

WPK's Eighth Central Committee convenes Fourth Plenary Meeting



Plenum declares start of all-people march for glorifying 2022 as turning point in developing revolution, advances strategic policies for propelling overall development of building of Korean-style socialism

KCNA

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held at the office building of the Party Central Committee between December 27 and 31, Juche 110(2021) to review a great year of struggle and lay down new guidelines on development amid the great interest and expectation of all the Party members and other people across the country.

The plenary meeting was convened in the historic period when the entire Party, the whole country and all the people confidently move toward the next-stage struggle for the comprehensive

development of socialist construction after adorning the first year of implementing the five-year plan with praiseworthy victory true to the grand strategic idea and practical programme set forth at the Eighth Congress of the Party.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK, was present at the plenary meeting.

As Kim Jong Un appeared at the meeting hall to mount the platform, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers for the General Secretary, the outstanding leader of the WPK and people and the symbol of the mightiness of the state who set a new goal for victory

of socialism with his extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom and laid a firm foundation for prosperity of the country through his energetic leadership activities throughout the year.

Attending the plenary meeting were members and alternate members of the WPK Central Committee.

And officials of the departments of the Party Central Committee, leading officials of ministries, national agencies, province-level guidance organs, cities, counties and major industrial establishments and officials of relevant major sectors were present as observers.

The presidium of the meeting was formed with members of the Political

Bureau of the Party Central Committee.

The Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee authorized Kim Jong Un to preside over the plenary meeting.

Kim Jong Un made, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, an analysis and appraisal of the Party and state work for 2021, the first year for implementing the decisions of the historic Eighth Congress of the Party, referring to the main purpose of the convocation of the plenary meeting and its significance and importance.

Saying that in fulfilling the five-year plan for development and change set

SEE PAGE 2



FROM PAGE 1

forth at the Party Congress, the work done year after year holds vital and important significance both in the light of the developmental stage of socialist construction and the realistic conditions and situation of the Party and state, the General Secretary noted that through the plenary meeting they will all face heavy yet responsible agony while becoming aware of the strategic importance of the next year's work which will just be as huge and important as this year's.

He said that this year's struggle enabled them to have more clear predictability about subjective and objective conditions and environment of the revolution at present and in the future, adding that therefore, they came to know what they can do and to have clear vision about their possibility and self-confidence.

He said that only when they correctly understand and judge the present external and internal situations and make a right stride along the correct orientation with accurate fighting policies, can they move to the next stage with a practical change for development.

Noting that at the point of reviewing the year's work with pride, they should first analyze with subtlety what could be lessons, he said that the main purpose of the convocation of the plenary meeting

is to make some lessons learned by them an engine further supplementing and completing the revolutionary policies and raise their bigger potentiality for development. He added that herein lies the great practical significance of revolutionary development.

The Party Central Committee admitted that this year's successes and experiences should actively be promoted and amplified as they represent precious lessons and devoted efforts and as they require full display of unusual responsibility and strenuous efforts, and that the comprehensive development of socialist construction should be hastened with greater successes and victory by discharging heavy responsibility and generating maximum creativity in discussing the plan for the new year.

The plenary meeting dealt with the following agenda items:

1. On the review of the execution of major Party and state policies for 2021 and the work plan for 2022
2. On the implementation of the state budget for 2021 and the draft state budget for 2022
3. On the immediate tasks for the correct solution of the socialist rural question in our country
4. On modifying some articles of the Party rules
5. On the organizational and ideological

life of the members of the Party central leadership organ in the second half of year 2021

6. An organizational matter
The plenary meeting unanimously approved the presented agenda items.

It listened to a report made by Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Cabinet of the DPRK, and discussions made in the sectional workshops over the first agenda item.

General Secretary Kim Jong Un made an important conclusion *On the Orientation of the Work of the Party and State in 2022* on the first agenda item.

He first analyzed and reviewed the work of the Party and the state in the first year for implementing the decisions made at the Party Congress.

It is the general assessment of the Party Central Committee that 2021, in which all the Korean people waged tense and worthwhile struggle true to the new practical programme of socialist construction set forth at the Party Congress, was a year of great victory that opened up a prelude to the great change toward the comprehensive development of socialist construction despite severe trials.

It was the general goal and desire of the

Party Central Committee in its work for the year to bring about practical changes and substantial achievements waited for and welcomed by the people by fulfilling the tasks set forth at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Party without fail.

When assigning and propelling the work for this year, the Party Central Committee paid special attention to ensuring the purposefulness of development, perseverance and scientific accuracy in working out the plan and establishing the trait of unconditionally, thoroughly and correctly implementing it, and awakened officials in order to make them exert themselves and took measures for solving pending problems in developing the economy and improving the people's living standards in time.

Achievements worthy of appraisal and evident stride forward hardening self-confidence were made in the agricultural field to which the Party gives top priority.

What is important is that we became confident in doing safe farming under any condition by adopting scientific methods of responsively reacting to disastrous climates and obstacles though they used to decide good or bad crop, and this is the valuable fruition which is attributable to the extraordinary patriotism and indomitable efforts of our



the people. It is remarkable political success that the spirit of young people became very high.

Praising this year's successes, the Party Central Committee estimated that ways of stabilizing the economy and subsisting by dint of self-reliance defying extremely severe environment have been positively found out and applied and that it is progress made in the economic development and this process precisely means the dynamic advance of Korean-style socialism towards the comprehensive development of the state.

The General Secretary said that great praiseworthy achievements were made in the year's work as all the people turned out as one with the zeal of loyalty to resolutely defend the authority of the Party Congress and dedicated their patriotic sweat to the implementation of the tasks for the first year of the five-year plan, overcoming all the difficulties. He, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, highly praised all the Party members, other working people and service personnel for making indomitable and strenuous efforts to glorify 2021 as a year of proud victory to be specially recorded in the history of socialist construction, and sent warm greetings to them.

The conclusion referred in detail to the shortcomings and important lessons revealed in the year's work and the ways for settling them.

Indicating the main orientation of the work of the Party and the state for 2022, the General Secretary clarified the principled issues and the struggle policy for a fresh development of socialist construction.

The main task facing our Party and people next year is to provide a sure guarantee for the implementation of the five-year plan and bring about a remarkable change in the state's development and the people's standards of living so as to record a noteworthy page in the history of the country.

The economic sector, the main front of socialist construction, should concentrate all its efforts on putting the country's economy on the growth orbit and providing stabilized and improved living to the people by reenergizing production and pushing ahead with the adjustment and reinforcement.

The conclusion expounded in detail the major policy tasks that should be carried out by the key industrial sectors next year.

The metallurgical industrial sector should technologically refine the Korean-style iron-producing method, produce iron and steel as scheduled by supplying fuel and raw materials in time and, at the same time, push ahead with the expansion of capacity and modernization.

The chemical industrial sector should give full play to the newly-created fertilizer production capacity and boost the production of materials for light and pharmaceutical industries by reenergizing major chemical factories, while accelerating the project to establish a new structure of the chemical industry.

The power industrial sector should strive to raise the electric-power production to

agricultural workers.

Kim Jong Un courteously proposed to the plenary meeting sending thanks in the name of the Party Central Committee to the exemplary agricultural officials, workers, scientists and technologists who greatly contributed to doing farming well despite the unfavourable conditions this year.

The plenary meeting fully supported and approved his proposal.

The main success the Party Central Committee presented to the people this year is that it greatly demonstrated the development and potential power of our-style socialism making a leap forward by dynamically pushing ahead with huge construction projects planned by it.

The construction of 10 000 flats in the areas of Songsin and Songhwa nearing completion as another massive residential area is the first eye-opening event that showed in actuality the prospect for the perfect settlement of housing problem in the capital city in the period of five-year plan.

The completion of the third-stage Samjiyon city project produced an ideal and valid experience for confidently pushing ahead with the long-term grand construction to transform local areas across the country.

The construction of 5 000 dwelling houses in the area of Komdok made

successful headway, the rehabilitation from flood damage was satisfactorily conducted in South Hamgyong Province and North Hamgyong Province and new architectural styles were introduced and new ideas were created in lots of projects including the construction of modern terraced residential district. This indicated that our architecture has leapt one step higher and the era of great prosperity in construction keeps flourishing.

The electric power and coal industrial sectors responsible for supplying power to the national economy conducted an effective production campaign to powerfully haul the overall economy. The building-materials, machine, mining, forestry and land, marine and rail transport fields supported the nationwide construction and production surge. All these meant an improvement of one step forward in implementing the plan for the year.

Plan discipline was established in the economic field and leading economic officials showed obvious improvement in their work style. This becomes a powerful guarantee for further advancing the economy and the state affairs in the future.

The mentality and awareness of all the people desirous of socialist life and development has grown stronger than

before, fully displaying the might of collectivism in practice.

The Party Central Committee assessed that the desire to bring about fresh innovation, bold creation and steady progress was vividly manifested in the work for the year and a turn was effected in establishing the Party climate, like strengthening the organizational discipline of the Party and carrying out the Party's decisions.

The economic guidance organs including the Cabinet have become active in the efforts to strengthen the unified guidance and control of the state over economic work and improve the economic management methods. The work for perfecting the socialist legal system was further intensified and legal order was strengthened to bring substantial progress in guaranteeing economic development and the stabilization of the people's living.

The national defence industrial sector developed one ultra-modern weapon system after another under its correct plan, thus demonstrating the advancement and modernity of the country's military force. This is one of the very important achievements made this year.

This year when the Party Congress was held, many young people volunteered to work in difficult and labour-consuming sectors and did good deeds, which moved

FROM PAGE 3

a high level while satisfactorily meeting the immediate demand for electric power. And it should reduce the loss of power in transmission, step up the building of new power stations and increase the capacity of generating electricity by diverse natural energy sources.

The coal industrial sector should give precedence to the prospecting and continue waging a high-speed tunnelling campaign to find more coalfields. And it should increase the coal production by introducing the advanced mining methods and machines and pay attention to helping the bituminous coal mines increase the production.

The railway transport sector should enhance the safety of the railways, accelerate its modernization and establish the state's unified system of controlling the overall transport so as to develop the country's transport work by stages.

The machine-building industrial sector should responsibly provide the equipment needed for implementing the adjustment and improvement plans of several economic sectors and units and boost the production of vehicles, electric machines and construction machines and improve their quality.

The conclusion advanced an important task for making radical progress in solving the food, clothing and housing problems for the people.

The entire Party and the whole country should concentrate efforts on the farming and give manpower and material support to the rural communities. And the agricultural sector should increase the grain production by doing all the farm works in a sci-tech way and positively use farming machines now that the area to grow wheat and barley has been expanded.

In the economic work, capital construction should be prioritized and a new revolution in construction should be made for fundamentally changing the living environments of the people so as to continue to usher in the heyday of the capital city construction including the building of 10 000 flats planned for 2022 and open an era when the local areas will change.

The light industrial sector should set it as an important task to reenergize the production of consumer goods and push ahead with it. And it should put the foodstuff processing technology on a higher scientific basis.

Saying that the supply of school uniforms and things to the students across the country at the state's expense is a consistent policy of the Party and the state, the General Secretary set forth a task for supplying all the students with quality uniforms and bags of new forms without exception and took an important measure of the Party Central Committee for implementing it.

He stressed the need for the fishing industrial sector to conduct a work for catching more fish, do fish breeding and culture well and increase marine resources in an effective way to better the people's diet.

Mentioned in the conclusion were tasks for the mining industry, forestry, IT industry and other sectors to make



positive contributions to the national economic development by practically advancing their work.

The land administration and city management sectors should push ahead with afforestation, river improvement and anti-land-sliding projects all the year round, aiming at thoroughly protecting lives and properties of the people and the land of the country. They should push forward under plan the work to ensure the safety and modernity of roads, protect and improve the ecological environment and create green landscape in streets and villages.

The conclusion referred in detail to the tasks for powerfully propelling the work to adjust and reinforce the material and technical foundations of the national economy.

And it underlined the issues of strengthening the functions and role of the Cabinet as an economic organizer, intensifying the work to improve the planning method and putting the economic activities on a regular and standardized footing.

It set forth important tasks for promoting the overall development of socialist construction by making innovation in the work of the field of culture including science, education and public health.

At present, a major task facing the field of science is to clearly specify the scientific and technological measure for developing the overall affairs of the country including the economy in a balanced and simultaneous way.

Scientific research units should select as their main tasks the development and completion of technologies having an urgent significance in enhancing independence of the national economy and improving the standards of the people's living, and all the sectors and units should give precedence to the training of their own scientific and technological forces over production and construction.

The educational sector should set it as the main objective of the educational

revolution in the new century to train all the schoolchildren as genuine revolutionary talents, competent and creative talents and reserves of socialism by developing our education into the most advanced and ideal one to which we can entrust our future.

For this, it is necessary to further strengthen the prodigy educational system and train a large number of good scientific and technological talents who can be the core and traction engine in several fields including the economy and national defence, strengthen the ranks of teachers in local areas and farm villages in a qualitative and quantitative way and push forward the work to modernize the educational conditions and environment so as to put the overall educational level of the country on a higher level.

The main direction of the public health for next year should be set as providing a sure guarantee for further raising the quality of the medical service for the people, and all efforts should be concentrated on further strengthening the material and technical foundations of the public health sector.

The art and literature field should bring about fundamental innovation in the ideological viewpoint, creation attitude and creation method of the creators and artistes, thoroughly maintain the principle of ensuring the political identity and characteristics of the era in literary and artistic activities and make an effort to train the new generation reserves of literary persons and artistes to make them play the main role in the creation activities.

The conclusion referred to the principled issues to be maintained in media and sports fields and underlined the need to aspire after bold pursuit and dynamic leap to progress toward an advanced level.

Noting that the noble and highly-civilized life style and moral traits based on collectivism serve as the foundation of our-style socialism and powerful vitamins for its advance and development,

the General Secretary said that the fine virtues and noble traits peculiar to our people being fully displayed day by day should be made social and national customs.

The conclusion stressed once again that the emergency epidemic prevention work should be made a top priority in the state work and it is the most important work to be powerfully conducted with no allowance given to slight slackness, slip and drawback.

The work should be positively pushed forward for reinforcing and completing the means and forces needed for switching our epidemic prevention into advanced and people-oriented one by surely putting the country's foundation of epidemic prevention on a scientific foundation and firmly preparing the material and technical foundation of the epidemic prevention sector.

The conclusion referred to the tasks for further positively conducting the struggle against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices in the entire Party and the whole country and society, thoroughly ensuring the social order and people's safety by raising the role of law enforcement organs, establishing the revolutionary atmosphere of law observance and further strengthening the socialist law system.

The General Secretary set forth militant tasks facing the national defence sector.

The military environment of the Korean peninsula and the trend of the international situation getting instable day after day demand that bolstering the state defence capability be further powerfully propelled without a moment's delay.

The People's Army should steadily intensify the work of modelling the whole army on the revolutionary idea of the Party Central Committee and developing it into the revolutionary army of the Party that remains faithful and obedient to the guidance of the Party Central Committee, and direct all efforts to maintaining the training-first principle

and putting weapons and equipment on a regular readiness and establishing the firm military discipline.

The munitions industrial field should dynamically push ahead with the production of the powerful equipment corresponding with the modern warfare while steadily expanding the achievements made true to the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress, powerfully fuel the qualitative change of the national defence capacity and attain the goal of putting the defence industry on a Juche, modern and scientific basis in a planned way.

It is necessary to take a decisive measure for bolstering the capability of the militia defence force as required by the modern warfare, and increase the military qualifications and commanding capability of the commanding officers of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the practical ability of the militia force by effecting a drastic turn in the training.

The conclusion set forth principled issues and a series of tactical orientations, all of which should be maintained by the sectors of the north-south relations and external affairs to cope with the rapidly changing international political situation and the circumstances in the surroundings.

It also advanced the tasks for strengthening the Party, the General Staff of the revolution, and steadily enhancing its leading role in order to successfully carry out the important tasks for a fresh victory of socialist construction.

The important issue arising at present in improving the leadership and fighting efficiency of the Party in every way is to steadily improve the Party work and make the entire Party a studying one so as to turn it into a living organism sharing the idea, intention and action with the Party Central Committee and decisively raise the level and ability of the Party officials.

The whole Party should wage a major ideological battle against formalism in Party work, thoroughly establish the

revolutionary discipline within the Party and make the ranks of cadres pure and steadfast.

The Party organizations should direct their efforts to thoroughly implementing the economic policy of the Party and the plans of the national economy, and the leading officials of the Party should set forth the plans to give their units and local areas a complete facelift and purposefully, consciously and steadily push forward with the implementation of the plans.

Saying that the struggle in 2022 is a great, urgent struggle to be vigorously waged successfully for sure for the overall development of socialist construction, our great people and beloved posterity, the General Secretary affirmed that as there are the great people who are possessed of firm faith and strong power to overcome all difficulties by rallying around the Party in one mind and precious experiences with which great successes were made in the spirit of self-reliance despite such harsh situation as this year, our Party and people will achieve a proud victory once again.

Finishing the concluding speech, he ardently called upon the entire Party and all the people to vigorously accelerate the overall development of the socialist construction by putting spurs to the spirit of courageous advance, and thus make the next year a year of great revolutionary event to be significantly recorded in the history of the country and another watershed in the great struggle advancing toward the bright future.

With thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" and loud applause all the participants expressed absolute support and approval for Kim Jong Un's important concluding speech which will serve as a guiding fighting policy leading Korean-style socialist construction to the next stage of victory and a practical weapon of advance and innovation.

Kim Jong Un's concluding speech is a precious practical programme and an invincible militant banner encouraging

the struggle for 2022 for bringing earlier the overall development of Korean-style socialism and the happiness of the people as it reviewed with pride the year 2021 in which the Party Congress was held as a year of proud victory to be specially recorded in the history of prosperity of the country and indicated a new guideline for bringing about rejuvenation of the country.

In discussing the second agenda item, the plenary meeting made a final examination of the implementation of the state budget for 2021 and the draft state budget for 2022 which were examined and suggested by a state budget assessment group. And it approved of presenting it to the Sixth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

The meeting discussed the third agenda item "On the immediate tasks for the correct solution of the socialist rural question in our country".

Kim Jong Un made a historic report *Let Us Open up a New Great Era of Our-style Socialist Rural Development*.

Reviewing the policy of our Party that attached importance to the rural question from the first period of its founding and the historic path for its materialization, the General Secretary clarified the importance and significance of the proper solution to the socialist rural question at present.

To make a drastic change of the rural communities today when it presents itself as a mature requirement to wage the struggle for the overall development of socialism becomes a very important revolutionary task in turning around the rigorous situation in favour of increasing the driving force of our own and achieving prosperity and development of the country and welfare of the people.

It is for this reason that the Eighth Party Congress set forth the strategic policy to arm the agricultural workers with the Party's policies and turn the rural communities into affluent and cultured socialist ones possessed of modern

technology and civilization.

The General Secretary clarified the goal of socialist rural construction and the major task at present, calling for putting the country's agriculture on a definite upward stage and opening up a new great era of effecting drastic development of our-style socialist countryside by pushing forward the rural development under the uplifted slogan of "For the new victory of socialist rural construction!"

Saying that our Party's goal for the socialist rural construction is to model all the rural communities across the country on the Juche idea and make them materially affluent, he noted that targets to be attained in our-style rural development are to enhance the level of ideological awareness of agricultural workers, make a rapid development of agricultural workforce and bring about a fundamental change in the living environment of the countryside.

The report said that the project for attaining the goal of socialist rural construction is a gigantic and serious revolution and that it is necessary to set stages and goals on a scientific basis and wage a purposeful struggle under year-on-year plan to successfully solve the rural problem that assume protracted and multilateral nature. It then set forth mid-term and long-term rural development strategies to be maintained by the Party and the state in the future.

The major task of rural development strategy at present is to transform all the agricultural workers into revolutionary agricultural workers befitting the era of the Workers' Party, completely solve the food problem of the country and dynamically wage the struggle for drastically changing the living environment of rural inhabitants so as to definitely put the countryside on a track of sustained development.

Saying that it is the most crucial task in the socialist rural construction and a key factor for its victory to make the agricultural workers main players and masters of the rural revolution, the General Secretary stressed that it is of paramount importance to put priority efforts into transforming the thinking of agricultural workers and enhancing their political awareness so as to firmly prepare all of them to be rural revolutionaries upholding the Party's idea of socialist rural construction with loyalty.

He set it as the basic task of rural development strategy to increase the agricultural production and completely solve the food problem of the country, and specified the goals of grain output and production of animal products, fruit, vegetables, industrial crops and sericulture to be attained phase by phase in the coming 10 years.

The report suggested the dynamic struggle of sprucing up farm villages across the country as a task to which special emphasis should be put in rural development strategy.

To build all the farm villages in the country so that they would preserve the characteristics of socialism and the features peculiar to relevant regions is a crucial strategic plan which the Party gives a top priority to and which it is



FROM PAGE 5

determined to realize under whatever conditions, in order to provide rural inhabitants with wonderful living environment with nothing to envy in the world and to achieve the overall development of the country.

A guarantee for the successful implementation of this plan is powerful statesupport, activation of a powerful state guidance system and the enhancement of the role of cities and counties directly responsible for the local construction.

The General Secretary underscored the need to powerfully speed up the rural revolution with confidence and optimism, turn all the farms in the country into socialist paradise wonderful enough to be proud of in the world and realize centuries-old desire and ideal of the people as soon as possible, clarifying detailed tasks and ways for doing so.

Powerfully expediting the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—in the countryside is the most important task arising in settling the socialist rural question.

It is proven by the history of socialist rural construction in our country and also the present situation that only when the three revolutions are effectively waged in the countryside, will it be possible to bring about a fundamental change in the aspects of political and ideological awareness, technological knowledge and cultural life of the agricultural workers.

The report set forth the ideological revolution as a priority task in making the three revolutions in the countryside.

The purpose of the ideological revolution in farms is to remove old thought remaining in the heads of agricultural workers, turn them into communists who have been revolutionized and armed with the Juche idea, and consolidate our revolutionary force politically and ideologically and thus powerfully propel socialist construction.

Important here is to educate the agricultural workers to let them work faithfully with high class awareness while firmly arming them with the revolutionary idea and policy of our Party and with the fighting spirit displayed by hero farmers and patriotic farmers in the different annals of the revolution, helping them grasp the greatness and gratitude for the Party, state and the social system and making collectivism dominate their thinking and life.

The report called for conducting a

dynamic technological revolution in the farms to make the agricultural workers intelligent ones.

When they are prepared politically, ideologically and culturally and also possessed of advanced science and technology, they can fulfill their roles as masters of the socialist farms and accelerate rural development in the new era, the report said, and continued:

To this end, it is necessary to conduct brisk agricultural sci-tech study and advanced farming technology dissemination to broaden the knowledge of agricultural workers and enhance their technical ability as required by the drive of making all the people well versed in science and technology and developing ours into a talented nation. What is also necessary is to send lots of university graduates to farms, further increase technological ability of farms in reliance on their pivotal role and thoroughly get rid of such practices as distancing oneself from science and technology and resorting to old experience in farms.

It is also important to establish a revolutionary, healthy and civilized way of life in the farms while raising the cultural awareness level of agricultural workers in order to bring about drastic improvement in accomplishing the cultural revolution in farms.

The agricultural workers should conduct brisk mass-based cultural and art activities and popular sports activities and establish noble and sound moral traits while keeping their native places and villages clean and tidy to make laughter, optimism and feelings of harmony fill the farms.

The nationwide efforts should be directed to raising the level of education and medical service in farms, and the culture of the capital, the culture of working class and the model culture of the times should be steadily expanded to local areas and farms so as to propel the cultural revolution in the countryside.

In the historic report, the General Secretary set it forth as an important task that is urgent in settling the rural problem at present to increase agricultural production of the country in a sustained way.

The report called for consistently maintaining the scientific farming-first principle in successfully implementing this urgent task the solution to which is most waited for by the people.

It is our Party's view on strategic development to convert the agriculture of the country into the advanced one

and bring about stable and sustained growth of agricultural production with the science and technology as the major driving force of the agricultural development.

To this end, it is imperative to powerfully spur the revolution in seed production, establish a scientific farming system and method to cope with disastrous abnormal climate and ensure rapidity, scientific accuracy and correctness in agricultural meteorological forecast.

What our Party gives priority in developing the agricultural production at present is to change the grain production structure of the country and powerfully propel rice and wheat farming.

The General Secretary in the report expressed once again the determination and will of the Party to realize the cherished desire of the Korean people in the near future without fail and clarified the methodological issues in orientating the country's agricultural production to shifting the dietary culture of the people to the one with rice and flour food as staple food.

In the agricultural field, the work of expanding the area under cultivation necessary for meeting the nation's demand for rice and wheat should be pushed forward in a planned way, advanced cultivation method should be introduced, mechanical means should be actively introduced into farming work, dehydration facilities should be set up and wheat processing capacity should be expanded dramatically.

As an immediate task, farms should work out detailed operations for accumulating wheat farming experience and a nationwide system for providing high-yielding seeds and necessary farming materials should be established in an effective way.

The report stressed the need to kindle once again the hot wind for bean and potato farming on a nationwide scale.

Tasks were also given to dynamically wage the struggle for improving low-yielding land and turning it into fertile land without letup and to increase per-hectare yield in most of farms irrespective of whether they are in flat areas, middle areas or mountainous areas.

The report set it forth as an important task for making the people's life plentiful to develop stockbreeding and increase fruit, vegetable and industrial crop production.

It is necessary to renovate the existing stockbreeding bases, turn the counties

with favourable conditions for the development of animal husbandry into stockbreeding counties so as to considerably increase the production of meat, eggs and milk, and widely spread high-yielding fruit species and establish advanced cultivation technology to supply our children and people with fresh fruits and various processed fruits all the year round.

It is important to recover the vegetable field irrigation system, build modern large-scale vegetable greenhouse farms in different parts of the country and invigorate mushroom production bases to make tables of people loaded with food. It is also necessary to put efforts into the cultivation of industrial crops to satisfactorily solve the issue of raw materials of light industry including raw materials of sweetener and oil.

The report importantly referred to the task of strengthening the scientific and technological force of the agricultural field.

Clarified in detail were the issue for agricultural science and technology institutions and universities in agricultural field to fulfill their role in putting the agricultural production on a scientific, IT and intensive basis to meet the trend of the worldwide agricultural development, the issue of studying farming technology and methods favourable for relieving farmers of their hard labour and for realizing mechanization as well as increasing productivity, the issue of putting all the agricultural scientific research bases on an ultra-modern basis and training a large number of competent agricultural technical talents and the issue of timely disseminating advanced agricultural science and technology and farming methods to farms, workteams and farmers.

The report stressed the importance and principled requirement of improving guidance and management in achieving the sustained development of agricultural production in socialist society and advanced realistic ways for strengthening the unified, planned and scientific and technological guidance over the overall agricultural production of the country and displaying the advantages of our-style agricultural guidance system centred on the county cooperative farm management committees.

The report also stressed the need to raise the level and ability of agricultural guidance officials and those officials of

SEE PAGE 7

FROM PAGE 6

primary organizations in farms and to remove exaggeration deep-seated in the agricultural field.

The General Secretary in his historic report clarified the revolutionary policies and measures for increasing the state investment in agriculture and radically consolidating the material and technological foundation of the rural economy.

Underscoring the need to increase the state investment in agricultural field purposefully, unaffected by the given environment and conditions, the General Secretary called on the Cabinet and other state economic institutions and relevant units to systematically increase the share of investment in agricultural field and set up a strict system and order by which equipment, materials and fund are unconditionally provided as planned.

The report analyzed in detail the state investment in realizing the irrigation, mechanization, application of chemicals and electrification of the rural economy and referred to details of basic ways for settlement.

It is imperative to adjust and reinforce the irrigation system of the country in general and further complete it so as to ensure safe farming, whatever drought and flood, to sufficiently supply to the countryside nitrogen fertilizer, phosphatic fertilizer, potassic fertilizer and various other fertilizers and efficient chemicals necessary for the growth of crops, send more power equipment and electrical machines to improve the conditions of production and cultural life in the farms and to continuously expand areas under cultivation with nationwide efforts concentrated on the campaign to bring more land under cultivation and on tideland reclamation.

Saying that it is the plan and determination of the Party to create a new picture of socialist farms that are covered with modern farm machines made

domestically and in which agricultural workers do farming by means of machines, the General Secretary noted that to accelerate this process, the issue was deeply studied based on an overall analysis of the situation in the existing farm machine factories.

He said that the plan of the Party Central Committee is to concentrate investment in major farm machine factories and the farm machine study field while developing the Kumsong Tractor Factory into a general factory capable of producing various efficient farm machines as well as high horsepower tractors so as to completely update the farm machine industry of the country. He took a special crucial measure for its realization.

He said that an emphasis should be put on South Hwanghae Province, the biggest agricultural province in the country, underlining the need to put the Party and state efforts on the province in the period of five-year plan so that it would take the lead in agricultural production in the country.

He also set forth the tasks to make it regular and obligatory to mobilize labour and means in a prompt way during cardinal farming periods such as rice transplantation, weeding and harvest on a nationwide scale, and for relevant fields including light industrial and commercial fields to regularly supply lots of various daily necessities so as to assist agricultural workers in their living and boost their production enthusiasm.

Making a detailed analysis of general financial situation of cooperative farms now under difficult condition, he declared a favoured measure to completely release cooperative farms from the arrears of state loans as part of important measures to let the rural communities stand on their own and consolidate their economic foundations.

The General Secretary advanced it as a task of utmost importance in socialist

rural construction to drastically transform the appearance and environment of farms.

It is the policy on rural construction of our Party to turn all rural villages in the country into rich and cultured ideal socialist villages at the level similar to those in Samjiyon City in the near future.

To realize this plan and policy is the people-oriented work wished for and welcomed by all the people and political work for effecting new socialist rural civilization in our era, the new world where the local areas change, and for bringing about a change in local areas, the work for the social progress and prosperity and the historic work for achieving the overall development of the DPRK.

Calling for changing the living conditions in all rural villages in the country by actively promoting and expanding advantageous experiences accumulated in the construction of Samjiyon City, and stepping up the construction of civilized society in that course, the General Secretary specified the task for preferentially supplying cement necessary for rural construction to all cities and counties, the task for strengthening designing and construction force and procuring necessary construction equipment, the task of pushing forward rural construction with preference given to dwelling construction, the task of setting up a powerful guidance system for guiding the farm construction as Party and state work and the task of ensuring state provision of major materials and finishing building materials and the task of creating building material production bases in local areas.

The General Secretary specially emphasized the need to thoroughly maintain the Party's idea on architectural beauty in local construction, ensuring originality, modernity and cultural refinement and political nature in farm

construction.

Those crucial measures taken for the rapid development of farms across the country at a time when economic work is being done under difficult conditions and when there are big tasks for socialist construction become an expression of the revolutionary farm construction policy of the Party and the state, and they mean great favour and consideration shown for millions of agricultural workers.

The historic report also set it forth as an important task to strengthen the Party guidance over the socialist rural construction.

The rural ri-Party organizations and provincial, city and county Party committees should correctly carry out the planning and designing for promoting the rural development, local development in accordance with the Party's policy of rural construction, and should dynamically organize and mobilize officials, Party members and other working people to its implementation.

In particular, the ri-Party committees should become the Party's major combat units, groups of high spirit and fighting efficiency, to give correct Party guidance to and lead the implementation of the policy of socialist rural construction, and the secretaries of the ri-Party committees should elevate their level and role.

The report called for establishing throughout the Party the system of regularly reviewing the implementation of the policy of socialist rural construction and taking measures for it so as to make the programme for rural construction bring about great changes year after year.

The General Secretary expressed conviction that sure victory is in store for the historic work to certainly put the country's agriculture on the track of steady development and bring about great changes of rural communities as

SEE PAGE 8



General Secretary Kim Jong Un visits Kumsusan Palace of Sun on New Year's Day



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun on January 1 to mark the New Year 2022.

Accompanying him were Choe Ryong Hae, Jo Yong Won, Kim Tok Hun and Pak Jong Chon, members of

the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK, and other members of the Party central leadership body.

Placed at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il was a flower basket from the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Also laid at the statues were baskets of flowers in the name of the WPK Central

Committee, the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK.

The General Secretary together with other visitors paid high tribute to the great leaders in front of their statues.

At the halls where the great leaders are preserved in their lifetime appearance, he made deep New Year's bows to them

as a token of his deepest reverence for them, who victoriously advanced the revolution and construction by dedicating their whole lives to laying the eternal cornerstone of prosperous socialist Korea and still provide the people across the country with invincible power and courage and bless their brighter future by becoming the pillar of their faith.

FROM PAGE 7

long as there are the rightful guidance of the Party, the most correct programme for rural construction and the loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm of Party members and other working people.

The report made by Kim Jong Un, which unfolded a bright prospect and blueprint for the settlement of socialist rural question, constitutes a great fighting programme heralding a new era of socialist rural development in the DPRK and an expression of the WPK's strong will and determination to build a proud socialist paradise with the nation's own strength, wisdom and efforts.

The new programme for socialist rural construction, as a further development of the great Theses on the Socialist Rural Question, is a monumental document of epoch-making significance

in accelerating the comprehensive rejuvenation of socialism by kindling the fierce flames of the rural revolution and fulfilling the centuries-old desire of the Korean people at an early date.

The plenary meeting had a three-day-long sectional study and discussion for making detailed plans for carrying out the fighting tasks for the new year and the new programme for rural construction on the basis of the idea and spirit of the important conclusion and the historic report made by Kim Jong Un.

The meeting made a final examination of suggestions brought together by the resolution-drafting team and adopted the resolutions "On thoroughly implementing the tasks for the year 2022 of the five-year plan set forth by the Eighth Party Congress" and "On thoroughly implementing the fighting programme for our own-style socialist rural construction" with unanimous

approval.

Through the full pre-study of the fourth agenda item by the members of the Party central leadership organ, the meeting acknowledged that the amendments to the Party rules are of practical significance in putting the Party building and its activities on a regular and standardized footing, and unanimously approved the decision on amending relevant clauses of the Party rules.

The plenary meeting discussed the fifth agenda item.

The meeting heard and reviewed data on the organizational and ideological life of the members of the Party central leadership organ in the latter half of the year 2021.

The meeting discussed the organizational matters as its sixth agenda item.

It recalled and by-elected a member and alternate member of the Political Bureau

of the Party Central Committee as well as members and alternate members of the Party Central Committee.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth WPK Central Committee that lasted five days amid revolutionary enthusiasm finished its work with a solemn pledge of invariable loyalty to the revolutionary idea and cause of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

The plenary meeting will be significantly recorded in the history of the Juche revolution as a historic one which declared the start of an all-people grand march to glorify the hope-filled new year 2022 as a great turning point in the developing revolution under the invincible guidance of the great Party and advanced strategic policies that will dynamically propel the overall development of our own-style socialist construction.

Kim Jong Un has photo session with meritorious persons, labour innovators



KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, met meritorious persons and labour innovators who performed distinguished feats in the struggle of the first year for implementing the decisions made at the Party Congress, and had a photo session with them.

The participants were greatly excited as they were honoured to have a photo taken at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, supreme temple of Juche, on the morning of New Year's Day in 2022 in

the presence of the General Secretary whom they had missed even in their dreams.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived, they enthusiastically cheered the great father who brought about miraculous victory to be specially recorded in the history of socialist construction with his energetic revolutionary leadership all the year round, but credited the ordinary working people who did what they ought to do with all those achievements and repeatedly bestowed the greatest honour and favour on them.

The General Secretary warmly

shook hands with and gave pep talks to those meritorious working people and labour innovators who made valuable achievements in their posts and workplaces with absolute loyalty to the Party and the revolution and with strenuous efforts to contribute to crowning 2021 with successes.

He had a photo taken with them, voicing expectation that all the participants would continue to creditably perform the core and pioneer role in the gigantic struggle in the New Year for providing a sure guarantee for implementing the five-year plan and bringing about a remarkable change in

the state development and the people's living standards.

As the photo session was over, the excited participants again broke into thunderous cheers of "Hurrah!" and ran into the arms of the kind-hearted leader, presenting an impressive scene of inseparable bonds of kindred feelings.

All the participants renewed their pledge to make a contribution to winning a new great victory through an all-people general march for the rejuvenation of their socialist country, bearing deep in mind the great loving care and trust of the General Secretary.

DPRK leader offers congratulations to Cuban counterpart on anniv of victorious Cuban revolution

KCNA

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, extended warm congratulations to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Republic of Cuba, on the occasion of the

63rd anniversary of victory of the Cuban revolution.

He in the message noted that over the past 60-odd years after the victory in the Cuban revolution, the fraternal Cuban people have resolutely defended and developed the socialist system, the gains of the revolution, united firmly around the Communist Party of Cuba.

Expressing his sincere pleasure over

the fact that under the leadership of the first secretary, the Cuban party and people have reliably carried forward the revolutionary cause pioneered and advanced by the preceding leaders while waging a dynamic struggle to implement the decisions made at the Eighth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, he extended his full support and firm solidarity with it.

The General Secretary expressed the firm conviction that the precious traditions of friendship and unity between the two parties and two countries would steadily develop in the common struggle to realize the socialist cause, wholeheartedly wishing the first secretary greater success in his responsible and noble work.

He also sent a basket of flowers to the Cuban leader.

Official notice of Fourth Plenary Meeting of Eighth WPK Central Committee

Member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee:

Pak Jong Gun (left)



Alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee:

Ri Thae Sop



Members of the Party Central Committee:

Han Ryong Guk, Wang Chang Uk, Ju Yong Il, So Jong Jin, Ri Hyok Gwon, Jin Kum Song, Im Kyong Jae, Kim Il Guk, Chae Song Hak, Ri Chol San, Kang Hyong Bong, Kye Myong Chol, Ri Jong Gil, Ri Kyong Ho, O Kum Chol, Kim Pok Nam, Ri Chang Song, Kim Hwa Song, Pak Thae Song, Cha Myong Nam and Kim Kwang Hyok

Alternate members of the Party Central Committee:

Sim Hong Bin, Kim Jong Gil, Pak Su Il, Ri Kyong Chon, Pak Kwang Ju, Choe Chun Gil, Song Yong Gon, Ri Pong Chun, Ko In Chol, Choe Kwang Il, Song Sok Won, Kim Kwang Il, Kim Jong Sun, Pak Song Chol, Paek Hyong Chol, Choe Kil Ryong, Choe Kwang Jun, Ri Kyong Chol, Ko Nam Hyok, Jo Sok Ho, Kang Myong Chol and Choe Ryong Gil

Meritorious persons, labour innovators pay homage to great leaders at Kumsusan Palace of Sun

KCNA

The persons of merits and labour innovators who made tangible contributions to successfully concluding the first year's struggle for implementing the new five-year plan for national economic development

visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, and paid tribute to them on December 31 2021. They paid homage to the President and the

Chairman before their statues in reflection of the unanimous feelings of the working people across the country. At the halls, where the President and the Chairman lie in state, they made a bow to them with deepest reverence.

Banquet given to mark New Year

KCNA

A banquet took place in the Mokran House in celebration of the New Year 2022. The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un highly appreciated the meritorious people and labour innovators who unusually devoted themselves to attaining the targets for the first year in implementing the new five-year plan, and invited them to the banquet in celebration of the New Year. Present there were Choe

Ryong Hae, Kim Tok Hun and Pak Jong Chon, members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other members of the Party central leadership body together with meritorious persons and labour innovators. He stressed that when the meritorious persons and labour innovators become seeds and vanguards in their workplaces spending every minute and second of the new year for creation and innovation, the country would take a real step forward in attaining the grand goal earlier and the cause of building Korean-style socialism would surely win a great victory.

Kim Jong Un, he warmly congratulated the meritorious persons and labour innovators. He stressed that when the meritorious persons and labour innovators become seeds and vanguards in their workplaces spending every minute and second of the new year for creation and innovation, the country would take a real step forward in attaining the grand goal earlier and the cause of building Korean-style socialism would surely win a great victory.

Flag-hoisting ceremony on New Year's Day

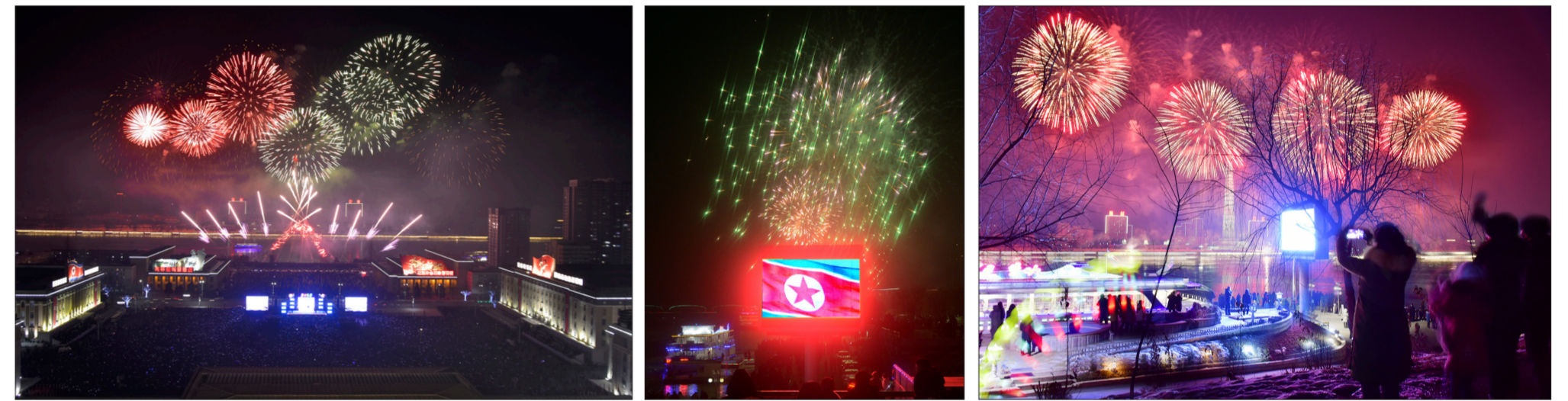
KCNA

A national flag-hoisting ceremony was solemnly held at Kim Il Sung Square on January 1 2022. The square was crowded with Pyongyang citizens who were out to greet the moment when the national flag would be hoisted. At 00:00 sharp, a bell tolled the start of the New Year and melodies of the immortal revolutionary hymns *Song of General Kim Il Sung* and *Song of General Kim Jong Il* reverberated far and wide, providing people with great pride and confidence of being

members of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea. Exemplary worker, farmer, intellectual, young man and student of the capital city solemnly spread out the flag of the DPRK and it was slowly hoisted up amid the playing of the national anthem. At that significant moment, everyone paid their respects to the national flag. Gorgeous fireworks were displayed in the nocturnal sky over Pyongyang along with the fluttering flag of the DPRK, adding to the festive mood.



A flag-hoisting ceremony takes place at Kim Il Sung Square on January 1 2022.



Fireworks burst in the nocturnal sky of the capital city, where the flag of the DPRK flutters, livening up the atmosphere of celebrating the new year.

Performance given in celebration of New Year 2022

KCNA

Greeting the New Year 2022, the Korean people burnt with patriotic zeal for opening up a route of advance for new victories under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which leads Korean-style socialism to a prosperous and powerful country. As they recollected with pride the year 2021 when they advanced dynamically on the strength of "The people are God", "single-hearted unity" and "self-reliance" according to the action programme put forward by the Eighth Congress of the WPK, the Korean people celebrated the New Year with a performance in Pyongyang on its eve, filled with great hope and enthusiasm. Kim Il Sung Square, the venue of the celebratory performance, was as bright as day with distinctive stage and other decorations and

brimmed with the jubilation of citizens just before the New Year's Day. The melodies of *My Great Country* and *Pyongyang Is Best* rang out of the stage of the performance, making people swell with pride in being the citizens of a dignified and powerful country. Female vocal solo *Drawn by the Affection* and mixed duet *Our Mother* touched the heartstrings of the audience as they aroused deep gratitude toward the great motherly Party that has taken meticulous care of all people. Songs of youth, including *Young People, Be Loyal to Our Party* and *Let's Go Together* reverberated in the nocturnal sky on the New Year's eve reflecting the spirit of patriotic youth who volunteered to work at the operation theatres to which the Party called by following the precious fighting tradition of the preceding generations

and lead a beautiful life as performers of feats, enlivened the celebration atmosphere. Male solo and female pangchang *Happy Tomorrow*, male vocal quartet *On the Way for Rice Harvest*, female solo and male pangchang *Song of Big Hauls in the Sea*, mixed ensemble *It Is Really a Good Society* and others impressively showed the proud looks of the country. The performance ended with large ensemble and dance *We Are the Happiest in the World* and *Snow Falls on New Year's Day*. The 2022 New Year performance fully demonstrated the firm confidence in the future of socialism which would prosper along with the great Kim Jong Un's era and fervent patriotic enthusiasm of the people to continuously advance and make a leap forward towards fresh victory under the unfurled banner of our-state-first principle.



Celebratory performance is given at Kim Il Sung Square to mark the New Year 2022.

NATION CELEBRATES NEW YEAR 2022



People of all walks of life visit the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill to pay floral tribute to them on the occasion of the New Year 2022.

KCNA

The people greeted the New Year 2022 with splendour in the DPRK.

To mark the New Year, people visited the plaza park at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme temple of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, in humble reverence for the great leaders to make a deep bow to their beaming images.

Working people and service personnel paid homage to the great leaders at their statues and beaming images on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and other places across the country.

A variety of performances were given in the capital and local areas to add to the festive mood.

The National Symphony Orchestra gave a concert in celebration of the New Year

at the Moranbong Theatre in Pyongyang.

And entertainers of the Phibada Opera Troupe and the National Folk Art Troupe staged a music and dance performance at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

Drama *Devoted Service*, which was staged at the National Theatre, left a deep impression on the audience as it truthfully represented the chief official of a county Party committee who makes selfless devotion to turn the county into socialist paradise which develops independently and in a diversified way and to solve problems arising in the living of residents in the county, true to the Workers' Party of Korea's idea of attaching importance to cities and counties and its line of strengthening them.

The acrobatic performance given at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre also brought joy

and optimism to citizens greeting the New Year.

New Year celebrations were also held in different places including art theatres, halls of culture and schoolchildren's palaces in North and South Phyongan, South Hwanghae and Jagang provinces and Kaesong.

New Year's performances of schoolchildren showed the happy life of Korean children who are growing as reliable pillars of socialist Korea in the warm embrace of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un who brings them a bright smile and rosy future.

Similar performances were staged at the Chongjin Theatre and Haean Square in Wonsan to enliven the

holiday atmosphere.

Public catering service facilities were busy with providing holiday service all across the country.

Diners relished traditional and other foods at the Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants in Pyongyang, the Kyongam Restaurant in Sariwon, the Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung and elsewhere.

Various kinds of greeting cards were sold at greeting cards and souvenir shops and bookshops in Pyongyang and New Year greetings were exchanged between parents and children, between teachers and students and among neighbours, relatives and friends throughout the country.



A variety of performances are given to mark the New Year.



Pyongyang citizens are happy to greet the New Year.



Schoolchildren give New Year performance



The New Year celebration of schoolchildren is held at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1 2022.

THE PYONGYANG TIMES

KCNA

The New Year celebration "Twelve Months of Our Home" of schoolchildren was held at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang on January 1 2022.

It was attended by Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea, first vice-president of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Also seen there were senior Party and government officials, officials of ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs, teaching staff and students of Mangyongdae and Kang Pan Sok revolutionary

schools and officials and labour innovators in Pyongyang.

Starting with overture "We offer New Year's greeting to the respected Marshal Kim Jong Un", performers extended New Year greetings to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un in reflection of the minds of schoolchildren across the country.

They extended New Year greetings to fathers, mothers

and brothers and sisters throughout the country who have performed miracles and feats by upholding the Workers' Party of Korea.

The stage of the performance, which unfolded impressive scenes of twelve months woven on the journey of devotedly serving the people, showed the boundless loyalty of schoolchildren across the country for the great father who made tireless

efforts while keeping the work for posterity as his top long-cherished desire.

Numbers in the programme, which were performed by young people and Korean Children's Union members who were honoured to meet Kim Jong Un on significant Youth Day and the 73rd founding anniversary of the DPRK, touched heartstrings of the audience.

The children at baby

homes, orphanages and primary and middle schools for orphans throughout the country impressed the audience as they sang of the motherly Party which brings up children as happy ones with warm affection and care to bring them happiness without a slight shadow.

The New Year performance ended with finale "Our home is happy as we are led by the Marshal".

People in Komdok area move into new houses

KCNA

Under the far-reaching plan of the Workers' Party of Korea to build the Komdok area into a mine city and a gorge city without an equal in the world, single-, low- and multi-storey and high-rise dwelling houses and terraced houses have been built in good harmony with each other in Kungol-dong Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Tachung-dong No. 2, Paekkumsan-dong and Thamsa-dong of Tanchon City in a gorge. As a result, another fairyland has sprung up in the new era when the local areas undergo a drastic change.

The ceremonies of moving

into new houses took place in those areas on December 30 and 31 2021.

Present at the ceremonies were Kim Myong Du, vice-chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee, officials of the General Bureau of the Tanchon Area Mining Industry, the Komdok Mining Complex, the Ryongyang Mine and the Tachung Youth Hero Mine and residents.

The speakers said that thousands of modern flats have been built in less than one year in the Komdok area associated with the undying leadership exploits of the WPK and that people in the

area have come to move into new houses with great joy.

They expressed the determination to fully display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude in the ongoing general onward march for the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress, always remembering the great affection of the Party all their lives, and thus increase the production of minerals decisively and fulfil their duty reliably in the major sector of the national economy.

Officials visited those who moved into new houses equipped with all excellent living conditions to congratulate them.



Multi-storey apartment houses spring up in the Komdok area.

Happy New Year



The Editorial Board of *The Pyongyang Times* extends warm greetings to you readers, who have got familiar with the newspaper through its homepage, to mark the New Year 2022.

We wish all the families happiness and hope everyone would celebrate the New Year with fresh dreams.

Last year *The Pyongyang Times* strove to inform you intact of every event that happened in the DPRK, and help you form and strengthen bonds of friendship with the Korean people.

The entire staff of the Editorial Board look back with pride on the last year when they provided you with truthful reports on the happenings in all domains of politics, the economy, culture and external relations in the DPRK, on its diligent and optimistic people who build their life and shape their bright future by their own efforts and on the time-honoured history, culture and traditions of Korea.

2021 was a year of hardship to everyone due to the world health crisis caused by COVID-19.

However, the Korean people worked assiduously to attain the goals of the five-year strategy for national economic development put forward by the historic Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and made lots of achievements in that course.

This year, they will make more persevering efforts to achieve greater victories, while *The Pyongyang Times* will report the news about them quickly and accurately to be a good companion and reliable guide of you readers who love justice, progress and peace and who want to know about the DPRK,

We sincerely wish you good health in the New Year.

Koreans' emotional

intimacy with pine tree

By Choe Yong Nam PT

The pine is the national tree of the DPRK.

The tree has long been the subject of poetic and musical composition and an important theme of murals and other fine art works.

A legend has it that Solgo, a renowned artist of Silla, depicted a pine tree on a wall so lifelike that the birds trying to alight on its branch ran into it to fall down. The trees are represented vividly

on ancient tomb murals and the art of painting the tree is detailed in old document *Rimwonsimnyukji*.

Such historical data tell that Korean ancestors liked to draw the tree and paid close attention to the study of art of painting it.

In the DPRK there is an area where special affection for the tree can be felt in a concentrated way.

It is Kaesong which was called Songdo, or a town of pines, in the past.

Wang Kon, the founder king of Koryo, set it as a primary task to plant the tree all across the city including mountains in order to green it and make it assume the features as the capital of the country as he built the kingdom. And a mountain in the city was named Mt Songak meaning a mountain covered with pines.

The ancestors were very fond of the tree and raised it with so much attachment.

They practised the custom

of planting and tending the tree on significant occasions including holidays and wedding day.

The Koreans' emotion reflected on the pine can also be felt through their traditional sayings.

Typical of them include "You will notice the greenness of pine in the depth of winter", "You will realize the constancy of pine and bamboo in the dead of winter", "Like blazing pine resin" and "To look for a needle in a pine grove".

