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LET US HOLD THE GREAT GENERAL KIM JONG IL IN HIGH ESTEEM FOR ALL ETERNITY AS THE SUN OF SONGUN!

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2

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Silver craftwork

A gift presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the Popular Front of the Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru in February 2002.

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Front Cover: The participants in the international festival to celebrate the 100th birthday of President Kim Il Sung visit Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthplace in the Paektusan Secret Camp.



Back Cover: Moran Hill in winter.

Photo by Ri Song Ik

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The Greatest Exploit



Supreme Commander Kim Jong Il visits the Dwarf Pine Post of the KPA in 1995.

THE KOREAN PEOPLE INSTITUTED February 16, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il, as the Day of the Shining Star, and celebrate it as the nation's greatest holiday every year. Kim Jong Il was born as son of guerrillas in a humble log cabin at the Sobaeksu Valley of Mt. Paektu, the sacred mountain of the Korean revolution, when the final victory of the anti-Japanese armed struggle for Korea's liberation was near at hand. He grew up into a great revolutionary amidst the vigorous activities such as the building of a new Korea, the Fatherland Liberation War and the postwar rehabilitation and construction, and, with a firm determination to add lustre to Korea, he

rendered great services to the country and the people throughout his life. In the 1990s, in particular, he honourably defended socialist Korea by dint of unique Songun politics and turned the country into a politically and ideologically strong country based on single-hearted unity, nuclear state and military power, which is the greatest exploit of the Chairman. At the time the DPRK was faced with unprecedentedly harsh ordeals: President Kim Il Sung whom the Korean people had venerated and followed as the father of the nation unexpectedly passed away of a sudden illness and the natural disasters lasting for several consecutive years inflicted tremendous damage on the Korean people. And the collapse of ►



The military parade held to mark the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

► socialism in the former Soviet Union and the East European countries gave rise to a great change in the world political structure and balance of forces. By taking advantage of the collapse of the global socialist system, the reactionary imperialist forces intensified their offensive against the anti-imperialist independent forces, wielding the strong arms arbitrarily in the international arena.

In particular, the reactionary imperialist forces pointed their attack at socialist Korea, which was advancing consistently under the banner of independence, the banner of socialism. The US imperialists and their followers pounced upon Korea from

all directions, stepping up their moves for military aggression on an unprecedented scale to destroy the country by means of force on one hand, and putting pressure to bear upon it in all spheres of politics, the economy, ideology, culture and diplomacy on the other to squeeze the Korean people dry. On the basis of scientific analysis of the international and domestic circumstances and of the rapidly changing situation Kim Jong Il visited a KPA sub-unit called Dwarf Pine Post on a field inspection on January 1, 1995 with an intention to break through the prevailing difficulties with the KPA as the hard core and main force of the revolution. Songun politics then

Plant No. 2 of the Huichon Power Station built by People's Army soldiers.



began to be administered in an all-round way in the country. From that time to the closing days of his life the Chairman inspected over 2 490 units in the sector of armed forces through his round-the-clock forced march. One day in March 1996 he ►

► travelled over 250 miles to inspect KPA units in the eastern front while driving a car himself.

Songun politics administered by the Chairman and his energetic Songun-based revolutionary leadership remarkably enhanced the combat efficiency and the role of the KPA, further consolidated the single-hearted unity of the Korean people with the People's Army as its core and made sure that the habit of giving priority to military affairs above all other state affairs and solving all problems on the principle of giving importance and priority to military affairs was thoroughly established in all fields of social life. The revolutionary soldier spirit that consists of the spirit of defending the national leader at the risk of one's life, the spirit of carrying out his assignments at all costs, and the heroic self-sacrificing spirit, all created by People's Army soldiers, rapidly spread among the people, helping bring about a new revolutionary upsurge in the socialist construction. Consequently, the socialist country, which the imperialists had supposed would soon collapse, successfully launched artificial earth satellites it had made with its own efforts and technology, built the Anbyon Youth Power Station, Huchon Power Station and many other power stations, produced Juche iron, Juche fibre and Juche fertilizer and rapidly pushed ahead with the modernization of its economy so that the economy as a whole is turning into the knowledge-based one.

The US, who had tried to bring the Korean people to their knees by force, had to adopt the DPRK-US joint communiqué in October 2000. In the joint communiqué the US declared that it would have no hostile intention toward the DPRK, and make every effort in the future to build with the latter a new relationship free from past enmity. In the September 19 joint statement adopted at the six-party talks held in 2005, the US undertook to respect the DPRK's sovereignty, exist peacefully together with the latter, and take steps to normalize the relations subject to the respective bilateral policies, after affirming that it had no intention to attack or invade the DPRK with nuclear or conventional weapons. All the development testified to the validity and vitality of Songun politics.

Songun politics, as a mode of socialist politics created in the DPRK for the first time, embodies in it

the Songun idea of President Kim Il Sung. When Korea was under the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, Kim Il Sung clarified the idea of attaching importance to arms, or military affairs, the one that the only way to liberate the nation was to wage an armed struggle against the armed enemy, and founded an anti-Japanese guerrilla army. And only after Korea's liberation did he found the Party and the state. After national liberation, too, he paid primary attention to military affairs and kept strengthening the revolutionary armed forces so as to lead the DPRK to win the Korean war started by the US imperialists. Afterwards, he militarily secured the revolution and construction against the US imperialists' acts of aggression and provocation.

Kim Jong Il took over and maintained the Songun idea which the President had constantly adhered to in the whole course of his leading the Korean revolution. Since his inspection of the Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division in August 1960 till the end of his life Kim Jong Il continued his journey of Songun-based revolutionary leadership for over five decades. During the period he made public many classic works including *On the Invincible Might of All-People Defence System* (September 1962), *Let Us Firmly Prepare Servicepersons of the Company Politically and Ideologically and with Military Technique* (November 1974), *Let Us Further Strengthen the People's Army into Invincible Rank* (April 1985), *Let Us Give Fuller Play to the Political and Ideological Superiority of the Revolutionary Army* (December 1991) and *The Songun-based Revolutionary Line Is a Great Revolutionary Line of Our Era and an Ever-victorious Banner of Our Revolution* (January 2003), thus enriching the Songun idea in depth.

Indeed, the Chairman is the sun of Songun Korea who defended the country's sovereignty and glorified the dignity of the nation by dint of Songun politics when the most severe trials faced the country. At present Songun politics is brilliantly going ahead thanks to the supreme leader Kim Jong Un. So the Korean people are optimistic about their future and are bringing about new miracles and innovations in the socialist construction. □

Not Merely for Today But for Tomorrow

“LET US LIVE NOT merely for today but for tomorrow!” this is a slogan that mirrors Chairman Kim Jong Il’s view to posterity. Saying that the politics of the Workers’ Party of Korea was that for the sake of their future and that it was a revolutionary’s greatest pride to value and take care of posterity, the Chairman devoted all his to the good of posterity during the whole period of his leadership to the revolution and construction.

His concern for posterity became deeper when the country was undergoing worst difficulties. In the mid-1990s the country had the hard time of the Arduous March and the forced march, unprecedented in history, owing to the imperialists’ severe political, military and economic blockade against it.

One summer day at the time the Chairman, through the window of his jeep on the way to a front-line post, saw some children

going camping pleasantly. As if he had been fully relieved of the fatigue from his inspection of faraway front-line posts just at the sight of children, he said with a bright smile that he took the road of Songun in those difficult days in order to defend the happiness of the children.

Having provided all children of the country with a happy life, the Chairman continued with his difficult inspection of faraway front-line posts. Not a day passed without children’s schooling though there were days when factories were out of operation. Even when a train stopped running short of electricity the supply of soya milk to children never stopped.

The Korean people remember what happened in July 2001, the year marking the 7th anniversary of President Kim Il Sung’s demise. One day, when all the people were yearning for the President, the Chairman visited

the Pyongyang Children’s Foodstuff Factory. Saying, “I’ve come to this factory today for the purpose of implementing the instruction of President Kim Il Sung who held our children so dear,” he taught in detail the ways and means to produce baby milk powder and nutritious rice powder as well as soya milk.

Informed that a set of triplets born in a mountain village of Kangwon Province along the Military Demarcation Line were in a critical condition, the Chairman gave instructions that an aeroplane should be sent to fetch them to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital so as to save them without fail and took necessary measures. So a plane took off in a heavy rain to carry a team of able medical workers to the village.

His efforts for the good of posterity found expression in the educational sector as well. Though busy going on a journey of ►

The e-library of Kim Il Sung University.





At a soya milk time.

► Songun revolutionary leadership, he took the trouble to visit schools to see pupils at class or operating computers and playing musical instruments and taught in detail how to develop all of them into strong pillars for the building of a thriving nation. Sometimes he provided schools with computers, educational apparatuses and materials, stuffed or immersed specimens, various musical instruments, colour TVs and video recorders.

In December 1996, during his inspection of Kim Il Sung University, the Chairman said that the national power in the age of IT industry would depend upon education as well as political and military strength and clearly taught how to develop education, explaining that they should now walk a hundred, thousand or ten thousand steps a day, not a single step like in former days. In December 2009 he visited the university again to leave his autograph reading:

“Keep your feet firmly planted on this land and look out over the world!

“Be the reliable backbone of the Songun revolution possessed of noble mind and profound knowledge!

“Redouble your effort to make the world admire our great Party and Kim Il Sung’s Korea!

“December 17, 2009

“Kim Jong Il”

Early in January of 2006 he visited Kim Chaek University of Technology and encouragingly instructed teachers there to steadily produce talented technicians and attain the cutting edge of science and technology with a great ambition. In 2009 alone he visited universities on nearly ten occasions.

His grand plan on working hard to achieve the cutting edge of

other successes in scientific research work. This meant the laying of a firm material and technical foundation for the building of a prosperous country.

The Chairman’s devotion to the good of posterity has now been taken over by the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un. On the occasion of the lunar New Year’s Day of 2012, Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the Korean People’s Army, visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School to show great solicitude for the schoolchildren. And he took measures for all members of the Korean Children’s Union across the country to have great celebrations of the 66th birthday of the union, and visited the Pyongyang Kyongsang Kindergarten and the

At a pastime.



science and technology went into reality. Thanks to the efforts of graduates from universities there were successfully launched the artificial earth satellites made entirely with domestic technology and materials, followed by the establishment of the Juche iron, Juche fertilizer and Juche vinalon production systems and many

Pyongyang Changjon Primary School to give important instructions for training children, the future of the country, properly.

The country’s future is always bright as it is led by Kim Jong Un who has taken over the Chairman’s noble view to posterity and future.

An Song Duk

Anecdotes Related to His Birthday

As the starting point of work and life

IT WAS FEBRUARY 16, 1963 when Kim Jong Il was attending Kim Il Sung University. It was his birthday and his classmates were going to give a birthday party for him, though in a small way. But he declined the offer. He said, "The fatherly leader [Kim Il Sung] has never celebrated his birthday while working all his life for the good of the country and the people. When the leader is exerting himself for the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people, how can I celebrate my birthday?" He then stressed the need for them to think only of how to save the leader trouble and anxiety, how to make him have even a little while's rest and how to repay his favours better. He went on to say that a revolutionary soldier's genuine happiness lay in saving the leader trouble and anxiety and that this should be the starting point of all work and life, an invariable principle of life.

His birthday spent in Wanhwa-ri

One year Kim Jong Il spent his birthday inspecting Wanhwa-ri, Phyongwon County.

Ascending the uphill path of the orchard that overlooked the village as a whole, he said the

village really changed for the better beyond recognition as compared with it in the postwar days and that it was a place associated with President Kim Il Sung's deep concern. Then he acquainted himself with the farm's per-hectare grain yield, production of meat and fruits and building of modern dwelling houses.

Mentioning that the Wanhwa Cooperative Farm still had lots of things to do, Kim Jong Il said, "I am happy to be here at the Wanhwa Cooperative Farm today. You tried to dissuade me from coming out here today because it's my birthday. To tell the truth, I don't celebrate my birthday. As a soldier of the leader, how can I do so? My greatest pleasure is to find a thing to do to save the leader anxiety."

Without caring about the chilly weather, he stayed outdoors suggesting in detail the tasks the farm had to carry out, and said, "I'll help you. Let us pool our efforts to turn the farm into a model socialist farm so as to delight the leader."

The upward slope he walked up that day taking no account of his own birthday celebration is still reminding people of Kim Jong Il's great concern to turn the village into a nice place to live in, for the place was closely associated with Kim Il Sung's memories.

A motto of struggle

It was the evening of Kim Jong Il's birthday several years ago, when he, like in ordinary days, was on a journey of on-site guidance. He sat together with provincial senior officials to their great delight; they had always been yearning to meet him. They were moved to tears at the fact that he was spending his birthday out on a trip of field inspection. Reading their minds, he said he was very pleased to see them and acquainted himself with their work and life for a long time as kindly as their own father would do. When the officials were sorry to part from him, he said he would have to go on another trip of on-site guidance the following day and that his object was to turn the country into a land of bliss where laughing voices would come out of the brightly-lit windows of all homes and smiles of happiness be seen on all faces. The officials begged him to take good care of himself without overworking. Looking affectionately at them, he said that it was a pleasure for him to walk a rough road for the sake of the country and the people, and called upon them to join him in the endeavours to accomplish the revolutionary cause of Juche.

His words served as a motto of struggle for all the Korean people to bear deep in mind.

Sim Chol Yong

He Cannot Be Called Other Than the Sun

THE SUN GIVES LIGHT and energy that sustains life on the earth. Chairman Kim Jong Il won absolute reverence and trust from all people in all continents different in ideology, political view, colour, language and religious belief. His warm and boundless love for people added brilliance to the floral garden of human love on the earth. So, all progressive people of the world keep his image as the sun of human love in their hearts.

I am a luckiest man in the world

One day in July 1981 an aeroplane that had left Pyongyang Airport was flying to the capital of a country. Among its passengers was Govind Narain Srivastava, the then secretary of the Asian Regional Institute for the Study of the Juche Idea, who was on his way home after a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He had been unwell since his departure from Pyongyang, and his conditions grew worse. So, when the plane arrived at an intermediate airport, he had to be taken to hospital in the place.

He had been under treatment there for several days when an official from Korea arrived with a physician to see him. Informed that he fell ill and was undergoing hospital treatment on his way home, Chairman Kim Jong Il became deeply concerned about him and sent the official and doctor with expensive medicines for him. Days later, the Chairman, thoughtful of the sick man lying

in bed missing his son, arranged for the son to come to see his father at the hospital.

Govind was deeply moved by the Chairman's profound consideration for him. He told his colleagues later that Korea's pride, strength and bright future lay in the fact that the national leader regarded the people as his God while the people revered and followed the leader as the father of the nation. He said, "To a man as a social being, there is no greater happiness than to live under loving care and trust because they are the greatest boon a man can grant to another man. And so when you are loved and trusted by a great man whom all people look up to, how blessing and glorious it will be! In this sense I say I am a luckiest man in the world."

Engrave the sun on my tombstone

When Pierre Boudo, former French director of the International Institute of the Juche Idea, visited Pyongyang for the third time, he had an attack of the intractable disease he had been suffering from, which prevented him from academic research work on the Juche idea.

Informed of the fact, Chairman Kim Jong Il said, "A visitor to our country and an adherent of the Juche idea, he shared the same purpose with us. Therefore, his disease should be cured." He took all necessary measures to treat his malady. Costly tonics and up-to-date medical appliances were provided for his treatment, and able doc-

tors attended to him with their whole hearts for over 40 days. He was deeply touched by the devoted care accorded to him. He thought to himself, "This country has embraced me, an ordinary scholar, without reserve and is treating my physical disease and mental wound. This is my genuine homeland and breast of my mother."

Back to France, he would tell his acquaintances that Kim Jong Il was a great man who took care of his soldiers whom he trusted, even heeding their desires and aspirations, and looked after their children. Then he said, "When I die, build a small tombstone of red marble before my grave. Engrave the sun on it and a five-pointed star under the sun. The sun symbolizes both President Kim Il Sung and Comrade Kim Jong Il and the star means adherents of the Juche idea in the Five Continents who are rallied round the sun."

A second birth

In mid-November 1994 a foreigner in a critical condition caused by an accident was taken to the Pyongyang Friendship Hospital. He was Wail Barakat, member of the Egyptian Embassy in the DPRK. His body was covered all over with wounds, and he was regarded as past remedy by modern medicine. His colleagues and his family gave him up for lost.

Informed of the fact, Chairman Kim Jong Il, despite his bitter sorrow for the demise of President Kim Il Sung which ▶

► was the greatest national loss, saw to it that every possible measure was taken to save the man. Accordingly, a team of over ten able doctors was formed and latest medical facilities and expensive medicines were used unstintingly for the purpose. The fight for his life went on day and night. Devotion and human love finally bore fruit. The man revived over a month after he fell unconscious, and soon his health was quite recovered. The day he was leaving the hospital, he looked up at the portrait of the Chairman who had been so deeply concerned for him, an ordinary foreigner, and conferred great benefits on him, and said with a strong sense of gratitude, "I am born again in Korea under the loving care of His Excellency Kim Jong Il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army. Korean comrades' blood flows in my veins now. Korea is my motherland like Egypt, and Pyongyang is my hometown like Cairo."

His mother had despaired of his recovery, but when she saw her son back to life again, she fancied herself in a dream. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to Chairman Kim Jong Il, extolling him in a tearful voice as an incarnation of human love and the father of mankind.

He cannot be called otherwise

December 17, 2011, goes down in history as a sorrowful day, the day of Chairman Kim Jong Il's passing, not only for the Korean people but for all the progressive people of the world. Many heads of state and political and public figures abroad, filled with bitter grief at the sad news, sent tele-

grams of condolence and wreaths to Pyongyang, and countless foreign friends visited Korean missions in their countries and offered their condolences over the demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il. Among so many foreign callers for condolence were Italian personalities who made a call at the Korean mission in their country every day to extend their condolences in accordance with Pyongyang time. They were Giancarlo Elia Valori, general director of both the Mediterranean Development Bank and the Italian Comprehensive Investment Group, and Mauro Vaeli, chairman of the board of directors of the Italian International Foreign Exchange Finance Group. Valori made his first visit to Pyongyang in 1975 with the joy of formation of the European Committee for Friendship with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He was received by President Kim Il Sung. A renowned political scientist, Valori had met high-ranking statesmen of many countries across the world, always holding his own with them. But at the first sight of the President, he found his mind drawn irresistibly towards him. Fascinated by the Juche idea founded by the President and by his personality, Valori visited Pyongyang scores of times after that. In this course, he met Kim Jong Il, another great man. One day in September 1988, when the 40th birthday of the DPRK was being celebrated, Kim Jong Il modestly answered the compliments of the occasion presented by Valori and warmly pressed his hand. Brief as the interview was, Valori was completely captivated by his personality just like that of Kim Il Sung's. In January 1997

Valori visited Pyongyang again to offer his New Year greetings to Kim Jong Il. Receiving Valori, Kim Jong Il congratulated him on his 57th birthday, and then saw to it that a feast was given in celebration of his birthday and sent him a birthday gift with his autographic signature. The gift was a bust of the Italian's mother. Kim Jong Il had prepared it in high regard to the affection between the mother and her son. Kim Jong Il's lofty humanity and boundless generosity moved Valori to tears at last.

The same was the case with Vaeli.

In 1992, when he visited Pyongyang as a member of a delegation, Vaeli was received by Kim Jong Il, and he was inspired with admiration for the great thoughts and noble personality of the latter. Whenever he met Kim Jong Il after that, Vaeli found himself drawn with increasing force towards the great man. So, yearning after him, Vaeli frequently visited Korea. One day Kim Jong Il heard Vaeli's father was suffering from an illness. This made him very much concerned, and he sent valuable tonics including insam for his treatment. Deeply touched by his great benevolence, Vaeli said with emotion that Kim Jong Il was an incarnation of human love, adding: "His Excellency Kim Jong Il who has nursed the human world with love, cannot be called other than the sun of mankind." This tribute of heartfelt praise paid to the peerless great man not only by the prominent Italian figures but by all the progressive people of the world is still endlessly coming from all parts of the Five Continents.

Kim Chol Ung

Venlo World Horticultural Expo and Kimjongilia

LAST YEAR THERE WAS HELD THE WORLD Horticultural Expo in Venlo, the Netherlands called country of flowers or flower garden of Europe, on the theme of "Let us get on toward a good quality of life with nature as our stage!" On display at the expo were flowers presented by more than 40 countries including India, Japan, Thailand, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, Germany, Spain and Mexico, all advanced in floriculture. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea participated in the expo for the first time. The DPRK's wing was daily packed with as many as thousands of gardeners and visitors from different countries. They showed special interest in the immortal flower Kimjongilia. They unanimously gave unstinted praise to the delegation of the Korea Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Committee, saying that the delegation nicely decorated the expo by putting pots of beautiful Kimjongilia on display there. The First Prize Patio Plants and diploma of the expo were awarded to Kimjongilia.

Congratulating on Kimjongilia's winning the first prize at the expo, the chairman of the expo organizing committee said that Kimjongilia is a special flower and that it left an indelible impression on all the participants as it bears the august name of a peerlessly great man.

The chairman of the Expo International Flowers Jury said that Kimjongilia was appreciated as the perfect flower in the contest and that this meant it holds the highest position in the flower kingdom.

The chairman of the Floricultural Council of the Netherlands said that the DPRK delegation took part for the first time in the world horticultural expo held in West Europe, with the beautiful and excellent flower bearing the name of a great man and its wing was more popular than others.

The vice-chairman of the expo organizing committee said that he had seen lots of world-famous flowers but never seen the flower like Kimjongilia and that the more he saw the flower the more beautiful and excellent he found it.

The president of the International Association of Horticultural Producers said: "Kimjongilia is a peerlessly famous flower in size, colour, elegance and beauty. Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia won the Gold Prize, the top prize, and a special exhibition gold prize at the 2011 World Floral Expo held in Xi'an, China, and Kimjongilia has won again the First Prize at this expo. This shows well the position of the flower in the flower kingdom. At present the DPRK is attracting universal attention. The world people are observing the country with admiration at the fact that the respected Kim Jong Un, the youngest of



Kimjongilia draws the attention of many gardeners around the world.

the national leaders in the world, is making new progress while energetically dealing with all affairs of the Party, the state and the army by carrying forward the cause of Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defence Commission."

Kimjongilia won lots of special prizes, gold medals, gold prizes and diplomas at other world horticultural expos and international potted plant exhibitions. The flower is being spread worldwide by Kimjongilia associations and societies of Kimjongilia lovers active in many countries. Thousands of Kimjongilia bulbs have been taken by prominent figures of the world to over 100 countries.

It was in 1997 that the Kimjongilia Show began to be held in the DPRK. And at its eighth round it was renamed Kimjongilia Festival. The scale of the festival increases year after year. On the Taedong riverside in Pyongyang is the Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia Exhibition House covering an area of over ten thousand square metres, and in all other parts of the country there are Kimjongilia greenhouses, making it possible to actively cultivate and spread the flower.

Kimjongilia is *Begonia X tuberhybrida Vess*, the fruit of the more than 20 years of activities carried out by Kamo Mototeru, proprietor of the Kamo iris garden in Kakegawa City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. In 1988 the flower was named after Chairman Kim Jong Il on the occasion of his 46th birthday.

In 2004 the International Society for Horticultural Science registered Kimjongilia as a new begonia variety No. 991.

Sim Hyon Jin

Anecdotes of Care for People

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR Supreme Commander Kim Jong Un of the Korean People's Army visited islet-defending units at the hottest spot in the southernmost of the southwest front aboard a small wooden ship of 27 hp. There he held up a six-month-old, Jong Hyang Myong by name, in his arms, and posed for a photo together with families of KPA officers there. He warmly waved back to the cheers of the soldiers and families standing in waist-deep seawater. His benevolent image was cherished deep in the hearts of the Korean people.

After his return from the islet he still remembered the people and children living in the islet far from the land, and saw to it that the schoolchildren studying in the villages of the frontline islets in the West Sea of Korea came to Pyongyang for sightseeing. They, who would go to school looking at sea gulls and dabble in seawater, found the capital city as beautiful

as a picture.

A teacher from the islet said with deep emotion, "Indeed our village had happy events one after another. Our respected leader Kim Jong Un, who inherits President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's loving care for the people, provided each family of the village with blankets, clothes, daily necessities and foodstuffs, and the islet-defending unit with a wind turbine and solar heating equipment. Furthermore, he saw to it that the schoolchildren of the islets visited Pyongyang lest they should miss the land. Words fail me to describe his benevolence."

Kim Jong Un's concern for the people knows no bounds. During the tearful period of mourning over the sudden demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il in mid-December 2011 he saw to it that hot-water stands and makeshift shelters were built at the mourning places where people

and children could warm themselves while standing guard day and night in the snow at the portraits of the smiling Chairman. And he saw to it that they wore their fur caps and gloves. Thus, hot-water stands and makeshift shelters appeared at the mourning places. Later, they were provided with sugar, honey, soya milk powder and foodstuffs, and tens of thousands of hot packs were sent to the people lest they should feel inconveniences. On December 22 catering workers served adzuki-bean gruel, a speciality on the winter solstice, to the people at different mourning places of the capital city. From ancient times the Korean people ate such gruel on the winter solstice. But they were so sorrowful over the greatest loss of the nation that they forgot the very day. At this time Kim Jong Un saw to it that public catering establishments opened doors and served the gruel to the people. However, no one went there to eat the gruel. So, the service workers went to the mourning places bringing the gruel.

A teacher of a university said, "It is a filial duty from olden times that when someone is dead, his children have few meals during the mourning. At the thought of the Chairman who had continued his journey of on-site guidance and passed away on a running train we couldn't take meals. But our leader Kim Jong Un had

Rungna People's Pleasure Ground.



► each family of the capital city provided with fish which was associated with the Chairman's care for the people. Kim Jong Un, who keeps his sorrow to himself and consoles the people, is really identical to the Chairman. We feel safe and secure as he is with us."

On the lunar New Year's Day of last year he visited the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. There he sat on a bed in a bedroom of schoolchildren and told officials there to keep bedrooms in good temperature so as to make the schoolchildren pass the winter in warm rooms. And in the mess hall he kindly asked children having meat soup with rice in it if the dish was to their liking and what they wanted to eat. While looking over them having their meals as if there was lack of something, he said to officials that he would send *myonggi* beef to the school the next day so that the schoolchildren could eat boiled beef and that they should come to the school to personally see them eating boiled beef. In the birthday room, he said that it was laudable to prepare birthday feasts for the schoolchildren and earnestly requested the officials to take parental care of the children, as they would think of their parents before anybody else on their birthdays, so as to help them have no regret. Whenever he visited units of the Korean People's Army he felt mattresses, saying that the officers should take good care of the soldiers in life; at factories and enterprises he unreservedly held hands of the workers and acquainted himself



The People's Open-air Ice Rink and the Roller Rink built for the people's entertainment.

in detail with their life; and he saw to it that the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground was built on a highest level lest people should feel any trivial inconveniences.

In June last year he saw to it that the 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union was celebrated in a grand style, and personally participated in the joint national meeting of the KCU, in which he made a congratulatory speech to all KCU members across the country. And he saw a concert together with KCU delegates and had a photo session together with them. All children in the country and their

parents and teachers shed tears of thanks to him for his benevolence. A 14-year-old girl saved portraits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il at the cost of her life at a critical moment and a 9-year-old boy rescued two children from drowning at the cost of his life—this is an expression of the girl and boy's loyalty to Kim Jong Un who is taking loving care of children.

Kim Jong Un is father of the nation who is striving to ensure the people a life as happy as anyone else's in the world, the people whom Chairman Kim Jong Il held so dear.

Sim Chol Jun

One Family

SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 IN Pyongyang was just a day like another. As usual children were playing and old people were passing their time in rambling talks in the yards before the apartment houses in the newly built Changjon Street.

That day the supreme leader Kim Jong Un came to see new houses in Changjon Street to find out how the families that had moved into them were getting on. He visited the homes of Sim Tong Su, a lecturer at the Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, Pak Sung Il, a worker at the Central District Beautification Station, and Mun Kang Sun, a female worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. All of them, who had been very deeply grateful for receiving modern homes free of charge, unexpectedly met the national leader who came to their homes without previous notice. They were in rapturous amazement, feeling as if in a dream.

Recollecting what happened that day, Sim's wife Han Un Sun says: "Soon after I came back home from work, I was quite surprised to receive the dear leader into my home. He entered smiling all over his face. It seemed to me like a dream that I could scarcely say satisfactory words of greeting to him."

As the moments passed, all members of her family were deeply touched by the leader's

affectionate care when he, clasping their hands one by one, asked if they didn't have any inconvenience in the new house. Then, he even turned on the tap to see if they had enough water supply and looked around every room carefully. After that, he sat on the floor of a room and talked with them cheerfully about their family life.

His affectionate care could be felt in Pak Sung Il's home, too. He had a chat with the worker couple in a familiar way, with Pak's second son on his lap. When they told him their eldest son was not yet back from school, he was very much sorry. Seeing a picture drawn by the second son, a primary schoolboy, he instructed him how to complete it. When the eldest son came back from school and greeted him, he embraced and patted him on the head. He filled the couple's glasses with liquor and gave them dishes and gifts and had a souvenir photograph taken with them. Amid the cordial atmosphere prevailing in their home, the children got absorbed in the picture books brought by the leader as a gift. The scene pleased the leader. Pak Sung Il says: "He is so simple and easy and emotional, and his every word overflowed with affection and tender care. I wondered if it were not a dream. His deep love and care for us made us shed tears of gratitude, and so we passed a wakeful night."

Kim Jong Un called on the newly-wed couple of Labour Heroine Mun Kang Sun, a female worker at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

Recalling the day, Mun says: "Looking at us with an air of satisfaction, our respected leader Kim Jong Un wished us a bright and happy future. He made a kindhearted promise to us that when passing Changjon Street some day, he would come to see our child to be born anytime. Indeed, our couple have been blessed with all the good luck of the world." They told the leader that they had no inconvenience whatever and that they received so much favours that it all seemed like a dream. Nevertheless, the leader asked them many times if they had any inconveniences in their life. The concern he showed for them that day was no less than paternal love and care.

Kim Jong Un visited the people's homes as a member of their family, not a guest, and gave them warm fatherly love.

Though ordinary people, they realized from his instructions, his beaming face and his warm love, that the leader and all of the people are of one and the same family bound together with feelings and love of kinship that nothing can break.

This was an aspect of the real life in Korea, shown in Changjon Street one ordinary day. □

“Let Us Bring About a Radical Turn in the Building of an Economic Giant With the Same Spirit and Mettle as Were Displayed in Conquering Space!”

THE TITLE IS THE SLOGAN PUT UP BY Kim Jong Un, First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, in his New Year address for the Party and the people to hold up high in their struggle in 2013.

Building a socialist economic power was a great desire of Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission. Carrying forward the ideas and cause of Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the DPRK, and Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the WPK, the First Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission Kim Jong Un gave an energetic guidance to the Korean people last year in their general offensive to bring his predecessors' intentions and instructions to realization, thus achieving great victories which will brilliantly shine in the history of the nation. Last December the Korean scientists and technicians successfully launched the artificial earth satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2, carrying out the instruction of Kim Jong Il with credit and fully demonstrating the high level of space science and technology and overall power of Juche Korea. The successful manufacture and launch of the scientific and technological satellite by entirely relying on the nation's own efforts, technology and wisdom was an event of national jubilation that raised the dignity and honour of the Korean nation onto the highest level and a great event which inspired all the people with confidence in sure victory and courage and clearly showed that Korea does what it is determined to do. Despite the acute and complicated situation and waves of severe natural calamities last year, the Koreans made great strides in their efforts to build a thriving socialist country and improve their living standards. They put the Huichon Power Station and Tanchon Port into commission, built many Juche-oriented and modern factories and enterprises and reconstructed major production bases in key industrial sectors on the basis of advanced science and technology. Monumental edifices including Changjon Street and

Rungna People's Pleasure Ground sprang up in Pyongyang and many cultural facilities for the promotion of the well-being of the people were built in different parts of the country, changing its looks. A lot of achievements were recorded in other fields; typically, the socialist education system was further consolidated through the adoption of the law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education.

Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army Kim Jong Un said in his New Year address: "The new year 2013 is a year of great creations and changes in which a radical turn will be effected in the building of a thriving socialist country on the road of the onward march in the new century of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea. All the people and service personnel should dynamically turn out in the grand onward march for building a thriving country full of pride of victors and confidence in a rosy future. The road of Juche is the only path for our Party and people to invariably follow and great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the ever-victorious banner of our revolution. We should march forward along the road of independence, the road of Songun and the road of socialism to the end upholding the banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. Our Party will triumphantly build a thriving socialist nation, the most powerful country, on this land in our own way, the way the General [Kim Jong Il] did, by relying on our people who are the best in the world."

All sectors and units of the national economy are launching a vigorous general offensive in hearty response to the appeal of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un who is determined to raise the status of the country to that of an economic giant in the new century by consolidating the successes achieved so far and thus realize the wish of Chairman Kim Jong Il who devoted all his life to making his people well off with nothing to envy in the world. All economic undertakings are geared to effecting a radical increase in production and stabilizing and

- ▶ improving the people's living standards by solidifying and making effective use of the already-built foundations of the independent national economy.

Decisive steps are adopted to shore up the vanguard sectors of the national economy and the sectors of basic industries; great efforts are directed to bolstering up the sectors and units that have a direct bearing on the people's livelihood and increasing production there, so as to give them more benefits in living. Big efforts are put in agriculture and light industry which remain the major fronts for economic construction this year, too. Concrete measures are taken to decisively bolster up stockbreeding, fishery and fruit farming to provide the people with a better, more bountiful diet. A dynamic struggle is waged to boost production at modern factories and production bases, while a socialist emulation drive is under way to reenergize production and fulfil their quotas as fixed in the national economic plan for this year.

The industrial revolution in the new century is a shortcut to the building of an economic giant. A dynamic campaign is going ahead to push back the frontiers of science and technology, like the satellite scientists who conquered outer space, so as to develop the country's overall science and technology to the world standards as soon as possible. Primary efforts are directed to the development of science and technology in all sectors of the national economy; close combination of science and technology with production is stressed to boost production by relying on domestic resources and technology; introduction of CNC technology in equipment and production lines and laying man-free streamlines are in full swing. All this is intended to open a phase of radical turn in the building of an economic power by dint of science and technology. Substantial steps are taken to improve economic guidance and management as demanded by the developing reality.

The single-hearted unity of the army and the people around the Party is a powerful propellant for the building of a thriving socialist country. The tradition of single-hearted unity wherein the Party believes in the people and the latter absolutely trust in and follow the former is securely maintained, and a general ethos is sweeping the country whereby all the members of the nation become genuine comrades who share ideology and purpose, weal and woe with the Party and make devoted efforts for the sake of their country and people. In this way the political and ideological position of the revolution is getting as solid as rock.

Continued stress is put on increasing the military

might under the banner of Songun. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the advancing of the slogan "A-match-for-a-hundred" by Generalissimo Kim Il Sung. In this regard the People's Army is becoming perfect in its regularized features as befits an elite revolutionary force; and its training is becoming more intensive, as the anti-Japanese guerrillas did on Mt. Paektu, so that the army will be able to mercilessly annihilate aggressors and win victory in the war for national reunification if they dare launch a preemptive attack against its sacred country. Officers and men of the Korean People's Internal Security Forces and members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards are also maintaining full combat readiness while the defence industry is developing in large numbers sophisticated military hardware of the Korean style that can contribute to implementing the Party's military strategy.

The building of a civilized socialist nation is spurred. Strong efforts are made to develop education, public health, literature and the arts, physical culture, public morals and all other branches as appropriate to an advanced civilized nation, develop Pyongyang into a more majestic and picturesque city, turn all provinces, cities and counties into admirable places to live in, and set up modern cultural and welfare facilities, parks and pleasure grounds in larger numbers for the sake of the people.

In his New Year address Kim Jong Un pronounced that in order to effect a radical change in this year's campaign to build a thriving socialist country officials should make a fundamental turn-about in their ideological viewpoint, work style and attitude. A strong campaign is under way among the officials to strive with devotion under the slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" and the function and role of the Party organizations are further improving. In all their activities officials, Party members and other working people are applying Kim Jong Il's patriotism which is the eternal soul and breath of Kim Il Sung's nation and a driving force for the building of a thriving country, and giving full play to their patriotic enthusiasm and spirit of devoted service in the ongoing sacred struggle to achieve prosperity of their socialist country.

All the people have turned out as one in the struggle for prosperity of their country and nation, united firmly behind the Workers' Party of Korea, under the banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism. □

Out of Patriotism

HEAVY-DUTY RAILS ARE UNDER PRODUCTION at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, a major metallurgical industry base in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The beginning of the heavy-duty rail production, however, was not easy. One early morning in mid-January 2012, a man was standing in deep thought against a handrail while gazing at a spot in the place where the renovation of a continuous ingot-steelmaking process was under way. It was Kim Yong Su, chief field engineer of the continuous ingot-steelmaking workshop. At the time the complex's production of iron began to increase rapidly with the establishment of a Juche iron production method. Accordingly, the general steel workshop boldly decided to replace the existing blooming process with a continuous ingot-steelmaking process to directly produce metal material, and that in a short span of time. The trial production, however, revealed unexpected demerits of the relevant process. The demerits were not serious, but if they were neglected, it would gradually do great harm to production. Collective discussions took place and researches were made to get rid of the demerits for several days, but in vain. This kept Yong Su awake that night. So he came out to the place for the renovation of the continuous ingot-steelmaking process early in the morning. As dawn broke gradually things in the place began to be visible clearly one after another. *Where's the main snag? What temperature will be fit for the casting of molten iron? And the outflow of molten iron and the speed of casting?* With these questions in mind Yong Su looked round the place in detail. Then, while examining the pouring ladle and the intermediate ladle,

he slapped his knee. A novel idea ran through his mind. He immediately wrote relevant figures on the floor of the place. The results of the calculations made him think the idea was right.

In the morning there was an on-site relevant discussion participated in by not only the management, technicians and workers of the workshop but also the scientists who had come from the relevant units to help renovate the process. The participants spoke well of his idea and advanced new suggestions for the relevant technical affairs and security. They now set about the undertaking to remove the demerits. The management, technicians and skilled hands of the adjacent workshop joined them in the endeavor ▶

The heating furnace based on the high-temperature air combustion technology.



► ours. It, however, was not an easy job. Still, while analyzing the data on metallurgical processes, they finally succeeded in solving the problems. The test production was also successful. As a result, they could produce heavy-duty rails by means of the new ingot-steelmaking process in April last year, on the occasion of President Kim Il Sung's 100th birthday.

The new process made it possible to dispense with most parts of the previous process, raise the quality of steel and save heavy oil, molten iron cases, firebricks and labour, benefiting the state in no small measure.

Meanwhile, the crude steel-rolling workshop renovated the heating furnace for rolling by introducing the technology of high-temperature air combustion so as to develop the heating of steel billets onto a high level. Previously the workshop heated steel billets in the heating furnace for rolling by making use of heavy oil as fuel. Then, as heavy oil began to be in short supply, it became difficult to

normalize the production of rail steel. This made it imperative to turn the heating furnace into the one entirely fuelled by gas on the basis of the aforesaid technology. In close contact with scientists of a relevant unit, the management, technicians and workers of the workshop intensified the research for building a new furnace, which would be the same as the existing furnace in aim but different from it in principle and method of heating. At last they succeeded in building the new furnace fuelled by gas from hard coal whose calorific value is low instead of heavy oil. The furnace is economically profitable while benefiting the state in great measure. In other words the workshop set an example in localizing the use of heat energy.

The workers of the complex are now pushing ahead with the production of heavy-duty rails with patriotic zeal.

*Article by Sim Chol Ung
Photos by An Yong Chol*



The continuous rail steel ingotting process.



Sunchon Shoe Leather Factory

KUMCHONGANG SHOES for men and women from the Sunchon Shoe Leather Factory were highly appreciated at the 4th goods show held in Pyongyang Department Store No.1 in June last year. This is the result of the unknown efforts of the technicians and workers of the factory.

At the beginning of last year the management and technicians of the factory met to discuss about varieties of shoes, the ones that had won high praise at the 2nd goods show and national consumer goods show held in the department store. The users favourably commented upon the shoes. Their producers, however, were not content with it. *The people's demand for shoes increases day after day, the standard of appreciation keeps changing, and the way to really contribute to the improvement of the people's living standards lies just in setting an ever higher goal and steadily attaining it*—with this thought they discussed how to further enhance the tenacity of the adhesive agent for shoe-making and improve the tensile strength and other physical properties of the products.

They focused on several production processes, especially on the shoe-making flow line and the vulcanizing kilns. The technicians proposed to turn the shoe-making flow line into a net-style one, which would make it possible to save the cost and at the same time greatly increase the efficiency of the drying process. A necessary technical group was



formed and the relevant designing started. And making and assembly of machine parts were done simultaneously. As a result a new shoe-making flow line was completed and put into operation in a little over 40 days. Meanwhile, the turning of the existing oil heating-style vulcanizing kilns into heat exchanging-style ones was pushed ahead with at the same time. There was proposed a rational idea of adding fan blow-

ers to the kilns. Thanks to the management, technicians and workers' joint creative wisdom the new kilns were completed in a short period of ten-odd days. The kilns ensure an even distribution of heat and sharply cut the time of vulcanizing.

Later their innovative efforts to meet the people's daily increasing demand for their prod-

ucts led to the completion of the method of recycling rubber, the manufacture of a modern compressor for better quality of the products and the introduction of computer-based temperature and speed control systems in the shoe-making flow line and the vulcanizing kilns.

They are now striving to increase the production of popular shoes.

Kim Ja Yong

Researchers Conducive to Beautifying of Urban Communities

THESE DAYS THE WORK of planting trees extensively and turning the whole country green is making brisk headway in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is associated with the unusual efforts made by the researchers of the Urban Management Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences.

They correctly analyzed the worldwide tendency of afforestation and the actual state of afforestation in the country and selected proper research projects for tree-planting in urban communities. On this basis, they conducted research for the solution of this matter. In this process they created a database by referring to many botanical books including *The Flora of Pyongyang*, *The Korean Flora for Afforestation*, and *A Pictorial Book of Plants and A Pictorial Book of Trees*. In addition, they saw to it that these amassed data were widely used in greening schemes. They compiled an electronic handbook of landscaping. Brought together perfectly and faultlessly in this handbook are all data related to plants used for landscaping. Con-

tained in the book are morphological data concerning leaves, flowers and fruits of trees, ecological data pertaining to light, temperature, humidity and soil, seasonal data expressive of the colour and time when the leaves come out and go, when the flowers are in and out of bloom and when the fruits ripen and fall. Also included in the book are data on the use and multiplication of plants based on the art of landscaping, and data on the possibility of the use of plants in every local province. To be seen in this book are pictures of hundreds of kinds of trees of selected species including plants used mostly or to a small extent, more than 2 000 landscaping or interior decorative plants, and over 10 000 pots of plants. In addition, properties of plants are shown in diagrams so that everyone can use them with ease. This handbook is now used widely among college and secondary school students and primary school pupils, to say nothing of the tree-planting sector, the architectural and urban planning sector, the afforestation sector, the sector for working out designs with plants as objects, and prov-

inces, cities, counties, institutions, enterprises, dong, neighbourhood units, etc. that wish for turning their lands green.

They developed a tree-planting planning simulation system for improvement of a method of afforestation and of the environment of urban communities, and laid a foundation for making various designs on a scientific basis. Using the designing support program for afforestation in urban communities, which they had developed on the basis of their interpretation of the plants-the air-soil relationship, they worked out afforestation designs and introduced them into layout of the National Exhibition of Gifts, the Ryugyong Hotel, the Korean Film Studio, Kwangbok Street, the Three-Revolution Exhibition House and the environs of many monumental edifices, parks, factories and enterprises.

Besides, they made designs for a rational system of collection and transport of solid garbage and its disposal in urban communities, basing themselves upon the concrete examination of its properties. Thus they made it possible to scientifically and technologically solve actual problems arising in the disposal of garbage. This good result obtained in their research has been introduced into practice, thereby displaying a great deal of its technical and economic effectiveness.

Now bases for production of small-sized blocks by making use of coal ash have been built at the urban garbage disposal places in various districts in Pyongyang. This has rendered it possible to economize on building materials. On top of that, researchers conducted studies of a construction



Consistency in Purpose



Dr. Ri Sung Ik (*right*).

THE LIFE OF RI SUNG IK, who is the chief of the Virus Research Institute of the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University, is inseparably connected with the laboratory and electronic microscope. At his advanced age, he still finds the utmost pleasure in his work in the laboratory just as he did in the prime of youth.

His dream comes true

He was born of a farming family in a village in Ryongchon County, North Phyongan Province. As a child he wished to become a doctor because three of his six siblings died of illness and his mother was suffering from a lingering ailment.

"I hoped to grow up to be a

doctor to cure my mum and other suffering people," Ri said in retrospect of his childhood.

For poverty his parents couldn't afford to send him to school. It was after the country's liberation in August 1945 that he could enter a school. The Ko-

rean war (June 1950–July 1953) started by the US imperialists interrupted his secondary school course. After the war, he continued with his schoolwork. He was so good at school as to be called a math prodigy. So, he was a pride of both his parents and the village.

He entered the Pyongyang Medical College with a great ambition. He excelled in scholastic performance at the college. He was twice awarded the top commendation for the students. With flying colours he graduated from the college with honours and was admitted to the newly established Virus Research Institute.

Grand old man

For five decades since he be-

came a researcher at 25, he has worked with all his heart and soul in the researches on viruses. The biggest challenge he faced was in developing a polio vaccine, he recalls. At the time it was a universal practice to make the anti-polio medicine by cultivating the polio virus in monkey's kidney cells. Because there was no monkey in Korea, his predecessors had given up the researches on it.

"But I wanted to prove theoretically the vaccine could be made from the locally available materials," the virologist says.

Years of painstaking efforts resulted in the production of a vaccine from domestic materials, not from monkeys. As the introduction of the new remedy was called into question, he unhesitatingly had his children vaccinated and led the high-stakes 14-day experiment to success.

In the new century, when bird's flu was sweeping the world, Ri Sung Ik jumped into the battle against the bugbear. The key point was to set up a local system to separate and refine the new virus. He hit on an original idea and worked hard to put it into practice.

Against all odds his team succeeded at last to develop the hemagglutinin vaccine, in two years, which was hailed worldwide as highly potent. ▶

▶ method based on lagging materials that used foam resin and introduced it into lots of construction projects including the reconstruction project of the Taedongmun Cinema and the indoor swimming pool of Kim Il Sung University, thus bringing great

profits to the state. The method was introduced into the construction of many dwellings as well. This has resulted in saving thermal energy a great deal while promoting convenience in the everyday life of the residents.

Researchers are now making

positive endeavours to develop a much better method of beautifying urban communities, filled with a sense of pride and self-confidence in their giving a new appearance to the country.

Sim Yon Ok

Scientific Research and Practice

PYONGYANG UNIVERSITY of Mechanical Engineering has achieved lots of successes in scientific research work for improvement of the people's living standards as well as in its educational work. Examples: the invention and manufacture of rice-seedling transplanters and

rice harvesters in the 1970s, and pollack-gutting machines, pollacks' internals-sorting machines, fish-processing flow lines and mussel-processing flow lines in the 1980s, all suited to the actual conditions of the country; great assistance to the modernization of production equipment

at many factories and enterprises, including that of the flow-line rice toffee bar production process of the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the vegetable pickling process of the Pyongyang Aeguk Vegetable Processing Factory, the production process of the Sungni Motor Complex and the Kangso mineral water production process.

Teachers and researchers strive to solve sci-tech problems arising in modernization projects.



In the current century, too, the university has waged a campaign for technical transformation of equipment as required by the age of knowledge-based economy, thus making a great contribution to the introduction of a flexible-manufacturing system at the then Huichon Machine Tool Factory and solving lots of scientific and technical problems arising in modernizing the Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory. So the workers of the factories and enterprises hold the researchers of the university in

► While engaged in research work, Ri spent much time lecturing on microbiology and virology, trained five to obtain doctorate and made public dozens of valuable study papers. Books of medical science he has written include the "Medical Molecular Virology," "SARS" and "Avian Flu."

Consistency in purpose

The whole career of Ri Sung Ik who dauntlessly faced up to new challenges one after another

is worthy of admiration. Since he conducted a wide-ranging study of flu virus and developed the vaccine in his early thirties, he has switched over to home production lots of vaccines against viral diseases including polio, SARS and human-infectious strain of H5N1.

The leader Kim Jong Il expressed his thanks to him several times in recognition of his commitment to the development of the country's medicine. He is honoured with the titles of Labour Hero and candidate acade-

mician.

"His success is not accidental but natural. He has been entirely immersed in work. He does not like drinking or smoking. If anything, he loves to work alone in the lab," his wife Chae Sang Ae says.

"As well as other work, I think research work is driven by capability and passion. I'd like to say consistency in purpose is the secret of success," Ri says smilingly.

O Hyok Jin

► respect and affection, calling them true scientists and scientists they can get along with.

Once a group of teachers and researchers of the university went to the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory where they decided to do a most difficult task of designing bread moulds and making a relevant machine. It was not an easy job. They lacked in knowledge of foodstuff sector, and the machine had to be designed in such a way as to make bread suited to the palates of the Korean people. So they strove to acquire the relevant knowledge and had discussions on the shop floor. The discussions produced novel ideas and several proposals to make the machine in a short span of time. At last they succeeded in completing the design of bread moulds and making the machine at an early date.

Other teachers and researchers from the university helped the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory increase production by applying CNC technology to major equipment while putting efforts in improving the existing looms and developing new ones.

It was the same case with the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory. Several years ago Jo Su Gyong, researcher of the university, went to the factory to develop a hosiery packing machine. At the time the state had provided the factory with advanced hosiery production equipment as part of the effort to improve the people's living standards. The products, however, were being packed manually, taking much time. Jo



Researchers make a design of new equipment.

decided to tackle the problem. Soon she found the task quite difficult, though. She thought and thought and finally completed a plan of a packing machine. After making the machine, she tested it. The result was not good. The machine revealed several demerits. Though they were trifling, the researcher could not neglect them. *Even a trivial fault should not be seen in the products which are to be supplied to the people our leader [Kim Jong Il] held dear*, she thought. Now she unhesitatingly started to revise the plan. After days and nights of continuous inquiry she succeeded in drawing an ideal plan. The test of the new machine was successful. The management and workers of the factory congratulated her on her success.

In July last year, during his inspection of the factory, the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un was very satisfied with the efficient hosiery packing machine and highly appreciated

Jo's efforts. Stressing the need to widely generalize her research achievement, he made sure that the degree of doctor was conferred upon her and all other members of her research group.

Greatly encouraged by his praise of such a small success, teachers and researchers of the university have turned out to modernize production equipment of other factories and enterprises, including the Sungni Motor Complex, the Ranam Coal-mining Machine Complex and the Kumsong Tractor Factory, in cooperation with the management, technicians and workers there.

When I met Ri Myong Chol, vice-president of the university, who was just leaving on a business trip for on-site scientific research, he said, "The more frequently we go to solve problems arising in practice, the earlier the building of a thriving nation will be completed."

Sim Yong Jin

Education System Improves

THE SIXTH SESSION OF the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea held in Pyongyang in September last year adopted the ordinance "On enforcing the universal 12-year compulsory education." A Korea Today staff reporter had a talk with Kim Won Hui, deputy bureau director of the Ministry of General Education under the Education Commission.

The government of the DPRK has put primary efforts into education while regarding it as an important state affair, doesn't it?

Certainly. Educational work is a fundamental matter relating to the fortunes and future of the country and nation. Our country was the first in the East to introduce the universal compulsory primary and secondary education. Later it enforced universal nine-year technical compulsory education. In the early 1970s it introduced universal 11-year compulsory education for the first time in the world. Even during the time of Arduous March there was no let-up in the execution of the universal free and compulsory education. This led to production of numerous reserve talented scientists and technicians, helping to promote the development of the country.

Our country has become a nuclear state, a nation that is

capable of making and launching artificial earth satellites; Korean-style CNC technology and flexible manufacturing system have been introduced in different sectors of the national economy and modern heavy and light industrial bases and architectural edifices have appeared in large numbers. These achievements are associated with the efforts of scientists of younger generation and youths who grew up while receiving universal 11-year compulsory education.

The proclamation of the ordinance on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education has provided a bright vista for the country to get ahead of others in the era of knowledge-based economy, I think.

At present the quantity of knowledge explosively increases worldwide, and its renewal becomes faster day after day. Not long ago, after analyzing the correlation between the period of education and economic growth rate in each country for the purpose of stressing what an important position education takes in the present age, UNESCO made public the data telling that addition of only one more year to the period of education leads to remarkable increase of economic growth rate in a country. So it is a worldwide trend to attach impor-



tance to secondary general education and lengthen its period. This, however, requires tremendous investment, and there are few countries which readily set about the work. The proclamation of the ordinance on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education in our country provides a firm guarantee for becoming soon able to steer the age of knowledge-based economy with much more talent.

I would like to know about the new compulsory education system in detail.

The universal 12-year compulsory education system is further development of the present 11-year compulsory education system and a higher level of secondary general education. The new system consists of one-year pre-school course, five-year primary

► schooling and three-year junior secondary and three-year senior secondary schoolings and is designed to complete secondary general education by providing younger generation with general basic knowledge and advanced basic technical knowledge.

One-year pre-school course will teach children rudiments for schooling and five-year primary schooling will provide pupils with basic knowledge about nature and society to prepare them for secondary education while ensuring proper physical growth. Three-year junior secondary schooling will give secondary general basic knowledge and three-year senior secondary schooling will provide complete secondary general knowledge and give basic technical knowledge that can be used in practice in the era of knowledge-based economy.

I think the new compulsory education system is a well-grounded and superior education system that makes it possible to radically improve the quality of education as required by the developing reality and the world-

wide trend.

The 12-year education is the most reasonable system in connection between courses of study and school system to help complete secondary general education in line with the requirements of the IT age, the age of knowledge-based economy. Secondary general education is the one to develop younger generation into talent possessed of perfect secondary general knowledge, advanced basic technologies and creativity. So it is a very important matter to decide how to set up connection between courses of study and school systems. The new compulsory education will enable primary schoolchildren to further consolidate what they learn. In the past primary schools held to four-year education regardless of increase in the number of subjects. This imposed burden on pupils in study, making them unable to understand correctly what they were taught. As pupils at the age of 11 are able to get secondary school education, it is really something of significance to turn 4-year primary school

course into a 5-year one. Dividing the existing 6-year secondary school course into a three-year junior secondary school course and a three-year senior secondary school course is aimed at getting rid of the unreasonableness caused by the way the low-stage and high-stage secondary education was done through a single 6-year course and updating education and edification to suit the physical growth and psychology of students in their childhood or youth. The new compulsory education system makes sure that students fully acquire broad knowledge daily increasing in accordance with the rapid development of science and technology and have the ability to act independently after graduation from secondary school. The enforcement of the new education system provides a guarantee for training our rising generations into strong pillars of the country, those of the building of a thriving nation. As an educational worker I will try to actively help bring into full play the vitality of the universal 12-year compulsory education. □

Winner of Gold Football Boot

KIM UN HWA, A Korean woman footballer, earned gold football boot at the FIFA 2012 U-20 Women's World Cup.

She slammed a shot into the Norwegian net and five shots into the Argentine net. She also scored a goal in the first half of the match with the Canadian team by getting a strong shot in its net after diverting its two backs. □

Note of Visit to Yanggakdo Sports Village

LAST YEAR WITNESSED the appearance of another modern sports village on Yanggak Islet on the Taedong River in Pyongyang. It is the Yanggakdo Sports Village, which we visited not long ago. It is as beautiful as a picture, going well with the Yang-

gakdo International Hotel, the Pyongyang International Cinema House and the Yanggakdo Football Stadium. Inside the wide entrance to the village we met Kim Thae Song, head of the Kigwancha Sports Team. Before showing us round the training

halls, he said, "The sports village with an area of more than 80 000 square metres consists of three large training halls, four lodgings of trainees, two mess halls and welfare service amenities. Showing concern for our sports team our great leader Kim Jong Il made sure it could play its role properly. He instructed that sports facilities should be built for our team. In 2007 he examined the plan for the building of a sports village and made sure that problems arising in the construction were solved. Later our respected leader Kim Jong Un gave meticulous guidance to the builders in accelerating the pro- ▶



▶ ject for the purpose of materializing Chairman Kim Jong Il's instruction."

The head led us to the comprehensive training hall first. The hall covers an area of a thousand and several hundred square metres. In the hall we saw male and female volleyball players training hard in an effort to complete their tactical system. The hall, we were told, serves as the venue for the training of other indoor events such as basketball, handball and five-a-side. The front wall of the hall is hung with a large-sized TV screen that shows scores and game regulations. The players can appreciate music from the TV during a break. The windows of the hall are fitted with crackled glass so that the players' eyes are not exposed to a direct ray of



light. According to the head the hall can serve as a venue for an international competition.

Then we went into another two-storeyed building adjoining the hall by means of a corridor. The first floor of the building has a hall for basketball training. In the hall there were basketball players training in an atmosphere of a real match to master the techniques of dribbling and throw-in. The ground floor of the building is dedicated to training of table tennis. The relevant coaches expressed their determination to produce more and more international competition winners in the newly built training halls.

Now we headed for the last building which is used for training of instrumental gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and boxing and physical training. In every training place they were exerting themselves to carry out their training tasks for the day without fail, out of the determination to exalt the honour of Songun Korea by winning gold medals at international competitions.

Om Tae Sam, head of the training department, said, "Our people have won a lot of international competitions, including Rim Jong Sim who won the female weightlifting event of 69-kg category at London Olympics last year. This testifies to the validity ▶



Our Doctor

NOT LONG AGO I visited the Chukjon Polyclinic in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. When I was upstairs looking at the pictures of the medical information boards hanging on the walls of the corridor, I found many patients awaiting their turn on the benches. At a glance, they numbered around 20. Prompted by curiosity, I approached them. They were young and old people including women with babies. As I stood questioningly, a woman told me, "People here are all wanting to see the 'golden handed' doctor. Scores of people come to see her every day."

Golden handed doctor! A desire arose in my mind to meet her to find out why she was dubbed so. But I could not jump the queue. So, I decided to hear the meaning of her nickname from the patients who were waiting for their turn. Here are the stories two aged men told me:

Miraculous Cure

In the evening of the lunar New Year's Day in 2005, the old man Im Il Sun who was enjoying the happy day with his family members, suddenly fell unconscious. Some time later, doctors from the district hospital arrived at his home in Kumsong-dong No. 2, Mangyongdae District. They diagnosed his case as cerebral thrombosis. The old man was put into hospital and placed under the care of physicians. He got intravenous drip injections and underwent medicinal therapy. After hospital, he received intensive medical treatment at a sanatorium. He seemed to get



better, only to have a relapse of the disease. His heart became weaker and angina pectoris set in as a complication. He had frequent heart attacks, and continuous use of various chemically prepared medicines caused indigestion and insomnia, and it even made his palms peel off. He could no longer take medicines. ▶

▶ of the Korean-style principles and methods of competition. We will train more people capable of winning different events of international competitions by further intensifying the training."

Our coverage almost finished. Now we asked the head of the sports team how they keep the training halls warm in the cold

winter days, when he replied that they exploit the subterranean heat. "Without forgetting the benevolence of the peerless great men Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un who provided us with the fine sports village as a whole, we will strive to get ahead of others in developing sports of the country onto a high level as

soon as possible," the head added.

We left the sports village with the confidence that under the care of the state which gives prominence to athletes and spares nothing for them more fine sportspeople will grow in the modern training halls.

Song Ryo Myong

► Back home, he heard about a skilled woman doctor of the Chukjon Polyclinic who was good at moxa treatment. He went to see her, and he was politely received by a woman doctor in her early fifties. After examining him, she said, "You will surely get well. Be confident of your recovery." Then, she cauterized several spots on his skin with moxa. And then, strangely enough, as he rose from the bed after the cauterization, he felt refreshed somehow and his face was flushed. In several days after he began to get moxa treatment, he felt less pain in his heart and heart attack came few and far between. Paralysis of hands and feet and insomnia were gone and blood pressure stabilized. One day the old man, now restored to health, asked her. "Your hands are golden hands. What is the secret?" To this she replied with a smile, "The traditional medical book *Tonguibogam* handed down from olden times in our country gives all the secret recipes. I just studied it hard to master our traditional Koryo medicine."

"Greater Than My Mother's Love"

Six years ago Ho Hyon Jong, 77, went to a hospital with an intolerable pain in the chest. Medical examination diagnosed his case as myocardial infarction. The doctors shook their heads to the question of his family who

asked them about his condition. The old man flatly rejected the suggestion of his children that he should go to another hospital. He thought he was too old to receive treatment. When he was advised to see a famous doctor of the Chukjon Polyclinic, he refused to do so.

One day a woman doctor called on him. Politely greeting him, she entered his house. Introducing herself as a department head of the Chukjon Polyclinic, she said she came to examine him. Her soft and confident voice captivated the stubborn old man's mind at once. Nevertheless, he was reluctant to get treatment. To him the doctor said, "You must be treated in any case. As a citizen of our Republic, you are entitled to free medical care. And we doctors are duty bound to cure all patients." From that time on, she made a house call on him every day to give him acupuncture and moxa treatment. The old man said, "Her devotion to my treatment defies all description. She came to cure me for a full one month. She brought me necessary medicines and tonics. I have seen many reports in the newspapers about doctors' house calls on patients, but I little thought I would be one of such patients. Under her treatment, I felt as if my mother who had died more than 20 years ago came back to take care of me. Nay, the doctor's love was far greater than my mother's love for me. Whenever I expressed my gratitude to the doc-

tor, she would say simply that all the people in our country are enjoying the benefits of free treatment under the socialist health-care system. Thanks to her devoted care, I am now completely cured not only of myocardial infarction but of chronic hepatitis as well."

Not only the two old men but also others around us said in unison that the department head treated their diseases including epileptic aura, facial paralysis, liver cirrhosis, abdominal dropsy of the liver and arthritis. They all proudly called her "our doctor." It was close on lunchtime when I managed to meet the doctor with "golden hands," Department Head Ri Ae Ryong of the Chukjon Polyclinic. When I praised her for her rich experience accumulated over the past 30 years, enough for a thesis for a doctorate, she said: "Seeing the beaming faces of people who recovered their health gives me a joy far greater than the joy of receiving a doctorate. What I think I can do now is to write many medical books giving information to the people about the secrets of good health and longevity. I have written several books including the 'Secrets of Good Health—the Methods of Activating the Brain Function.' I'll write more books."

Department Head Ri Ae Ryong is just one of many health workers to be met with anywhere.

An Nam Hui

To Protect and Promote Women's Health

THE BREAST TUMOUR INSTITUTE OF THE Pyongyang Maternity Hospital built in October last year now gives efficient medical service to women. Equipped with cutting-edge facilities for prevention and treatment of mastopathy and breast cancer, the institute specializes in prevention, treatment and study of breast diseases.

The institute is housed in a six-storey building with over 160 rooms. The entrance hall gives an impression of a palace. Korean paintings are hung on the walls of all corridors and sick wards, making patients feel at ease as if they were in their own home. The institute has an outpatients' department, a prevention department, a medical examination department, mammary gland departments Nos.1 and 2, a Koryo mammary gland department, a mammary gland laboratory and four operating rooms. The first floor has an outpatient reception office, a diagnosis room, a test room, treatment rooms, a pathohistological examination room, a basic laboratory, a medical examination department and an on-screen diagnosis department, all intended for medical examination of women who come to get mid-wifery service. The on-screen diagnosis department is equipped with multi-purpose X-ray and CT apparatuses, mammary gland cameras, milk duct endoscopes and ultrasonography apparatuses for diagnosis of breast diseases. The second and third floors have sick wards, treatment rooms, doctors' rooms, nurses' rooms and an interview hall. The wards are furnished with multi-purpose beds, and the interview hall is arranged in such a way as to suit the psychology of delicate women. Nurses, sitting at observation and control desks in a circular observation room, observe the conditions of inpatients day and night so as to give them timely medical aid by doctors.

The fourth floor has a general operating room and an intensive treatment room. The general operating room is divided into surgeries—two for major operations and other two for minor operations—which are

kept completely aseptic and dustless. The institute has a hall for scientific symposium, a consultation room, and a practical exercise room allowing consultations and scientific discussions with local and foreign experts on breast diseases.

The institute has been built for the purpose of preventing and treating mastopathy and breast cancer of women in addition to conducting medical researches on their breast diseases. To this end, the institute is enforcing a system of giving women regular checkups, and preventing, diagnosing early and curing mastopathy and breast cancer. At the same time, it renders telemedicine all across the country.



The CT room.

In June and November last year the supreme national leader Kim Jong Un visited the institute and gave instructions that the medical workers should faithfully perform their duty and mission as the people's servants. Bearing his words in mind, the members of the institute are striving to make progress in their scientific research work and prevention and treatment of women's breast diseases.



The mammary gland photographing room.



The X-ray room.



The multi-purpose X-ray room.



Article by Rim Sang Jun
Photos by Ri Song Ik



Pyongyang Assumes New Appearance

IN THE DPRK CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il's patriotism is a steady nourishment in the effort to establish a socialist cultured way of life as required by

the Songun era. The Rungna People's Pleasure Ground was built on the picturesque Rungna Islet in Pyongyang last year, and Mangyongdae Funfair and Tae-

songsan Pleasure Ground were reconstructed in a short span of time. Large and small parks in Pyongyang, numbering scores, were rebuilt to assume quite new features. In the past parks were usually intended for rest. Last year they were reformed to have resting and exercise places where people can have a rest, walk, read or exercise as they want. Major parks of the city ▶



Updated Taesongsan Pleasure Ground.





In a park in Pyongyang.

► have courses and courts for roller-skating, volleyball, basketball, badminton and mini-golf where people can play sports games on Sundays and holidays; they are also equipped with various apparatuses of exercises and places for *yut* games, Korean chess and other folk games.

Meanwhile, many of the small parks in residential quarters in the city have got new features according to the local reality and circumstance. At present there can be seen in the parks young and old people playing volleyball, basketball, badminton, roller-skating and doing exercise for treatment.

The residents of Neighbourhood Unit No. 21, Jonu-dong,

Moranbong District, keep their three-floor apartment—which was built scores of years ago—in shape and its circumstance in good arrangement. They covered the front yard with colourful paving blocks and made flowerpot stands, shaped like a petal, by the porch and planted beautiful flowers. In a corner of the yard they cultivated dishcloth gourd and pumpkins for a spacious resting place and made flowerbeds.

Soldiers of the Korean People's Army are spearheading the effort to change Pyongyang in accordance with the requirement of the Songun era. They finished in a short time the improvement project of the Hapjang River as part

of the campaign to further exalt the appearance of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state and its neighbourhood. And they completed the reconstruction projects of the Mangyongdae Funfair and Taesongsan Pleasure Ground in a short span of four months. Then they finished the improvement project of the Pothong River successfully in only nine days.

Today the appearance of Pyongyang is changing better and better thanks to soldiers and people's enthusiasm to devote their all to the country, regarding Kim Jong Il's patriotism as a model.

Sim Hyon Jin

Patriotic Man and Wife

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO A couple volunteered to go to work in Tami-ri, Taean District, Nampho City. The man was Ri Kwang Yon and the wife Kwak Jong Suk, who had both worked at a factory of the district.

At that time some people were curious about their decision while others wondered whether they could do farm work as they had been accustomed to urban life. Their worry was not groundless at all. Once in the farm the couple found themselves strange to not a few jobs.

Everyday, however, they didn't leave farm fields before they finished their shares, though others dissuaded them. Consequently, they were the first to begin work from early in the morning till late at night. Through their painstaking efforts, they could become real farmers whom even old farmhands admired.

It was one evening. Kwang Yon, sitting at supper, found his wife's face unusually clouded. Asked why, the wife told him that the fertility of her sub-workteam's fields was so low that their crop yields might drop against the estimation, and that they should take a necessary measure. Kwang Yon was pleased to learn that his wife was worried about the farming of her sub-workteam rather than their kitchen garden. He said that in his opinion the main way to solve the problem was to collect and spread more manure on the fields. And they had a relevant discussion until late at night.

Afterwards, people came to see a large manure yard around the couple's house. The yard then began to be piled with bundles of grass they steadily gathered at dawn and at night or even on holidays. When the sub-workteam members went to the manure



yard to fetch the manure they would say they were going to the *saemmul* (spring water) house though there wasn't a spring at the house. They called the house so referring to the couple's devotion to the country as a spring that never goes dry. The nickname of the house reflected the high appreciation of the couple's sincere efforts.

The man and wife would give a serious thought even to a trifling matter other people might neglect.

In the 1990s, when the country went into the Arduous March, making effective use of draught animals in farms presented itself as a vital matter as fuel and spare parts of farm machines were in short supply. Most people were intent on increasing the head of draught oxen without thinking of making them work properly. The problem was to take care of the nutrition of the oxen. It required regular keepers of them. The couple then decided to take the task upon themselves. *The land and oxen can't speak. But they give pleasure to those who take good care of them*—with this thought they have taken

devoted care of the oxen for over ten years. Sometimes they listened to experienced old hands for advice till late at night and sometimes they travelled tens of kilometres at night to go to stockbreeding research institutes for help. Their strenuous effort led to increase in grain output. And the effective use of draught oxen for farming in the mountainous Tami-ri made it possible to save lots of machine parts and a large quantity of fuel, benefiting the country greatly and increasing the farmhands' income. In appreciation of the couple's merits the state put them forward as meritorious persons in the Songun era, and made their deed known to the public. When a journalist, during an interview with the couple, said it could be said that they were like beautiful flowers in bloom on the land of Tami called so in the meaning that all flowers are in bloom there, the man and wife said, "What we have done can be done by anyone else, and we now think those who have something to recall are the happiest person."

Chae Kwang Myong

Kwangmyong Encyclopedia

LAST YEAR THE SCIENCE and Encyclopedia Publishing House published *Kwangmyong Encyclopedia* in 20 volumes on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung after publishing *Encyclopedia of Korea* in 30 volumes, thus creating another treasure of the country which adds lustre to the Korean people's achievements attained in all fields of politics, the economy, science and culture under the wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il and to the Workers' Party of Korea's exploits in Songun revolutionary leadership. This is attributable to the efforts of the editing group of the publishing house. Editing the encyclopedia was a tough task. It needed many editors and hours in order to classify and compile a huge amount of content by subjects, photos, pictures, maps and other visual aids. Furthermore, they were strange to the style the new encyclopedia was to be compiled in, and it was difficult to collect and ascertain data. And they had to refer to lots of foreign data. The officials of the publishing house made detailed arrangements including selection of proper persons for individual subjects. In contact with the relevant units they strove to collect various data and translate data on other countries. At last they succeeded in completing the encyclopedia.

It is a new form of encyclopedia different from other encyclopedias arranged alphabetically. Each volume is divided into parts, chapters and sections and gives entries systematically according to subjects and in scientific, logical and historical order. Each volume bears portraits of the

three commanders of Mt. Paektu, and describes the history of development of given fields and the immortal leadership exploits of the WPK. It also contains comprehensive knowledge of and common sense in nature and society.

The volumes *History of Korea, Politics and Law, Philosophy* and *The Economy* are dedicated to the great lives of the three commanders of Mt. Paektu and to descriptions of the brilliant revolutionary history and tradition of the WPK, lines and policies of the Party, and the policies of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in every stage of the revolution, the achievements and experience in implementing the policies, the WPK's Juche idea and Songun idea and its Songun-based revolutionary line and other strategic lines and matters related to the building of the socialist economy. The volumes *Literature and the Arts* and *Education, Linguistics and Mass Media* describe the WPK's ideas and theories on the relevant fields, the successful cultural development in the country and similar achievements in other countries. *Geography of Korea, World Geography, Astronomy and Global Environment* and *World History* contain the comprehensive knowledge of the geography, nature, history and culture of Korea and other countries in the world, and of the earth and the universe.

Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Life Science and *Information, Control and Nano Technology* describe basic concepts, principles and main contents related to the fields of natural sciences in compliance with the academic order, theoretical problems and

those related to practical application arising in the fields of cutting-edge science and the data on the latest successes.

Human Body and Public Health and *Sports* are dedicated to the basic knowledge of the physiological structure of human body, actions and functions of each organ and system in the body and preservation and care of health, and ample knowledge of and common sense in sports and events.

Mining, Metal, Machinery, Electricity and Electronics Industry, Chemical and Light Industries, Construction, Transportation and Communications and *Agriculture, Afforestation and Fisheries* describe President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il's original ideas and policies pertaining to the economic sectors, the relevant successes made under the guidance of the WPK, relevant production processes based on the cutting-edge science and technology, constitution and action principles of the machinery, their technological specification and problems of practical application and the worldwide trends in the development of the relevant fields.

The encyclopedia uses plain language to describe its contents so that readers can easily understand them. And the titles are harmonized well and the contents are linked in succession. Meanwhile, each volume has an index at its end for readers' convenience.

The publication of the encyclopedia means creation of another treasure that helps working people deepen their knowledge of all aspects through regular study, fully cultivate their abilities and lead a cultured life. □

We Are Having a Good Time

HAM OK RAN AND HER FAMILY HAD A great celebration on September 25 last year. Her flat in Namsin-dong No. 1, Songyo District, Pyongyang, was all happiness. Ham, amidst congratulations of all present there, received a feast from the national leader Kim Jong Un on her 100th birthday.

Ham then said, “I experienced all manner of hardships before the country’s liberation. Since national liberation I have had a happy life. My sons, daughters and grandchildren learned at school and college free of charge. And medics regularly come to take care of me lest I should be ill. Naturally I am healthy—like this.”

Ham was born a daughter of a poor peasant’s family in a rural village in Kangwon Province. Her desire was to become a physician. But it was a prize beyond her reach because her family had to make a living by doing tenant farming after their country was deprived of by the Japanese aggressors. After she was married and had children, she tried to get them to study by all means, but in vain.

After the country’s liberation on August 15, 1945 her family, like others, received free of charge fields they could call their own. It was like a dream, and she and her husband worked on the fields late into night every day, and their children went to school. Their happy life lasted for five years.

Then the US imperialists started the Korean war, bringing misfortune on her family again. She lost her husband in the explosion of a germ bomb, and two sons of her five children in bombing. While enduring her sorrow, Ham changed into a woman of courageous spirit. In the flame of war she developed into a master ploughwoman. After the end of the war she was the first to join a cooperative formed in her village. From then on she worked hard without a day’s rest to become a true farm worker responsible for the supply of rice to the nation.

One day, after she was over sixty, she heard the glad news that her son Ri Pyong Jik was posted to a national hospital as physician after graduation from the Pyongyang Medical College and that he was allotted a house in Tongdaewon District, Pyongyang. She then moved to live with her son, daughter-in-law



and grandchildren in the capital city. Though well over sixty, she took upon herself all domestic chores, and encouraged her children in their work, saying that their hard work would return the benevolence of the state.

After house-moving on several occasions, her family moved into their present home, a flat of an apartment. When she was 90, Ham was registered as a long-lived woman, drawing special concern. The doctor in charge of her visited her home twice a week to examine her health and provide her with tonics lest she should even catch a cold. Sometimes the old woman was sent to a sanatorium for recuperation. Her neighbours visited her, bringing special dishes with them.

When she celebrated her 100th birthday her eldest daughter Ri Ok Nyo, 82, who lives in Yonan County, South Hwanghae Province, and her second daughter Ri Pyong Nyo, 68, who lives in Sinuiju City, North Phyongan Province, came to congratulate her.

Her son Ri Pyong Jik, 73, still works at hospital. Ham has over 30 grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Many of them are doctors.

Asked of the secret of her long life she says, “We are having a good time.” She is very hale and hearty. She has a walk every day, and often does this or that work. She now tends several flowerpots. She still has good teeth and a sharp ear, and has no difficulty in speaking. She likes soya dishes, fish, pancakes and vegetables.

Rim Ok

Satellite Launch for Peaceful Purposes Is DPRK's Lawful Right

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR the Democratic People's Republic of Korea successfully launched its first application satellite Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into orbit. The launch of Kwangmyongsong 1 and Kwangmyongsong 2 was the signal of the DPRK's advance into outer space, and that of Kwangmyongsong 3-2 was a historic event announcing that the country consolidated its position as a state capable of developing outer space.

The recent success in space development had a significant impact on the international community. Sakirmata TV Broadcasting Service of Nepal said as follows: The DPRK has successfully launched an artificial earth satellite defying strong opposition and pressure from the US and the West. This launch means another big problem to the US which is already in trouble over a nuclear dispute. The DPRK did away with the mistake that caused the April failure in a short period and launched Kwangmyongsong 3-2 into orbit by carrier rocket Unha-3. It is the outcome of the

wise leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il and the supreme leader Kim Jong Un.

The French paper Figaro said in an article titled "DPRK's Successful Satellite Launch" as follows: The DPRK displayed its highly developed satellite launching technology through the successful launch. The launch came in the adverse winter condition. The satellite followed the preset trajectory exactly to enter the target orbit. World experts wondered at the DPRK's satellite launching capabilities.

A project chief of the Centre of Modern Korean Studies under the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations associated with the Russian Academy of Sciences asserted: "If the launch was successful as pointed out by international observers, it means that the Koreans have implemented Kim Jong Il's lifetime instruction and that their technical programme has been successful. Financial and other new sanctions against Pyongyang will lead to countermeasures of

the country. If the UN Security Council holds that the DPRK doesn't have the right to promote space programs and takes an extremely high-handed measure the country will take an unpredictable action."

Jonathan McDowell, a space expert of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, said that the three-stage rocket Unha-3 launched on the morning of the 12th delivered the satellite into orbit and that it was a perfect success for the DPRK.

Igory Lysov, a Russian expert in space development, said in an interview with Interfax that the DPRK has become a country with the capacity of putting spacecraft into the earth's orbit. After the country launched the satellite, the US military confirmed that a new object appeared in the earth's orbit, he noted.

Lots of media of over 190 countries and regions, including People's Daily of China, Phoenix Satellite TV Holdings LTD., Hong Kong, China, Nezavisimaya Gazeta of Russia and NHK, gave ▶

► wide publicity to the DPRK's successful satellite launch through articles titled "DPRK Startles World," "DPRK Successfully Puts Its Satellite Into Orbit," "DPRK Ranks Itself Among a Few Full-fledged Satellite Manufacturing and Launching States" and the like.

It is a lawful requirement and worldwide trend in the age of cutting-edge science and technology to launch and operate application satellites indispensable to the development of national economy. At present lots of people see or experience the world of outer space that was first seen by Yuri Gagarin, Russian cosmonaut who was the first to make a manned space flight in the history of mankind, and a satellite is regarded as indispensable to the economic development of a country.

Today, when man's conquest of space, which used to be imagined only in a science fiction, is being translated into reality, advancing into space is lawful exercise of a sovereign state's right.

In March 2009 the DPRK joined the Outer Space Treaty and other similar international treaties for the purpose of promoting international trust and cooperation in the fields of space research and satellite launch for

peaceful purposes. The country has since adhered to relevant obligations. In April 2009 it announced to the world that it had completed the preparation for launching Kwangmyongsong 2, a trial communication satellite, by carrier rocket Unha-2. In April and December last year it launched satellites after making its schedule public in advance. It notified relevant international organizations of it, and took an exceptional measure to invite authorities in the field of space science and technology and journalists of many countries for a visit to the satellite control centre.

Still, the US tried to label the satellite launch for peaceful purposes as "violation of a resolution" of the UN Security Council, launch of a long-range missile, "provocation" and a factor in rendering the situation strained. This is because the US pursues a hostile policy towards the DPRK.

Talking to Al-Jazeera TV a former Australian ambassador to south Korea said that it was undesirable to form a hasty conclusion on the DPRK's satellite launch. He went on to say, "This launch can be called either a missile test or a satellite launch. I hold that the launch has two characters because double stan-

dards are applied to it. In other words, if it is done by North Korea, the US sees it as a missile test, but if south Korea or Japan uses their own missiles to put satellites into orbit, the US regards it as the demonstration that both of them use their own technology for peaceful purposes."

The American logic goes that those countries that cooperate with it for its foreign policy are allowed to arm themselves with nuclear weapons and develop missiles, but those that refuse to cooperate are not allowed to launch a satellite even for peaceful purposes. Such an attitude of the US towards the DPRK's satellite launch is an unbearable disgrace and defamation to the latter's dignity and sovereignty.

It is the DPRK government's consistent stand and policy to provide the people with a more civilized and affluent material and cultural life and open a bright future of the nation by making active use of space resources, the common treasure of mankind. The country will keep promoting the undertaking to make use of space for peaceful purposes in keeping with the developing reality and the international trend. □

Main Obstacle to Korea's Reunification

HAVING OCCUPIED THE SOUTHERN HALF of Korea immediately after Korea's liberation in August 1945 on the pretext of disarming the former Japanese army, the US imperialists established military administration in pursuance of the policy of dividing the Korean nation for ever and turning south Korea into a complete colony of theirs, and harshly oppressed the local people.

At that time, encouraged by the line of building an independent democratic reunified sovereign state put forward by the national hero Kim Il Sung and popular policies put in force and democratic reforms done in the northern half of Korea, the south Korean people waged vigorous struggles for national sovereignty and reunification and independence of the nation against the US aggressors' vicious moves to divide the nation and make a colony of south Korea.

Scared at the people's struggles, the US imperialists sought to enforce a colonial rule by employing their local stooges instead of their military administration and laid illegally the issue of Korea before the UN in an attempt to keep the Korean nation divided permanently by framing up a "separate government" under "UN auspices."

In January 1948 the local workers launched strikes against the US imperialists' having taken the "United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea" into south Korea, which rapidly enlarged as a popular anti-US struggle. The struggle reached its climax with a general strike of workers in Seoul on February 7 of that year. People of all other social standings resolutely waged strikes and demonstrations across south Korea. Even students refused to attend college. Then the US aggressors confusedly mobilized police and terrorist organizations and shot dead or arrested demonstrators at random.

Still, the south Korean people kept fighting at the risk of their lives terrifying the US aggressors and their stooges and making the whole of south Korea agog with anti-US resistance. Their struggle testified to their iron will to prevent national division and live independently free from foreign forces' domination and intervention and gave a serious blow to the US imperialists who were trying to enslave south Korea and divide the Korean nation.

Sixty-five years have passed since the south Korean people's February 7 national salvation struggle, but the desire of the participants in the struggle and patriotic people for national sovereignty, independence, democracy and national reunification still remains unrealized owing to the US occupation of south Korea. Regardless of the Korean people's desire to establish a single legal government, the US set up a pro-US Syngman Rhee regime in south Korea separately for the purpose of perpetuating the

division of Korea, and unleashed the Korean war in an attempt to occupy the northern half of Korea. Instead of learning a lesson from its ignominious defeat in the war, the US in the post-war days kept resorting to the schemes for perpetuation of Korea's division, inter-Korean confrontation and another war in the Korean peninsula. In the 1960s, when an atmosphere of reunification rapidly increased in south Korea, the US concocted the "May 16 military coup" to mar the atmosphere. In the 1970s, when the publication of the July 4 North-South Joint Statement which specifies the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity for national reunification inspired all the Korean people with hope and expectation of reunification, the US dampened the trend of reunification by having the separatist policy of "two Koreas" and the "Yushin" fascist dictatorship enforced. In the 1980s many-sided dialogues and exchange of art troupes and home-visiting groups started between the north and the south. Then the US and its south Korean stooges disturbed the developments by advocating the "theory of cross recognition" and extending the Team Spirit joint military exercises. In the 1990s, when the national reunification movement became brisk with the publication of the 10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country and the adoption of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South, the US hindered the movement by making an anti-DPRK nuclear fuss. The 2000s, in particular, witnessed the historic north-south summit meeting followed by the publication of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration. This time the US completely defied the developments. The then American ambassador to south Korea, after an agreement on the north-south summit meeting had been made public for the first time, forcibly demanded that the agreement be immediately retracted, grumbling that failing to give a previous notice of a startling decision was something impossible between friendly nations and that the April 8 agreement's reaffirmation of the three principles of the July 4 Joint Statement meant the withdrawal of GIs.

Last year there was disclosed the fact that during the Korean war the US tried to make corridor across the Korean peninsula, which is to be inaccessible to humans, by dropping a large quantity of radioactive substances like plutonium and nuclear waste in an attempt to divide the peninsula into the north and the south for ever. This proves that the US is really a heinous nuclear fanatic and an obstacle to Korea's reunification.

It can be attributed to the US policy of occupation ►

Japan's Crime in Division of the Korean Nation

SIXTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO THE JAPANESE imperialists' flag of the Rising Sun was pulled down and the US flag of the Stars and Stripes was hoisted in its stead over the roof of the capital building in Seoul and fluttered in the wind. As a result, the Korean nation was compelled to undergo great pains over again, this time from division, even before tasting the joy of the country's August 15 liberation. In retrospect Japan is to blame for Korea's division in no small measure, for if there had been no military occupation and domination of Korea by the Japanese imperialists, the tragedy of Korea's division into the north and the south would not have taken place at all.

However, Japan has done only things obstructive to the reunification of Korea with the backing of the United States far from making an apology for the nefarious crimes it had perpetrated against the Korean people. Japan's taking part in the war of aggression, standing in with the United States that started the Korean war, is an instance. In the 50s of the previous century the then Chief Cabinet Secretary Okizaki asserted: "It is natural that on order of the occupation troops (the US troops) Japan should engage herself in combat actions and others on the [Korean front]". In addition, the Japanese government which convened a cabinet meeting in July 1950 discussed the "policy of cooperating with the US troops in their military action." In accordance with this, Japan poured tens of thousands of remnant troops of the former Japanese forces and the "police reserve corps" into the Korean front, ensured the transport of war materials of the US troops by employing enormous means of transport and took an active part in the Korean war through the manufacture and repair of war equipment and materials and the offer of military bases. Moreover, Japan went so far as to hand over the germ weapons—developed by the 731st Unit during the Second World War—to the US troops and give a helping hand to them on the spot so that they could make the most of these weapons. The motor vehicles Japan produced and supplied to the US troops in a year after the outbreak of the war amount to 10 385 in number. Dwelling on

this, the then US ambassador to Japan said in the following vein: The Japanese people have converted their four islands into a tremendous depot for supply at an amazing rate. If they had not done so, [the United States] could not have carried on the Korean war. This serves as an eloquent proof that Japan, a criminal state, is directly responsible for the Korean war along with the United States.

Even after the Korean war came to an end with the crushing defeat of the United States, Japan promoted and aggravated the confrontation and mistrust between the north and the south and stuck itself in the way of national reunification at every step. Originally, Korea's achieving reunification and its turning into a rich, powerful and prosperous country is not what Japan wishes to see.

Even when the July 4 Joint Statement between

Japan produced and supplied shells to the US military in the Korean war.



the north and the south was made public in the 1970s, Japan vilified the three principles of national reunification clarified in the statement and viciously opposed them, saying: "If Korea is reunified, it constitutes a threat to Japan economically and militarily" and "The Japanese government must prevent the reunification of the Korean peninsula by hook or crook." While trying to find fault with the three

▶ of south Korea that there was the Korean war in the 1950s and that over the past decades since the war there have taken place various frantic DPRK-targeted war exercises including the RSOI and Team Spirit, Foal Eagle and Ulji Focus Lens joint military exercises and acts of military provocation against the DPRK, putting the Korean peninsula in constant danger of war.

GIs' history of occupation of south Korea is just a

history of heinous aggressors who have inflicted immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings upon the Korean people. Unless GIs withdraw from south Korea of their own accord they will have to be driven out of the south by the local people's second and third February 7 national salvation struggles. It will be beneficial to the US itself to withdraw its troops from south Korea.

Kim Ja Yong

► principles of national reunification, the then Japanese ambassador to south Korea Kaneyama asserted finally that “As the tragedy of Korea’s reunification is greater than the tragedy of division, Japan wishes for the latter.” This shows well how black-hearted Japan is.

Japan is doing everything in her power to have a part in the issue of Korea and impede Korea’s reunification. This is because the partition of Korea is favourable to the realization of Japan’s ambition for reinvasion. Japan is recognized internationally as a war criminal state. Accordingly, if Japan is to realize reaggression, there should exist a specious justification. The most favourable condition for this is that divided into two, the north and the south of Korea come to showdown with each other. In order to level the ground for setting foot of aggression on Korean soil and lay a firm stepping stone for the aggression of the Asian continent, Japan has doggedly pursued Korea’s partition and has opposed reunification.

In the agreement concluded with south Korea in 1965 Japan put down clearly that the “legitimate government on the Korean peninsula is south Korean government,” thereby not concealing its own one-sided policy toward south Korea. Japan praised the south Korean regime to the skies as a “sovereign state” and mentioned expressly even in the “written agreement.” This was nothing but a crafty intention to open up the road of reaggression upon south Korea by coating the pro-Japanese stooges with honeyed words.

Innumerable are the crimes committed by Japan. She opposed Korea’s reunification and manoeuvred

**US warplanes are under repair
at the Kawasaki plane plant.**



to divide the Korean nation and set it at variance, asserting that thrusting up the 38th parallel over the Amnok River is the “duty of the Japanese diplomacy” and “The 38th parallel is not only the line of fate of south Korea but also the line of fate of Japan.”

She applied the brake to the proposal for the tripartite talks put forward by the government of the DPRK, saying that it was a “peace offensive” and that it was “unreasonable as it was aimed at the withdrawal of the US troops from the Korean peninsula.” As soon as the separatist “July 7 Declaration” was made public in south Korea in 1988 she took the lead in the “cross contact” and “cross recognition” farce, while supporting and welcoming the declaration first of all. And even after the announcement of the Pyongyang Declaration between the DPRK and Japan she brought up the “nuclear and missile issues” and obstinately stuck to her own unjust opinion with regard to the “abduction issue” though it was settled long ago. In addition, she enacted “a law on emergency,” an actual law of wartime, in 2003.

These days Japan is resorting to every conceivable scheme for the enactment of a series of laws designed to legalize her participation in the war. Such a machination of Japan became more pronounced with the setting up of the Lee Myung Bak (MB)-led regime that was an extremely pro-Japanese traitorous regime in south Korea. A typical example of it was the manoeuvring for the conclusion of a military agreement between south Korea and Japan. Uttering yells of delight over the fact that MB and his clique imbued with pro-Japanese ideas to the bone were the “forces of sympathizers for Japan rarely to be seen,” Japan cooked up a scheme to lay a legal and institutional foundation for the reinvasion of Korea during MB’s office at any cost. In accordance with this, Japan tried to conclude an agreement on the protection of military information with south Korea last year in the name of obtaining “information.” However, confronted with strong repulsion of the south Korean people, she failed to accomplish her object. Nevertheless, under the cloak of “defence” from a certain “threat” and joint research and joint military training against “an emergency,” she is pushing her SDF deep into the Korean peninsula and now engages in all sorts of machinations to conclude a mutual agreement on the assistance of war materials, to say nothing of the agreement on the protection of military information. Japan is on the rampage to open up the road for the reinvasion of Korea by finding justification for military intervention in the “Korean issue” that was caused by national division.

As seen above, owing to the hostile and partitionist policy of the United States and Japan toward the DPRK obstacles are piled up in the way of Korea’s reunification and the Korean nation is suffering from a heartrending tragedy of national division up to the present extending over nearly 70 years.

Japan is the root cause of division of the Korean nation, the vicious obstructor of Korea’s reunification, and the century-old enemy who committed a crime indelible in the history of division. □

Sangwon Ravine

THE SANGWON RAVINE IS on the southern slopes of Popwang and Oson peaks in Mt. Myohyang. It was named after the old Sangwon Hermitage situated on a slope of the ravine.

Up the ravine from its mouth there is the Kumgang Falls. The stream flowing down the ravine falls over a narrow cliff to form the waterfall. It was named so because it is fascinatingly beautiful. On a high rock on the left of the falls stands the Kumgang Pavilion that commands a fine view of the surrounding scenery. Farther up from the Kumgang Falls you come to the Taeha Falls. Its name means that it lies at the base of Inho Rock. Water coming down from the Ryongyon Falls and the Sanju Falls joins to flow down over a precipice looking like steps to form the Taeha Falls.

Farther up, cliffs rise high in

front of you, and on the left of the cliffs is the Ryongyon Falls, one of the largest waterfalls of the mountain. It is 84 metres high. On the rock overhanging the waterfall is the mysterious Ryong (dragon) Pool, which gave the waterfall its name. Water flowing down the ravine of Popwang Peak slides over a rock into the pool to fall over a cliff to form the Ryongyon Falls that looks like unrolled white silks hanging from the sky. Its water again falls down a high sloping cliff with a roaring sound. As a typically sloping waterfall, it falls sending silvery sprays up into the air. Up the water course of the waterfall there is a broad bedrock on which are inscribed the words Ryongyon and the letters *sinsongulthae kunhadongchon* that means "Is this a fairyland? Sprays are sent up into the air," a line of poem

written by Yang Sa On, a 16th century writer.

Fifty metres away from the Ryongyon Falls there is the Sanju Falls. The two waterfalls flank the Sangwon Hermitage, so they are also called twin falls. Unlike the Ryongyon Falls, the Sanju Falls is an upright waterfall. The name of the waterfall means that it seems to throw up tens of thousands of beads into the air.

A little way up the water course from the Ryongyon Falls, towards Popwang Peak, there is the Chonsin Falls. Seen from Ryongju Peak on the east of the Sangwon Ravine, the waterfall looks like an unworldly man descending from the heaven. Hence the name Chonsin Falls. At a close range you can see the stream flowing over tiered cliffs.

By the Ryongyon Falls opposite the Sangwon Hermitage ▶



Pyongyang Folk Park (2)

THE NEXT LEG OF MY visit to the park was the historical relics section. It, I was told, is an admiration of the contemporary people who pride themselves on their own achievements.

Traces of Korean Ancestors

I entered the section with curiosity and excitement at that I could witness the traces of a history within the single place. In the section there were on display life-size models or miniatures of typical relics and remains classified by primitive, ancient and middle ages.

My eyes were caught first by the replica of the Komunmoru Site in Sangwon County that dates back to the early Paleolithic period and sculptures represent-

ing Korean hominids. They eloquently tell that Koreans created Taedonggang culture much early on the land of Korea and began to develop their unique culture and history there.

After seeing sculptures of such primitive animals as deer with big and broad antlers and mammoths that lived in Korea in the Old Stone Age and primitive straw-thatched huts, I looked round various types of tombs including Kwansan-ri dolmen No. 1—a dolmen from Ancient Joseon situated in Kwansan-ri, Unryul County, South Hwanghae Province—which proves that Tangun Joseon in the ancient times was a powerful slave-owning state.

Then I looked round the one-to-five-scale miniature of the Mausoleum of King Tangun that had been rebuilt on a grand scale in Kangdong County, Pyongyang in

the 1990s at the proposal of President Kim Il Sung, and those of the mausoleums of King Tongmyong, founder of Koguryo, and King Wang Kon, founder of Koryo. The guide explained that the mausoleums of the kings rose again from the shade of thousands-of-years-long history thanks to the patriotic devotion of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il to the country and nation.

Tombs are typical of the relics and remains from ancient times while tomb murals and pagodas are representative of the Middle Ages, the guide went on to say, leading us into a model of the Mausoleum of King Ko Kuk Won. It rather reminded me of an underground palace. Each wall of the chambers in the tomb was built with nearly one stone panel, each of the double doors weighing ►

► there rises a high and large rock called Inho Rock. The name of the rock derived from the tale about a tiger that showed a traveler the way up to the hermitage from below the Ryongyon Falls. The rock looking like a long ship singularly protrudes from the southwest edge of the precipitous cliff of the Ryongyon Falls. Grand and singular and topping a 200-metre-high cliff, the rock is famous as a splendid look-out platform. On the rock stands a pavilion that commands a fine view of the ravine. From the pavilion one can see three waterfalls of different forms at the same time. It is a sight rarely to be seen elsewhere. From olden times it has been noted as one of the eight fine sceneries of Myohyang Mountain. The surrounding scenery is as beautiful as a landscape picture

with the Sangwon Hermitage in thick foliage and large waterfalls cascading down with roaring sounds over steep cliffs before and behind the hermitage.

The view of the moon from the Pulyong Cell is also noted as another of the eight scenic beauties of the mountain. The Pulyong Cell is an old building situated beyond two low ridges east of the hermitage. Beside the Sangwon Hermitage, there is the Nungin Hermitage in the Sangwon Ravine. Of all hermitages on the mountain, it is placed highest, backed by famous Popwang Peak that consists of precipices without a single tree. Flanked by Oson Peak to the east and Kwanum Peak to the west, Popwang Peak is a mass of rocks of myriad shapes.

A little way up to the east of the Sangwon Hermitage there is a

long rock called Ryonggak Rock because it looks like a dragon's horn. Several pine trees growing on the curiously shaped rock add to its attraction. Go round the rock and you will come to the Chuksong Temple on an elevation. The temple has the best mural paintings in the Mt. Myohyang area.

With a crystal-clear stream running down over clean stones between large fantastic rocks in thick forests to form waterfalls and blue pools, soaring peaks with fine views, and old buildings on scenic spots, the Sangwon Ravine is noted for its beautiful scenery in the mountain. So, the ravine with its wonderful scenic beauty is well-known in the world.

Rim Ok

► over 0.5 tons opens and closes easily and the murals are rich in content and splendid in painting technique. In particular, the guide said, the picture of the king dealing with state affairs in the western chamber and the picture of a large procession in the gallery rank top among ancient tomb murals in Korea and are masterpieces of great significance in the world history of fine arts.

There were also seen replicas of the tomb of a general of Koguryo that still exists almost in its original state (called a pyramid in the medieval Orient), a tomb that is square at the front and round at the back, a type of stone-piled tomb in the period of Koguryo and the tomb of Princess Jonghye (738–777), second daughter of the third king of Palhae, whose structure and relics similar to those from the period of Koguryo suggest that Palhae was the successor to Koguryo.

We now followed the guide into the exhibition hall of Koguryo tomb murals. “The tomb murals of Koguryo are regarded as the nation’s treasure and listed as world cultural heritage for their rich content, good representation and quality pigments still remaining intact despite the passage of time,” the guide said as we were looking at the murals, which were just like the original. Among them were those of the Tokhung-ri tomb that made it possible to solve many of the mysteries of Koguryo as they bear the absolute year, namely “18th year of King Yongnak’s reign,” the era instituted in 391 after Kwanggaetho ascended the throne and used until 412 (the Tokhung-ri mural tomb of all the Koguryo mural tombs that have so far been known is the only one whose corpse and date of construction can be identified exactly, and a precious treasure of history and culture that tells about the pow-

erfulness of Koguryo between the latter half of the 4th century and the early 5th century, gives a glimpse of the then situation of the Orient and testifies to the fine culture and customs of Koguryo through many remaining murals and the relevant detailed explanations) and those of the Kangso large tomb depicting four guardian deities—tortoise-serpent, blue dragon, white tiger and phoenix—which are known as the best masterpieces of Koguryo paintings. All of what I saw made me understand the resourcefulness and talent of the Korean nation who created fine culture.

The exhibits showing off the creative wisdom and talents of the Korean ancestors also included *singijon*, an incendiary weapon—invented by the Korean ancestors in the early 15th century—that showed off its power in the battle on Haengjusan Fort (a mountain fort that once existed on the Han riverside of Koyang City, Kyonggi Province: the battle waged during the Imjin Patriotic War is one of the typical medieval battles in Korea in which the Koreans repulsed lots of invading troops.); *hwacha*, a fire-attacking car more advanced than that used in European countries in the Middle Ages; a shell with a fuse set in it; *pigyokjinchonro* known as the prototype of time bomb in the world history of firearms; the Chomsongdae Observatory; rain gauge; *kojunggi* (a kind of wooden crane used in Korea in the Middle Ages); *kirigocha*; and so on.

We also got on the rebuilt version of the iron-clad warship in the shape of a turtle invented by Admiral Ri Sun Sin, a renowned patriotic commander. The ship strikes foreign visitors with easy admiration, the guide said. The ship is 35m in length, 11.8m in width and 5.2m in height, with ten oars on either side. Its portholes number over 70. Its sail was designed to be set up or laid down

if need be. On the roof of the ship there is a narrow passage for only the crew to manage to move along, the rest of its surface bristled with spikes and swords so that the enemy could not step on the boat. The central part of the boat has 26 cabins—two for the keeping of hardware, three for guns, bows, arrows, gunpowder, swords and other weapons, 19 for sailors, one for the captain and one for officers. The bow of the boat is shaped like a dragon, and it belched out the smoke of sulphur and nitre to hide the boat behind a smoke screen. In battle all the sailors and combat equipment were in the boat and the insiders could look out of the portholes, but the outsiders could not look into the boat so that the boat could go through hundreds of enemy ships to fire at them. The boat is simple and yet solid and safe in structure. It moved quickly and its weapons were excellent so that at the time it became a peerlessly powerful warship capable of beating the enemy at will by means of close combat or gunfire. In 1592 the Korean fleet with a turtle boat at the head completely sank 59 of 73 enemy warships and killed and wounded thousands of enemy soldiers in a battle on the sea off Hansan Island, recording a great victory called *hansan-daechop* in the history of Korea. The life-size replica of turtle boat in the park seemed to tell that resourcefulness and wisdom derive from burning patriotism.

Now, after passing the Kyongju Cave Hermitage called one of the three treasures in the Orient and scattered stupas, we entered the pagoda division where there were replicas of many pagodas including the one of Miruk Temple from the period of Paekje, recorded in Tonggukyojisungram (handbook of Korean geography compiled in the 1400s) as the biggest of the pagodas in the East, the nine-storeyed one in ►



Model dolmens.

Koguryo tomb murals are on display.



A tomb of a general.

► Hwangryong Temple from the period of Silla and the one in Kumgang Temple from the period of Koguryo, all testifying to the features of those days and the then level of development of architecture. The pagoda at Kumgang Temple in particular is a typical pagoda from the period of Koguryo. It is 66 metres high and octagonal in shape. It is a life-size replica of the original built on the basis of scientific calculation of what were unearthed in the middle of the temple's compound in Taesong District, Pyongyang. We climbed the pagoda. The decoration of *tanchong* (red and blue) based on dark brown, the creaks caused by our stepping on the wooden floors and the wooden ►





A replica of Kyongju Cave Hermitage.



A model of pagoda at Kumgang Temple.



A turtle boat.

► stairs angled this way and that made me think as if I had been in the period of Koguryo.

Students visiting the pagoda said with pleasure that they came to more deeply grasp what they had learned in class while seeing the exhibits with their own eyes. Kim Jin Ju, student of Pyongyang Ryulgok Secondary School, said, “We have learned our great leaders Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un made sure that the pagoda from the period of Koguryo, whose original site alone had existed, was restored to its original state for us children to see first-hand.”

We headed for the next section of the park, realizing again at the student’s words that what the nation created can all become treasures only under the guidance of great national leaders.

*Article by Ri Kum Chol
Photos by Ri Song Bom*



Lunar New Year's Day Celebrations in Korea

FROM OLDEN TIMES Koreans joyfully celebrated the lunar New Year's Day, full of hope and expectation for their future. They paid special attention to preparation of celebrations. Women prepared dishes and the family members' clothes for the day, and all family members cleaned and fixed the inside and outside of the house. Varieties of pictures were pasted on walls and sliding doors of the house to enliven the festive atmosphere of the day. Particularly important was preparation of dishes. On the eve of the day each family was busy preparing rice cake, pan cake, different dishes of meat and vegetables.

When the day dawned people used to exchange New Year greetings. New Year greetings were offered first to deceased ancestors. Then the junior made a bow to the senior in order of age. Old people gave simple gifts they had prepared to children when they made a bow to them. Friends exchanged well-wishing remarks, expressing the hope that everything would go well in future. New Year greetings were also

made to the elders in the neighbourhood.

Then all the family members gathered at the house of the eldest to enjoy festive dishes, and those who came to the house to make a New Year call were treated with the dishes.

The dishes on the day were



A boy and a girl make a New Year's bow to their grandparents.

called *sechan*. The dishes included glutinous rice cake, steamed rice cake, rice cake with flower patterns imprinted, pancakes, grilled meat, *sujonggwa* (a national drink made of honey, dried persimmons, pine nuts and cinnamon) and fruit. Of the dishes *ttokkuk* was a special and symbolic food on the

day. It was a chicken soup with slices of rice cake in it.

Folk games made the atmosphere more pleasant. The games included *yut* played by people regardless of age and sex, women's seesawing, and children's kite flying, sledging, top spinning, toy pinwheel turning,

etc. Most interesting of the games was *yut* game played by family members and their neighbours. Such folk games as kite flying and sledging also added to the festive atmosphere. All these traditional customs are still encouraged today.

Song Yong Sok

Folk Holiday, *Jongwol-daeborum*

JONGWOL-DAEBORUM IS one of the folk holidays celebrated by the Korean people from olden times. It falls on January 15 of the lunar calendar. Records on the greeting of the day as a holiday by the Korean people were in existence from the period of Three Kingdoms (a general term given to Koguryo, Paekje and Silla, feudal states that existed in the history of Korea). It is said that in the period of Koryo this holiday was widely generalized as typical of the folk holidays.

Greeting of the day started on lunar January 14 and the 14th and the 15th of lunar January were called *jagun* (small) *borum* and *dae* (big) *borum* respectively. On these two feast days Koreans prepared various delicacies and had them. On the other hand they played pleasant folk games.

Typical foods were *ogokbap* (a dish made of boiled rice mixed with millet, barley, bean and foxtail millet), *yakbap* (boiled glutinous rice mixed with honey, chestnut, jujube and sesame oil, etc.), *poksam* (laver- or aster-wrapped rice), noodle, a dish prepared with nine kinds of dried wild greens and toffee. The custom of eating *ogokbap* came into being out of the desire to make everyone taste evenly the grains cultivated assiduously by the peasants with the feast day as a momentum and the fact that the five grains are good for human health. Also associated with this custom was the people's simple wish that in the New Year, too, the crop condition

of the five grains will be fine and the rural communities will experience bumper harvests, thus enabling the people to enjoy happiness. *Yakbap* used as a medicinal or a specially-prepared food because of its high nutritive value was widely known even to neighbouring countries as its taste was unique, indeed. *Poksam* was the eating of laver- or aster-wrapped rice. This custom also came into being in wishing the other party every happiness by enjoying good luck in the New Year. Conspicuous in particular in the dishes served on this gala day was a dish prepared with dried wild greens. It is said that when boiling various kinds of dried and stored wild greens of the previous year after making them swollen in the water and when giving a boil to the soup mixed up with these greens, they enable everyone not to be sensitive to excessive heat and not to be attacked with various diseases. This custom mirrors an aspect of the methodical economic life of the Korean women.

Besides, there was a custom of cracking chestnuts, walnuts, ginkgo nuts and pine nuts, with sounds, in the hope that swellings would not come out in the limbs and teeth would grow strong for a year.

The Korean people spent this feast day impressively, decorating it with the playing of multifarious folk games and the exercise of due courtesy, filled with earnest wish and expectation for good fortune,

a bumper crop and a good haul of fish in the New Year. On the 14th of lunar January a series of functions were held with the main stress put on informing the people of the start of the annual farming. That day there was a habit of carrying manure out to paddy and dry fields early in the morning, along with the setting up of a pole for a rice stack.

On the evening of the 15th of lunar January all villagers went up a hill at the back of the village and looked at the rising full moon. This was called the welcoming of the first full moon. People said that the man who was the first to see the moon would come in for good fortune and they, looking at the shape of the full moon, were prophetic of the ups and downs of the annual farming.

Added to this, various kinds of colourful merrymaking took place, including the torchlight fete and the *pongjuk* play in seaside villages. On top of that, they enjoyed themselves, playing interesting and mass-based folk games, such as a tug of war, kite flying and toy pinwheel playing.

The *daeborum* holiday is a big folk holiday greeted in the lunar New Year. The interest acquired that day remains long in the memory of the people as a beautiful reminiscence and inspired the people even in the difficult farming season, it itself becoming a topic of joyful conversation.

Chae Kwang Myong

Ryugyong Health Complex

RYUGYONG HEALTH COMPLEX IS a comprehensive welfare facility with public bathrooms, family baths, individual

baths, a fitness centre, a barbers' shop, a beauty salon, soft drink stands and other services. □





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