

## Ushering in new golden age of Pyonggyang

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The past ten years can be said to be a decade of eye-opening change in the capital city of Pyonggyang.

While providing on-the-spot guidance on Changjon Street which was nearing completion in May 2012, the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un put forward important tasks which would serve as guidelines in building Pyonggyang more splendidly in order to usher in a great heyday in capital city construction.

He gave scrupulous guidance so that every street and house were built at the highest level on the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetics, with the result that wonderful new streets and places for happy living were built one after another in Pyonggyang.

Each year witnessed the completion of a magnificent street like Unha Scientists Street and Wisong Scientists Dwelling District.

Mirae Scientists Street in which multi-storey and high-rise buildings stand on the picturesque banks of the

Taedong River achieving a perfect harmony as an architectural group is the crystallization of the Workers' Party of Korea's people-first architectural idea and idea of attaching importance to science and talents.

He examined every detail of designs, execution and layout of Mirae Scientists Street on plane and the spot to give specific guidance and ensured that resting places and sports parks were built distinctively for educators and scientists. Therefore, every corner of the street is associated with his meticulous care.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un also unfolded a plan for building in the area of Ryongnam Hill an energy-saving and green street consisting of dwelling houses for thousands of families and many public buildings and welfare service amenities and named it "Ryomyong Street".

He gave guidance for over 1 390 plans for the layout of the street and frequently learnt about the

progress of construction to give detailed instructions. And he took a high-speed lift which was on trial to look round even the top floor of a skyscraper.

Meanwhile, bases for cultural and leisure activities, education and medical service were built in succession.

The Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Ryugyong Health Complex, People's Open-air Ice Rink, roller rink and Munsu Water Park rose up along the banks of the Taedong River, and the Mirim Riding Club and Natural History Museum were constructed in a distinctive style. The Sci-Tech Complex was built on Ssuk Islet on the Taedong River as a hub of diffusion of advanced science and technology and a temple of learning for all the people.

The Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital and Okryu Children's Hospital were also completed one after another and a wonderful baby home, orphanage and

old people's home were built in picturesque places.

The Mangyongdae Amusement Park, Taesongsan Fun Fair, Central Zoo and the like were spruced up as befit the cultural recreation centres for the people and the Pyonggyang Indoor Stadium, May Day Stadium and Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace were splendidly renovated to enhance the beautiful scenery of the capital city.

The General Secretary visited rough construction sites irrespective of rain or searing midsummer heat and midnight or early morning to put his heart and soul into construction projects and his energetic leadership brought about eye-opening changes in the appearance of Pyonggyang.

The looks of Pyonggyang have changed yesterday and today, morning and evening thanks to the massive construction campaign led by the WPK to provide the people with better living environment.

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## Independence strengthened in developing sci-tech, economy

By Kim Rye Yong PT

The DPRK is now strengthening independence and Juche character in developing science and technology and the economy.

The efforts are based on the outlook on independent scientific development and the outlook on independent economic development.

These outlooks are organically coordinated.

Sci-tech development is of significance itself, but its greater significance lies in laying the foundation of the independent economy and promoting stable and sustainable economic development.

It is the essential demand of the age of the knowledge-based economy in which science and technology are tightly integrated with production and that of the present times when sci-tech development just leads to production and economic development.

This demand has not been recognized and arisen just today.

Even when there existed the Council for Mutual Economic Aid of socialist countries in the past, the DPRK did not try to make an economic leap in an easy way.

It was the DPRK's viewpoint on economic construction: You should not jump up at a go, gripped by impatience; when you go up a high building, you should go upstairs one by one with your own feet; but you will fall if you try

to go up at once by riding piggyback on others. And it was the attitude of the DPRK on economic construction: You can get through any difficulties and you will not be shackled to others when you believe in your own strength and rely on it.

That's why the DPRK held aloft the banner of self-reliance and the line of building an independent national economy and has steadily followed the path.

Today, self-reliance serves as the motive power that enables it to press on with economic construction while tiding over all difficulties and ordeals.

If there has been any change, it is that the significance of science and technology has been brought into bolder relief.

The independence of the economy presupposes the independent development of science and technology.

The reality, in which cutting-edge sci-tech achievements that were unimaginable in the past are made, shows the correctness of the outlook on the independent development of science and technology.

The independence of science and technology results in the solidity of economic independence.

At present, the DPRK pushes ahead with the consolidation of the foundations of its independent economy on the strength of science and technology in order to put it on a track where it is run smoothly, unaffected by any external influence.

## Commanding officers, members of construction division meet for rally

KCNA

Commanding officers and shock brigade members of Construction Division 216

got together in the City of Samjiyon on November 24 to vow to carry out the important tasks the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un put

forward on his field guidance tour of the city.

The meeting was attended by Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau and

department director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Pak Hun, vice-premier of the Cabinet, Kim Jong Song, deputy department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, commanding officers and shock brigade members of Construction Division 216 and soldier builders.

The speakers said the officers and members of the division are full of a burning determination to carry out his on-spot instructions, calling on all of them to give full play to their revolutionary passion once again so as to add brilliance to Samjiyon as a modern mountainous city in the era of the Workers' Party that is envied by the whole world.

A resolution was adopted at the rally.



Commanding officers and members of Construction Division 216 hold an oath-taking meeting in Samjiyon, Ryanggang Province.

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# Young people call for working hard for national prosperity

## Meetings of active young people of virtue held across the country

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Meetings of active young people of virtue were held by the youth league committees of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Railways.

Speeches were made at the meetings.

The speakers said that the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who is ushering in a golden age of the Korean youth movement true to the noble intention of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, invited young people who volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming fields of socialist construction to Youth Day

celebrations in August and bestowed great favours on them.

They referred to the spirit of devotedly defending the Party Central Committee and good deeds actively displayed by the young people across the country to devote themselves to society, the collective and comrades.

They said that many young people volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming fields including the livestock farming base in the Sepho area, displayed good deeds of becoming grandsons and granddaughters of war veterans and spouses of honoured disabled soldiers

and made valuable sci-tech achievements conducive to the building of a prosperous country.

They called for adding further lustre to the honour of being vanguard and shock brigade in the general advance for implementing the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress and the administrative policies of the DPRK government, full of firm faith in socialism, confidence in victory and optimism.

Similar meetings took place on November 24 in South Phyongan and North Hamgyong provinces and Rason City.

Attending the meetings were officials of local Party and power organs, youth league officials, activists in displaying noble traits and young students.

Speeches were made at the meetings.

The speakers said the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw to it that a grand gathering of young people, the 10th of its kind in the history of the country, was arranged, sent an important letter which serves as a guideline in opening up

a great heyday in the Korean youth movement and made sure that their beautiful deeds are known throughout the country.

They referred to the fact that graduates of senior middle schools volunteered to join the army for defending the country and many young people have taken warm care of war veterans, got married to disabled soldiers and volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming fields.

They said that the graduates of different universities and colleges volunteered as teachers at schools in frontline and mountainous areas and on remote islands and that youth shock brigades have conducted dynamic activities in the key sectors of the national economy.

They called on all the young people to become genuine revolutionaries and patriots who embody the transparent faith of sharing their destinies with socialism forever, ardent love for the country and beautiful view on life of finding the honour and worth of life in the struggle for the Party and the revolution.



A meeting of active young people of virtue is held in North Hamgyong Province.

# Substantial sci-tech progress gives renewed impetus to readjustment and reinforcement, increased production drive

## April 15 technical innovation shock brigades develop, introduce over 10 000 technical innovation plans

KCNA

The national technical innovation competition of April 15 technical innovation shock brigades is gaining momentum in industrial establishments and farms across the country to mark the 110th anniversary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

With the same determination to vigorously promote the development of their units through the substantial development of science and technology, the shock brigade members conducted a mass technical innovation drive to contrive and introduce over 10 000 valuable plans, thus steadily consolidating material and technical foundations and boosting production.

A strong wind of collective

emulation drive is being raised fiercely in the key industrial sectors.

Members of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex have solved sci-tech problems arising in carrying out its economic plan as they devised and introduced innovation plans for contributing to ensuring the domestic production of ferromanganese and increasing rail output 1.3 times over that before.

The Hungnam Fertilizer Complex has already introduced more than 10 valuable technical innovation plans including the establishment and transformation of process for recovering hydrogen, the introduction of reasonable methods for improving

the operation rate of gas purification process and domestic production of desulphurizer.

April 15 technical innovation shock brigades in the power industry sector are producing tangible results. The Pyongyang Thermal Power Station applied some technical innovation plans for increasing the heat efficiency of boilers to ensure normal production and satisfactorily solved problems arising in introducing a technology of plasma-heavy oil-free ignition and combustion stabilization and automatic combustion control system.

The Kanggye Youth and Sodusu power stations are making lots of economic profits, while boosting power generation, by refashioning a mechanical excitation device and speed regulator into

digital ones and remodelling the structure of water tight device of water turbine shaft.

While pressing on with a project for establishing the power management system at the final stage, the Hoeryong City Power Distribution Station developed a cost-saving digital switchboard in line with actual conditions to save a great deal of electric power and ensure the stability of electric power system.

The coal industry sector also witnessed the implementation of hundreds of technical innovation plans. The Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex increased tunnelling speed by introducing a new blasting method and improved transport conditions by applying a technology conducive to doubling the lifespan of bearings.

The Taean Heavy Machine Complex introduced a new melting method to improve the quality of steel castings and enabled the digital control for the main shaft control device of a large-sized lathe in its efforts to solve scientific and technological problems arising in the modernization of the production process of workpieces and in the production of machines.

Members of the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade of the Chonnaeri Cement Factory solved a knotty problem arising in the floating calcination process, thereby providing a sure technical guarantee for boosting cement production capacity.

The Chongjin Slate Factory saved much manpower and fuel and doubled the output of heat-insulating materials by

transforming a gas generator into a revolving grate-shaped one and effectively using slag in production.

In the light industry sector the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and Pothonggang Footwear Factory newly established a process for producing insole from waste paper and developed an adhesive agent by relying on domestic materials, while raising the rate of domestic production of raw and other materials and completing technical innovation tasks.

The Tonghunsan Unha Garment Factory established a duck feather processing line and turned out products while achieving innovative results in succession including the production of cotton for quilt based on cuttings and that of animal feed from remnants of duck feather.

## HOME NEWS

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### Space science Symposium on space science and technology-2021 held

The Symposium on Space Science and Technology-2021 took place from November 17 to 19 under the sponsorship of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea.

### Pomiculture Over a dozen good fruit varieties newly bred

The DPRK agriculturists have recently bred over a dozen high-yielding fruit varieties suitable to the climatic and soil conditions of the country, which were registered on the list of national strains.

### North Phyongan Kusong Chicken Farm modernized

The Kusong Chicken Farm in North Phyongan Province has undergone renovation.

The modernization of the farm has provided the material and technical foundations for producing a large quantity of meat and eggs and thereby contributing to improving the diet of the provincial population and boosting agricultural production.

An inaugural ceremony was held on November 24.

### Pig farm remodelled



The Army-People Ryongchon Pig Farm has been remodelled in North Phyongan Province.

Built as another meat production base conducive to improving the people's dietary life, the farm has a solid material and technical foundation, including general control room, fodder processing ground and sci-tech learning space.

An inaugural ceremony was held on Tuesday.

### Movement Scientists, technicians play their part in increased production

Members of the February 17 Shock Brigade of Scientists and Technicians dispatched to various units of the national economy are playing the role of frontrunners in solving important scientific and technological problems.

Those dispatched to the chemical industry sector focus on ensuring the normal operation of the current paper production process, improving the quality specifications of paper and realizing the domestic production of raw materials.



# Institute leads development of AI technology

## It wins top ten IT enterprise title for the third time

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

One of the draws at the national exhibition of IT achievements-2021, which was distinctively held by way of virtual exhibition last October, was the artificial intelligence program contest which showed the developments of the AI sector of the country.

According to Kim Sang Chol, a member of the jury, the contest was held divided into 10 events including face, speech and letter recognition program contests, drawing units nearly twice as many as before, and programs were much better in accuracy.

"We won seven events to take the first place in the contest," said Han Sung Ju, deputy director of the artificial intelligence institute of the information science department of Kim Il Sung University.

The institute is said to be an academic research and goods production unit specializing in the development of AI theory and application technology.

Now that a fierce competition is going on in the world to develop the cognitive system almost on a par with human intelligence, the institute is working hard to put core AI technologies on a high level by using deep learning.

It carries on the research



AN YONG CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Staff members of the artificial intelligence institute of the information science department of Kim Il Sung University hold discussion about AI service system.

project on the basis of the Korean letter and speech recognition technologies it has developed for decades to dominate the domestic market.

In the course of this it improved the functions of the previous Korean letter recognition program to develop several AI apps including the one capable of recognizing different languages as well as Korean and other IT products.

The multilingual document recognition app which runs on a computer or a smart phone recognizes with high accuracy the document images in Korean, English, Chinese and Japanese, which are input by various image

scanners, and converts them into PDF while ensuring over 99 percent of recognition rate and a recognition speed of over 200 letters per second.

The computer-aided translation app performs such functions as translation and memory search, machine translation service and direct PDF translation to increase the experts' translation capacity up to four times.

The Korean speech recognizer converts reading-style continuous speech of any person, which is input through a microphone, into a text to produce a document at a speed over two times faster than typing.

The institute's homepage Ryongma (legendary swift horse) on the national network is very popular with users. It offers free online machine translation service to many subscribers every day, diffuses high-tech AI products and teaching materials and provides various exchange services. "Our institute was selected as one of the top ten IT enterprises at the national exhibition of IT achievements-2021. It is the third time after we won the title at the exhibitions held in 2018 and 2019. We will make a giant leap towards future like the legendary swift horse soaring high into the sky at a run," said director Choe Chol.



Smart phone app, Ryongma, translation machine service system.

## Following the road of patriotism

# MANAGERESS BUILDS FOUNDATION FOR NORMAL PRODUCTION



Ko Yong Gum, manageress of the Jongsong General Pharmaceutical Factory.

The Jongsong General Pharmaceutical Factory ensures normal production after building its reliable production foundations fully meeting GMP standards.

It is largely attributed to its manageress Ko Yong Gum.

When she was appointed manager in 2014, the factory was faced with enormous tasks including projects for ensuring the domestic production of raw materials, putting its production processes on GMP basis, making thorough repair on production buildings and upgrading and automating equipment.

"As an old saying goes, even famous medicines are behind the devotion of humans consisting in love and commitment. I thought that nothing would be impossible if we were devoted to the people," recalled Ko.

Although most of her employees were women, she inspired all of them to push the projects in a three-dimensional way.

"Frankly speaking, all of us were agape with surprise when she appealed to us to renovate 10-odd buildings at the same time. But we soon followed the manageress who took the lead in the projects," said department director Pak Kwang Hun.

When all the production processes were set up to meet GMP standards in a matter of five months, all the employees swelled with pride and self-confidence in their own strength, he added.

On the other hand, the manageress staunchly

pushed ahead with the domestic production of equipment.

Her target was to ensure the domestic production of 90 percent of production facilities by the factory's own efforts.

To this end, she built up its own scientific and technological capacity and motivated workers to take an active part in technical innovation activities, as well as scientists and technicians.

She regularly organized presentations of technical innovation plans and inventions every month and quarter and correctly appreciated successes and selected good ideas as factory-wide research projects.

In this course, hundreds of technical innovation plans and original ideas were presented and lots of such home-made facilities as automatic loader, automatic feeder and digital control panel were introduced into production, thus making its production processes automated, streamlined, unmanned and dust-free.

As a result, its productivity doubled and it is recognized at home and abroad as a producer of hundreds of kinds of injections, pills, capsules, Korean traditional medicines, health foods and solutions.

The country conferred on her the title of the Central Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism in recognition of her big contribution to sprucing up the factory, increasing the variety and output of medicines and improving their quality in a short period.



# Construction of dwelling houses goes full steam ahead

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Ground-breaking ceremonies took place one after another to build new dwelling houses in the areas of Songsin, Songhwa and Pothong riverside in Pyongyang last March. It is the plan and intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to give a facelift to the capital city and provide the people with developed living environment and conditions.

This is evidenced by the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the WPK and the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee on building 10 000 flats in Pyongyang every year in order to construct 50 000 houses there in the period of the five-year plan.

The ongoing construction of 10 000 flats in Pyongyang is a huge project requiring workloads that are several times greater than that of Ryomyong Street and should be done in a short time in a totally different situation.

The foundation work

of a skyscraper was the most difficult one in the construction project.

Frequent downpours drenched the ground to make it difficult to run machines and spring water gushed out.

This notwithstanding, builders did not step back. They worked perseveringly to find out natural bedrock.

Those of other units advanced upwards, but they went downwards metre by metre.

The day when they finally found out the natural bedrock, old local people were surprised to see that the volume of earth dug out from underground was as much as a big mountain.

Builders in charge of lift room discharged their responsibility without deflecting even an inch in the construction of the central axis skyscraper.

Major construction units including the Capital City Construction Commission, High-Speed Youth Shock Brigade, Revolutionary Site Construction Bureau and External Construction Bureau that have performed great achievements at major

construction projects like that of building Ryomyong Street in the past worked competitively while creating a new construction speed.

Today, a new large architectural group full of distinctive high-rise apartment buildings and other skyscrapers has been formed in Songsin and Songhwa areas, making it impossible to see their former appearance.

Meanwhile, a residential district as beautiful as natural gems soared on the banks of the picturesque Pothong River.

Last September, the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly adopted a decree that the administrative district name of the Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District shall be Kyongru-dong of Central District, Pyongyang, as it is constructed in eco-friendly way and in a distinctive style while embodying aesthetics, convenience and modernity.

At present, a construction campaign is going on to form another street in the Taehyong area.



An aerial view of Ryomyong Street, an energy-saving and green one.

RI KWANG SONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

# Changed looks of Taedong and Pothong riversides

By Yun Ki Song PT

Over the past 10 years the Taedong and Pothong riversides have undergone a fine facelift, adding to the beautiful landscape of Pyongyang.

Changjon Street was built as a place for happy living of the people on the banks of the Taedong River along with the

golden age of construction.

And then the Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Ryugyong Health Complex and People's Open-Air Ice Rink showed their fine figures, followed by the construction of Mirae Scientists Street.

The Sci-Tech Complex, a grand palace for all-people learning, sprang up on Ssuk

Islet of the Taedong River and Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant was constructed on the banks of the river.

Modern Mansugyo Fish and Meat Shop sprang up to blend in well with the picturesque Pothong riverside.

And Mansugyo Soft Drinks was renovated in good

harmony with the Mansugyo Fish and Meat Shop, further improving the looks of the riverside as a commercial and public catering service area.

A series of huge projects were undertaken to turn the banks of the Pothong River into a cultural recreation area for the people, including the dredging up of over 800 000

cubic metres of mud from the river, masonry of some 32 000 cubic metres of retaining walls and area arrangement and afforestation over more than 90 000 square metres.

The Pothong River promenade was reconstructed, making the scenery of the river more beautiful.

And the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium was also

renovated to contribute to the development of the country's sports and improvement of the people's cultural and emotional life.

The modern Pothong Riverside Terraced Houses District now under construction near the Pothong Gate will further improve the appearance of the capital city of Pyongyang.



Photos show marvellous views of the Taedong and Pothong riversides.



PHOTOS BY PYON CHAN U / PICTORIAL KOREA

# Landscaping improved in Pyongyang

By Ko Kwang Yon PT

Afforestation and landscaping were pushed in Pyongyang in the past ten years to provide citizens with civilized living environment.

It is a noble intention of the Workers' Party of Korea to turn Pyongyang into a city blessed with an excellent ecological environment and scenery and covered with green foliage and all kinds of beautiful flowers.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, on a visit to the Pyongyang Turf Institute which was modernly built some years ago, pointed to the need to plant trees, create grass fields or plant flowers and ground cover on all areas of ground except farmland so that there is no vacant land. Afterwards, lots of places

in Pyongyang were carpeted with new varieties of turf acclimatized by the institute.

Flower parks which were built in all districts of Pyongyang now play an important role in providing people with environment for cultured and emotional life.

The Mansudae fountain-flower park in which fountains go well with beds of all sorts of flowers are a favourite haunt of visitors. Roadside trees of great ornamental value also add beauty to the scenery of the capital city.

Yongung Street on the Pothong riverside is tinged with golden colour by golden pagoda trees even in midsummer when all other places are thick with green foliage.

Pyongyang streets look more beautiful thanks to roof

greening which enhances the ornamental effects of buildings, protects ecological environment and makes it possible to grow vegetables by using the roof space.

On Ryomyong Street, roof greening was done in a distinctive style on high-rise apartment buildings and service facilities, while the greens on the rooftops of such educational and childcare facilities as schools, kindergartens and nurseries unfold idyllic scenes to add charm to the street.

Employees at the cooking festival hall of the Central Committee of the Cooks Association of Korea densely arranged small trees in various colours and planted a good assortment of tall trees on the roof to amplify ornamental effects while preserving the

features of roof greening.

Horticulturists have rationally displayed plants with different periods of efflorescence in streets, villages, parks, recreation grounds and other public places in order to prolong the period of enjoyment and produce three-dimensional ornamental effects.

They represent baskets with various lowering plants so that they blend in well with the surroundings.

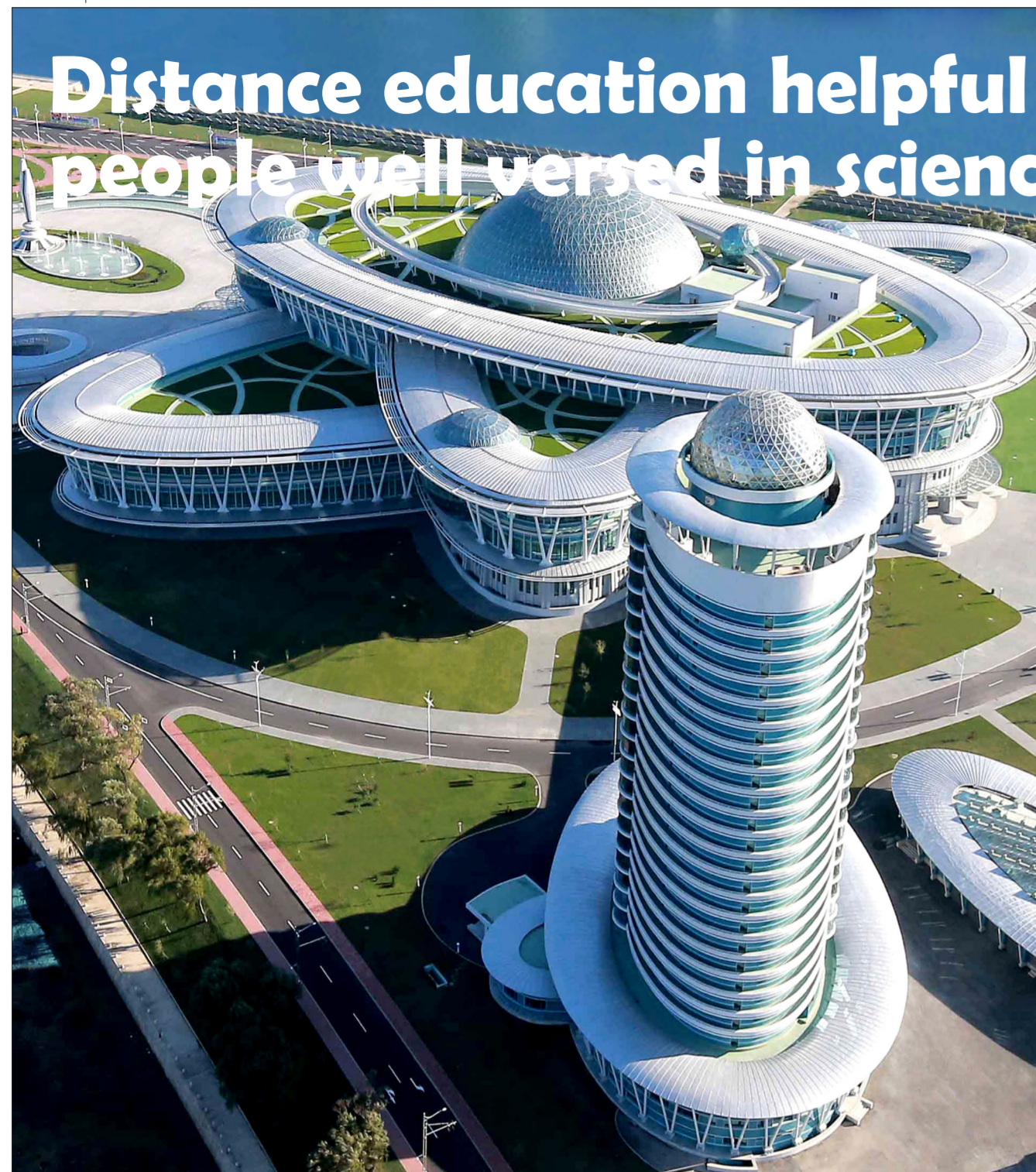
Mobile flowerpot stands have been set up around crossroads and in front of apartment buildings, hanging- and suspending-type flowerpots installed on the walls of buildings and lamp-posts and flower gardens and turf laid in villages to increase green areas and offer citizens more resting space.



SONG TAE HYOK / PICTORIAL KOREA

A partial view of a fountain-flower park in Changjon Street.





The Sci-Tech Complex is a hub of all-people study.

# Distance education helpful in making all people well versed in science, technology

By Kim Rye Yong PT

It is 11 years since the nationwide online education system was established in the DPRK.

The distance education system, which is run as a regular educational system, plays a big part in educating working people to become intelligent workers.

According to information available, thousands of industrial establishments are embraced in different online education systems run by dozens of universities and the students enrolled at online courses of universities number more than 100 000.

While attending the courses, lots of people come up with new inventions and propose original ideas conducive to economic development and the improvement of the people's standards of living and are awarded academic degrees by presenting valuable research papers.

According to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea on making all the people well versed in science and technology and the state measures to provide people with better educational conditions and environment under which all people can study and learn to their heart's content, such major

universities as Kim Il Sung University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry have turned into hubs of distance education.

Kim Il Sung University has increased the subjects for online education and is planning relevant curricula. Kim Chaek University of Technology, as the hub of learning in the engineering fields, has established academic ties with other universities to ensure normal operation of the online academic centralization system, while developing advanced distance intelligence teaching system and applying it to practice. Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry directs efforts to developing necessary devices for providing students with virtual educational environment.

The number of applicants is growing day by day as everyone who wants to receive distance education can enrol on online courses of any university they want with no restrictions at all including the length of service, ages, occupations and health conditions.

# Efficient online educational methods introduced

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The online education faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology developed several distance education methods this year.

"In the online education for the education of general and major basic subjects and major subjects, our faculty has created and introduced teaching methods that make the teaching content practicable, comprehensive and up-to-the-minute so that working people can acquire working knowledge, and they prove very effective," said Kim Jang Hak, section chief of the faculty.

For example, the survey machine instrument learning, in which teaching method was applied through interlock with virtual reality, helps a lecturer give the explanation of principles, while measuring the target object in the VR with the help of survey machine instruments, and discuss it with students. So, the

method was designed in such a way as that students can have enough understanding of teaching contents.

A dozen online teaching plans have been designed in a popular and plain way in terms of content to be taught.

Lecturers developed an online teaching method by subdividing subjects to be taught in the course so that students can select their necessary subject for production activities.

They also worked out online teaching plans in the form of hypermedia and created and introduced a teaching method for giving bidirectional lectures in order to enable online students to be proactive learners and knowledge seekers.

The teaching method for improving students' ability of conceiving power and designing capacity and the way of lectures based on VR and AR technologies enable students to enhance the efficiency of recognition to the maximum.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An educator gives a lecture at the online education faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

# Generous father, strict mentor

Un Son and her elder brother feel the warm affection of society in which everybody forms a large harmonious family

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Ri Han, a faculty dean at Kim Chol Ju University of Education, and Ri Un Son, a graduate student of the university, are father and daughter.

But they have not real blood relation.

Un Son and her elder brother lost their parents due to an unexpected accident when they were young. After finishing Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans, Un Son was enrolled at Kim Chol Ju University of Education and her elder brother joined the People's Army.

Thanks to the warm care of teaching staff of the university and classmates, Un Son started her merry university life.

When a vacation came, other students including roommates left for home, leaving Un Son alone.

"When I was student at Pyongyang Middle School for Orphans, I never missed parents since I spent all the time together with classmates, teachers and extracurricular tutors. But when all roommates left dormitory for their homes, I came to realize that I'm parentless," Un Son recalled.

Unexpectedly, however, Ri Han, known as a strict

lecturer at the university, called on her.

He invited Un Son to his house, saying that she would feel lonely.

She followed Ri wonderingly. After exchanging greetings, she was surprised to see that his family prepared a big dinner table. What was more surprising was the proposal of Ri Han to live in his house if she had no opposition after the dinner.

At that time, Un Son was grateful to the sincerity of Ri and his family members, but could hardly accept his offer out of deference to the strict lecturer and for fear of putting a heavy burden on his



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Ri Han (right) and his daughter Ri Un Son water flowers.

family.

But she shed hot tears when she was guided by Kim Kwi Nyo, wife of Ri Han, into a room furnished with all necessary things for her study and life, including a new computer, TV, bed and school things.

Thus, Un Son held Ri Han as both her mentor and father and became a member of his family.

Ri Han became stricter to train Un Son into a talent and educator for the country and showed her parental affection together with his

wife at home.

Under the warm care of Ri's couple, Un Son graduated from the university with honour and became a postgraduate student.

One day in August this year, Un Son received a letter from her elder brother Ri Chol U that he wanted to enrol at Kim Chol Ju University of Education after his demob.

Un Son was glad and, on the other hand, was thoughtful where he could live when he would come back.

But Ri Han told Un Son

that her brother is also his son. He warmly greeted Chol U and guided his study so that he could fully prepare for an entrance examination without worries. After enrolling at the university he provided him with everything needed for his study.

Un Son and her elder brother feel the warm affection of society in which everybody forms a large harmonious family through the image of the family of Ri Han who became their teacher and father.

# Women volunteer to become road keepers

I came to have pride in my job thinking that I contribute my mite to keeping clean the streets for all."

Kim Yon Ok, workteam leader of the Tongdaewon district road equipment maintenance station

By Pang Un Ju PT

When it blows and rains outside, people find shelter in buildings, but road keepers

go outside to examine road sections in their charge.

Among them are workers at the Tongdaewon district road equipment maintenance station in

Pyongyang.

Nearly 20 years have passed since they volunteered to take the job.

"As children of revolutionary martyrs, they

could choose other jobs, but they have been devoted to road keeping for decades," said Jang Su Nam, director of the station.

What then was their

motivation?

In October 2004, there was a meeting of children of revolutionary martyrs in the district.

At the event, an elderly woman named Ri Ryon Hwa made a speech, calling on the participants to do more good things for the country and people. She had been working as a road keeper. Her speech touched the hearts of many and dozens of women offered to take the job.

But it was not easy for the former housewives to maintain roads for all seasons.

"When I began to work, I felt as if every pedestrian's eyes were on me sweeping on the street. But I came to have pride in my job thinking that I contribute my mite to keeping clean the streets for all," said workteam leader Kim Yon Ok.

At that time, some people said that the volunteers

would soon feel regretful about their choice and give up their job. And the children of some of them, feeling ashamed of their sweeper mums, went to and from school by making a detour around their road sections.

But the awareness that they should live like their honourable parents who laid down even their lives for the country and people motivated them to stick to road maintenance for decades, said director Jang.

"I have been so attached to the road in our charge. I feel anxious about it if I skip it even a day and therefore go there to examine its conditions even on rest days," said Jo Yong Suk.

In the course of maintaining roads, they contrived a road sweeper, cutter, compacting roller and other machines to receive certificates of invention.



RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Road keepers in Tongdaewon District discuss how to keep roads clean.



# Successes made in acclimatizing RARE FLOWERS

PFI's ornamental flower lab acclimatized more than 10 species of rare flowers in recent years.

By Ri Myong Jun PT

As the demand for flowers is on the constant rise, our institute pays attention to a project for acclimatizing the world's rare flowers, said Pang Hyon Im, section chief of the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute.

The institute, equipped with up-to-date research conditions, regards the project as an important item

in its work.

Its ornamental flower lab acclimatized more than 10 species of rare flowers in recent years.

As they have beautiful blossoms and long flowering periods, *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* and anthurium are widely recognized as rare flowers worldwide.

Researchers succeeded in acclimatizing *Phalaenopsis aphrodite* and anthurium which grow well in warm climatic



RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Pyongyang Floriculture Institute pays attention to a project for acclimatizing the world's rare flowers.

conditions to the climate of Korea before ascertaining afresh substrate, cultivation process and environment and nutrition management.

The former produces more than 10 butterfly-shaped blossoms on a scores-of-centimetre-long stalk and the flowers are diverse in colour including white, yellow, pink and mottled colour. Its blossoms have a flowering period of two to three months.

The latter produces a flower with heart-shaped red petals and yellow stamens. As it remains in bloom for over a month and flowers appear in succession, you can enjoy the flower all the year round.

The researchers got substrates and fertilizers for the flowers from low-cost and locally-available materials and put the method of watering them on a scientific basis according to

seasons.

The lab also acclimatized unusual cacti with unique shapes.

Some of them including *Opuntia microdasys*, *Echinopsis oxygona*, *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* and *Notocactus scopia* have been registered as national varieties.

The researchers bred a coloured cactus using triangular cereus as the stock and yellow- and red-

coloured cacti as scions and various other cacti including *Mammillaria prolifera*, ball-shaped *Echinocactus grusonii* and squirrel-shaped cactus.

"We have still lots of problems to solve in research including the selection of substrates suitable to different cacti, proper grafting periods and stocks and scions and the development of the method of disinfecting stocks and scions," said researcher Ri Myong Son.



## Gardener's three decades of dedication

By Kil Chung Il PT

Wang Kum Sil (pictured), workteam leader of the Pyongyang municipal flower production company, is well known as a woman good at growing flowering plants at the company.

Her workteam annually cultivates tens of thousands of flowers in dozens of species.

When she started to work at the company in her maidenhood, Wang was romantic about floriculture.

"As I tended flowerpots at home, I thought that watering flowers and changing humus once or twice was everything about floriculture. But as I worked at the company, I realized that we can grow beautiful flowers only when we work devotedly with a mind which is more beautiful than flowers," said Kum Sil.

Flower growing was very similar to crop farming. She had to keep touching soil all the year round as she observed the nutrition of plants.

She was busy throughout the year with raising saplings, ensuring temperature and humidity, manuring and tending, producing humus and exterminating insects. She looked after flowers on flowerbeds in the burning heat of summer and gathered

fallen leaves needed for making humus in parks.

The vagaries of the weather caused by abnormal climatic conditions frequently compelled her to come to the greenhouse in her charge at midnight.

But she found utmost joy and pride in seeing flowers burst into bloom as a result of her efforts.

After becoming workteam leader, she devoted her affection also to her workteam members.

She sincerely helped them to all love flowers and tend them with devotion.

When one of them was laid up in bed with an illness, she took necessary measures for treatment with motherly affection. And when there were happy events in their families she shared joy with them and when they suffered from trouble she did her best to help them solve problems.

A flower is beautiful for colour and shape and human is beautiful for good mind and diligent labour. Only such a beautiful man can grow beautiful flowers—this is the unanimous thought of her workteam.

Wang Kum Sil has been deputy to the district people's assembly for two terms from 2014 and was honoured with the title of meritorious person of socialist patriotism in 2015.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Wang Kum Sil devotes her all sincerity to growing flowers.

## Public interest grows in ornamental plants

By Yun Ki Song PT

The public demand for ornamental plants is growing. Previously, people usually opted for beautiful flowers, but now they seek for ornamental grasses and potted plants, said Ryom Sun Yong, chief of a flower booth in Tangsang-dong No. 1 of Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

She added that other flower shops and booths in the city are much frequented by customers to choose ornamental plants these days.

"I bought many ornamental plants this year to decorate living rooms. For example, I gave final touches to a room with green herbaceous plants to signify spring, another with beautiful flowers for summer and the other with *Acer rubrum* and other red plants for autumn. Every visitor to my home says in admiration that a flat preserves all seasons," said Choe Kyong Hui living in Tangsang-dong No. 2 of Mangyongdae District.

The flower farm under the Mangyongdae District landscaping and greening station cultivates flowers, herbaceous and woody

plants and ornamental potted plants to decorate itself and satisfy public demand.

In particular, green pine, the national tree of the DPRK, juniper, *Cupressus macrocarpa* cv. Goldcrest emitting fragrance peculiar to ginseng and *Acer rubrum* giving warm and pleasant feeling with red leaves are most sought-after.

Pak Song Chol, an employee, said that more and more people are eager to transform woody plants into potted ones to meet their tastes, adding that they spare nothing to introduce advanced horticultural technologies so as to satisfy growing demand.

People are interested in afforestation and greening in families.

The family of Ri Jin Ho who works at the Academy of Forestry grows more than 400 pieces of plants including rose and other flowering shrubs, fruit trees and different potted plants in a small garden. A small pond where fishes swim in and resting place add more emotion to life.

"A man who loves flowers can lead a beautiful life. Flowers and trees give our family members beautiful hope and aspirations for life," said Ri Jin Ho.

## Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories renovated



RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A partial view of renovated Junggu Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory and some of its equipment.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Projects have been undertaken to modernize Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories in the DPRK.

"To renovate Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories in a modern way takes an important part in strengthening material and technical foundations of the public health sector," said Jon Pyong Il, an official of the Ministry of Public Health.

According to him, more than 30 units have been rebuilt this year, including the Junggu Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory in Pyongyang, Hoeryong City Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory and Nampho Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory.

The renovated Kanggye Koryo Medicine-processing Factory put the production of Koryo medicines on a scientific and modern basis at a high level. Its production processes

have been automated and germ- and dust-free, ranging from the feeding of raw materials to the packaging of products, and an active electric boiler has been installed to convert processes to energy-saving ones.

The Samjiyon City Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory modernized the processes for packing tablets and liquid medicine.

Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories in Pyongyang hasten the

renovation of production sites and upgrading of equipment in line with GMP.

Mangyongdae, Pothonggang and other Koryo medicine pharmaceutical factories upgraded such production facilities as tablet machine, vibrating powder sizer and three-dimensional mixer to establish production processes fit for GMP while improving functions of extraction concentrator, moulding machine, etc. so as to increase the output of Koryo medicines.

## Traditional medicines cure dental disorders

By Yun Ki Song PT

Pak Jong Sim, 54-year-old head of the dental branch of the Hanggu District People's Hospital in Nampho City, has been engaged in dentistry for more than 30 years.

She has treated many patients by applying Koryo medicines.

One day, a young couple took their son stained with blood around his mouth to her hospital.

She instantly diagnosed the symptom as stomatorrhagia caused by infantile periodontitis and stopped the bleeding before applying a wax ointment she developed through years-long research.

She even managed to fully cure a patient suffering from osteomyelitis caused by months-long toothache by applying traditional medicines.

She has treated many patients with such dental disorders for which surgical operations are commonly performed by using traditional medicines.

"Our ancestors prepared medicines in conformity with the physical constitution of Koreans and developed tens



of thousands of traditional therapies. In order to apply traditional medicines to mouth and dental disorders, I buckled down to developing the wax ointment for periodontitis," said Pak.

She conducted a componential analysis of the samples she collected in mountains and deep valleys and their basic pharmacological tests.

During 10-odd years since its development, the ointment cured many patients giving them no pain.

It was highly appreciated at the national exhibition of inventions and new technologies in 2000.

She was awarded several national patents by developing Koryo medicines.

## Production of traditional cures put on scientific basis

### Koryo medicines processed, prepared afresh to replace Western drugs, efficient traditional cures developed, their quality standardized

By Pang Un Ju PT

To constantly update traditional medicines takes an important share in developing Koryo medicine to suit the constitution and way of life of our people. In recent years our institute carried out dozens of research projects for updating Koryo medicines,

said Nam Kung Jin, director of the Koryo medicine basic research institute of the Koryo Medicine General Hospital.

The institute with a long history of research into traditional Korean medicines is staffed with competent researchers with high academic degrees and grand titles including PhD and associate professor and

has a solid foundation for research.

In recent years the researchers have come up with lots of research findings through proactive studies.

Remarkable progress has been made especially in research and development of various efficient Koryo medicines for diseases of cerebral blood circulatory

and cardiovascular systems.

Researchers processed and prepared afresh Koryo medicines to replace some Western drugs that produce harmful side effects.

To address the shortcomings of a Western medicine which makes patients feel thirsty or sleepy when taken for a long period, the researchers developed a more effective

medicine for improving cerebral blood circulation by adding the ginkgo-leaf extract and a Hwanggum obesity tablet that can replace an obesity drug with hormone-inhibiting action.

The tablet has no side effects but contains ingredients with various functions good for health and therefore it is already manufactured by lots of medicine producers.

The institute standardized the methods of producing nearly ten kinds of Koryo medicine extracts including those of haw and hawthorn leaves.

Kim Hye Ryon, PhD, associate professor and

researcher, said: "In making extracts of traditional medicines, we selected the methods that suit our specific conditions. We adopted cost-saving methods that can be introduced by any units to extract medicinal substances as much as possible."

In addition, the institute developed such highly efficient Koryo medicines as haw tablet for heart diseases and ginkgoglide injection for brain and heart diseases and standardized their quality.

The medicines developed by the institute are manufactured at the Myongbang pharmacy and other medicine producers.



Women employees of the Myongbang pharmacy pack Koryo medicines (left) and products of the pharmacy.



RA PHYONG RYOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



10 COMMENT

WORLD 11

# Abduction and drafting of Koreans—gravest crime with no statute of limitations (1)

By Kim Jong Hyok

The Nagasaki city authorities in Japan has recently approved, though reluctantly, the building of the Korean A-bomb victims memorial service monument in Peace Park, which in fact had been deferred for seven years. It has been disclosed, however, that they opposed an inscription of the phrase “forced labour” on the monument.

The Korean A-bomb victims who met the undeserved death in Nagasaki in August 1945 were those who had been abducted or coercively drafted, and forced into slave labour by the Japanese imperialists who had been frenzied in invading the Asian continent.

Japan militarily occupied Korea and inflicted immeasurable physical and mental pains and material damage upon its people during the first half of the 20th century, but they are avoiding clear apology and thorough reparation until today.

The more Japan struggles to omit the phrase “forced labour” and embellish its crime-ridden history in textbooks, the more

the crime will increase, and it will never be erased nor altered even with the passage of time and the change of generations.

The inhumane atrocities the Japanese imperialists committed as they reduced millions of Koreans to cannon fodder in their aggression war, labour slaves and sex slaves and killed many of them are the gravest state crime unprecedented in human history, because they stemmed from the policy of annihilating the Korean nation.

### Forced drafting of Koreans—gravest state-sponsored crime

Abduction and forced drafting of Koreans perpetrated by Japan in the 20th century with the mobilization of government and military powers are the barbarous crimes which overshadow by far the slave hunt dating back to the Middle Ages.

Japan forcibly abducted or drafted in a gangsterlike manner over 8.4 million young and middle-aged Koreans to impose slave labour on them and reduced 200 000 Korean women to sex slaves.

With the escalation of

aggression war, the Japanese warmongers came to face deficiencies in both the number of troops and labour force.

The colossal consumption of human and material resources with the expansion of fronts led to a complete exhaustion of the armed and labour forces in Japan, and the Japanese imperialists found its solution in colonial Korea.

To recruit and draft Korean labour forces by mobilizing government power, the Japanese imperialists concocted vicious evil laws one after another including “National Mobilization Act” (April 1938) and “National Draft Ordinance” (July 1939) and forcibly enforced them in Korea. In the face of continued defeats on the fronts in the early 1940s, they revised the mobilization ordinance, and cooked up and enforced new evil laws one after another, thus forcibly recruiting young and middle-aged Koreans without distinctions of job, age and sex, and driving them into the places of drudgery and death.

Initially, the drafting was done in the form of so-called “labourer recruitment” and

“brokering by authorities”, a combination of carrot and stick. But as the war expanded, the Japanese imperialists threw away this form and perpetrated abduction and drafting overtly and forcibly under the signboard of “labour drafting” and “military conscription”.

Their abduction method was the combination of kidnapping and power of authority, where the latter was most used and the former was underpinned by the latter.

The victims of labour drafting, military conscription and “volunteer corps” committed by them testified one after another that the course of drafting and conscription was characterized by forcible abduction, kidnapping and arrest, not a simple “recruitment”.

The kidnapping and forced drafting of Koreans and the subsequent cruel slave labour imposed upon them are the gravest abduction crime perpetrated by the state of Japan from A to Z.

The author is researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## OPINION

# Eradication of double standard needed in intl arena

# Cuba focuses on safeguarding socialist system, improving people’s livelihood

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The Cuban government is exerting itself to defend the socialist system and improve the people’s standards of living.

It especially works to imbue the people with the spirit of defending socialism.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel recently made a special appearance on national TV to say that the Cuban people are fighting against the imperialists’ harsh and criminal anti-Cuba policy and point to the need to abandon illusions about imperialism and have strong faith.

Saying that the government will protect peace as parents do their children, it stated that Cuba is getting fully ready to safeguard the revolution against any kinds of moves of hostile forces.

The government is also pushing ahead with the development of the country’s economy and the improvement of the people’s livelihood.

It channels efforts into making enterprises responsible for the socialist state economy fulfil their role.

Attending the recent summing-up meeting of a district party committee in the capital city of Havana, the

President referred to the need to make the work of all enterprises in the district the efforts to solve knotty problems and especially to orient them to improving the people’s livelihood, and emphasized that truly needed enterprises are those creating many more jobs, building up the capacity of working people, making a tangible contribution to the development of counties and paying close attention to kindergartens and the youth issue.

As it steps up the effort to provide the citizens with a stable life, the government also strives to shore up regions with poor living conditions.

Miguel Diaz-Canel recently acquainted himself with living conditions in different villages in the capital city as he made the rounds of them. Repeatedly underlining that the village transformation campaign is a very important undertaking in socialist construction and the revolution starts from the village, he said that now that it has already been launched in Havana, the campaign should be expanded nationwide and pushed permanently without let-up.

The Cuban government’s efforts to safeguard the socialist system and provide citizens with stable living conditions will yield tangible results in the future.

# HE WHO SPITS AGAINST HEAVEN WILL HAVE IT ON HIS FACE

By Choe Hyon Do

Some time ago, the Minister for the Commonwealth, UN and South Asia of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office reportedly spoke ill of the DPRK over its “human rights issue” out of malice.

He displayed his lack of intelligence with his own enumeration about “humanitarian situation” such as “malnutrition” and “food shortages”. Not content with that, he even said that he would examine the report “documenting religious freedom violations in north Korea” which was drafted by Korea Future Initiative, a gathering of the scum of the earth. Through this, he has betrayed his own ignorance of, blind prejudice against and hostility to the DPRK.

This time David Alton, a member of the House of Lords, is said to have put a written question to him. He is no more than a political imposter who was already shunned by people for having been engrossed in the anti-DPRK smear campaign in the past as he hurt the sentiments of our people and invited “defectors from the north” to stage a “hearing” at the parliamentary building.

It can’t be an act of a blind fool lacking in rudimentary judgment that the high-ranking official of the UK government provoked us with the fabricated information he had not seen with his own eyes, just being taken in by such an imposter.

Everything serves the people and everything is directed towards promoting their interests in our country which holds the people-first principle as a noble political ideal.

Even the people from Western countries who visited our country

have sympathy with it.

As for the “human rights issue”, the UK has lost its face and has no right to find fault with others over that.

“Privacy International”, one of the NGOs, described the UK as the world’s most notorious “country that conducts the strictest surveillance” against its inhabitants since it records every single movement of its own people with 4.2 million surveillance cameras installed across the country.

“Kids’ Rights Foundation” headquartered in the Netherlands announced in its 2021 report on the human rights situation of children that the UK is ranked 169th among 182 countries studied. These facts alone are good enough to take stock of the dismal human rights situation in the UK.

It is only some time ago that black players of the England football team

were subjected to extreme racial discrimination and contempt due to the failure in their penalty shoot-outs in the UEFA EURO finals.

The above-said facts are just a tiny part of human rights violations which are rampant in the UK.

The UK is keeping the worst record of human rights violation, much to the consternation of the world people. If it is still absorbed in its sloppy and mean trick, taking the lead in distorting and fabricating the true picture of our human rights situation, it will only evoke ridicule and disillusionment among the world people.

He who spits against heaven will have it on his face. The UK would be well-advised to keep in mind this logic.

The author is researcher at the Korea-Europe Association

# ‘Valuing Toilets’



Yu Su Jong Deputy department director of the Ministry of Urban Management

The World Toilet Organization, which endeavours to improve sanitation and public hygiene on a global scale, set November 19, its founding day, as World Toilet Day in 2001.

At that time, 2.5 billion people around the world had been suffering from poor sanitation.

The sanitation is an essential condition for people’s health and clean life environment.

More than 3.6 billion people live without proper sanitation today, despite the ongoing commitments to achieve

sustainable development on sanitation and hygiene for all and nearly one billion people evacuate the bowels outdoors.

For poor sanitation, the danger of diseases and malnutrition are growing among women and children in particular.

To cope with the realities and thanks to the efforts of the WTO and other international organizations, the UN officially set November 19 as World Toilet Day in 2013 as mandated by its General Assembly resolution titled “Sanitation for All” to make sanitation a global development priority.

The theme for World Toilet Day this year is “Valuing Toilets”.

The DPRK has long prioritized the building of infrastructure in all construction projects and directed big efforts to this work on the basis of recognizing the importance of sewage treatment and private hygiene.

The state ensures that each dwelling house is furnished with sanitation facility and provides people with houses free of charge, while giving precedence to the construction of water works on the principle

of prioritizing the construction of infrastructure lest there should be any inconvenience for residents.

Terms of articles in law concerning the installation of conveniences and safety equipment for disabled soldiers in WCs were amended and supplemented and in 2020 a measure was taken to build toilets inside newly-built rural houses.

The state also makes sure that indoor sanitation facilities are built when rebuilding houses and public buildings in the wake of natural disaster.

Activities are conducted to make sewage and rubbish harmless and recycle them in order to prevent environmental pollution.

In order to resolve the human rights issues on the principle of impartiality and objectivity, the US’ double standard should be eradicated.

## BYWORD

It is said that pleasure gets bigger and sorrow smaller when shared.

This saying reflects the ideological and spiritual traits of the Koreans who share warm affection as they form a

large harmonious family.

The whole village worries about the suffering of a family and everybody respects and cares for the people who devoted their all to society, collective and country.

There are innumerable masters of beautiful traits of respecting war veterans as revolutionary forerunners, looking after them with the affection of their kindred and becoming wives and husbands

of special-class honoured disabled soldiers.

The ideological and spiritual traits of the Korean people who cry and laugh together are further demonstrated in the face of difficulties.

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## Briefly

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

### Russia President warns West against posing military threat

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a stand against the West’s military threat at an enlarged meeting of the council of the Foreign Ministry on November 18.

Denouncing the West for overstepping the mark in its military action, he asserted that Russia would never look on the intensive military activities of NATO with folded arms.

### Iran Leader calls for relying on national strength, wisdom

Seyed Ali Khamenei, leader of Iran’s Islamic revolution, called for relying on the nation’s own strength and wisdom at a meeting with scientists on November 17.

He said that the main purpose of information warfare conducted by colonialists is to keep other nations from believing in their own strength and wisdom.

He stressed that scientists should achieve rapid development in the advanced scientific research field including the artificial intelligence by focusing on solving major national problems.

### Cuba Military exercises staged

A military drill was staged from November 18 to 20 to mark the day of national defence in Cuba.

Units of the Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces, Ministry of the Interior and militia, socio-economic institutions and mass organizations took part in the exercises.

They practised tactics to cope with special conditions according to the concept of all-people war and improved the exchange of information, cooperative operation and command capacity in the atmosphere of real war.

### Jordan King appeals for focusing on water issue

Jordanian King Abdullah II called for concentrating on solving the water problem in a speech made on November 17.

Saying that it is important to introduce advanced technologies into conserving water resources, he stressed the need to take measures to recycle water in agricultural and industrial sectors.

And he gave an order to the government to map out a long-term plan for addressing water shortage.

It is estimated that the country will fall short of nearly 45 million cubic metres of drinking water next year.

### COVID-19 Over 258m people infected, more than 5.18m dead

According to a foreign news report, 258 967 144 people were infected with COVID-19, 5 181 806 died of it and 19 510 264 are under medical treatment as of 24:00 on November 23.



# Choe Sung Hui lives in history of Korean national dance

By Han Kwi Hun PT

November 24 was the 110th birth anniversary of Choe Sung Hui (pictured), a dancing legend of the Korean nation.

Choe (November 24 1911-August 8 1969) devoted her whole life to preserving the unique national character of the Korean national dance.

Born in the dark period when Korea was trampled underfoot by foreign forces, she started to work as a maid of a dance institute at an early age of playing on her mother's affection.

However, as she was endowed with brilliant intellect and talent for dance from her childhood, she practised unnoticed the dance movements of the institute students, which she had learned by the eye and ear over the windows during the day, at night in front of a mirror, while doing all kinds of odd jobs.

One day the director of the institute casually looked into the lighted practice room and was truly surprised. Her housemaid was performing wonderful dance movements she had seen nowhere else.

After that, Choe was not only recognized as a dancing talent and enrolled at the institute, but also climbed up the career ladder to the top with no peer in the dance circles.

Since she embarked on her professional dancing career, Choe had adopted the old poem, saying "Neither white gem will lose its whiteness though broken, nor bamboo lose its straightness though burnt," as her motto and fought hard against Japanese oppression to keep up the national spirit.



Later, she opened the "Choe Sung Hui Dance Institute" in the heart of Tokyo, Japan.

Viewers expressed unreserved admiration for her, who performed soft and elegant Korean dance movements in Korean *chima* and *jogori* (woman's national costume) to the time of *jangu* (hourglass drum: Korean musical instrument) with her shoulders moving up and down.

Her enchanting interpretation of dance and haughty manner were so overwhelming that no one dared to provoke her even at the time when everything Korean was prohibited due to the harsh measures of the Japanese imperialists to stamp out the Korean nation.

At the time the mass media lavished praise on her who displayed the graceful and soft qualities of Korean dance, calling her a "beautiful and brilliant world-class dancer".

After creating a great sensation with the performance she gave at a theatre in San Francisco, the US, for the first time as a Korean in February 1938, Choe also made her name as an excellent dancer in Europe.

Seeing the exquisite and graceful Korean dance she

performed so charmingly in national costume, Europeans reportedly brought world maps with them and asked her where Korea was.

After Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule, Choe Sung Hui greeted her heyday under the meticulous care of President Kim Il Sung and anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk.

She formed an accompaniment group with players of *jangu*, drum and Korean flute, national musical instruments, and exactly demanded women dancers wear Korean *chima* and *jogori* and keep national flavour and zest of Korean dance in their performances.

And she staged dance pieces to demonstrate the good qualities of the Korean national dance, while creating lots of dances and writing books on national dance with untiring enthusiasm and quest for knowledge.

She studied various items of Korean national dance with a long tradition including folk dance, Buddhist dance and court dance, picked dance movements that are strong in national flavour and elegant out of them to complete dance pieces and put them on stage.

She advocated the production of new dance pieces that preserve national identity, while meeting the aesthetic tastes and emotional demands of the contemporary people.

Her dance pieces usually assumed two aspects: dark and bright. The former reflected sorrow and bitter grief of the colonized nation before liberation, with the latter representing the vibrant spirit, optimism and sentiments of the Korean

people for building a new Korea after liberation.

In particular, she visited farms, factories and fishing villages seething with activities for production to create works echoing all-people sentiment, while picking out popular dance movements, and devoted time and energy to the training of new dancers.

A dancer known to have sweated the most for training, Choe spared time very much and always complained to her students that she was pressed for time.

"She often said 'raising arms with a sense of lifting several pounds of weight' and 'opening two arms like a soybean rolling down along the shoulder line'. And such her watchwords are still used in the dancing circle," said Han Myong Hak, an official of the Central Committee of the Korean Dancers Union.

Choe devoted her all to the development of Korean national dance and authored many books for the education of the rising generations. The treasure of national dance left by her is still invariably carried on.

President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il remembered her exploits though decades passed after her death, praising her as a meritorious artiste. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un saw that a workshop was organized to retain Choe's dancing style and her works were arranged again and put on stage.

The former People's Artiste, chairwoman of the Central Committee of the Korean Dancers Union and deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly still lives in the memory of the Korean people.



A scene from national folk dance *Jangu*.

## National percussion instruments *jangu*, drum

By Yun Ki Song PT

*Jangu* (hourglass drum) and drum are developed national percussion instruments of Korea with a very long history.

Drum is believed to date back to the Bronze Age in Korea, the late primitive ages, and it evolved in different forms through ancient and middle ages.

It is divided into big, middle and hand drums according to the size, or into different sorts according to the mode of performance.

Among them are shoulder drum, swing drum, *kyobanggo*, *ryonggo* and *roego*.

Shoulder drum was carried by two men standing in the front and rear and the drummer beat it at one side. It was used mainly for producing strong downbeat in the brass band following the royal procession in the middle ages to demonstrate its authority.

*Kyobanggo* is a kind of drum which is put on wooden support horizontally and beaten downward with drumstick.

*Jangu* is a kind of developed drums in the world.

As the name says, *jangu* is a long drum originating from *yogo*, a musical instrument in the period of Koguryo Kingdom between 277 BC and AD 668.

Traditionally, folk singers had always been accompanied on the drum or *jangu* since ancient times.

"There is a saying, 'Drummer first and great singer second' in the traditional folk music of Korea. It means that most important is the drummer who beats the drum and then the singer," said Rim Hae Yong, vice-president of Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

As the drummer who played accompaniment was given precedence to over the noted singer, it was a serious artistic problem whether the drummer would accompany on the drum or *jangu*.

Since olden times, *jangu* had been used mainly in the northwestern provinces and drum in the southern provinces, and the difference is attributed to the characters of tunes supporting the songs sung by singers and the emotional contents of their melodies.

For example, a zest was given by the accompaniment of *jangu* to folk songs in the northwestern provinces like *Yangsando* that flow fluently in a soft and mild melodic emotion with delicate trills and the accompaniment of drum was fit for the songs of the southern provinces like *Kanggangsullae* which are sharp in pitch and in which stresses are strikingly contrasted.

"*Jangu* and drum with a long history of development still play a leading part in the composition of national instrumental music of Korea," said Rim Hae Yong.

## Silky fowl steamed with black glutinous rice

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Silky fowl steamed with black glutinous rice is a good dish for invigoration.

"Silky fowl, which was called thus since it is as black as crow as skin and bone are both black, is not only a good cooking material but also a fine nutrition food," said Kim Kyong Suk, cook of the Chongnyu Restaurant.

Main ingredients of the dish are 800 grams of silky fowl and 120 grams of black glutinous rice, and additional

ingredients include 60 grams of chestnut, 50 grams of jujube, 30 grams of ginkgo nut, 50 grams of walnut, 6 grams of salt, 10 grams of oil, 5 grams of sesame oil, 12 grams of hard liquor, 10 grams of honey, 15 grams of onion, 1 gram of black pepper and 2 grams of seasoning.

Kim Kyong Suk said that the heart and stomach of the chicken are cleaned and trimmed, parboiled in water and cut into slices.

Put soaked black glutinous rice, unshelled walnuts, chestnuts and ginkgo nuts

and stone-removed jujube into an oily pot to saute while adding salt, seasoning, black pepper, smashed Welsh onion, sesame oil, hard liquor and honey to season the food.

Put the saute into the well-trimmed stomach of the silky fowl, before putting the fowl in a vessel to steam it for three to four hours. "The dish which achieves good harmony between the savoury aroma of silky fowl and the delicate flavour of the black glutinous rice has not only good taste but high nutrition," said Kim Kyong Suk.



Silky fowl steamed with black glutinous rice.

