

2023 a year of great turn, change

By Ri Sung Ik PT

This year will mark an important turning point in the course of development of Korean-style socialism and in history of the DPRK.

In 2023 the Korean people have to bring about the stable development of the national economy and substantial changes in improvement of the people's standard of living by keeping up higher the fighting spirit of the year 2022.

Because only when they make a decisive advance in all sectors of socialist construction this year, the third year of key importance in implementing the five-year plan put forward at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea,

can they successfully carry out the tasks set forth by the Party Congress and surely put socialist construction on a new stage of development.

Reviewing the year 2022 when the DPRK powerfully demonstrated its potentiality and spirit and the steadfastness of the Korean revolution and advanced socialist construction more vigorously, resolutely overcoming the unprecedentedly severe national crisis, the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eight Central Committee of the WPK defined 2023, in which it is faced with higher goals and huge tasks of carrying out the five-year plan for national economic development, as a year of making enormous strides

in the development of the national economy and a year of attaining key goals in increasing production, implementing the strategy for readjustment and reinforcement and improving the people's living standards and set it as the general direction of the new year's work to further expand and develop the all-people struggle to open a new phase in socialist construction so as to provide a decisive guarantee for the fulfilment of the five-year plan.

This year, when the country is charged with challenging tasks to achieve the higher level of economic indexes than last year for the implementation of the five-year plan for national economic development, the

central task in economic work is to execute the readjustment and reinforcement plan decided by the Eighth Party Congress by and large while pepping up production in all sectors and units.

The plenary meeting set the building of dwelling houses, a revolution for bringing about an epoch-making change and an undertaking most welcomed by the people, as the first and foremost policy task for this year, too.

This year, the third year of the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, a new street will be built with the construction of 10 000 flats in the second stage of housing development project in the Hwasong area and the rural construction

to which the Party attaches great importance will go on invariably.

The spirit of self-reliance, considerable experience of street building gained in the past and the well-organized work system will be the useful assets in pushing the capital construction on a wider scale.

It is an important policy the WPK promotes at present to completely spruce up the country, while putting the overall national economy on the right track of stable development by expanding the production and capacity of the industrial sectors, the backbone of the national economy, and stoking up the flames of the revolution in construction more intensely.

Difficulties and trying

ordeals will stand in the way of the Korean people this year, too. However, they will overcome all sorts of grave situations not by chance or with other's help, but with the irresistible force peculiar to Juche Korea, and hasten the building of a prosperous and powerful country with vigour according to the plan and decision of the Party Central Committee and the timetable set out by it. They will also adorn this meaningful year, on which fall the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK, as a year of great turn and change to be recorded in the course of development of the country.

Rallies held to vow to carry out decisions of Party plenum across DPRK

KCNA

Rallies took place in North and South Phyongan, North and South Hwanghae, North and South Hamgyong, Kangwon, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces and Nampho, Rason and Kaesong cities between January 8 and 10 to pledge to thoroughly implement the decisions made at the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The rallies drew large numbers of people filled with faith in victory and will to glorify this significant year of the 75th anniversary of the DPRK and the 70th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War as a year of great turn and change to be vividly etched in the course of national development through an all-people struggle for opening up a new phase in socialist construction.

They were attended by

officials, working people, youth and students of local Party and government organs, working people's organizations, factories, enterprises, farms, universities and colleges.

Speakers in the rallies called on all Party members and other working people and officials to add brilliance to every moment of their life and open up a new heyday of the Korean revolution with sincere efforts, extraordinary innovation and worthwhile

feats and without shame on behalf of the Party, the country and the posterity in the present campaign for bringing about a turning point of national rejuvenation.

Young people got together at the Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park Open-air Theatre on January 10 to hold a similar meeting.

It was attended by Ri Tu Song, department director of the WPK Central Committee, youth league officials and youth and students in

Pyongyang.

A speech was made by Mun Chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Patriotic Youth League.

He ardently called on all officials and members of the youth league to fully demonstrate the spirit and true merits of the patriotic youth in the struggle to implement the decisions of the Party plenum, always cherishing in their minds the trust and expectations of the Party, and advance

vigorously toward a great new victory of the Juche revolution and a bright future of the socialist country.

Similar rallies were held on January 11 by such working people's organizations as the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and the Socialist Women's Union of Korea, which respectively adopted a letter of pledge to the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.



Provincial rallies are held to vow to thoroughly implement the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Young people hold an oath-taking meeting at the Pyongyang Municipal Youth Park Open-air Theatre on January 10.

Party organizations hold study sessions on document of WPK plenum

KCNA

All the Party organizations in the DPRK are conducting an intensive study to deeply grasp the idea and spirit of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Party committees at all levels have deepened the study of the report made by General Secretary Kim Jong Un at the Party plenum, with main stress put on enabling themselves to creditably fulfill the mission and duty as the political general staff in their areas and units in further consolidating the political climate peculiar to the Party and in stabilizing economic development and improving the people's livelihood.

All the Party officials across the country are exploring the ways to discharge their duties in doing the organizational and political work for getting the people to give full play to their

absolute loyalty to the General Secretary and their patriotism in this year's practical struggle.

All officials, Party members and other working people study hard to grasp the practical ways for bringing about substantial results in this year's work in the fighting spirit of the 1960s and 70s and, at the same time, discuss the measures for doing thorough preparations and innovating their style of work.

Good ways have been found out to inspire the Party members and other working people with loyalty and patriotic enthusiasm and organize a mass patriotic movement.

Officials of power organs and administrative and economic bodies at all levels are seeking ways to lay the foundations for solving the problem of consumer goods and implement the Party's childcare policy.

Officials of industrial establishments across the

country are also determined to surely make successes much awaited and welcomed by the people.

The Party committees across the country encourage officials, Party members and agricultural workers to achieve the stable and sustainable development of agricultural production in the face of any disastrous abnormal weather and bear in mind their mission and responsibility in sprucing up all rural villages.

Working people's organizations arrange the relevant study and discussions in a methodological way so as to make the study of the document a process of ideological mobilization, operation planning and assignment of tasks for deeply grasping the Party's struggle scheme and ways to open a new surging phase for the overall rejuvenation of the country and for inspiring the masses to thoroughly implement them.

Posters inspire all people to implement decisions of Party plenary meeting



The poster calls for attaining twelve goals for national economic development this year, a year of crucial importance in carrying out the five-year plan.

KCNA

The Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House, Mansudae Art Studio, Central Fine Art Studio and Pyongyang University of Fine Arts have produced new posters inspiring all the people to implement the great fighting strategy set forth by the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The posters will actively encourage all officials, Party members and working people of the entire country in the struggle to vigorously advance towards a new horizon of national development with firm confidence in their cause and faith in their own strength under the wise leadership of the Party Central Committee.

Winter camping starts at children's camp

KCNA

The first-term winter camping of schoolchildren started at the Songdown International Children's Camp.

The starting ceremony took place on January 9.

It was attended by Paek Song Guk, chief secretary of the Kangwon Provincial Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea, Chae Il Ryong, chairman of the provincial people's committee, Kim Kyong Jun, vice-chairman of the youth league central committee, teaching staff of the camp and campers from North and South Hamgyong and Ryanggang provinces.

Participants laid a basket of flowers and bouquets at the statues of President

Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il in the camp and made a bow to them.

After the clarion call for the start of the camping was sounded, the camping flag was hoisted amid the playing of song *March of the Children's Union*.

Speeches were made at the meeting.

It was followed by a march-past of campers.



Schoolchildren stage a march-past signalling the start of the first-term winter camping at the Songdown International Children's Camp on January 9.

HOME NEWS

Happy event at centenarian's home in Ichon County

A matter for congratulation happened to the family of a centenarian in neighbourhood unit No. 3 of Hoesan-ri, Ichon County, Kangwon Province, amid the joy of greeting the New Year.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un sent a birthday spread to Yu Kil Chon on her 100th birthday.

She expressed her deep gratitude to Kim Jong Un, saying that she received even the birthday spread reflecting his affection although she as an ordinary old woman in a mountainous area is undeservedly treated as a macrobian while living without any worries, thanks to the popular policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state.

Online reeducation system for anti-epidemic workers to be upgraded

The online education faculty of Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences and some other units are upgrading the online reeducation system so as to enhance the abilities of anti-epidemic workers.

When the upgrading is completed, the online reeducation system will allow anti-epidemic workers to get lessons on selected subjects at any time

and in any place and can manage their on-the-spot training.

Nampho Teachers Training College inaugurated



Nampho Teachers Training College has splendidly been built and inaugurated.

The college is provided with full conditions and environment necessary for the instruction and edification and life of students, including a college building, e-library, gym and dormitory.

Its inaugural ceremony took place on January 6.

It was attended by Ri Jae Nam, chief secretary of the Nampho City Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, officials in the city, builders and teaching staff and students of the college.

Song Sung Chol, chairman of the Nampho City People's Committee, gave an inaugural address, which was followed by speeches.

Speakers called on all the teaching staff and students to constantly improve the qualitative level of

education and make a tangible contribution to ushering in a new period of development in socialist education by studying hard, true to the important tasks put forward at the historic Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

After the inaugural ceremony, the participants looked round the college.

New bridge for pupils

A new bridge was built in front of Sanyang Primary School in Tokchon City several months ago.

One day, An Pyong Chan, manager of the Namyang Coal Mine, on his way back from work saw schoolchildren going to school by a roundabout route as the river rose in the rainy season.

As soon as he returned to the coal mine, he called a consultative meeting and suggested building a new bridge by the mine's efforts, saying nothing is more important than the work for the rising generations.

Officials of the coal mine took scrupulous measures for the supply of materials and the employees exerted themselves to finish the construction as soon as possible.

Therefore, the new bridge which would never be washed out in any flood was built in a short period.

Efforts stepped up to build sustainable, promising production capacity

Leading iron and steel producer lays strong material, technical foundations

By Song Jong Ho PT

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex is making progress in the creation of a new production capacity by giving priority to laying solid material and technical foundations for guaranteeing sustainable production growth under a long-range plan.

Above all, the complex is channelling efforts into technically improving iron-making methods and consolidating its production foundations under the uplifted banner of self-reliance.

The engineering sector remodelled an existing air compressor, instead of importing an oxygen compressor, in the course of manufacturing a large-capacity oxygen plant.

After finding out a reasonable way to prevent the leakage of oxygen, technicians and workers there made strenuous

endeavours despite repeated failures, thus manufacturing parts of the plant reaching the technical standards.

The technical group of the complex consisting of talents of the engineering sector, the IT institute and others pooled their creative wisdom to provide a guarantee for manufacturing a cooler which is widely recognized as difficult to make. On the basis of this, they put spurs to the construction of the overall system, thereby opening up bright prospects for finishing the assembly of all equipment in the near future.

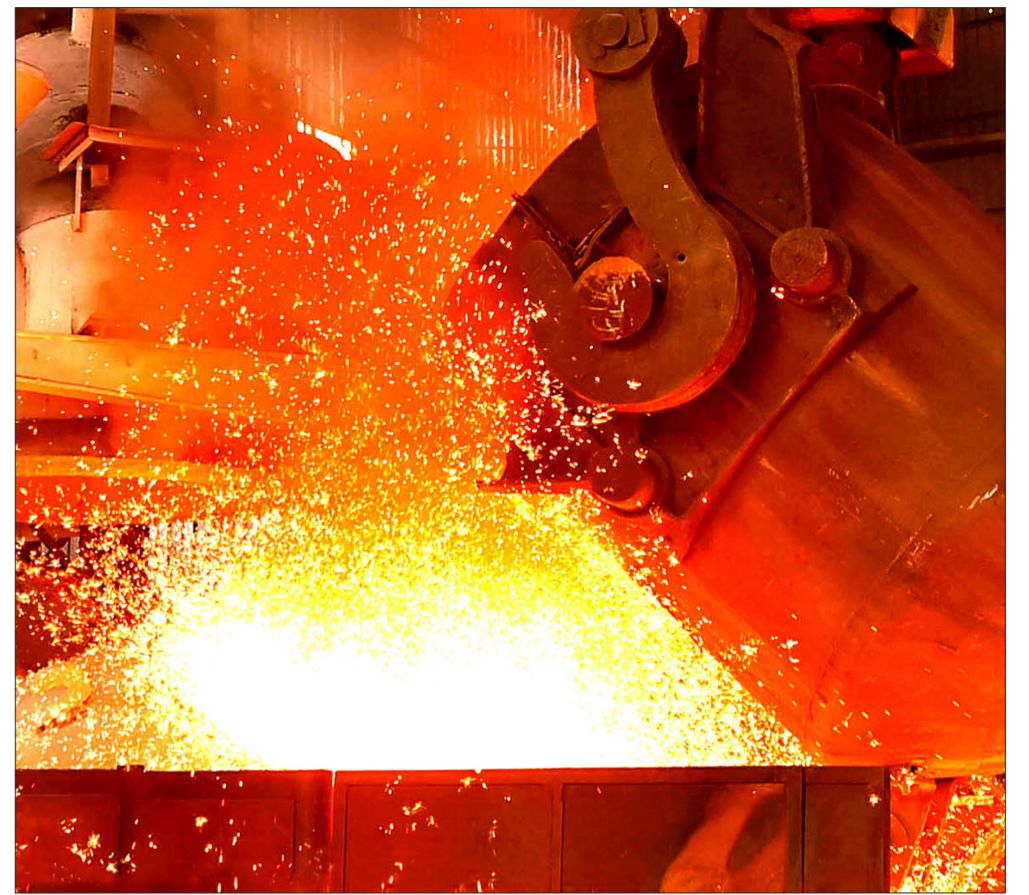
Members of its April 15 technical innovation shock brigade solved knotty problems arising in manufacturing and operating a conveyor for the supply of raw materials, while skilled workers contrived various kinds of jigs and devised pipe-making methods to successfully install a rotary kiln.

Smelters have overfulfilled their daily molten iron production plans by finding out and applying a reasonable combination ratio of materials and melting operation methods for an oxygen-blast furnace and thus further shortening the melting time.

Workers and technicians in charge of rolled steel production are promoting cooperation between processes and technically remodelling several pieces of equipment with their own efforts and technology to increase the actual output of iron and steel.

It is now solving technical problems arising in the trial production of oxidizing roasting pellet.

Officials, workers and technicians in the pipe-making sector pushed ahead with the manufacture and assembly of heavy metal pipes which had been regarded as impossible previously, while developing



RODONG SINMUN

Iron and steel output rises at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

and introducing several technical innovation plans.

Workers in charge of equipment assembly completed the installation of an oxidizing roasting shaft.

Based on such success, the complex is stepping up the installation of a rotary kiln and the assembly of equipment of the material supply system.

The workers of the complex are waging a vigorous struggle to solidify its iron and steel production foundations in the New Year, too.

Innovations made for increased power generation

By Yun Kyong Il PT

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Station is bustling with an increased electricity production drive true to the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee.

Its employees who

overfulfilled their annual electricity production plan by 4 percent last year are exerting themselves to boost power output from the beginning of the new year by keeping up their elevated spirits.

"Our workers have operated all equipment at full capacity to maximize power generation since they received the news about

the enlarged meeting of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee," said chief engineer Mun Hak Chol.

Shortly after the entire power plant launched into power production in the new year, there was a hitch at heat production workshop No. 1 in charge of the most important part of the plant.

An abnormal phenomenon was detected at the axis of a ball crusher of boiler No. 6.

They couldn't stand at all even a moment's delay to normal electricity generation from the first day of the new year. Together with repairers, workshop manager Ko Kwang Jun took the lead in fixing the axis. They buckled down to replacing the axis weighing over hundreds of kilograms with a new one and reduced the replacement time by half to contribute to increasing power output on the first day.

The supply sector including the unloading workshop operated such conveying equipment as overhead crane and conveyor belt at full capacity and ensured a sufficient supply of fuel and water to help boost power output.

Head of directors Jo Won Sik and directors of the general production control room skillfully dealt with various occasional problems at the production site in time to reliably ensure increased power production.

Thanks to their efforts, the power station carried out its production plan for the first day 1.2 times.



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

An employee operates the control panel carefully for increased electricity production at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station.

Giant steel maker pushes Juche-orientation projects

By Kim Il Jin PT

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, a large-scale base of the metallurgical industry, pushes ahead with projects for putting production lines on a Juche basis.

It presses on with the construction of a new energy-saving oxygen blast furnace.

The relevant parts have been manufactured and assembled at fast speed to erect the furnace body and the construction of a dozen structures is at the final stage.

The operation rate of vehicles and facilities increased and the excavation and concrete placing for foundations were finished in a short time.

Technicians and workers of the complex pooled their collective wisdom and strength to manufacture such structures as steel columns and roof trusses in a qualitative way and adopt innovative construction methods to speed up the assembly.

They pushed the assembly of steel structures constantly by making necessary parts for crane and restored and put in operation many facilities.

The pipe-making sector manufactured the structures, which had been regarded as impossible to make with the existing facilities, by tapping reserves and potentials.

The complex persistently carried out the overhaul of other oxygen blast furnaces while introducing advanced technology to remodel all inefficient production processes and further improve the technology of furnace operation.

Thus, it finished the overhaul of all parts of the furnaces scores of days before schedule while increasing iron and steel production. As a result, it set the peak record in daily production since its inauguration without causing any delay in production and construction in relevant sectors and units.

Industrial province thrives by dint of science, technology

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

Last year, South Hamgyong Province continuously brought about sci-tech achievements which contributed greatly to economic development and improvement of the people's living standards in the province.

Among them, there are a spray drying powdered milk production facility, heat pump using sea water, hydraulic tile press and milch cow breeding method using barley sprouts as feed.

All these attracted the attention of academic circles and people as they are fully Juche-oriented.

Key players in the technical development and equipment manufacture were not competent scientists, but ordinary field technicians and skilled workers.

Core research group of province

The Sinhungsang geothermal technological research company plays a pivotal role in the development of science and technology in the province.

They succeeded in developing the heat pump using sea water which has completely been Juche-oriented for the first time in the country after developing the spray drying powdered milk production facility which encompasses different



Researchers hold a discussion to develop new products at the Sinhungsang geothermal technological research company.



The Songchongang Tile Factory turns out various kinds of tiles needed for local construction.

RODONG SINMUN

technological fields and requires a high degree of technical difficulty.

They also developed and made the heat pump using sea water in a matter of some months, which is of great significance in doing offshore fish farming and establishing a cooling-and-heating system.

The pump is recognized as one of the advanced technologies in the world as it ensures proper water temperature for offshore fish farming, irrespective of seasonal conditions, using seawater as the source, and the establishment of a large-scale cooling-and-heating system.

"In introducing an advanced technology, we adopted an innovation-driven

method, not a copy-based one, and depended entirely on domestic production," said director Pae Jun Il.

The course of developing a pump can be said to be the sequence of dangerous moments claiming even the life, because if its compressor refrigerant is defective, it may explode.

However, researchers boldly buckled down to research and completed the heat pump.

As a result, it opened up a good prospect for extensive farming of marine creatures in every place bordering the sea and explored a new domain for establishing the cooling-and-heating system by using inexhaustible seawater resources.

Their heat pump was introduced into the Phungo Offshore Farm which was inaugurated last December last year and is working well.

Milch cow breeding method using barley sprouts as feed

The milch cow breeding method of the Hungsang Milch Cow Farm is also interesting as it uses barley sprouts as the feed.

The farm cultivates barley sprouts by way of hydroponics.

According to animal husbandry experts, barley sprouts contain more crude protein than barley or maize. That is why they are becoming an ideal feed for such grass-eating domestic

animals as milch cow and goat. Therefore, the world is devoting a great deal of effort to mass-producing barley sprouts through hydroponic cultivation.

At present, three farmers collect fresh and green barley sprouts that have grown more than 20 centimetres at every 5-7 days at the cultivation ground, and this is equivalent to the amount that can be obtained from dozens of hectares of land.

The cultivation ground is provided with full conditions for producing barley sprouts even in midwinter so as to feed them to milch cows sufficiently all the year round.

Since barley sprouts began to be fed, the fattening and

breeding rates of milch cows and milk output have been increased.

Milk produced here are processed into tasty and fragrant milk products at the milk processing room, which is equipped with spray drying powdered milk production facilities.

The cultivation method of barley sprouts based on hydroponics is actively applied to stockbreeding units since it is an advantageous method to settle the problem of feed for domestic animals to suit the specific conditions of the country with limited arable land.

Such sci-tech achievements made by the province won high appraisal at different national exhibitions and reviews last year.

Less is more

The significance of economy is growing day after day.

All sectors and units of the national economy and all people across the country should turn out for economization. Herein lies the way to implement the decisions of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, fulfill the national economic plans for this year and provide a decisive guarantee for carrying out the five-year plan.

The WPK defined this year as a year of making a big stride in the development of the national economy, a year of attaining key goals in increasing production, carrying out the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement and improving the people's living standard and indicated clearly economic indexes to be attained by each sector of the national economy in the new year.

Raw and other materials, fuel and equipment are needed to that end in any sector.

Of course, the electric power industry and different other sectors have increased production and reduced consumption of materials per unit by introducing new technologies with the firm intention to increase

productivity by dint of science and technology. And more and more units have made steady efforts to put economy on a higher scientific and technological basis.

But it is necessary to further intensify the economization drive in such key industries as metallurgical, chemical and coal-mining industries, light industry and all other economic sectors in order to reach our high goals with success and bring about sustainable development in the overall national economy.

As is always the case, what is decisive in searching for and employing reserves and methods for economization in production and construction is people's viewpoint of the work.

Economy is an important way to maximize production and it is ensured just by great scientific and technological force.

When all sectors and units develop their own sci-tech forces and promote the development of science and technology, they will be able to boost production while saving materials and labour to the maximum.

To this end it is necessary to steadily enhance sci-tech talents' patriotism and creative abilities so that they fully display their potentialities at the forefront of economy.



Pak Chol Jin, department director of the State Planning Commission

Saving-oriented production processes installed

By Ri Sang Il PT

All sectors and units of the national economy are actively engaged in the work for turning production processes into labour-, energy-, cost- and site-saving ones.

Researchers of the machine science and technology faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology introduced a paper waste disposal process using a forced air conveying method into the Educational Books Printing Plant, which is now paying off in practice. The cost- and site-saving process is economically profitable since it reduces much labour and time previously consumed in the disposal of paper waste and also helps keep the working environment clean.

It was several years ago when researcher Ho Chol Hyon and his team initiated the research project for setting up the paper waste disposal process which is of great importance in automating book-binding processes.

After designing and building an optimized squeezer by applying a

quality engineering method, they were faced with another challenging task of establishing a closed pneumatic conveying system. Although they had literally no experience in designing a new system and could not find any detailed technical features in the literature, they worked persistently to rationally map out the pipeline route according to the condition of the site and scientifically decide the airspeed and airflow and the mixing ratio of air and paper waste.

Their achievement was registered as a national sci-tech hit last year as it contributed to the automation of the book-binding process and brought considerable economic profits to the state.

The Rason Ryongson general processing factory has remodeled its beer production line into an economical one.

The factory's technicians set up a process that collects carbon dioxide from the beer production line and applies it to the production of soda without affecting the ongoing production. As a result, the factory boosted its soda output five times while reducing the

consumption of labour and materials. In the meantime, they solved the problems that arose in installing a general electricity measurement device so that the factory could reduce power consumption by more than 30 percent and push on with production without any interruptions.

The Unjong essential building-materials factory newly established a process which can ensure the efficiency of raw materials selection at over 95 percent.

Since materials like paper scraps and cardboards contained various kinds of impurities and the selection process was inappropriate, the factory could not improve the product quality and the serviceable life of machines shortened.

The factory's technicians collaborated with researchers of the paper engineering institute of the State Academy of Sciences to design a more profitable selection process in conformity with its actual conditions.

With the installation of low-pressure, centrifugal and gyratory selectors, the factory now removes almost all impurities contained in materials.

Locals turn their land into ideal place to live in



The Thaecheon county tree nursery produces tree saplings for local afforestation.



A woman harvests mushrooms at the Thaecheon county mushroom farm. (above) The shop's windows and shelves are loaded with locally produced goods. (left)

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

Thaecheon County in North Pyongan Province is being turned into socialist paradise.

These days, the county frequently does province-wide demonstrations in different fields such as farming, land administration, local industry, education and

public health. The county is famous for doing farming well. Originally, it had unfavourable farming conditions for the shallow

soil and barren land. Therefore, the county makes it a rule to mobilize its entire population in producing organic manure and spread it to paddy and

non-paddy fields every year to increase soil fertility.

It promotes scientific farming to minimize damage from disastrous abnormal climate, makes adequate preparations for farming and adheres to the principle of planting the right crop in the right time.

As for wheat farming alone, it more than doubled the area of preceding crop culture and widely introduced advanced farming methods to boost per-hectare yields last year.

The mushroom farm, foodstuff factory, paper mill and the Thaecheon Youth Rabbit-breeding Farm contribute a large share to improving the people's living standards and developing the economy in the county.

The mushrooms produced in the county are tasty and highly nutritious and productive and therefore they are spread to other areas, and soy sauce, soybean paste, vinegar and other condiments of the county foodstuff factory are demanded even by other local areas.

The Thaecheon Youth

Rabbit-breeding Farm has managed dozens of hectares of forests around the farm to solve the feed problem. As a result, there are now forests covered with luxuriant and good species of trees and pastures with nutritious grass and medicinal herbs grow there in profusion to be used in manufacturing veterinary medicines.

Making the most of Lake Taechon, the county does scientific and intensive fish farming.

It expanded the mandarin fish pedigree and fry production base into a county mandarin fish pedigree farm and furnished it with all necessary conditions, and stocked the lake with large quantities of fry last year, too.

The county built new bridges across large rivers and renovated the county hospital splendidly.

And it constructed modern farm houses for over 100 families last year.

The Thaecheon people are now exerting themselves to achieve a higher goal for development.

CHOLLIMA-1104 TRACTOR

- Nominal traction capacity: 20KN
- Chassis: frameless
- Max. speed: 37.84km/h
- Gross weight: 4 700kg
- Max. output: 80.8kW (110hp)

Korean youth movement keeps on path of proud development

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The word "youth" is regarded as a symbol of performance of feats and miracles and the pride of the nation today in the DPRK.

The honourable tradition dates back to 1945 when Korea was liberated.

Busy as he was building the Party, the state and the army after Korea's liberation from Japanese military rule, President Kim Il Sung paid special attention to the youth issue and organized the preparatory committee for the formation of the Democratic Youth

League of North Korea in a consultative meeting of officials in South Phyongan Province in October 1945 and made sure that preparations were made for a conference of active democratic youth.

That day, he clarified the matter of dissolving the Young Communist League in favour of advance and forming the Democratic Youth League to involve broader sections of young people and specified the direction and ways to that end, including the programme, rules and inaugural declaration.

As a result, the

Democratic Youth League of North Korea was founded on January 17 1946.

As they realized the inexhaustible might of patriotism and unity as members of the Juche-oriented youth organization, the Korean young people fought for the country and the people at the risk of their lives during the fierce Fatherland Liberation War, demonstrated the spirit of youth to the full in the vanguard of the post-war rehabilitation and performed world-startling miracles and feats in socialist construction.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, who illuminated the way

ahead of the youth league in every period and at every stage of the revolution, designated Youth Day and put forward the slogan "Love young people!" so that millions of members of the young vanguard could lead an honourable life.

Therefore, the young people made breakthroughs in major fields of socialist construction in the 1990s, one of the most difficult times for the country, and monumental structures shining with the name of youth rose up one after another across the country.

Today, the Korean youth movement has greeted a heyday under the leadership

of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un.

Thanks to his belief that the prosperous future will be accelerated by the dynamic efforts of young people and his trust and love for them who have always been advancing straight forward following the Party, those who had been lagging behind others made a new start of their lives amid the blessings of the whole country and the miracle of building a gigantic dam breaking the rated capacity despite the severe cold of northern part of the country was performed.

Since the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the

Workers' Party of Korea and the 10th congress of the youth league, numerous young men and women joined the army or volunteered to work at coal and other mines, rural areas and development sites to perform miraculous feats, and the enthusiasm for volunteering is still growing among young people.

The 70-odd years of the Korean youth who have displayed their resourcefulness and courage by breaking through harsh trials following the Party is a course of unusual pride and self-esteem of them who have upheld great leaders generation after generation.

Performers of feats, heroes of noble virtues

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Recorded in the proud annals of the victorious advance of the Korean revolution are heroic exploits performed by young people who fought self-sacrificingly for the country and people, shedding their valuable blood and sweat.

The first-generation youth of the Korean revolution fought the bloody anti-Japanese war with arms in hands following General Kim Il Sung for years to achieve the historic cause of national liberation on August 15 1945, thus saving the country and nation.

During the great Fatherland Liberation War between June 1950 and July 1953, young people unhesitatingly dedicated their youth and lives to the beloved homeland, creating the legend of war victory of heroic Korea and honourably defending the country from the imperialists' invasion.

In the hard times after the war, the Pyongyang to Sinuiju passenger trains began to run in only 12 hours after the sound of gunfire stopped booming, passenger trains ran on all railway trunk lines in a week and electric furnace No. 2 was reconstructed at the then Kangson Steel Works in less than two months thanks to the labour feats of the Korean youth.

In 1954 alone they restored over 900 coal and other mines and other industrial establishments, some 300 irrigation facilities and more than 10 000 hectares of farmland.

After performing brilliant feats in the post-war rehabilitation, they worked miracles one after another

in the titanic struggle to build a socialist state which is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in defence with unbridled patriotic ardour.

The Haeju to Hasong broad-gauge railway line is the typical monumental edifice which tells about the brilliant feats of labour of the Korean youth.

In the project they tied themselves to pine trees on the cliffs with ropes to bore blast holes and carried out 50 000- and 70 000-cubic metre blastings at a stroke.

The huge project, which was believed to take three to four years at an ordinary speed, was completed in a matter of only 75 days by the heroic struggle of young people.

In the 1990s when the fate of socialism was to be decided and the country was faced with extreme difficulties beyond imagination, they completed an over 40km road construction project in some 700 days. Like this, they safeguarded the lifeline of the Korean revolution and the socialist country with a do-or-die spirit and positively contributed to laying the solid foundations for the building of a powerful socialist country by overcoming a multitude of difficulties and hardships.

Following in the traditions of heroic struggle handed down by the youth of the preceding generations, the young people built a huge dam and excavated the waterway tunnel inch by inch in the fierce battle with nature to carry out the enormous task equivalent to the work they had done for 10 years in some 120 days, creating a legend of

wonderfully building the dam of Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station Unit 1, which was inaugurated in October 2015. They also perform shining feats to be etched in history in the difficult and labour-consuming jobs.

Innumerable are touching

stories about noble virtues and admirable traits performed by young men and women in the country.

They look after the health and life of war veterans and honoured disabled soldiers who shed their blood to defend the country like their own flesh

and blood, regarding it as their bounden duty and obligation, and become mothers of parentless children, eternal life companions of honoured disabled soldiers and sons and daughters-in-law of the elderly with no one to depend on. Among them

is Jang Jong Hwa, who is well-known across the country as a "girl mother" for having taken seven orphaned children into her family and brought them up.

All the Korean people are very proud to have such trustworthy young people.



Young people volunteer to work at major fronts of socialist construction.



Young scientists of the State Academy of Sciences are immersed in their research project.



A bird's eye view of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station inaugurated in October 2015.

National music, base for developing Juche-oriented music and art

By Hwang Jong Ryol PT

In the DPRK national music serves as a base for developing the Juche-oriented music and art.

The Korean nation has expressed its own feelings and sentiments through different folk songs and musical instruments since olden times.

Folk songs that evoke deep emotion by dint of clear, beautiful and gentle voices, clear tones of national woodwind instruments and soft and melodious tones of national string instruments, which are peculiar to Korean national music, reflect well national feelings and sentiments of the Korean people who are fond of beauty and gentleness.

The tune of *Arirang*, beloved folk song of the Korean people, which dates back to the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668) widely known as a powerful state in the East,

is well known abroad as well.

Koreans' favourite folk songs include those reflecting their ardent patriotism and hatred toward foreign aggressors and their indomitable spirit, optimism and stamina like *Song of Jongbansan Fort*, *Kanggangsullae* and *Khwaejina Chingchingnane* and those reflecting scenic beauty of Korea, Koreans' ways of life and customs and attachment like *Ballad of Phyongbuk Nyonghyon*, *Yangsando*, *Spinning Wheel Ballad* and *Let's Go to Pick Mulberry Leaves*. Such songs are still popular among the people.

The popular folk music thus serves as a base for the development of the Juche-oriented music and art.

Under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea for positively encouraging and developing national music associated with the soul and fine qualities of the nation, the sector of art strives to find out and

develop folk songs and national instruments steeped in national sentiments and re-interpret the songs to meet the modern aesthetic taste.

National music pieces are finely interpreted in state-level performances, winning warm applause from the audience.

This year, too, many of such music pieces were performed at the grand performance in celebration of the 74th birthday of the DPRK, making the performances conspicuous and demonstrating the extent to which national music develops as required by the times.

Meanwhile, national music is being positively encouraged and generalized, making an indelible mark in the development of the Juche-oriented music and art, through folk song contest, national instrumental music contest, national singing contest of working people and others.

Seesawing as acrobatic piece acclaimed

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Seesawing, one of the folk games peculiar to Korea, has been originated from the fact that Korean women, who could not go out freely owing to feudal restriction, put the board beside a fence and seesawed to look over the fence.

It was in 1957 when the seesawing began to be adapted for acrobatics.

The acrobatic piece, in which a variety of turning skills and standing on shoulders are performed while seesawing, shows the wisdom and valour of the Korean nation since it

is powerful and rhythmical by preserving plastic motion.

That is why seesawing has won the great admiration of the people as it is one of the traditional acrobatic events of the DPRK.

Today, it has further developed thanks to the creative staff of the National Acrobatic Troupe.

According to Kim Kwang Chol, a creator at the National Acrobatic Troupe, the acrobatic piece is winning growing popularity since it has been renovated as the one performed with two boards installed in the shape of "+".

"I thought it was a kind of stunt to perform seesawing with only one board. But it is splendid to see acrobats performing it with two boards," said Kang U Song living in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

Thirty-five acrobats take part in the acrobatic piece and skills of higher degrees of difficulty have been introduced into it.

"We will redouble our efforts to create much more acrobatic pieces to keep alive the soul of the nation," said Ri Thae Gum, section chief of the National Acrobatic Troupe.

Acrobats perform seesawing at the National Acrobatic Troupe.



RODONG SINMUN

Putting main stress on promoting the flavour of national music

By Pang Un Ju PT

The National Folk Art Troupe wins high accolade from the audience for producing excellent works full of national emotion and flavour.

Small-sized *haegum* (Korean fiddle) solo and *kayagum* ensemble *Song of Big Hauls in the Sea* and *jangsaenap* (Korean woodwind instrument) solo and national percussion instruments ensemble

involving *jangu* (hourglass drum), drum, small gong and gong) *My Thriving Country* have been chosen as popular pieces in this year's performances.

The fact that most actors and actresses who perform these pieces are novices draw attention to the creative and production activities of the art troupe.

As it puts main stress on promoting the flavour of national music of creative and performing artists of younger generation, the

art troupe intensifies the training of their skills.

While improving artistic skills of performers by organizing a workshop on national music every quarter, it makes sure that they fully master folk-song skills.

It also intensifies ensemble training.

"The ensemble training takes a very important position in perfectly performing art pieces on the stage. The more efforts we make for ensemble training,

the more successes we achieve," said Nam Un Ha, small-sized *haegum* soloist of the art troupe.

New folk singers also prove successful in performances by preserving the distinctive features of folk songs with their characteristic tones.

The art troupe accepts new novices' creative and original opinions through the art committee to make a positive use of them in creative activities.

In the course of this,

it created new forms of performances combining small-sized *haegum* solo with *kayagum* ensemble and *jangsaenap* solo with national percussion instruments including *jangu*, drum and small gong.

"When the performance reaches the climax as the unique tone quality and original opinions through the art committee to make a positive use of them in creative activities, the audience dance merrily at the

auditorium. Then I keenly feel the advantages of our national music," said Jang Hyok, an instrumentalist of the art troupe.

"An art performance without its feature, unique style and rapport with the audience is like a work without soul. All members of the art troupe devote all their wisdom and passion in order to create new and an innovative form of performance every time," said Sim Il Jae, deputy head of the troupe in charge of art.



Artistes of the National Folk Art Troupe present new pieces on the stage.



RODONG SINMUN



Riding club filled with joy, optimism



Working people have a good time under kind service at the Mirim Riding Club.

By Ri Sung Ik PT

The Mirim Riding Club in the Mirim area by the Taedong riverside is a favourite haunt of many. The area was named thus as the forest there is so beautiful.

In the New Year, too, many people visit the club as horse riding is a modern popular exercise which fills

them with optimism and joy and instills in them not only bravery and boldness but noble sentiments on life.

In the riding hall, beginners are engrossed in learning how to keep in step with horses and on the track around the hall,

those who already learned the rudiments of riding practise trotting, sharing the

feeling with horses. Among them are kindergarten and primary school children who have come there with their parents.

It is sweet and satisfactory to see kids keeping time with horses, composedly seating themselves on saddles.

Among the visitors to the riding hall there are boys and girls and adults.

Though they are different in age, everyone trains hard, eager to take part in a race as early as possible.

At the outdoor riding ground, young people gallop horses, showing off their strength and passion.

Now the places around the outdoor ground are decked with snow and the air is fresh. And riders dig their spurs into horses'

flanks and horses run neck and neck letting out steamy breath, which reminds you of a picture.

Much elated at the gallop, they say they feel as if they have become Koguryo generals.

Researchers, university students and workers are seen among them.

"Citizens' enthusiasm for riding grows year

after year. In this winter vacation, many students and schoolchildren come here to spend a good time.

Among them there are many teenagers who obtained the rider's licence after learning riding skills at the riding knowledge diffusion room," said Ri Tong Jun, secretary general of the Equestrian Association of the DPRK.

and still the fatigue-relieving centre gives me a pleasant impression as much as that," said Son Kwang Song, a resident of Phyongchon District, Pyongyang.

Horse riding adds pleasure to visitors since sand and turf courses stretch widely in the outdoor riding training ground, log tables and chairs in the outdoor terrace, tent resting place and artificial mountains, lakes and pavilions are as graceful as a picture as if the landscape of a celebrated mountain is displaced as it is.

"I like to see myself riding a horse in a large mirror installed around the training hall," said Ri Il Jin, a resident of Taesong District, Pyongyang.

The fatigue-relieving centre, which is equipped with all conditions for relieving fatigue while having a massage after riding horses, also gives satisfaction to clients.

"It is good to ride a horse in high spirits at indoor and outdoor training grounds,



Satisfactory service, environment

By Han Kwi Hun PT

When you enter the compound of the Mirim Riding Club after passing through its gatepost depicting a galloping rider, its panoramic view comes into sight reminding you of a street.

Visitors feast their eyes on service buildings constructed in a unique style by combining modern and natural beauties and riding courses stretching spaciouly.

Visitors to the Mirim Riding Club go to the

riding service centre before others.

The centre provides them with diverse types and colours of riding suits.

After putting on smart suits and getting out of the centre, they can see riding courses that are on a world level in terms of scale and accommodation, which they heard from attendants.

There are a room of diffusing riding knowledge to visitors and a riding training hall exuding modern beauty and flavour of nature.

In the hall beginners learn

how to ride on saddles and how to hold bridles one by one with the help of kind attendants.

"I like to see myself riding a horse in a large mirror installed around the training hall," said Ri Il Jin, a resident of Taesong District, Pyongyang.

The fatigue-relieving centre, which is equipped with all conditions for relieving fatigue while having a massage after riding horses, also gives satisfaction to clients.

"It is good to ride a horse in high spirits at indoor and outdoor training grounds,

Schoolchildren enjoy winter vacation

By Pang Un Ju PT

Schoolchildren are now on winter vacation.

During the vacation the bases for extracurricular education and cultural and leisure activities, scenic spots and parks across the country are bustling with many schoolchildren conducting various extracurricular activities.

The Sci-Tech Complex and Natural History Museum, bases for diffusion of science and technology and education in Pyongyang, are popular among schoolchildren who want to further consolidate what they have learnt.

The children's dream hall of the Sci-Tech Complex inspires schoolchildren with greater zeal and desire for learning during their discussions about their dreams of space conquest and visitors to the Natural History Museum broaden their knowledge of nature observing samples of various animals and plants and other exhibits.

Plazas and parks in the city are characterized by scenes of schoolchildren's various folk games including kite-flying, top spinning, shuttlecock game, sleighing and rope jumping. Kite-flying is the most popular among them. Those engrossed in the game

are all wearing bright smiles controlling the strings for their kites of various shapes and colours flying high up in the blue sky.

The skating contests of schoolchildren held at the People's Open-air Ice Rink are also notable during the vacation. Among the contestants are those from Janggyong Primary School in Sosong District. Their seniors cheered for them to reach the finish line as they persistently run wiping beads of sweat from their faces flushing red. The youngest boy of them was the last to reach the finish line but he was applauded by all for his endurance and fortitude.

According to a keeper of the ice rink, many students frequent it during winter vacation and their number increases day by day. And they become close friends in the course of learning from and teaching each other, the keeper added.

After becoming familiar friends, they sometimes have skating contests and a referee is selected from among their grandfathers who have accompanied them to the ice rink. Such contests are spectacular. Occasionally the referee unfairly cheers for his grandson, provoking laughter from people around.

Conspicuous are scenes of the Munsu Water Park in midwinter.

A cold wind blows outside, but schoolchildren joyfully play in water at the indoor wading pool of the water park. Students of higher classes cleave through water flaunting their swimming skills before little boys who move arms and legs hard to practise swimming movements they learnt at school.

Amusement arcades of the Rungna People's Recreation Ground and Amusement Park of the Kaeson Youth Park equipped with complete sets of various amusement facilities resound with laughter of schoolchildren playing electronic games including hunting, motorcycle race and boat race.

At parks and gyms across the country there can be seen excited schoolchildren training body and mind through roller-skating, badminton and other sports.

Many schoolchildren also spend their vacation pleasantly with their families in Mt Ryongak, the Central Zoo, Masikryong Ski Resort and other cultural and leisure activity centres built wonderfully across the country.

The whole country is enlivened by pleasant laughter of children.



Children spend a nice time according to their wishes and aptitudes.

JON KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Hobby group activities heightened during vacation

By Kim Hak Chol PT

Schoolchildren are conducting brisk extracurricular group activities during vacation.

"During the winter vacation, I want to broaden my knowledge about nature through visits, study tours and practical training," said Jo Ye Rim, pupil of Janggyong Primary School in Sosong District, Pyongyang.

Schoolchildren like her now frequent the Sci-Tech Complex, Natural History Museum and other

extracurricular education units and the number of the children visiting the establishments is over two times greater than before the vacation.

During the vacation, more and more pupils try to develop their talents according to their taste, aptitude and individuality at schoolchildren's palaces and other extracurricular education bases in Pyongyang and local areas.

Previously schoolchildren were content with possessing one talent. Now they want more and their parents also

want to bring them up into talented persons with wider and many-sided knowledge and abilities.

"Such demand makes us set a goal of inventing and introducing more effective teaching methods," said Son Mun Yong, department head of the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace in Pyongyang.

Hobby groups of primary and junior and senior middle schools in the municipality are conducting diverse extracurricular activities during the vacation.

For example, Ponghak

Primary School in Phyongchon District made sure that its pupils drew up and presented their own plans for extracurricular group activities as they wanted. Many of them were rated as good for their clear goals and utility.

In addition, the school actively runs a variety of hobby groups for intellectual development by synthesizing opinions of parents of its pupils and each pupil's aptitude and ability grasped during lessons.

Such group activities

are brisker at primary schools, including Kwangbok Primary School in Mangyongdae District affiliated to Pyongyang Teachers Training College, Mirae Primary School in Phyongchon District affiliated to Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, Kinnmaul Primary School in Moranbong District and Janggyong Primary School in Sosong District.

Schools in Taedonggang District are active in conducting art group activities.

They run various art

groups involving students who have aptitude for the arts such as vocal music, narration and fine art, as well as different groups of sports like football, basketball, volleyball and Taekwon-Do to help student grow tall and develop their physical strength.

Parents are quite glad to see their sons and daughters changing for the better thanks to the efforts of teachers to find and develop more buds of talents among students and train them into persons prepared in an all-round way.



Students learn new skills or study new field through hobby group activities.

RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES



Holidaymakers enjoy a hot bath in the indoor spa bath at the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.

HONG KWANG NAM / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Rich and ideal mineral water resources

By Kim Hak Chol PT

The DPRK has many places where hot spring, mineral water and natural spring good for human health and longevity and treatment of diseases rise all the year round.

Resources of hot springs are distributed in many places in the country.

Most of hot springs known until now are sulphurous, radon, chloride and bicarbonate springs and their temperature is 20 to 100°C, which hardly knows seasonal variation.

The medicinal effectiveness of the hot springs are so high that they are widely known and a historical record tells that even foreigners requested access to the springs. Among the springs are many famous ones including the Paektu hot spring especially effective in treating chronic bronchitis and neuralgia, the Yangdok hot spring wonderfully effective in promoting metabolism and treating various diseases, the Ongjin hot spring whose temperature is about 103°C and which is good for the treatment of different diseases including digestive trouble, the Ryonggang hot spring rich in minerals and widely used in treating hypertensives as it acts as antihypertensive and sedative and the Kyongsong hot spring, or sand spring which is called so as the water gushes out of a thick layer of sand.

The country also has quite many resources of mineral water.

In Pyongyang alone there are Okryu, Samma, Konguk and other mineral waters and the first one is especially effective in treating chronic gastritis and other digestive



Vacationers take a hot bath in the outdoor spa bath at the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort. (above) Visitors have a pedis bath at the Kangso Mineral Water Bathhouse. (right)



diseases, slight diabetes and anaemia.

The famous Kangso mineral water enhances the secretion, absorption and motion of the digestive tract, promotes biligenesis and biliary excretion, increases the quantity of urine and accelerates the elimination of urinary calculus. It also improves metabolism and discharges mucus of the upper airway.

The world-famous Sindok spring water contains elements needed for the human body in ideal harmony and its physicochemical and hygienic indexes meet the

international standards of drinking water. And it is free from pollution and is cool, refreshing and pure in taste.

The Ryongaksan spring water, too, tastes good and is ideally contains various minerals and main ions and thus it is not only used as drinking water but is highly effective in treating different diseases.

All the resources of the waters are utilized for the promotion of the people's health and their cultural life.

According to research data published a few years ago, local mountain spring waters number over 400 and they include many springs, such as Sindok, Kungangsan and Ryongaksan spring waters, which can match those of global longevous areas in taste and health index.

The world-famous Sindok spring water contains elements needed for the human body in ideal harmony and its physicochemical and hygienic indexes meet the

international standards of drinking water. And it is free from pollution and is cool, refreshing and pure in taste.

All the resources of the waters are utilized for the promotion of the people's health and their cultural life.

Mud resources have special efficacy for disease treatment

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

The DPRK, which is bounded by sea on three sides and rich in rivers and lakes, has inexhaustible mud resources which have special efficacy for the treatment of diseases.

Book *Encyclopedia of natural cure resources in Korea Vol. 2* (mud therapy resources) describes in detail the distribution and physicochemical properties of mud therapy resources, characteristics and classification of their components, general actions of the resources, mud therapies according to treatment methods and systemic diseases and results of analysis and study of components of the resources of each region.

The sediment of river, tide and ocean current, the components of mud are mainly the inorganic substances which are the destroyed substances of rocks and minerals and the organic substances which are remains of animals and plants.

Among the substances that are contained in tideland mud there are those that have various physiological and biochemical effects.

As it contains lots of microelements, mud is called the "storehouse of microelements".

The microelement content of mud is incomparably higher than ordinary water and thousands of times higher than seawater.

According to medical workers, mud is widely

used as materials for curing diseases.

In particular, the mud of Lake Sijung in Thongchon County, Kangwon Province, and the coastal tideland mud in Sonchon County, North Phyongan Province, are known to have good effects on the treatment of various diseases and widely used for preventive and curative care.

As the former contains fat, carbohydrate, amino acid, vitamins, enzyme, microelements, different organic and inorganic substances, hydrogen sulfide, other gas components, hormone and the like, it is said that it is highly effective for the treatment of neuralgia, neuritis, traumatic sequels, chronic gastritis, chronic interstitial hepatitis, stomach and duodenal ulcer, chronic enterocolitis, women's diseases and organa genitalia disease.

As its thermal capacity is high and its thermal conductivity is twice lower than water, the mud cools down slowly, once heated, and as its plasticity strong, the shape of mud clod prepared for treatment remains almost unchanged.

In order to raise the thermal, mechanical and chemical treatment effects of mud, pelotherapy is combined with balneotherapy.

Modern sanitariums are found at places with rich mud resources and they give medical treatment to working people with mud resources as the basic means.

According to medical workers, mud is widely

Criminal treaty fabricated by duress, trick

By Choe Yong Nam PT

Like all other treaties the Japanese imperialists cooked up by forcing the feudal Joson dynasty in the past, the "Hansong treaty" was an unequal agreement which paved the way for Japan's invasion of Korea.

In the latter half of the 19th century, other big powers had their eye on Korea, which is in a geopolitically important position with rich natural resources, and competitively buckled down to gaining their control over it. Much apprehensive about it, Korea made a desperate bid to create an environment favourable for its invasion of Korea before others.

At that time, conditions were maturing in Korea for a bourgeois reform movement by the enlightenment group led by Kim Ok Gyun. The group intended to modernize the country through the movement.

Japan was displeased with that because if the enlightenment group gained power, it would fail to invade Korea and reduce the country

to its monopolistic colony.

The Japanese imperialists employed the double-dealing tactics of outwardly supporting the enlightenment group's bourgeois reform and secretly making every move to foil it. Therefore, the Kapsin coup the Koreans staged for bourgeois reform in 1884 was foiled due to Japan's perfidy.

At the time of coup, the Japanese minister set his legation on fire before fleeing it. Japan shifted the blame for this onto the feudal Korean government and dispatched its aggressor forces to Korea's Inchon port in January 1885 on that pretext.

The Japanese imperialists forced the Korean government into signing the "Hansong treaty" stipulating that the latter should compensate for the "damage" done on them during the coup.

As evidenced by historical fact, the Hansong treaty is nothing but a forged document devoid of value as an international law since it was concluded under duress. As a matter of principle, in

concluding a treaty states should strictly observe the principle of respecting each other's sovereignty and the principle of equality and reciprocity and the treaty should sufficiently reflect the will of the signatories. Both the international common law of modern times and the Vienna treaty on treaty law, an international law of the present times, stipulate that any treaty concluded under duress on the representative of a state is null and void. It is very obvious that the Korean government was unable to express its own will under the circumstance in which the aggressor forces of Japan were threatening and blackmailing it.

The Japanese imperialists shifted the responsibility of all occurrences related to the coup onto the Korean government by stipulating in the treaty that "Korea shall make an apology to Japan through the sovereign's message" and "investigate the case and arrest the Koreans who killed the Japanese and sentence them to a severe punishment". And they

specified in the treaty as a clause that the Korean government should pay over 100 000 won in compensation for the damage on Japanese merchants and for rebuilding the burnt legation.

The process of fabricating the treaty clearly reveals the craftiness, viciousness and aggressive nature of the Japanese imperialists. Afterwards, they invented illegal and unlawful documents one after another in similar ways to reduce Korea to their colony.

The Korean nation does not forget the past crimes of Japan even for a moment.

It is a current international trend to settle past sins. The settlement of the past is the only way for Japan to make a new start.

This notwithstanding, Japan still flatly denies its past crimes. The Korean people closely watch the behaviour of Japan which tries to realize its old dream of a "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere", while obstinately ducking responsibility for the past crimes.

OPINION

Society where women are stripped of basic rights

By Song Jong Ho PT

Women are being deprived of their elementary rights in Japanese society where money is everything.

At present, hundreds of thousands of foreign women are toiling and moiling in Japan, under the threat of employers that they would fire them if they are pregnant.

The Japanese immigration control office announced its first survey result on December 23 last year, revealing that 26.5% of technical trainees heard impertinent remarks on pregnancy and childbirth from Japanese businesses and a supervisory unit, including the one that they would be sacked when pregnant.

A Filipino woman who had been a trainee at a special old people's home in Fukuoka Prefecture sued the facility for damages, saying that she had been forced to quit the job and return to her country last October for no other reason than that she was pregnant.

It is the common mentality of Japanese employers addicted to mammonism that their companies alone will suffer a loss if a woman employee gets pregnant since her productivity might drop and a subsidy should be paid as much.

This shows that women are regarded as nothing more than a tool for producing material wealth, not human beings, in Japanese society.

That's why numerous women give up pregnancy and some women commit such an unethical act of abandoning their babies lest they should be dismissed.

In 2020, a foreign trainee abandoned her twin babies to conceal her pregnancy and childbirth in order to keep receiving practical training.

According to a report on women's status published by the World Economic Forum in 2022, Japan took the 116th place among the forum's 146 members, a record low, and 139th in the political field.

As facts and figures show, the mental and moral corruption in Japan which often touts human rights, equality and welfare is obtrusive even in the capitalist world.

It is just the tragic human rights situation of present Japanese society that women suffer a terrible fate being deprived of even their vital rights.

Young people's duty in building prosperous country



Jin Ryong Il
Department director of the Pyongyang municipal youth league committee

In 2022 our people achieved proud successes by displaying the spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and creativity while stoutly enduring severe national crises. The successes were the priceless ones that could be attained only by the great people.

The successes are also associated with devoted and patriotic efforts of young Koreans who have always marched straight forward, following the Workers' Party of Korea.

At the enlarged meeting

of the Sixth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, General Secretary Kim Jong Un stressed the need to make 2023 a year of great turn and change to be remarkably recorded in the course of development of the DPRK by keeping up higher the fighting spirit displayed in 2022 and making all-out efforts to attain this year's goal and fulfil the new long-term tasks.

Looking back upon the proud history of our country adorned with miracles and great feats,

the periods of great upsurges in the revolution always coincided with the heyday of the youth movement.

We are entrusted with a heavy duty of inheriting the history and tradition and ushering in a period of new upsurge and change in the revolution. It is a bounden duty of us young people, new generation of the revolution.

The whole country will be ebullient when young people are enthusiastic.

The news about young people who volunteered for the major fronts of socialist

construction in response to the Party's call last year encouraged all the people across the country to wage a vigorous struggle.

We will fully demonstrate the mettle of the Korean youth on the major fronts of socialist construction by keeping up higher the spirit displayed last year.

We young Koreans are never loafers who only enjoy happiness provided by their parents.

The future of the country belongs to the younger generation.

We will create our own happiness by ourselves so that we can recollect it with pride in the distant future and will surely build a prosperous socialist country on this land by our dynamic efforts.

BYWORD

The word "vanguard" refers to persons or groups playing a pacesetter and active role in the van of certain social groups or classes.

The youth in the DPRK are called "young vanguard".

This appellation reflects the great trust, pride and expectations the Workers'

Young vanguard

Party of Korea, the country and people have for young people who find their ideal and ambition in devoting themselves to national

prosperity and perform miracles and feats as they dedicate all their passion to society, the collective, country and people.

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FIRST SPORTS DAY OF THE YEAR MARKED WITH MASS SPORTS ACTIVITIES ACROSS COUNTRY



By Han Kwi Hun PT

The whole country brimmed with enthusiasm for sports on January 8, the first sports day of the year.

A variety of sports games were played at ministries and national agencies.

Civil servants of the ministries of Metallurgical Industry and Chemical Industry unfolded impressive scenes as they played volleyball, tennis and other sports games to exalt the honour of the collective.

Officials and working people of the ministries of Electric Power Industry, Coal Industry, Machine-building Industry and Commerce and the Mansudae Art Studio demonstrated their collective might as well as various skills they honed in the days of mass sports activities as they took part in tug of war, table tennis and other games.

The spirit of working people was really high at factories and enterprises in Pyongyang as they greeted the first sports day.

Working people of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Station, who took the first step of advance in the New Year, had unusual enthusiasm for sports. And the venues of sports games at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill and Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill brimmed with high spirits to kindle fiercer flames of collective innovation.

Officials and workers of the Pyongyang General Electric Cable

Factory 326 and Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory, which are expanding production successes with determination to increase production, conducted a variety of sports games including group running, volleyball and table tennis.

Similar mass sports activities were conducted in other parts of the country.

Players showed well their fighting zeal to make a new change and development in the New Year with strong physical force in sports games held in many units including the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and Suncheon Area Youth Coal-mining Complex.

Loud shouts of miners at the Hyesan Youth Mine, who were filled with determination to win a victory in the campaign for increased mineral production this year true to the idea of self-sustenance of the Workers' Party of Korea, reverberated through the venue of tug of war.

Sports and amusement games held by educational institutions at all levels cut a conspicuous figure, including Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, Kim Chol Ju University of Education, Pyongyang Middle School No. 1, Changgwang Senior Middle School, Tonghung Junior Middle School and Tonghung Primary School in Central District and Songyo Junior Middle School in Songyo District affiliated to Kim Hyong Jik University of Education.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Employees conduct mass sports activities on the first sports day of the year at the Pyongyang General Electric Cable Factory 326.



Mt Chilbo in winter

Mt Chilbo, a celebrated mountain in Korea, is covered in snow. The trees rooted on different rocks of fantastic shape, halfway up the cliffs and in cracks between rocks add beauty to winter scenery of the mountain.

