a bow of gratitude, and expressed his thanks time and again, all the audiences and the people around the country were moved to tears. The Supreme Leader concluded his speech



Cheers go up in response to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's speech in October 2020.

▶ by shouting "Long live our great people!"

The nine years of his leadership over the revolution and construction has been a continuation of his journey of faithful service for the people. The fact that his politics is geared to devotion to the well-being of the people was first demonstrated when he

declared his principle of giving top and absolute priority to the interests and comfort of the people soon after he assumed the leadership of the revolution.

Also conspicuous has been his urge this year to attach primary attention to the safety of the people while he supervised the struggle to ward off the unexpected worldwide health emergency and repair the damages from consecutive floods and typhoons, which were the severest in history.

Thanks to his politics of attaching importance to the people and holding them in high respect, flood victims moved into new houses, numbering thousands in total, on the occasion of the WPK founding anniversary. At the memorable house-moving ceremonies the people shouted at the top of their voices, "Long live the great Workers' Party of Korea!" The whole land of Korea was resounding with the voices of expressing thanks to the Party.

The people's trust in the Party is growing as complete as ever.

*Yom Song Hui*





Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un attends the military parade in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK in October 2020.

## Power of the DPRK

IT CAN BE SAID THAT the history of socialist Korea is that of self-reliance.

Self-reliance is a strategic line which the Workers' Party of Korea has held fast to while leading the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its people for 75 years, and the

motive power the Korean people have used to build socialism steadily.

The tradition of self-reliance is being carried on on a higher level by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK.

At the Seventh Congress ▶



▶ of the WPK held in May Juche 105 (2016) the Supreme Leader stated that the Party should hold fast to the spirit of self-development first as its consistent line. At the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in December 2019 he put forward a revolutionary line of smashing straight through the barriers in the way of their advance for socialist construction by dint of self-reliance, and inspired the Korean people to turn out to implement the line.

Examining a new-type tractor of 80hp made in 2016, the Supreme Leader referred to the tractor as the first signal flare of self-reliance, and stressed the need to hold high the slogan of self-reliance.

While inspecting the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Kim Jong Thae Electric Locomotive Complex and other establishments, he deeply implanted the spirit of self-reliance in the Korean people.

Conscious of their strength, the Korean people managed to make and launch their first earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4, and build Ryomyong Street, and the Sepho Area Stockbreeding Base in Kangwon Prov-

ince. The independent defence industry of the country turned into a development- and creation-oriented one.

This year, despite the lasting global health crisis and the consecutive natural disasters, the Korean people have made a lot of achievements, for example, the completion of the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, that of the Ichon Army-People Power Station in Kangwon Province, the reconstruction and modernization of the Myohyangsan Medical Appliances Factory and the completion of a self-propelled excavation ship, the first of its kind in the country.

The achievements, the result of their exertion and technology, were an encouragement to the Korean people celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK and inspired them with confidence in their prosperous future.

The military parade held to celebrate the birthday of the Party served as an opportunity to demonstrate the extent of the strength of self-development the Korean people have consolidated by dint of self-reliance and fortitude.

*Kim Son Il*

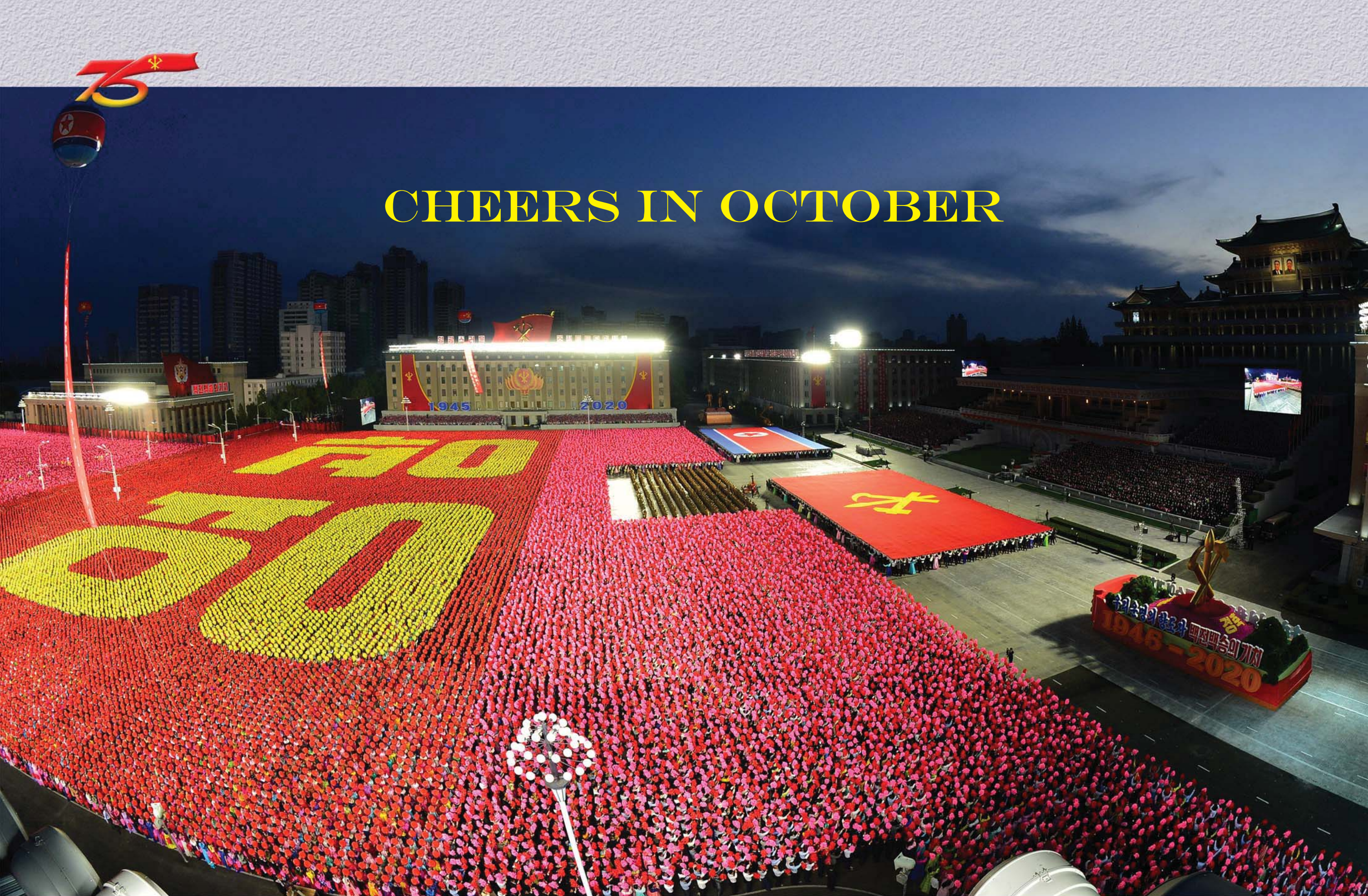








# CHEERS IN OCTOBER





**T**HE 75-YEAR HISTORY OF the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) is the one of unprecedented challenges and ordeals which no other parties have ever undergone. Those difficulties, however, have never been able to hamper the WPK in its effort to lead the country and people steadfastly and successfully along the road of

socialism—because it has got the absolute support and trust from the people. The Koreans have given their full support to policies of the Party invariably and made devoted efforts for their implementation, sometimes even at the risk of their lives. A typical example came on September 5 this year when the Party Central Committee called on the Party members in Pyongyang to go and work for a challenging

campaign to repair the damage from natural calamities in North and South Hamgyong Provinces. In hearty response more than 300 000 Party members volunteered to join the struggle, followed by a large number of other people. The popular support and trust are far from something all government parties deserve. The WPK enjoys such a strong support because it has pursued the political ideal that is accept-



▶ able to all people and applied it to all Party and state activities. The ideal is just the people-first principle, which demands that they should regard the popular masses as the master of the revolution and construction, rely on them and serve them devotedly. The WPK's people-friendly politics has been nourishing the implicit trust of the people in the Party while binding the Party and the people into

a single entity. Some seamen kept the portraits of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il safe and secure before they met their last moment when their ship was wrecked. An 11-year-old girl, left homeless in a flood, answered international organization workers confidently that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un would build a new house for her. This shows what kind of trust and expectation the

Korean people keep in the WPK. The single-hearted unity between the Party and the masses based on a single ideology and a sense of kinship serves as a powerful engine in the building of a powerful socialist country, the ideal of the Korean people. The rally and demonstration in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the WPK were good enough to show the source of the DPRK's strength. □



## Torchlight Held by the Successors

**G**IVING PRIORITY TO young people is a permanent strategic line of the Workers' Party of Korea. This can be proved by the slogans "Love the future!" "Love young people!" "Add lustre to your youth!" and "Long live the idea of prioritizing young people!" put forward by the WPK in the annals of social-

ist construction.

"Young vanguard of the Party," "reliable successors to the socialist cause," "the most vigorous force" and other titles for young people, too, prove how much the Party prioritizes young people.

Give prominence to and love young people to the maximum!

This is what the WPK has regarded as the most correct attitude and stand to young people in the whole course of the revolution and construction.

The following is an autograph Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un wrote to young people.

**"A prosperous tomorrow** ▶

▶ will be achieved earlier by young people taking vigorous steps!

**"Always advance straight forward, following the Party!**

**"Kim Jong Un**

**"January 26, 2012"**

Such belief of the Supreme Leader is inspiring young people to become young heroes who will exalt the brilliance of their country and their era.

Regarding it as their sacred duty and honour to carry on and

accomplish the revolutionary cause pioneered by their leader, the Korean young people are the first to volunteer to work in the difficult and challenging sectors of socialist construction, performing great feats of labour, and take the worth of life in unhesitatingly dedicating themselves to caring for society, the collective and their comrades.

The Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, Kaeson Youth Park, the Hamhung Municipal

Youth Goat Farm, the Open-air Theatre of Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park and other structures are shining with the word *youth* in their names, and they are great wealth of the country.

The young people who represent the bright future of the country are always marching straight ahead.

Their will to support the cause of the WPK like the undying torchlight is being fully demonstrated to the whole world. ◻





# Confident of Their Bright Future



A scene from the comedy show *Our Home Full of Laughter* in October 2020.

**T**HE WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA regards it as the supreme principle governing all its activity to improve the people's living standards steadily.

The Korean people are now out to turn their country into a powerful socialist state, and the WPK is pushing the improvement of the people's living standards as the most important of its affairs.

The Seventh Congress of the WPK held in May Juche 105 (2016) designated it as the main thrust in the building of a powerful socialist state to improve the living standards of the people by developing the economy, and set it as an important goal to build a civilized power where the people will create and enjoy the highest quality and standard of civilization.

The Third and Fifth Plenary Meetings of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK and other meetings indicated detailed tasks and ways to improve the people's living standards.

As a result, the country, in recent years, have made new-type trucks, tractors and trolley buses, light air-

planes, and underground trains, constructed Ryomyong and other splendid streets and towns, modern farms and factories such as the Junghyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and the Suncheon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory and leisure facilities such as the Masikryong Ski Resort and the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

This year the country has been faced with a global health crisis, and suffered the severest damage from heavy rains and fearful gales. Still, establishments have been completed across the country, and residents in afflicted areas have moved into new modern houses.

The Korean people boundlessly trust the WPK, and are confident of their better future.

The people's such trust and confidence were demonstrated through the mass gymnastics and artistic performance *Great Guidance*, a comedy show, a fireworks display, an illumination festival, a national art show, a national book show, a Korean stamp show and colourful artistic performances held in celebration of the WPK's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

*Rim Ok*



Fireworks are set off in the nocturnal sky of October.





# Grand March towards New Development and Prosperity

## I Wish I Could Take up Arms Again



I COULD HARDLY CONTAIN my excitement watching on TV the military parade in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea. Seeing the elite columns with sophisticated arms and weapons we war veterans who had fought with rifles in the past war felt greatly relieved. I have a strong impulse

to take up arms again myself. I feel much more reassured that we have nothing to fear even if there is any enemy daring to touch us. It is a great pride for our people to have such an army.

*Pak Pong Won, Pothonggang-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang*

## The Flag of Our Republic Will Flutter Higher

I COULD HARDLY REPRESS my tears seeing the flag of our Republic being hoisted in the square where the military parade was taking place in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The flag was what I would look up at reverentially when it was hoisted after I won international competitions.

Earlier when they were deprived of their country by foreign forces, Korean sportspersons could not help but keep back their bitter tears as they had no national flag of their own to raise even after they won international contests.

But today my country has attained great dignity and authority in the world, and we happily raise our national flag into the sky over the world, proud of being sportspersons of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Not only we sportspersons but also all other people are willing to defend the dear country even at the risk of their lives and exalt its honour.

Thanks to such patriotism the flag of our Republic will flutter higher—and forever.

*Rim Jong Sim, Kim Il Sung Prize winner, People's Athlete and Labour Hero*



## I Feel More Confident



IT IS A NIGHT THAT I COULD hardly celebrate without tears. It is such an exciting celebration of October that I could hardly contain my surging emotion. There have been so many ordeals and difficulties we have had to overcome in order to bring us this far! We have had to overcome indescribably harsh circumstances this year—the global health crisis, consecutive natural disasters, etc.

But through the ordeals my country has grown stronger. Today's military parade eloquently proves it. I feel proud of our power and confident about our future seeing the paraders in fine array and the powerful weapons associated with the people's resources and spirit.

*Pak Ho Chol, workshop leader of the Osoksan Granite Quarry*

THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE Political Bureau of the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in October last made a decision for the entire Party and the whole nation to wage an 80-day campaign until the end of this year, and the Central Committee of the WPK followed it up by sending a letter to all Party members.

The Party's intention is to give full play to the surging spirit of the masses and mobilize all potentials through the campaign and use it for a turning point in accelerating the economic development in the coming year.

This year the unprecedented global pandemic has posed a threat to the life of the Korean people, and consecutive severe natural disasters caused tremendous damages in different parts of the country.

The WPK and the government has built up powerful preemptive, all-round and offensive barriers against the pandemic

since the early days of the year, and concentrated nationwide efforts on recovery from natural calamities.

As a result the Korean people, full of joy, celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of the WPK in a grand style in October last.

Still, the people have considerable challenges to deal with and formidable tasks to carry out within this year.

We have so far defended our people while undergoing hardships and still we should keep them safe and secure even if it means we have to undergo several times more hardships. We should leave nothing wanted by tapping even a single percent of possibility. This is the ardent will of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK. And thus there started the 80-day campaign for the safety of the people's lives and their stable living with a congress of the Party just around the corner.

It is a tradition of the Korean

people to write a new chapter of history of change and work miracles through a massive campaign for socialist construction to mark the Party's congress. In 2016, with the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the WPK just ahead, the Korean people waged a 70-day campaign, thus increasing the industrial output 1.6 times as compared to the same period of the previous year, and completing, inaugurating and renovating hundreds of establishments.

A Pyongyang army-people rally took place at Kim Il Sung Square on October 12. It was followed by similar meetings in succession in all other parts of the country to make a pledge to turn out in a grand march towards new development and prosperity.

The meetings full of soaring enthusiasm and spirit boosted the confidence in the future of the country which will make a leap forward through the 80-day campaign. □

Service personnel and Pyongyang citizens have a rally in October 2020.



# Home of the People

ONE OF THE MOST FAVOURITE WORDS for everyone is “my home.” Today the Korean people like to refer to their socialist country as *my home*.

## Who Is Master of Society?

Who is the master of society? This is decided by the position taken in society. In the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea the popular masses have a social life in accordance with their will and requirement as masters of the State and society. In other words, they are masters of politics and the

economy, and of the management of the State and society.

In the country the political authority and sovereignty are vested in all the people including workers, peasants, intellectuals and soldiers. And everyone has equal political rights, and workers, peasants, intellectuals and other ordinary people are elected deputies to power organs to discuss the State affairs. In April Juche 108 (2019) there was held the election of deputies to the Supreme People’s Assembly. Among the deputies elected industrial workers accounted for 16.2%, cooperative farm workers 9.6%, service personnel 17.2% and women 17.6%. Almost all the remainder including office workers used to be industrial workers and peasants or were of such origins.

The Korean people participate in the political activities to the full and lead a political life as members of the Party or working people’s organizations. So the Party and the State formulate popular lines and policies that reflect the people’s will and desire, and implement them exactly and in the interests of the people.

Working people are full of joy after voting for deputies to the 14<sup>th</sup> Supreme People’s Assembly in March 2019.



► The Korean people also hold the position of master in creating and enjoying the material wealth of society. And the popular masses are masters of the means of production and the economic management.

After liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists’ military occupation on August 15, 1945 a democratic revolution was carried out in the country. And the socialist transformation of the relations of production was completed after the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953). This ensured the undivided sway of social ownership of means of production, and thus the masses of the people became full-fledged masters of the means of production.

The Korean people experienced through their actual life that only socialist ownership provides them with an affluent and civilized life, and so they value it and work hard to develop it.

In the country the method of economic management improves constantly on the principle of letting the masses of working people perform their responsibility and role as masters in production activities. And the producer masses take an active part in the business management in conformity with the scientific strategy of business operation.

As masters of ideology and culture the Korean people enjoy a sound and rich cultural and emotional life with an independent ideological consciousness. With the right to create advanced culture, they perform their responsibility and role faithfully. They have created the most revolutionary and progressive ideology, spirit and culture, and achieved brilliant successes in the cultural sectors such as science and technology, sports and art and literature.

► Today the Korean people enjoy themselves at fine leisure facilities. They study at the Grand People’s Study House, the Sci-Tech Complex and other places which are open for all-people study. And cultural facilities like the People’s Palace of Culture in Pyongyang have been set up across the country, enabling everybody to conduct literary and artistic activities to the full. In recent years, the whole country has overflowed with zeal for sports, broad sections of people participating in sports activities more actively.

## “We Serve the People!”

“We serve the people!”—this slogan connotes that the Party and the State should be directly responsible for the people’s life and provide all conditions for them so that they should be masters of society. It is just socialism of Korea which brings

into reality the popular masses’ dream for an independent and creative life in a cultured living environment.

All activities of the Workers’ Party of Korea and the State are aimed at respecting and ensuring the people’s rights thoroughly. It is the mission of the people’s government to represent the independent rights of the popular masses and organize their creative abilities and activities. The revolutionary standpoint of the Party and the State to value the dignity and rights of the people most finds expression in their modes of politics such as benevolent politics, and the popular policies that have been in force continuously through centuries.

It is the main policy of the Party and the State to be totally responsible and provide everything for the people ranging from food, clothing and housing to learning and medical treatment. Actually the Party and the State directly look after the people’s livelihood and provide all conditions for them so that they are masters of society. All activities of the Party, power organs, administrative and economic bodies, and cultural institutions are organized and conducted for the welfare of the people. And material and cultural assets of society are dedicated to providing them with a more cultured life.

The universal 12-year compulsory education is in force for the rising generation to learn to their heart’s content free of charge, and everyone is studying enrolled at different types of study-while-you-work system.

Everyone has the right to get free medical treatment since their birth, and hospitals and clinics in towns and the countryside enable them to receive treatment at any time and any place without any inconvenience. They live without knowing such terms as doctor’s fee, prices of medicines and charges for operation and hospital treatment. Thanks to the section doctor system everyone has his or her own doctor, and the doctors examine the health of their charges regularly and treat their diseases in time.

In the last several years a system of telemedicine service has been established on a nationwide scale, and many public health establishments such as the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital and the Okryu Children’s Hospital have been built, thus raising the level of medical service further.

Besides, the People’s Theatre, the Rungna People’s Pleasure Ground and the Munsu Water Park were built to ensure the people a better cultural life.

## Rooted in People’s Life

► The names of the country, its army, monumental structures and other valuable and beautiful things there have the word *people* in them: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean People's Army, the Grand People's Study House, the People's Theatre, people's hospitals, and the titles of People's Scientist and People's Athlete are some examples.

The course of socialist construction in the country was the one of holding the people as the greatest treasure and solving all problems by relying on them from A to Z.

Through their practical experience the Korean people have got convinced that the road to socialism they have been following is the only one to a happy and worthwhile life.

Socialism does not merely inspire love, attachment and gratitude in the people. It nurtures in them the will to share their destiny with it. In other words, socialism is their lifeblood.

A man in his thirties who works at a coal mine in South Phyongan Province adopted parentless children, and took a helpless old woman to his house, looking after her like his own mother. When people praise him, he says, "The old woman and the parentless children are also members of the great socialist family."

In September 2019 the DPRK's woman wrestler Pak Yong Mi won her event at the 2019 World Wrestling Championships in Kazakhstan. This attracted many journalists, and one of them asked her what her parents were. Then she said, "I lost my father in my childhood and grew up under the care of my mother. She is an ordinary worker. I have become a world wrestling champion thanks to

my socialist country."

Four years ago some members of an international organization went to see a flood-affected region in the northern part of North Hamgyong Province. There they happened to see an 11-year-old girl in Hoeryong City. She looked miserable as she had suffered from an unexpected natural calamity—one of her shoes was gone, her clothing stained with muddy water, and her family was left homeless. The journalists asked her what she would choose to live. Then she answered, "Our Marshal [Kim Jong Un] will soon build a new house for us, and give me shoes."

The girl's firm belief in Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un means just that of all the people in the country. The Supreme Leader continues his journey of devotion for the sake of the people regardless of a bad weather or dangerous road, and puts his heart and soul into helping them live as happily as anyone else in the world. The Korean people have the firm conviction that they will be able to overcome any calamity, difficulty and hardship and advance toward the bright future of socialism without fail as long as they have the Supreme Leader as father of the great family.

They love singing the songs *Socialism Is Ours*, *Let's Defend Socialism*, *Socialism is Our Lifeblood* and *We Will Go Only along the Road to Socialism* that reflect their conviction. These are not merely songs, but the cheers from the hearts of all the Korean people who have imprinted it in their mind that only the road to socialism ensures their life of tomorrow as well as today.

Ri Su Gyong

Residents in flood-stricken Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, North Hwanghae Province, move into new houses in September 2020.



## Worker Deputy



An In Song.

**I**N JULY 2014 A YOUNG MAN came back home in Kumchon-dong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, after his service in the Korean People's Army.

He is An In Song who was elected a deputy to the Mangyongdae District People's Assembly five years later.

Everything in the home village looked new to the ex-soldier. The village had changed beyond his imagination during his military service for years. His old home turned into a modern house, and wide green paddy fields of standard size spread before the village. And the hill was planted with all sorts of fragrant fruit trees such as dwarf apple trees. In a quiet sunny place were situated a nursery and a kindergarten side by side next to which there were under construction a new primary school, junior middle school and senior middle school.

In Song was then determined to dedicate his energy and ardour of youth to bettering the village associated with efforts of his parents' generation. So he volunteered to work as a pump operator of workteam No. 3, the water production workshop, the Mangyongdae District Water Supply and Sewerage Management Station, to be responsible for providing residents of the

Kumchon-dong area with drinking water.

One day In Song found that a new small village in his charge did not have water supply yet and that his workteam had trouble providing the village with drinking water. He knew the problem could be solved by mobilizing the labour of the management station. He, however, wanted to solve it with his own efforts. So he explored mountains around the village for a source of water, and had an earnest talk with the elderly folks who had lived long in the locality.

After painstaking efforts, he finally located a spring on a spot where three valleys meet. Afterwards, he, together with members of his workteam, built a pressure station and a water tank of hundreds of cubic metres, and installed a water pipe thousands of metres in length, a pumping facility and a treatment plant.

At last the day came when quality spring water gushed from taps installed in each

house in the village. Kim Song Ok, a 60-year-old woman in the village, said, "Such great efforts have been made to supply water to a little over ten homes! Ours is really a good world."

Besides, An would spend his spare time welding and plastering for the construction of a greenhouse for a kindergarten.

He, however, had no aspiration to fame or reward. He only wanted to make his hometown better enough to be envied by anyone else.

The hometown never neglected his sincere efforts.

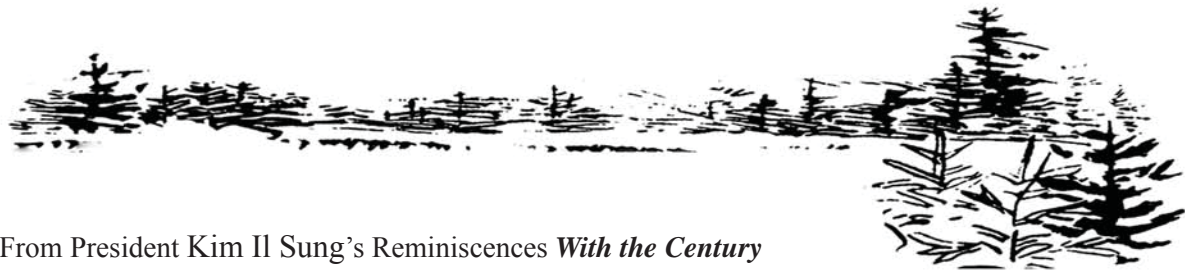
The management station promoted him to the workteam leader, and the local people elected him a deputy to the District People's Assembly during the election of deputies to local people's assemblies held in July last year.

He says, "Now that I, as a worker, am a deputy, I'm more firmly determined to do more things for the good of my hometown and the residents."

Sim Chol Yong

An works devotedly to change his home village into a better place to live in.





From President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

## Homeland Party Working Committee

(Continued from the last issue)

**I** EXPLAINED TO HIM IN DETAIL:

The Homeland Party Working Committee is a regional leadership organ, which will offer unified guidance over the revolutionary struggle in the homeland and deal with the formation of party organizations there. As there is no General Staff, performing the function of giving unified leadership to the movement in the homeland, it has not yet overcome two major vulnerable points—dispersed character and spontaneity. To rally the patriots and communists, active in dispersion in the homeland, into a single force, and help them establish direct relations among themselves, there should be a leadership organ capable of this work. Such an organ is provided by the Homeland Party Working Committee. When this committee is formed, we plan to include you, Comrade Pak Tal. You will represent this committee in the homeland. I want to meet face to face all of the fighters, scattered over all parts of the homeland, but time does not allow. I want you, Comrade Pak Tal, to meet on your return home the campaigners active in North and South Hamgyong Provinces and other regions first and step up preparations for rallying them into home-

land party organizations.

On hearing such words, Pak Tal betrayed a serious expression on his face.

"I hardly deserve such trust. I am afraid I am not equal to it. I am still poor in many respects."

Pak Tal's frank confession consolidated my trust in him.

At that time we convened a meeting of the KPRa Party Committee, where we organized the Homeland Party Working Committee; I was chairman, and Kim Phyong and Pak Tal were members. Pak Tal was appointed field executor of this committee, entrusted with the task of forming party organizations in various areas of the homeland including Kapsan.

He supported our methodology for forming basic party organizations first in the homeland before organizing a party central organ later on their basis and declaring the founding of the party.

After the meeting Pak Tal requested that I tell him of all the points, which I wanted to mention with regard to the work method of campaigners in the homeland, which he could refer to in his work.

I expressed my opinion that first and foremost the exile's method of work should be eliminated.

"Comrades, working in the homeland, are now acting in an

exile's way. This method is utterly destructive. They are hiding in mountains during the daytime and stealthily moving to meet people in the dark. Consequently, the members of organizations are loath to meet them, owing to their fear of the enemy's surveillance. You cannot expand organizations in an exile's way.

"In future people engaged in underground activities in the enemy's area, should gain the maximum possibility of legal action, while working on production sites. They must get rid of the working method of exiles immediately."

Pak Tal heard me out and blushed.

"To tell you the truth, I also worked in that way. We only thought of frontal confrontation, unaware that a roundabout method should also be applied."

We chatted for some time, foregoing our formal talk. I asked him to tell me why someone like himself, who was disgusted at the old customs, was having his hair tonsured at a time, when it was trendy for everyone to look stylish and civilized, wearing kid shoes, dressing one's hair in foreign style and holding a cane in hand.

He replied that he had once been engaged in a labour union movement. Whenever he had been brought to a police station,

▶ the policemen there used to seize him by the hair and hit his head against the wall. He had been so annoyed that he had had his hair "cut to its root". I felt this "hair-cut" an expression of his wit. He said that he would change his tonsured head into modern style or get a crew cut, if I asked him.

"There is no need. You did it for your own needs. Consequently, I don't think you should have to return to the original state just now."

"If you, General, do not object, I will keep it as it is. How can I be sure that I will not be called by the police station again?"

In fact, he subsequently experienced many ordeals at police stations and prisons.

I asked him if he was ready to sit a police exam, if it was beneficial to the revolution. He looked at me in perplexity, his eyes wide open.

"You don't plan to make me a policeman, do you?"

"If the revolution so requires, you should become a policeman. But I don't intend to make you, Comrade Pak Tal, a policeman. I don't mind if you wear a police cap or not. It is important that you improve your reputation among those in the police substation by doing such a job."

Pak Tal beamed with satisfaction.

"I have been on somewhat friendly terms with policemen, but I never thought of sitting a police exam. On my return home, I will try."

True to his words, Pak Tal took the exam next spring. Before taking the exam, he first called on the chief of the police substation and made a ridiculous remark.

"Sir, I want to become a career policeman. What do you think? Am I cut out for it?"

Unable to control his excitement at hearing this, the chief stood up abruptly.

"Are you serious?"

"Oh, yes! I am so eager to become a policeman that I've called

on you, haven't I?"

"Yes, indeed. If you work well, you can even become chief of this substation."

"How dare I take your post? That would be impudent?"

"No. If Pak Tal wants to be reformed into a faithful Japanese subject, I am ready to offer my chiefship to you for the sake of the Empire of Japan, although I may not be able to hold it any longer. I highly appreciate your ambition. Please take the police exam."

Pak Tal openly took the exam, letting people know that he would become a policeman, but wrote poor answers to the exam. Consequently, he took the exam, but failed. He played skilfully as we had asked him to. Even the Japanese, in an account of his personal record, added to a secret document another clause, "Voluntary application for police exam at Kapsan police substation, South Hamgyong Province, in March of Showa 12 (1937), and failed."

Thanks to the police exam, Pak Tal gained the confidence of the Japanese. A policeman Kim working at that substation went so far as to vouch for Pak Tal on several occasions, saying that he had even sat for a police exam. In this way, thanks to the backing of the policemen, Pak Tal did all he wanted, pretending to be loyal to them.

The formation of the Homeland Party Working Committee was extraordinarily significant, in maintaining our independent policy for party founding and pushing ahead with the building of party organizations in the homeland.

It did not mark a mere continuation or repetition of the movement to rebuild the party, which had been conducted in several ways after the dissolution of the Korean Communist Party. The formation of party organizations, promoted in the homeland under the guidance of the Homeland Party Working Committee,

was an out-and-out independent movement and struggle to rebuild the party and form party organizations, which essentially differed from the party-rebuilding movement directly sponsored by the Comintern and the movement to rebuild the party, which the Red International of Labour Unions (Profintern) attempted to achieve through the Red labour union movement.

In the 1930s, the Comintern had begun to show its attention to some extent to the national liberation struggle in Korea, particularly the party-rebuilding movement. This was because Japanese militarism was gaining ground in the Far East with the passage of time, a force no less dangerous than fascism in Europe.

Within the Comintern Kuusinen and some other people advanced their self-opinionated ideas on the problem of reconstructing the communist party in Korea. Typically, they proposed the organization of a national revolutionary party of Korea, which was discussed following the Comintern's Seventh Congress. As far as I remember, the Comintern's intention with regard to the organization in Korea of the national revolutionary party, aimed at anti-Japanese struggle, was pointed out in detail in Yang Song's article on the anti-imperialist united front in Manchuria, which he had contributed to *Communist International*.

He wrote in his article that the standing phase of Jiandao required the Chinese Communist Party to admit more Chinese and Korean revolutionary workers and peasants as members to expand its organizations and also establishment of the national revolutionary party of Korea, that this party's most important task should involve the struggle against Japan and for Korea's national independence and that this new party must be founded by none other than the communists. He went on to say that this

► party must be an anti-Japanese united front party in nature. It can be said that this claim represented the opinions of the Comintern and Chinese party officials who had been working in the Comintern.

However, we settled the problems of forming party organizations and a united front in Korea on our independent judgement and decision.

We dealt with both of them simultaneously, but did not mix them with each other, as a party could never represent a united front, and a united front organization was not precisely a party.

In those days, some independence campaigners tried to form a political organization similar to the Kuomintang in China, encompassing all political forces on both sides, right and left, under the name of the one and only party of the nation.

We organized the Homeland Party Working Committee and pushed ahead with the formation of party organizations. At the same time, we formed the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland as an anti-Japanese national united front organization, and achieved in this way great unity for the whole nation.

Naturally, the Comintern had attempted in various ways, even before then, to rebuild the party in Korea.

*Theses on the Tasks of the Movement of the Revolutionary Labour Unions in Korea* (the so-called “September Theses”) published in September 1930 by the executive bureau of the Red International of Labour Unions under the leadership of the Comintern, set the formation of revolutionary labour unions as a major prerequisite for the rebuilding of the communist party. Relying on the September Theses, the Korean communists had attempted to organize revolutionary labour unions (Red labour unions) and, used them as a mass base to promote the rebuilding of the com-

munist party.

In October of the following year, the secretariat of the Pan-Pacific Labour Union, situated in Shanghai as a subordinate organization of the Red International of Labour Unions, also advocated in its *Urgent Appeal to the Korean Supporters of the Secretariat of the Pan-Pacific Labour Union*, known as the “October Letter from the Pan-Pacific Labour Union”, the organization of revolutionary labour unions and the rebuilding of the communist party with them serving as its mass base.

These documents of organizations, affiliated to the Red International of Labour Unions, along with the *Statement of Opinion on the Korean Communist Movement* of the executive committee of the Comintern, known as Kuusinen’s statement of opinion, published in May 1931, directly dealt, in content, with the rebuilding of the communist party in Korea.

In June 1934, the *Action Programme of the Korean Communist Party* was made public in Moscow in the name of the initiators’ group of the Korean Communist Party, which should also be viewed as a part of efforts to rebuild the communist party in Korea.

Despite Japanese imperialism’s continued atrocious colonial rule over the Korean people and its suppression of the revolutionary movement, which became extreme as time passed by, the communists active in the homeland carried on the party rebuilding movement unremittingly in various forms. The communist party incident in North and South Hamgyong Provinces, the formation of the Korean communists’ union, the meeting to hear the report to the Comintern on the rebuilding of the Korean Communist Party, the preparatory committee for the rebuilding of the Korean Communist Party, and the like, which had taken place in various

regions of the homeland during this period, represented some examples of the party rebuilding movement.

There was also a party rebuilding movement, which had taken place with China as its base.

The M-L group and Seoul-Shanghai group organized the preparatory committee for the rebuilding of the party, the central cadres’ committee for party rebuilding, the party rebuilding union and the adjustment committee for party rebuilding, and conducted the party rebuilding movement with the Jilin area of China as the centre of their activities.

In Japan, too, such a movement took place with Tokyo serving as its base.

It could be claimed that the movements of the Red labour unions and Red peasant unions, which swept the whole country from the end of the 1920s to mid-1930s, constituted parts of the movement to rebuild the party. The main goal of the struggle by these unions, which had been lawful in their early stage and subsequently assumed the illegal form of an underground movement, concerned the rebuilding of the communist party.

The movement to rebuild the party, launched in the homeland and abroad, was mainly confined to the upper class, which had not been free of the old form of former movements, flunkeyistic tendencies and factional conceptions. Despite these limitations, we strove, drawing on the successes, which had been scored by former movements to rebuild the party, to build party organizations of a new type in the homeland. In other words, we made painstaking efforts to get in touch with the networks of the Red labour unions and Red peasant unions of the bygone days and organize our party cells there.

(To be continued)

## Immortal Juche Idea (7)

# Human History Is the One of the People’s Struggle for Independence

ANOTHER SOCIO-HISTORICAL principle explained by the Juche idea is that human history is the one of the people’s struggle for independence. Then, why is that?

The reason is, first, that the socio-historical movement which advances history is a movement for the independence of the popular masses.

The history of mankind is created and developed by the socio-historical movement of the masses. The people who entered the era of ancient society after the one of primitive community developed the society step by step by their creative labour and struggle. So the social system has changed from the slaveholding to the feudal, then to the capitalist and, further, to the socialist society.

Together with this people have harnessed nature and created enormous material and cultural wealth. In this course man himself has also changed and developed.

What do all these changes which have taken place on the earth in the course of history show? For what have the people brought about these changes in nature and society and advanced history?

In short, they have done it in order to realize independence.

From the point of view that the main agency of the socio-historical movement is the masses of the people, the aim of this movement is undoubtedly realizing the independence of the

masses. Human history which is created and developed through the socio-historical movement aimed at realizing the independence of the masses is, in the final analysis, a history of struggle for their independence.

The reason is, secondly, that history changes and develops due to the struggle of the masses.

The change and development of history means the change and development of nature, society and man.

As a result of the creative activities and struggle of the masses, nature is harnessed and all material and cultural wealth is produced. In the course of this stone implements were replaced by bronze wares, and the latter by iron ones along with the appearance of modern machines. With their continuous thinking and creation mankind emerged from the dark age to enter the era of IT industry, and the digital era.

Society has also changed and developed. The masses brought about uninterrupted social change and development through their active struggle since the birth of the primitive community, the first society of mankind based on the kinship relations.

In the course of transforming nature and society man constantly prepares himself into a more powerful being. People of the present era have made rapid progress in intellectual, ideological and cultural levels compared to the slave society

which came into existence as the first class society. And the position and role of the masses have been enhanced continuously. All this change and development have been achieved through the struggle of the masses, the main agency of history. Herein lies the reason why human history is the one of the people’s struggle for independence.

Based on the scientific clarification that human history is the one of the people’s struggle for independence the Juche idea elucidated the main contents of the struggle.

The masses’ struggle for independence comprises the endeavours for transforming society, nature and man. These three kinds of endeavours are major components of the struggle for independence. This is because elements shackling the independence of the people are found in society and nature and in people themselves.

Only when the masses of the people are freed from social bondage, natural fetters and the old ideas and cultural backwardness will they be able to realize their independence completely. This is why the struggle for independence covers all spheres of social transformation, nature remaking and human remoulding.

As a river flows into the sea, human history continuously advances in the direction in which the masses become independent.

This is an inexorable law of history.

Choe Sol Mi



Children learn basic Taekwon-do movements.

## National Spirit Is Nurtured

During a break.



**T**AEKWON-DO IS THE ORTHODOX MARTIAL ART of the Korean nation associated with the nation's soul and spirit. As it helps people train themselves physically and mentally, it is popular with people regardless of age and sex in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Now even kindergartens in the country are training children in the martial art. Kim Hyang Suk, head of the Mirae Kindergarten in Mirae Scientists Street, Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, says, "Last year my kindergarten began to give Taekwon-Do training to children. Earlier, we thought that it was impossible to teach the martial art to kindergarteners. But our recent experience proves it is quite possible to do so, and its effect is greater than we expected."

According to her, teachers of the kindergarten learned the martial art from relevant instructors of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee. In the course of learning the martial art in their spare time the head teacher and Kim Jin Ok, a teacher of the kindergarten, became Taekwon-Do practitioners of the first degree last year. Other teachers there are possessed of Taekwon-Do techniques of the third grade or above.

By pooling their efforts the teachers completed the ▶

▶ multimedia educational program *Children's Taekwon-Do* which helps children learn the martial art to the accompaniment of music. Now all kindergartens across the country are introducing the program. Besides, the Mirae Kindergarten wrote *Taekwon-Do Learning for Grade Holders* (exercise instruction for children), and made the multimedia *Children's Learning of Taekwon-Do*.

Most of higher-class children of the kindergarten are holders of the ninth grade of Taekwon-Do. According to Kim Myong Sil, a department head of the kindergarten who played a leading role in making the program *Children's Taekwon-Do*, children have grown up fast, and their concentration and collectivist spirit have improved since they started to learn the martial art. For example, Kim Won Ju, member of higher class No. 6, was so timid that he did not get on well with his friends in the past. But now he is open-minded and mixes himself with

them well.

Kim Jin Ok says, "There is no suitable physical constitution in learning Taekwon-Do. It does not need any special apparatus, and you can learn it easily wherever you are. In particular, it helps children grow fast."

A lot of graduates of the kindergarten are now in Taekwon-Do circles of primary schools. As

they have already held the ninth grade of Taekwon-Do, their enthusiasm for the martial art is unusually high. At present all other kindergartens in the country are following the kindergarten's Taekwon-Do education method.

Article by Pak Un Yong  
Photos taken by Yun Song  
Hwa in June 2020

A girl displays to her family the movement she learned at her kindergarten.



# Voluminous Diaries of Treatment

A KOREAN PROVERB SAYS, "THE EYE IS the pearl of the face." It means that eyes are so important to man. What a great pleasure it would be for a blind person to get his or her sight back! The Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital in the hospital village in Taedonggang District, Pyongyang, gives such pleasure.

According to Ryu Un Hui, first deputy director of the hospital, tens of thousands of people have recovered their eyesight in the hospital since its inauguration four years ago. I came to know relevant facts through treatment diaries of the hospital. The one of the retina department had the following record.

Name: Pak Hye Gyong

Occupation: Worker of the Salmon Farm, Kowon County, South Hamgyong Province

Diagnosis: Vitreous haemorrhage

Kim Man Sok, head of the department, said that the case was rushed to the hospital after she got severe blows on her eyes in an accident on June 4 last.

The examination of the patient showed that she had been suffering from cataract, and that her vitreous bodies were damaged by the blows. An emergency consultation was held to take proper measures. As a result, Pak was cured of her disease and left the hospital on June 15 in good health after getting a comprehensive examination.

The diary had the data on the contents of a dozen consultations for her treatment, and the results of the cataract operation, the lens operation and the post-

operation medicinal treatment.

In the diary of the cataract department there was a record of an old man in his 70s. According to Choe Kyun Jin, head of the department, the elderly man had thought that his poor eyesight was related to his advanced age. But when he was told that people around his age had recovered their sight in the hospital, he had an impulse to get treatment there. So he went to get the relevant treatment in the hospital.

The diary told me about the state of the operation and medicinal treatment he got, and the treatment of his another disease which he had not known before. I asked the department head how much the medical treatment the old man had received would cost in terms of money. Then he, with a perplexed look, replied, "We did not try to calculate the expense. In other countries all medical services such as the doctor's bill and charges for di-

agnosis and treatment are calculated in money. But here in my country we have a free medical service system in force, so no one tries to calculate such medical charges. We only count how many patients we have treated and cured rather than money."

Today such treatment diaries of the hospital are getting thicker day after day.

An Italian figure, who looked around the hospital and bought the glasses suited to his eyesight there, wrote on the visitors' book:

"The medical service system of the hospital is really modern, and they are taking care of the patients sincerely. In Italy only a very few people have an access to such wonderful medical service. But today I saw with my own eyes people from all walks of life get medical service of high standard free of charge. This is not utopia but reality. The reality of your country is a good example for us."

Article by Pak Yong Il  
Photos by Hwang Ryo Jong



# Mountainous County Gets Proud



IN UNSAN COUNTY, NORTH Phyongan Province, mountains account for over 80 percent of its area, and the average annual precipitation is 1 400 mm. And it has innumerable rainy, snowy and cloudy days all the year round. The place was called Unju during the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), and it changed into the present name in the 15<sup>th</sup> century during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). The name Unsan is derived from the fact

that the locality had nothing good to look at except clouds and mountains. Now it is changing into a place good to live in.

## Increasing Forest Resources

The county is very rich and diverse in forest resources. It has dense forests of pine trees, Korean larches and chestnut trees occupying tens of thousands of hectares with diversified fauna

and flora. These are far from the result of the passage of time or the changes of nature.

Originally, the county abounds in underground resources such as gold, silver, phosphorus and graphite. Especially, gold from the county is regarded as the best in deposit and quality. For this reason the region was the object of random felling and mining during the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea (1905–1945). When Korea was liberated in August 1945 there was little acreage of forest in the county. And what little remained was devastated in

▶ indiscriminate bombings during the Korean war (1950–1953).

After the war a strong forest restoration campaign took place with the State's concern and support. Patriotic forest rangers and people in the county turned out in the campaign to heal the wounds of war. At last, in the 1970s, mountains in the county started to sway with green forests.

In Juche 104 (2015) tree planting took place more briskly in the county with the start of a national forest restoration campaign. A modern tree nursery was laid out, which can produce annually 1.2 million saplings

of good species of various kinds including pine, chestnut, black walnut, peach and apple trees. At present the nursery is supplying different fruit tree saplings to the local residents.

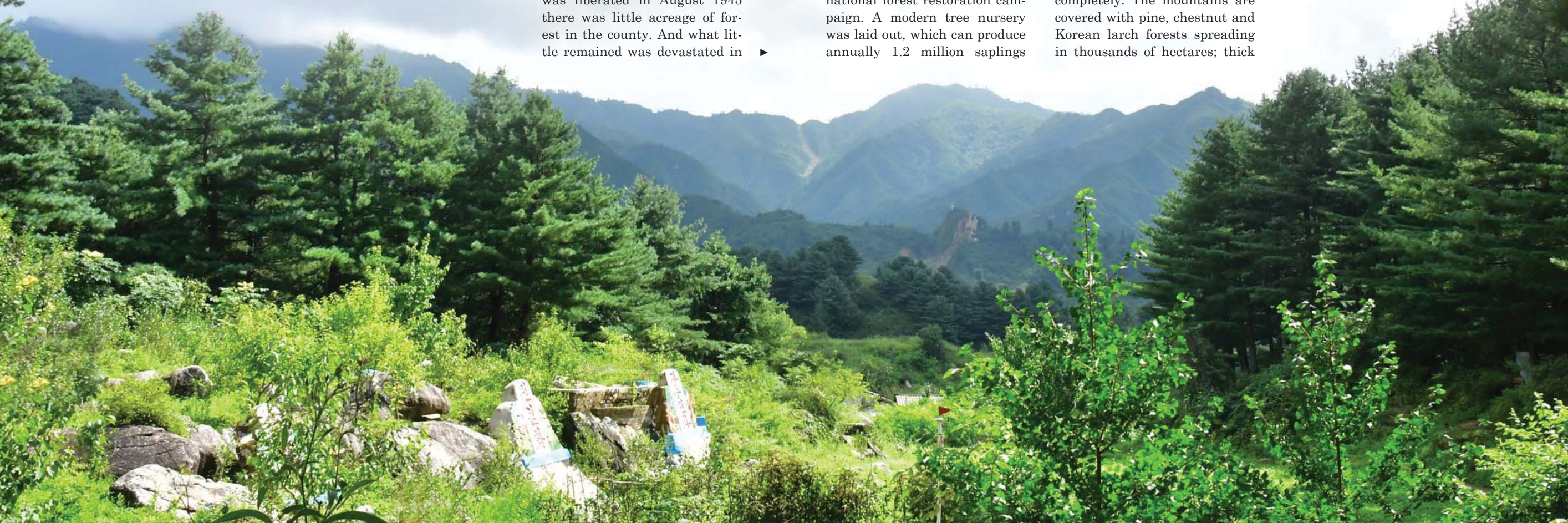
Last year the county newly built a useful animal farm in Phyonghwa-ri. In April last it released in the forests over 1 000 pheasants and 50 roe deer bred in the farm.

Today the county has shaken off yesterday's appearance completely. The mountains are covered with pine, chestnut and Korean larch forests spreading in thousands of hectares; thick

woods of wild grapevines and tara vines can be seen in any of the mountains.

In recent years different sorts of animals such as bears and wild boars have appeared in the mountains, further diversifying the ecosystem of the county.

Kang Myong Son, manager of the County Forest Management Station, says, "In the coming several years all the mountains







In a sand bath at the hot spring sanatorium.



A view of a catfish farm using the hot spring.

of balneotherapy, physiotherapy and pelotherapy. Thus the number of customers is on the increase beyond the boundaries of the county and the province as well. To satisfy the growing public interest in and demand for the hot spring the county built the Undok House and the Unjong House in the 1990s.

In August 2019 the county built a catfish farm that uses water from the hot spring.

The hot spring is on the list of state natural monuments.

The local people call it spring of benefit.

### Science and Technology Promote Economic Development

In recent years the county has made a considerable progress in economic development. The grain output has increased remarkably through the introduction of different choice seeds and advanced farming methods. The material foundation of the county has been further consolidated by the modernization of its light industry factories including a textile mill, a paper mill and a foodstuff factory.

The development of the county is inconceivable apart from science and technology. Choe Kyu Nam, chairman of the county's Commission of Science and Technology, says, "My county's strategy is to build a diversified and developed economy by relying on our own technical forces and raw materials."

Entering the new century the county set it as a priority to develop and introduce science and technology. Research teams were formed with scientists in their twenties and thirties to actively develop advanced technologies. This led to the development and introduction of up-to-date prod-



Teachers make efforts to improve education.



A popular shop.

ucts. For example, an electromagnetism shielding material developed by using a raw material abundant in the county is capable of checking the electromagnetic waves from electronic appliances completely, thus it was highly appreciated at different exhibitions and festivals. And modern equipment were also developed including a machine for automatic measuring and packing of compound organic fertilizer and a coal gasification-based 50 kW power generator.

The development of science and technology has resulted in innovation in the construction sector as well. The introduction of modern techniques and machines such as a mobile mortar skip and a small crane has quickened the construction speed, the appearance of the county changing for the better day after day. So Song Chol, manager of the county's City Construction Company, says, "Our target is to change all one-storey dwelling houses in the county town into

the multi-storey ones and form a loop street. Our future will be more beautiful by dint of science and technology."

Science and technology are demonstrating their might vividly in all economic sectors of the county, including afforestation and forest conservation and management, wood processing and communications. The county is hastening the happy future using science and technology.

Article by Kim Hyon Ju  
Photos by Ri Song Ik

River improvement is done to better the appearance of the county.



► in my county will turn into orchards. Then we will have more diversified fauna and flora."

### Famous for Hot Spring

Unsan County is also well known for the Unsan hot spring. Mainly containing ion bicarbonate, ion sulphate and ion sodium, the hot spring is good for treatment of chronic diseases such as chronic gastritis (gastritis hyperacida) and gout. It is highly effective in treating all sorts of women's diseases such

as infertility.

In April 1947 a holiday camp was built there in accordance with a state policy. Later it was reorganized into a women's sanatorium and expanded for exclusive treatment of women's diseases.

In recent years it has been discovered that the hot spring is especially effective for treating nervous diseases, so its popularity is growing among men as well as women. Various modern facilities have been set up at the hot spring, including the areas

## Jokkal Culture

**I**N KOREA, WHICH IS BOUNDED by the sea on three sides and rich in marine resources of all sorts, they have developed seafood-based culture. *Jokkal* making is a part of it.

Fish and their roes and intestines and shellfish which are fermented at a certain temperature after they are salted and seasoned are called *jokkal*.

*Jokkal*, which has long been called “appetite stimulator,” is often served at table in Korea.

According to an old record, the people of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) used fish intestines to make such a dish. This practice continued in the period of Koryo (918–1392): The dish was served not only at table for ordinary people but also at table for a

state banquet and at memorial service table.

Later, in the period of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910), the materials and recipe for the dish further developed.

In the past *jokkal* was made manually, mainly in the west coastal region of the country. Families in South and North Phyongan provinces on the west coast made the dish with fish, crustaceans, shellfish and molluscs caught a lot in the West Sea of Korea. The kind and variety of the dish are diverse, including pickled tiny shrimps, pickled shellfish, pickled shrimps, pickled squids, pickled crabs and pickled anchovies.

The east coastal region is famous for its pickled pollack roes,

pickled pollack entrails and seasoned sea urchin eggs.

*Jokkal* is rich in varieties of peptide, amino acid and calcium, and is highly nutritious with unique tastes and aromas. The tastes and aromas come of fermentation. The action of enzyme and microorganisms decomposes protein into peptide and amino acid, causing savoury taste. Its lipid decomposes into free fatty acid to be combined with amino acid, thus creating its unique aroma. Its glucide also produces a scent substance through decomposition.

The dish with salty and savoury taste and aroma is used to go with rice, or used as seasonings. When it is put in cabbage or pumpkin soup instead of salt,

the soup becomes sweeter and tastier.

Kimchi is famous as a tasty health food thanks to *jokkal*, one of its essential ingredients.

*Jokkal* is still a favourite food of the Korean people, and its production has been industrialized.

A few years ago the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory was built in the Kumsanpho area on the west coast of Korea. The entire production line from the preparation of raw materials to fermentation and packing is automatic and unmanned. And there is the integrated production system to ensure the automatic control of the production line, and the IT-based and scientific management of its business. The factory is raising the quality of the products and increasing their variety by combining the traditional methods with modern science and technology.

Now in Pyongyang and other parts of the country there are Kumsanpho speciality shops and outdoor stands, which sell *jokkal* from the factory exclusively, attracting lots of people.

*Jokkal* culture was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

## MT MYOHYANG (6)

### Legends of Mt Myohyang

**M**T MYOHYANG, KNOWN as a scenic spot from ancient times, has many legends. Among the legends are those related to the founding of countries that tell the time-honoured history of Korea, those of the people fighting bravely against foreign aggressors and those of natural beauty.

The legends about the founding of countries include the legend of Tangun associated with the Tangun Cave, the legend of Haemosu associated with the Sonyu Peak, the legends of the Ubal Stream and Jumong, and the legend of the king of Haengin State associated with the Kukjin Cave.

The legend of Tangun is the one related to Tangun who founded Ancient Joseon, the first ancient state in Korea. It is as follows:

Long, long ago there was Hwanin, king of the heaven. He had a son named Hwanung, who always wanted to have an earthly life. Knowing it the father sent his son down to the land. Hwanung arrived at a spot beneath a *paktal* (birch) tree in Mt Thaebaek. He founded a state around the mountain and set up its capital on it. The place he had chosen as the capital was called “Sinsi” in the meaning that it was a heavenly place where the god of heaven descended to live. And people called him Heaven King Hwanung.

The legendary mountain where he founded the state and ruled over the people on the land is Mt Myohyang at present.

One day at that time a tiger and a bear living in a cave in the mountain called on Hwanung and asked him to turn them into human beings. Their asking was so earnest, and Hwanung gave them a bundle of mugwort and

20 bulbs of garlic. Then he said: “Eat these and keep away from the sun for one hundred days, and you will become human beings.”

The two animals ate the mugwort and garlic and went into the cave. The impatient tiger, however, ran out of the cave a few days later. But the bear stayed in the cave for one hundred days and became a beautiful woman. She married Hwanung and gave birth to a son, who was just Tangun.

Tangun, who was born in a cave halfway up the Hyangno Peak, grew up into a strong and agile man. He practised swordsmanship and archery on a broad and flat rock over the cave. People called the rock Tangun Rock as it was the place where he learned the martial arts.

The legends of the Korean people’s struggle against foreign invasion include the one of Saint Sosan and Samyongdang. The legend associated with the Suchung Shrine tells: Samyongdang was the leader of a volunteer army during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) against the Japanese invasion. In 1604 he went to Japan as an envoy of Korea in place of the old Saint Sosan. There he foiled all sorts of tricks of the samurais. Having got a treatment as a state guest he brought back other compatriots who had been kidnapped by the Japanese in the war.

Besides, there are legends about the beautiful scenery of the mountain. Typical of them are the one about fairies of Mt Myohyang, Ujok Rock and Arang, *Jodae* on Solnyong Rock, Inho Rock and a tiger, eight fairies in the Manphok Valley, Chonju Rock and a warrior, Kobuk Rock, Yedogawa-Azalee, and Myongan water from the Kungang Cave.

Pak Thae Ho



Photos taken in September 2019



## Centenarian Kim Sun Than



Kim Sun Than (right).

**K**IM SUN THAN, AN ELDERLY RESIDENT of Neighbourhood Unit No. 38, Janggyong-dong No. 1, Sosong District, Pyongyang, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last June.

She was born in Unryul County, South Hwanghae Province in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. She moved to Pyongyang when she got married to a man in the city over 80 years ago, and had nine children.

She left her old home by herself. Now, however, she has a large family of five generations—her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Her nine children all graduated from college, and dozens of their children are also college graduates.

Born during the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea, Kim could not afford to go to school. Only after the country was liberated on August 15, 1945 could she learn her mother tongue at an adults' school. So she is greatly pleased that her descendants graduated from colleges thanks to the free education enforced by the State.

Her third son, who lives with her, says it is not too much to say that her long life is probably attributable to the joy of receiving greetings from her descendants every day, particularly on holidays and Sundays. His wife argues the secret of her mother-in-law's long life lies in her morning walk as well.

The centenarian's home is situated at the foot of Mt Jang, which is 132 metres above sea level, covered with trees such as pine, acacia and alder.

Every early morning she goes up the mountain to enjoy the scenery and do physical and spiritual exercises taking in fresh air. After the morning

walk she feels refreshed and invigorated and can get composure, she says.

It is dozens of years ago that she began to take the morning walk to the mountain as the first part of her daily routine. She has since lived happily and optimistically.

When she turned ninety, she was registered on the list of macrobians, and put under the special care of the State. The food supplies and supplementary living allowance for her increased, and the doctor in charge of her visited her to examine her health condition once a week.

Now the doctor calls on her at least every two days. The local clinic provides her with tonics regularly, and if she has any abnormal sign, they treat it in time.

"Kim has no disease. Her blood pressure is 120/90—quite good and stable. Her cardiovascular system, lungs and kidneys are in normal function," says the doctor.

You grow weak in sight and hearing with age, but the elderly woman is still quick of hearing and can thread a needle and read papers without wearing glasses.

As health depends on good diet, the woman is unusual in eating habits. Every year her family make soybean paste themselves, and they eat bean-paste soup at each meal. The woman especially likes such soup cooked with potatoes and other vegetables and steamed eggplant stuffed with the paste seasonings. She prefers fish to meat.

She, however, has so far kept to her fixed diet without overeating what she likes.

Her mealtimes are routine: breakfast between 7 and 8; lunch between 12 and 13; and supper between 19 and 20.

She drinks Okryu mineral water after meal. As the famous one in Pyongyang, the total amount of minerals the water contains is 2.053 grams per litre. Its main ingredients are potassium, sodium, calcium, magnesium, iron ion, chlorine ion, ion bicarbonate and ion sulfate.

The mineral water is especially efficacious in treating chronic gastritis, gastric and duodenal ulcer, chronic hepatitis, diabetes and anemia. Having long drunk the water, the woman knows no indigestion, and her aforesaid daughter-in-law had her pancreatitis cured.

"While living for a century, I underwent all sorts of things such as sorrow as a colonial slave and sufferings from war. But now I live without any worry under the full care of the State. I want to live longer," says the centenarian.

Rim Ok

## Shelducks in Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve

**R**ESearchers of the Biodiversity Institute under the State Academy of Sciences noticed and registered the breeding activities of shelducks (*Tadorna tadorna*) for the first time during an intensive survey of avifauna in the Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve situated in the west coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Shelducks are distributed in the vast areas from Western Europe to central and northeastern regions of China. In general, they had been known as winter birds staying in groups on the coasts of Korea from late September to the end of April.

In June last the researchers of the institute observed 22 adult shelducks foraging and resting on Yo Islet belonging to the Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve. In a detailed survey taken on June 7 they observed two mother shelducks foraging along with five and six babies respectively on the shore of the islet.

Ri Chung Song, section chief of the institute, says, "The birds usually build nests on cliffs or the ground near salt water areas such as lakeshore, seashore and swamp, lay 7 to 10 eggs in mid-May and brood them for 28 to 30 days. So it is supposed that the babies observed on June 7 were from the

eggs laid early in May."

The record of the birds' breeding proves that they live on the Korean peninsula in summer, too, and tells the possibility that a larger number of them may live there. The current observation of the winter birds' breeding activities in summer is of academic significance in studying the change of water birds' habitats and taking measures to protect migratory bird and wetland reserves.

The Mundok Migratory Bird Reserve is an ideal nesting place for birds as it has rich biodiversity and favourable physiographical position and habitat for migratory birds.

More than 80 000 water birds including over 20 globally threatened species stay and breed in the reserve during migration. Every year water birds that wear colour rings from different countries such as Australia and New Zealand are observed in the reserve.

The bird reserve was registered as a Ramsar Site, the first of its kind in the country, and in the Network Site of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Rim Ok



