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The National Grand Cross Order of a Thousand Hills

Chairman Kim Jong Il was awarded the top order of Rwanda
by the President of the Republic of Rwanda in May 1983.

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Front Cover: Father-and-son designers

Photo by Ri Song Ik



Back Cover: Waves of Sea Kumgang

Photo by Kim Jin Ho

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Confident of Their Future

THE WORKERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are now making strenuous efforts in hearty response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) to raise a fierce wind of making a fresh leap forward on all fronts of building a thriving country filled with confidence in victory. They are confident that they will emerge victorious in the building of a thriving nation as they are under the leadership of the WPK. Then, what makes them so confident of their success?

In the report to the 6th Congress of the WPK on the work of the Central Committee in October 1980 Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the DPRK, set the task of stepping up the effort to make the national economy Juche-orientated, modern and scientifically-based in a bid to put the national economy on a secure independent footing, modernize the technical equipment of the economy uninterruptedly and place all production activities on a thoroughly scientific footing.

Much water has since flowed under the bridge. Over the years the Korean workers have firmly maintained the task as the strategic line in the socialist economic construction invariably and made strenuous efforts for the implementation. In the

course of this the independent national economy has gained firmer material and technical foundations, the technical equipment has reached a higher level and the production and management activities have got a more scientific basis with rapid development of science and technology.

The line is still invariably adhered to as the strategic programme in this era when the nation is pushing the cause of building a socialist country whose national power will be enormous and where everything will thrive and all the people will live as happily as anyone else in the world.

The confidence in their own resources and power was the very prop of the Korean workers in the mid-1990s when the country had a rigorous time called the "Arduous March" and the forced march. (At the time the imperialists made propaganda of the "imminent fall" of the DPRK.) As they had been convinced through historical experiences of the truth that there is nothing impossible for them to do when they rise up with confidence in their own power, the working class built power stations of all sizes to suit the local conditions with their own efforts and resources and brought their factories into operation again. Changing ill fortune into good, they made

A medium-sized heating oven for rolling based on the high-temperature air combustion technology at the Chollima Steel Complex.



- ▶ their enterprises up to date as required by the realities, instead of simply refashioning them.

Last year the imperialist allied forces launched an offensive against the DPRK once again in their attempt to strangle the nation—as they did in the 1990s when they enforced tighter economic blockade spreading the absurd rumour that the country would fall down in three days or three months or three years. The Korean workers, far from yielding to the offensive, paved a broad way for the building of a thriving country by building on the solid foundations they had laid earlier for the building of an economic giant. Ushering in the time of creation and upsurge in production, the workers in all fields of the national economy achieved astounding successes relying on their own efforts and technology.

A typical campaign has been under way to solve the material, fuel and power problems completely by tapping domestic resources. The workers of the Chollima Steel Complex accomplished a project to introduce the high-temperature air combustion technology using anthracite gas. Earlier the complex had relied on the supply of heavy oil in steel production. As the supply had depended on import totally, the operation could hardly be in keeping with the actual demand. Now the workers of the complex decided to lay a process which would produce rolled steel using coal whose deposits are abundant in the country. By

Production of functional three-layer greenhouse film rises.



The performance of flexible shaft looms improves.

conducting a mass-based technical innovation movement they produced and applied scores of new conceptions and technical innovation ideas into reality while making different kinds of facilities weighing hundreds of tons. With the establishment of a gas generation workshop which has a complete process from feeding to pressurization, the cost of fuel fell to one seventh of the earlier one while the rolled steel production rose drastically. The workers of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex set a process of fertilizer production using coal for raw material and a base to manufacture functional three-layer greenhouse film with their own efforts and technology; the complex is now well known across the country as an enterprise that stands on its own feet and relies on domestic materials alone in its operation.

Great stress has been put on the campaign to make effective use of the nation's natural resources for the development of the national economy. Geothermal pumps, solar cells, wind power generators and other efficient facilities have been produced in numbers to tap natural energy like the thermal, wind and solar energies while making the maximum use of the hydraulic resources. Geothermal facilities were installed at the hydroponic greenhouse of the Pyongyang Vegetable Research Institute, the Munsu Water Park, the Yanggakdo Sports Village and other units. Developing and using natural renewable energy has become a public tendency at present.

Dynamic efforts have been made to modernize production processes, centring on the installing of domestic equipment. The workers of the Taedonggang Tile Factory upgraded processes to manufacture finishing materials for construction, including tiles with forms, colours and patterns that are suitable to specific purposes and architectural styles of buildings. Those of the Pyongyang Condiment Factory newly laid seven processes including the one of vitamin E production while refashioning the production processes as a whole.

In particular, the workers in the field of light industry have further consolidated the material foundations for the guarantee of development of light industry on the basis of domestic materials. The workers in the textile industry succeeded in making main parts of the looms using materials available in ▶

► the country, thus setting up a firm foundation for sound development of the textile industry. Meanwhile the workers in the footwear industry developed a PVC elastic material making a big stride in the effort to substitute import materials for domestic ones. One of the most sweeping drives in recent years has been the one of learning from Changsong County that produces quality consumer goods by developing local industry using locally available materials and resources.

Great attention has been directed to the work of promptly solving sci-tech problems arising in the economic building by further intensifying scientific researches and pushing scientific and technological development. In hearty response to the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea all fields and units of the national economy have resorted to the development of science and technology as the lifeline and taken positive measures to put the production and management activities on a scientific basis. Scientists and technicians of professional research institutes went out to sites of actual production to solve urgent sci-tech problems and introduce latest sci-tech achievements from a perspective point of view. Important achievements have been obtained in consonance with the demand of the time: the high-temperature air combustion technology, which is an advanced method of heating, was introduced into furnaces at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, thus establishing a Korean-style process of steel production, particularly in the manufacture of heavy-duty rails with the use of domestic alloys; new technologies and new products have been developed

at the Hamhung Youth Electrical Appliances Factory, which agree with the trend of development of modern science and technology; an automatic control program has been developed at the Sinuiju Spinning Machine Factory for equipping many facilities with the CNC technology by coupling production and scientific and technological research. Sci-tech festivals have taken place in different forms and ways across the nation under the state concern, giving a spur to the effort to develop cutting-edge science and technology.

Supreme national leader Kim Jong Un's energetic on-site guidance to a large number of units has been great encouragement to the entire nation. Visiting factories and enterprises, he earnestly told officials to put emphasis on science and technology and give precedence to their development in accordance with the demand of the era of science and technology. And he spoke highly of whatever scientists, technicians and workers had made by their own efforts, however simple and humble they might be. In his New Year Address this year he clarified special tasks to raise a fierce wind of making a fresh leap forward on all fronts of building a thriving socialist country.

Convinced through their own life that the way their national leader indicates is the one and only correct and great one to hew out their destiny and future, the Korean workers are dynamically pushing the building of a thriving socialist nation holding fast to the principle of self-reliance based on science and technology.

An Song Duk

The soy sauce packing process at the Pyongyang Condiment Factory.



Kim Jong Il and CNC (6)

Integrated manufacturing system

THE MID-SUMMER HEAT made the compound of a factory in the northern area of the country unbearably hot. The sultriness relentlessly tormented Chairman Kim Jong Il. Despite the soaking sweat the Chairman stood in the worksite of the factory—a backbone enterprise that had played a big role in consolidating the foundation of the country's heavy industry—with outmoded conventional machines standing heavily. His heart felt heavy. In comparison with factories smartened with CNC machines, the factory looked unusually gloomy as it had failed to go through modernization.

“How much investment do you think is needed to remove all the conventional machines?” the Chairman asked breaking the silence.

“A lot of fund is needed simply for the main process,” the general manager of the factory answered.

Some officials estimated the amount of money. Kim Jong Il repeatedly muttered the figure under his breath before saying determinedly, “We must do it. We must equip the factory with the CNC technology.”

“Dear Chairman,” an official said, “this factory has good experience in casting. It had better remove the cutting process by making the most of the casting experience and modernize itself.”

But the Chairman disagreed,

saying, “This factory has not many goods to make by precision casting. Purchase CNC machines, and you'll be able to solve the problem of precision processing in all processes. The conventional machines can hardly ensure accuracy in processing and the goods produced in this way need repairing quite often. If you have goods of high accuracy you'll not need a repairing shop at all.”

He continued with his instruction kind-heartedly, “Let's invest in this factory. Let's lay a new production process based on the CNC technology within a year. And yet this factory should be equipped completely with an integrated manufacturing system, a modernization project of the next stage we are mapping out.” He went on to say, “The integrated manufacturing process belongs to the highest stage of the CNC project. But don't worry. It's time to introduce it. We have ability and experience to do it.”

In a little over a year the factory developed into a smart one with the integrated manufacturing system—filled with completely information-based CNC machine-tools. An idealistic production system was set up in which all management activities including the control of production processes, materials, labour performance, technology, plans, machines and goods and even business activities were integrated and the computer organizes and controls the production.

Going round the factory on December 18, 2008, Kim Jong Il declared proudly, “Look at this. This is the very technical revolution. Now our people's thinking has admirably developed. We've established an integrated manufacturing system, and thus reached the global level. This fully proves that we've finally attained the goal of the high-level CNC project.”

Interesting CNC

Once he went into the worksite, the Chairman left even a process unattended. He paid attention to machines' operations.

“How can the goods slip out?” he asked.

“When the carriage holds the goods between two teeth and moves, it slips out and then moves to the rear worktable by the roller belt,” a worker answered.

“What lifts the goods?” he asked again.

“Crane,” the worker answered again.

Then the Chairman expressed satisfaction, saying, “Excellent. You must push ahead with the CNC campaign. Understand?” He went on, “I'm now in full spirit. We've made another success by putting a major machine on the CNC basis. We must keep the CNC project in our mind. We've got to push it. The more we do of it, the more we're interested. We must keep this high spirit and continue the CNC project.” □

On the Way of Field Guidance

Do as Chairman Kim Jong Il Tells

ONE DAY IN OCTOBER 2011 national leader Kim Jong Un visited the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, accompanying Chairman Kim Jong Il, in order to give congratulations to the local workers for their successful test operation of the first-stage process of ammonia production based on the feeding of brown coal. While looking round the newly built ammonia production process, he gazed at the carbon dioxide separation section where there stood several carbon dioxide adsorption towers. The process had been set up by the local workers in cooperation with those of the Ryongsong Machine Complex as was instructed by Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Earlier the Chairman had visited the workers of the two

enterprises several times, giving the advice that they could not do what they wanted as they liked if they were short of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, and taught them special directions and ways for the solution of certain problems. True to his instructions the workers, by pooling their efforts and wisdom, manufactured dozens of caps of the carbon dioxide adsorption towers and established a carbon dioxide separation process based on pressure-transition adsorption which was a latest technology.

Hearing the story, Kim Jong Un told officials pleasantly, "That's very nice. They've been successful all along as they did as Chairman Kim Jong Il instructed." Then, he looked round the carbon dioxide purification control office, the

transformation process and the desulfurizing process before reaching the plan of a large-sized oxygen plant where he stopped to say satisfactorily that urea fertilizer was turned out from oxygen and nitrogen produced with the oxygen plant which had been manufactured by the Ragwon Machine Complex.

That day Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un had a photo session with the workers of the fertilizer complex. Speaking highly of what the local workers had done, Kim Jong Un kindly nudged managers of the complex nearer to the Chairman when a photo was taken. Before saying good-bye, he took the managers by the hand and encouraged them to achieve greater success in their work true to the intention of the Chairman. □

One of Essential Goods

IN JULY 2012 SUPREME leader Kim Jong Un paid a visit to the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory. Upon his arrival he first went to see the newly-built men's socks workshop. Examining the machines that can turn out products of any pattern, shape or colour according to the command of the computer, he took a pair of socks out of a box of a machine and gave it a pull to and fro to know its quality.

Now he headed for the finishing site. He said that the label designs should be developed continuously in keeping with the taste of the people, the demand of the times and the trend of the world and that they should be replaced with new ones steadily.

Then, meeting the researchers who had successfully developed an automatic packing machine for the factory, he highly appreciated their achievements. Now he went

over to the women's hosiery workshop. Looking at different colours of stockings and socks, he said that deep attention should be paid to the steady improvement of colours of women's stockings and socks in accord with their tastes and fancy. Then he inquired into how the hosiery production plan had been carried out the year before and asked the officials accompanying him how stockings and socks were defined in the clothing industry.

None of them could give a ready answer.

Looking around the officials, he told them that stockings and socks belong to indispensable consumer goods. Until then officials considered stockings and socks to be general mass consumption goods. However, the national leader, defining the articles as indispensable consumer goods, said that research should

be conducted into and progress be made incessantly in the hosiery colours and patterns so that they would keep abreast of the times. That, he emphasized, necessitated making hosiery designs properly by holding prize contents for hosiery designs. It was an instruction that was based on deep consideration of the ever-growing demand of the people for material and cultural well-being.

In order to settle the problem of shortage of labour force that arose with the increase of production capacity of the factory the leader indicated ways and means for the settlement of this issue, saying, "You should modernize production processes, enhance the technical and skill levels of the employees, and take good care of the factory equipment. In this way you must keep full operation at full capacity." □

By Way of Sci-tech Development

THE SANGWON CEMENT Complex has fulfilled its production plan every year since it went into operation. Last year it produced and supplied cement to many construction projects like the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Unha Scientists Street, Munsu Water Park and Masikryong Ski Resort.

General manager Yun Jae Hyok and other executives drew up a specific plan to increase the cement production by making the most of existing equipment to suit the conditions of the complex while pushing the upgrading of equipment and introduction of new techniques.

Technical officers including chief engineer Yun Song Chol and senior engineer for technical affairs Thae Il Ryong achieved valuable research successes in using limestone additions. This was a momentum in the competition among technicians to conduct sci-tech research activities. Han Pyong Sam, staff member of the

designing institute, studied a new method of manufacturing steel balls to be used in various crushers, which was highly evaluated in the 9th Sci-tech Exhibition of Machinery Designing held in May last year.

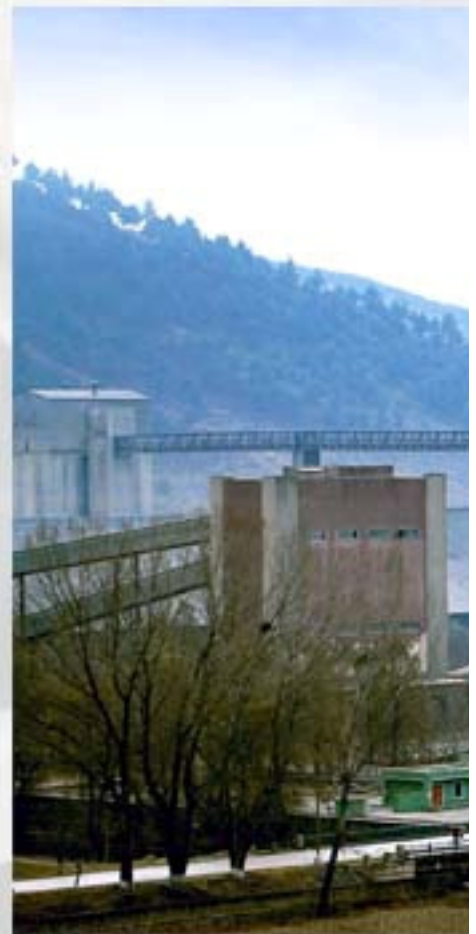
Many other successes were achieved—the introduction of a system to measure vibration of the extra-large speed reducer, the development of a program for determination of the period of kiln overhaul and production of samples of new lagging materials, etc—that contributed to the normalization of equipment operation and the growth of production.

Calcination workshop manager Han Mun Song and many of his workers, including Kim Chung Ryong and Ri Hyok Chol buckled down to the technical reconstruction work for the normal operation of kilns and the growth of production. By pooling their wisdom and resources, they solved technical problems arising in lubrication of kiln gear and

conducted technical remoulding of parts of coolers and kilns. In this way the complex achieved a lot of sci-tech results including dozens of inventions and innovations last year, which was a great help to the fulfilling of the production plan.

This year the complex is working hard to hit a production target which is much higher than that last year. Yun Jae Hyok says, “Construction is an important field in consolidating the foundations of a thriving country and providing more civilized living conditions. Its success depends upon us, cement producers who ▶

Technicians discuss how to upgrade support rolls.





Efforts are exerted to ensure sufficient supply of cement to construction projects.



► are responsible for a leading sector of the national economy. With the awareness of being in charge of the construction, all my employees are dynamically engaged in the work to solve sci-tech problems arising in production.”

At the moment the complex is vigorously conducting a number of research projects like the one to develop a new technology of fire-brick production. Modernization

of the equipment is also making headway. The complex is seeking joint venture with foreign enter-

prises to increase the cement production.

Jo Yong Il



Setting a High Goal

IN RECENT YEARS MODERN buildings and cultural and welfare facilities have gone up all across the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Each of them is associated with the great efforts of the officials and workers of the Pyongyang Jonghyang Technology Joint Venture Company, who have produced various kinds of elegant and beautiful building materials with technical guarantee.

Dr. Jong Jong Gun, head of the company, says, "When my company was established more than ten years ago, we paid primary attention to the production of essential building materials."

He gave precedence to the organizing of a technical group who would develop materials guaranteeing the quality and meeting the aesthetic demand of construction projects. Fully understanding that science and technology are the key to successful business, it buckled down to the research into a high-quality and yet cheap paint which would attach a special quality to each structure. To choose locally available materials for the paint, the technicians studied a lot of relevant data and came to the conclu-

sion that the high-quality paint could be made with domestic materials. Their painstaking efforts bore fruit.

The day their materials of various colours for coating inner and outer walls, roofing paints and anticorrosive paints with strong anticorrosive and adhesive powers were produced from the flow line, all the company employees were in great joy. Based on their own techniques and the supply of domestic raw materials, the products were favourably commented upon at construction sites. The company did not rest on the laurels, though. The next goal was to increase the kind and variety of building materials and put all their products on the global level.

Kim Ki Mun, head of the industrial laboratory, and other researchers decided to develop sound-absorptive wooden boards of their own which had been imported for theatres, cinemas, gyms and so on. Though the boards with good decorative effects were in great demand, their sound-absorbing quality dropped with time and, especially, they were quite inflammable. In order to develop sound-absorbing paint

and tiles of different colours with good decorative effects and no risk of fire, they put their heart and soul in the study and experiment, which took place dozens of times.

At last they succeeded in developing them with domestic materials. Their sound-absorbing paint obtained a DPRK patent as the first of its kind and was introduced to the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, Pyongyang Grand Theatre, April 25 House of Culture and so on.

That was not all. The company now produces various kinds of goods like waterproof stuff and lagging materials—these all were registered as DPRK standard goods and given patents.

Last year it made great contribution to construction of many structures with either classic or modern tastes, including the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, Okryu Children's Hospital, Munsu Water Park, Mirim Riding Club and Unha Scientists Street.

Now they are making strenuous efforts with an ambition to achieve cutting-edge science and technology in producing building materials.

Song Yong Sok

Some of the products from the factory.



Secret of Popular Goods

THE RANGNANG Ponghwa Clothing Factory is situated in Rangnang District, Pyongyang. The factory is not so big, but it produces lots of articles—padded clothes, vests, wind-cheaters, shirts, trousers, sports clothes and underwear, etc—which are very popular with the people. One of these days I visited the factory.

Pongsonhwa

The women's underwear produced by the factory is well-known. Since the underwear production process was laid four years ago, the factory has turned out products to meet the demand of women in Pyongyang and the rest of the country. Its products with the trademark of *Pongsonhwa* are on sale in Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, direct sales stores and industrial goods shops in all districts of Pyongyang.

The day its articles were put on sale for the first time, the makers went to shops to hear women's comments. In the shops some customers were glad for new kinds of underwear, others bought several articles, and still others wanted different shapes, colours, and patterns.

That day the general manager of the factory who was in Pyongyang Department Store No. 1 understood that women liked trademark *Pongsonhwa* very much. He called a technical conference in the evening, which was followed by creation and designing of new kinds of products reflecting the customers' fancy. The products of the factory are now popular for its various styles, colours and patterns.

Looking round the underwear production process in May 2011, Chairman Kim Jong Il gave an



instruction to produce high-quality consumer goods in greater quantity and supply them to the people. To carry out his instruction, the producers are working with all their wisdom and enthusiasm.

General manager Pak Chol Nam says, "We will produce more and more goods including functional underwear suited to the Korean women's constitutions."

Top priority to science and technology

The factory is equipped with tens of kinds of modern clothes processing facilities numbering hundreds and furnished with all necessary processes from technical preparation to production. This is a guarantee for quality and productivity. Automatic embroidering machines and trademark printing machines are highly efficient. Cutting jobs are done on the basis of programs, so the operators find them easy. Thanks to such conditions the factory can produce any kind of clothing.

One of its prides is the ingenuity of employees. Over the past three or so years, more than forty technical innovations have been

carried out in Workteam No. 4, Workshop No. 1. Many of the workers received technical education in the study-while-working system, and some are students of the course. The factory arranges technical lessons for workers every week and makes them a good opportunity to improve their technical knowledge and skills.

Also, technical shows take place every month, which are greatly helpful to introducing technical successes of certain workteams to others. In the course of this even new comers conceive things of ingenuity. Pak Song Hui is one of them. She has worked at the factory for only several months, but she has rendered remarkable service to quicker production by rationalizing some processes into a batch and cut-down version. Chief engineer Choe In Chol says, "My factory was established not long ago, and it's small in scale. But we've achieved a lot of successes as we've given top priority to science and technology. I say it's important to have all workers know advanced science and technology and give full play to their ability."

Rim Ok

Whistles of Increasing Transport

NEW MODERN STRUCTURES and apartments are going up around the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The successful projects are partly attributable to the efforts of the workers of the Pyongyang Locomotive Corps.

Recently I visited it to see them engaged in the effort for increased transport. There were some locomotives in the wide yard waiting for a leaving signal after being maintained. Jang Su Nam, head of the corps, told me, "My company was founded with national liberation from the Japanese military occupation in August 1945. We have since carried

a large amount of materials for the development of the national economy and the improvement of the people's living standards—our struggles in the periods of a new Korea building, the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953) and the postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction were very important. Three of the employees became Labour Hero and others were given the Merited Engine Driver title. Tens of the drivers have distinguished themselves by running thousands of miles without any accident."

I first went to see the driving workshop, where I met senior driver Ri Yong Su of Locomotive

No. 207 just before departure. Jang introduced him as one of the accident-free model drivers who overfulfilled the annual task last year. Ri said with modesty, "Mine cannot be called a big success. Many of my colleagues have already hit their targets for the first half of this year by making a great innovation in hearty response to our supreme leader Kim Jong Un's appeal in his 2014 New Year Address. We owe our successes to the efforts of the maintenance and repair workers."

With curiosity I headed for the maintenance workshop where an intensive struggle was going. There an old skilled hand told me, ▶

The maintenance workshop.





Maintenance of locomotives is scrupulously arranged.

▶ “Only when the maintenance men do their duty faithfully can the plane fly well in the sky. It’s the same with the locomotive. Always conscious of our duty as maintenance men in charge of the country’s artery, we devote our efforts and wisdom to our performance.” His simple words helped me feel the spirit of the workers who do their best to materialize the plans of the Workers’ Party of Korea for a new page of heyday of construction by fulfilling the task of transportation. The workshop leader said that in order to reduce the time of maintenance the workers try to fully understand every locomotive’s technical features and performance and finish their work as soon as possible, and that time of the engine’s stay in the maintenance workshop was reduced drastically.

In the repair workshop, too, the repairing time dropped considerably thanks to the great efforts of the workers who prepared the tools, jigs and equipment by themselves.

All the employees of the corps were in high spirit to make a new innovation in their jobs. As if appreciating their spirit, there went a strong whistle from a locomotive that was going to return to work.

The whistle carried conviction to me that the corps would attain its target of increased transport and that the country would assume fresh appearance.

Sim Yong Jin



Battle of Taehongdan

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO GENERAL Kim Il Sung crossed the Amnok River and advanced into Korea leading the main force of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. He destroyed Japanese imperialist "punitive" units on the Paektu Plateau. Following are excerpts from his reminiscences *With the Century* (continuing edition) Vol. 7.

As I mentioned before, the number one priority of the political and military activities of the KPRA was the advance into the homeland. The final objective of the many large and small military operations



The "Kapsan-Musan guard road" and the site of the Mupho Bivouac.

we had conducted in northern and eastern Manchuria had always been to advance into the homeland and liberate the country. We had concentrated all our efforts on this goal.

A careful timing of the operations in Korea was important.

...

In May 1939 the Sino-Japanese War was raging in the East and World War II was brewing in the West.

The Japanese imperialists were trying to wind up the dragged-out Sino-Japanese War, concentrate on the possibility of invading the Soviet Union and draw up a strategy for advancing towards the south. In order to build up their home front, they stepped up their offensive against the KPRA, while intensifying their economic plunder and fascist repression of Korea.

...

In this situation, the best way to bring about a resurgence in the anti-Japanese revolution was for a large KPRA force to advance into the homeland and strike the enemy hard to show that it was still alive to those at home and abroad ...

Another main objective of our advance into Korea was to resurrect destroyed revolutionary organizations and expand them, and at the same time build Party organizations and develop the united front movement to rouse all the people to a nationwide resistance.

...





The Monument to the Victorious Battle in the Musan Area.

► In the spring of 1939 the KPRA units advanced into the Musan area.

...

At Mupho I gave my officers a briefing in which I reviewed our march and set forth the task of pushing into the Taehongdan area. We decided to carry out military and political activities first around Sinsadong and Singaechok.

...

I foresaw that the enemy who had been hit at Singaechok would naturally chase us, and made a decision to destroy them in the Taehongdan tableland, where the terrain features were in our favour. After leaving Sinsadong, we lay in ambush on a low hill on the tableland, waiting for O Jung Hup's 7th Regiment to return from Singaechok. As I instructed, the 7th Regiment had struck the enemy in Singaechok and were now coming back. But they were somewhat elated at their success in destroying the enemy in Singaechok and in capturing several Japanese foremen, so they were not aware of an alarming fact: an enemy force was trailing close behind them in secret. The force was made up of border garrisons and Changphyong police troops that had come running at the news of the defeat of their colleagues in Singaechok.

...

As soon as the 7th Regiment had passed by the area of our ambush, I signalled the supply-service men and lumbermen to throw themselves on the

ground, then ordered my men to open fire.

Hundreds of rifles opened up with a deafening roar.

...

Most of the enemy who encountered us in Taehongdan were killed.

...

Along with the Battle of Pochonbo, the operation in the Musan area was the largest-scale action of the greatest significance in the military operations we performed in the homeland. The Battle of Pochonbo demonstrated that Korea was not dead, but very much alive, whereas the Battle of Taehongdan was an event of historical significance in that it showed in a concrete way that the KPRA was not only still alive, but also had grown stronger and was dealing a crushing blow to the Japanese imperialists even as the enemy was going around claiming that it had been destroyed.

...

Our military triumph in the Musan area exposed to the world the lie of the enemy propaganda that the KPRA was totally destroyed. Following the battle in the Musan area the workers, peasants and other broad masses from all walks of life in the homeland joined in the current of the anti-Japanese revolution, each more convinced than the other that as long as the KPRA remained alive, the day of national liberation was close at hand. □

Developers of Scanning Probe Microscopy

IN JUNE LAST YEAR THE lecturers and researchers of Kim Il Sung University successfully developed Korean-style scanning probe microscopy (SPM) to measure nano-scale materials. With this the Democratic People's Republic of Korea got a material and technical foundation for the development of cutting-edge science and technology including nanotechnology.

The development of nanotechnology, one of the core basic technologies at present, is inconceivable without SPM. The heart of the system is the scanning tunnel microscope (STM) and the atomic force microscope (AFM). The STM and the AFM are powerful means of studying the surface of nano-scale materials on the basis of different measurement principles, and they have a correlation of supporting each other regarding the performance and the supply of information on certain materials.

To improve the performance and substantial function of microscopes by integrating those with different functions and features is a worldwide trend at present in the nano-scale material measurement field. Nanotechnology is intended to make materials and chips with new functions, and the STM means the eye and hand to the technology. From the consideration, the researchers decided to make an STM first and put their heart in the project. They knew the STM-manufacturing nations put galling restrictions on the transfer of the technology. Pooling their collective resources and solving problems one by one, they finally succeeded in making an STM in 2003. But the STM can't study the surface of non-metal or biological samples with no or little electrical conductivity.

Now the researchers turned to the making of an AFM to make up the limitation of the STM, for it

makes it possible to observe the surface of non-metallic or biological samples as well as the conductive ones. Based on their rational designs to remodel the chip for tunnel current measurement and improve anti-vibration features, they soon finished the processing of parts of the delicate and intricate precision machine in cooperation with shop floor workers and technicians. This paved a road for successful accomplishment of the research project.

Joining effort with one another they developed high-quality electronic control devices and transformed programs for the integrated control of the STM and the AFM. They also upgraded the probe-making device using a single-chip computer, and thus made it possible to make quality probes by themselves. In addition they introduced the nanotechnology-based device of nano-scale displacement measurement into SPM to put the operation of the system on a higher scientific level.

In this way they successfully developed the AFM in June last year, completed the scanning probe microscopy with the combination of the STM and the AFM, and then succeeded in obtaining AFM and STM images through a test on gold film by means of the integrated measurement device. The SPM won February 16 Science and Technology Prize last February.

Sim Hyon Jin

An atomic force microscope.



Researchers in Coal Field

RECENTLY I VISITED THE Coal Mining Research Branch of the State Academy of Sciences to meet the researchers who are pooling their collective wisdom and enthusiasm for increased coal output based on the dovetailing of production with science and technology.

Welcoming me, Kim Ryong Nam, chief of the branch, said, "Scientists and technicians of my branch pick up urgent problems in reality as their task and solve them in cooperation with the miners." Then he guided me to the coal mining engineering institute. There I met planning manager Jon Kwang Ho, who told me that the researchers of his institute had solved lots of sci-tech problems arising in reality in recent years. His account went like this. The researchers developed and introduced an anthracite-hewing method of using bundled props. This enlarged the coal-cutting area and made it possible to mass-produce coal. The researchers also developed an inertial loading & transport vehicle and introduced it at several mines of the Suncheon Area Coal-mining Complex, and thus raised the monthly production 1.7 times. These successes are favourably commented upon at coal mines as they ensure the safety of pits and increase the output while saving lots of materials compared with the past records.

The scientists of the coal dressing research team have newly developed a pneumatic dressing unit capable of selecting anthracite by proportion. With this the dressing process has become simple, the power consump-

tion dropped and the ash content in anthracite fallen by as much as 10 percent.

The blasting engineering research team went to the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine and contrived many new blasting methods that elevated the tunnelling speed. They also applied a

props.

The bituminous coal mining engineering research team developed and applied valuable techniques—a device to easily control the speed of the 10 ton-capacity coal tubs, and methods of reducing oil consumption of coal tubs by emulsion lubricating oil made of



Researchers examine samples.

novel blasting method to the demolition of old buildings in Changjon Street and thus helped the ground-breaking ceremony take place in due time for the building of skyscrapers in the street.

Meanwhile, the prop researchers pushed the work of making and introducing substitutes of wooden props, which would make it possible to protect forest resources. They've already tentatively applied their substitute props to several coal mines including those of the Tokchon Area Coal-mining Complex, and are now making a study to enhance the supporting force of the

coal tar and stopping underground water from the shaft and so on—to coal mines, and thus produced great results.

When I said I wanted to meet the scientists, Jon said, "You can't see them in the institutes. They are always out there in coal fields to join hands with coal miners both in production and research." The scientists are working in many coal mines across the country, solving sci-tech problems on the spot. I was sorry I couldn't meet them. I was convinced of their greater contribution to increasing coal production, when I left the branch academy.

Kim Chol Ho

It's Just Begun

IN LATE OCTOBER LAST year students of the University of Sciences in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea won the gold prize at the Asian regional competition of the 38th international students' programming contest held in the Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, China, thus qualifying for the global finals. The international computer programming contest (ICPC) is dubbed "World Cup" competition as the highest-level programming contest of university students, which requires a certain number of people to develop programs by designing highly difficult algorithm under strict watch at a given place in fixed hours.

Historically, the University of Sciences carried off the gold prize in the Asian regional contest of the 31st round of the ICPC held in Xian, China in 2006. And in March last year they participated in a world Internet programming challenger contest, dubbed Codechef, for the first time in Korea, and solved ten algorithm designing problems ahead of others, thus winning the trophy and having the DPRK national flag rise on the Internet .

By building on the achievements the university set the target of winning the "World Cup" and made preparations to attend the Asian regional contest of the 38th round of the ICPC. The



► From left: Ri Chol Ung, Ri Mun Chol and Kyong Hyon Chol.



► students who appeared in the recent competition were strangers to the ICPC, yet they had the guts to make a challenge for the supremacy in software. DPRK Group A (Kyong Hyon Chol, Ri Chol Ung and Ri Mun Chol) estimated the difficulty of each of the problems presented and found out the correct answers through optimum algorithms in three hours and 23 minutes, thus making the most scores and taking first place. Their fellows in the second group (Won Kyong Hyok, Ri Phyoung Il and Kim Yong Hun) became the runner-up by solving all the problems correctly in three hours and 54 minutes. Thus the students of the University of Sciences won one gold award, one silver award and two fastest programming awards, ranking as one of the top teams of Asia in software industry.

Referring to the contest, the chief secretary of the Asian regional contest organizing committee, who is professor at Shanghai University, China, said, “I simply feel they are strong enough. I thought none of the students could solve the fourth problem of space geometry because space geometry problems are usually far from easy to solve for certain reasons—including mistakes in calculation despite correct algorithm and coding. But the Koreans did them well. They are great.”

The students are around 20. They say it’s just begun.

Song Kum Chol



From left: Ri Phyoung Il, Kim Yong Hun and Won Kyong Hyok.

Path Followed by Veteran Professor

THERE IS AN ELDERLY professor, who is still full of vigour and passion. He is none other than Prof. and Dr. Ri Su Nam, Candidate Academician and Merited Scientist, working at the Pyongyang University of Architecture.

Born as the second son of a railway worker's family in Kilju County, North Hamgyong Province in November 1935, he was good at figures and strong in memory from his childhood. Small wonder that he was called a child prodigy in his village.

When he was matriculated in the then college of construction in 1955, postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction were at its height. Su Nam was exceptionally intelligent and burning with the desire of learning. Therefore, he, breathing with the ethos of the time astir with postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction, joined the designing group of the Youth Park (the then Kyongsanggol Flower Garden) and made contribution to completing the design.

In addition, he took part in

designing projects many a time during his school days, thereby rendering great services in the postwar reconstruction work.

Having distinguished himself already in his college days, he began to work as a teacher of his alma mater after graduation. He directly took charge of the designing of buildings of crucial importance and carried out his tasks while training able designers and architects.

Over the years, he successfully drew up the master plan of Ryongnam-ri, Waudo District, Nampho City, and made the model of the Ryongnam-ri development. He produced the design and model for the formation of Cholima District, and the models of the large-scale fountains between the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the People's Palace of Culture, thereby displaying his ability as a talented architect.

Later, he, together with his colleagues, did much toward the mapping out of master plans of the then Rajin-Sonbong City and the land development between Pyongyang and Nampho, the

making of the model of the Unjong Science Town of Pyongyang, the drawing up of master plans of the Central Zoo (at that time) and the Central Tree Nursery, and the working out of master plan of the Pyongyang Folk Park.

He is not only a dignified urban designer but also a meritorious teacher. In his career of more than 50 years, he has worked as the chief of an academic chair for 35 years. If the teachers are to bring up their students as world-renowned designers or architects who will shoulder the Juche-based architecture, teachers themselves should be the first to become world-famous designers or architects. *Only when the teachers and students study and study, filled with a creative ambition to take world supremacy in the sphere of architecture, will they be able to become technical personnel actually needed for the architectural development of the country.* This is his usual admonition to his colleagues and students. He has been a substantial model for teachers. He has trained nearly 20 holders of academic degrees and titles. Besides, he has written textbooks such as "Designing of Urban Roads," "Planning of Land Development," "Architectonics," etc. and reference books such as "Dictionary of Building and Civil Engineering," "Urban Planning and Designing," "Handbook of Urban Planning" and some other books for extra reading.

He is nearly 80 years old, but true to the plan of the Workers' Party of Korea to bring about a new period of prosperity in construction he is dedicating all his wisdom and enthusiasm to education and research work.

Sim Yong Jin



Reputed Doctors

ONE OF THESE DAYS I SAW A GIRL WITH A bouquet in her hand get off a tram at a station before the dental branch of the Phyongchon District People's Hospital. She headed for the branch. "What's your bouquet for?" I asked, stirred by my curiosity. "This is for my doctor," she replied and introduced herself as Ri Mi Sun, student at the Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun Conservatory. Then she told a story.

One day she fell on her face by accident and had two of her front teeth broken. She was very sorry. Just at the time she saw a TV program about the dental branch and went there to be treated in the dental prosthesis department. The successful treatment helped her appear on the stage again and be favourably commented upon in a skills presentation. That was why she was going to see doctor Ryang Si Hyang who had treated her with sincere efforts.

An old man who heard our conversation said, "I'm also going to the branch. The doctors of the branch have good hands. They are now famous in other districts, too."

"My neighbour received treatment in the dental branch and praises the doctors' sincere efforts. So I'm now going there to have a false tooth put in the place of a back tooth," said O Pok Hwa, resident in Sungnidong No. 1, Rangnang District, Pyongyang.

I wanted to see the doctors.

When Mi Sun and I went to the dental prosthesis department, doctor Ryang Si Hyang was having a break just after finishing a patient's treatment. Meeting him I could see that he was a man of humour and broad-minded manners. I was surprised to hear that he had only a two-year-long career. He said, "All the successes are attributable to efforts of the head of our branch. We doctors learn a lot from him."

Saying that he had simply worked hard to treat patients with sincerity, head of the branch Ri Hui Chol went on, "One of the primary conditions for successful treatment is to share feelings with the patient, I think. The patients usually pay attention to doctors' impressions, accents, and even gestures. Only when the doctors receive the patients kindly as their kinsmen can the patients take it easy and co-



operate positively."

His words expressed the unanimous opinion of all doctors including Kim Il Rok and Kim Jong Ran, known as skilled hands.

That was not all. Regarding prevention as their foremost task, the dentists made efforts to bring treatment close to where there are people.

One day they went out to Haeun-dong No. 1 to make the residents aware of dental hygiene. There some residents said, "The teeth are important for good health. But unless we have a great trouble, we wouldn't feel like going to hospital for lack of time." It was the appeal of people who were devoting their all to the construction of a thriving country. In fact there were in their district some factories and enterprises playing big roles in the country's economic development. Most of the residents were their employees.

Now Ri Hui Chol and Ryang Si Hyang began to go out to examine people for dental problems and treat them on the field. One of their cases was Kim Pong Rok, 53, of the Pyongyang Electric Cable Factory 326, who had his dental root inflammation cured and got a full denture in his upper jaw. So he became famous across the factory as "innovative worker who has taken ten years off his age." ▶

170 Days' Struggle

ONE EVENING IN NOVEMBER 2012 A worker was rushed to Kim Man Yu Hospital. Choe Sung Jin, 30, was burnt to the third degree on 51 per cent of his body.

The doctors of the general traumatic surgery department had an emergency consultation immediately. Recalling the time, Kim Sung Hun who treated the case, recalls, "The case was so critical, you could hardly expect him to come to life again, even if you were a doctor."

Department chief Choe Pae Sik, Kim Sung Hun and other doctors stayed at the patient's bedside all the time, taking measures of all kinds needed for his



recovery from coma, including injection of broad-spectrum antibiotics, vitamins, infusion of distilled water, heart-stimulants and antipyretic drugs.

When a preparation was under way for the first round of skin grafting there were a flood of people in the doorway to the theatre. They were health workers of the hospital who wanted to donate their skin. Hundreds of employees of the hospital, including senior officials, got into the theatre to give their skin to the patient. Witnessing the scene, the patient's parents were flooded with tears, saying, "I know our health system is good, and experiencing this kind of happening to my family, I am more than thankful. I'm proud of our health workers."

For a long time the patient was put to sincere treatment; the medics did all they could to bring him back to health. Months later he moved to the rehabilitation ward to cast off the aftereffects of the burn. (He had got a cerebral concussion in a tumble in the fire, which caused his speech and functional disorders.) Chief of the ward Kim In Suk and her staff members worked heart and soul for his treatment. Pak Yong Gun, the doctor in charge, recalls, "As the patient was bed-ridden for a long time, he was exposed to the danger of stiff body or bedsore. To help him avoid the troubles, we gradually improved his functions by combining manual remedies and simple physical movements."

At last Choe got well enough to leave hospital. The day he bid farewell he told to his doctors who offered him bouquets, "I feel like I was born again. I'm sure I'll remember this day all my life and work hard for the sake of my benevolent country."

Sim Hyon Jin

► Many letters of thanks come to the examination, surgical and prosthesis departments. I could read in the letters the expression of gratitude to the doctors who brought back young images and the good news that former patients made innovations in their jobs.

"With high clinical techniques and sincere

efforts we'll perform our mission and duty to make the people enjoy fully the benefits of the socialist health system," Ri Hui Chol said. I left there expecting the dentists would make greater successes in their work.

Chae Kwang Myong

Developer of Broad-spectrum Antibiotic

A NATURAL BROAD-SPECTRUM ANTIBI-
otic was recently developed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The highly effective fighter against infectious diseases was developed by Kim Myong Ok, engineer at the Taedonggang Koryo Medicine Factory.

In November 1982 when she was learning at the then Pyongyang University of Medicine (Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University at present) Kim wrote in her diary, "What Mr Hong Sun Won, department chief, said prior to his lecture pierced into my mind, like a needle driven into the acupoint correctly. He remarked: 'Human beings are born not to work for their own sake. The worth of human beings and the true sense of happiness are to be determined by how much they are helpful to their country and people. I wish you to be creative workers who will be faithful to your country and people any-time and anywhere.'"

That was a momentum; she got more enthusiastic about learning. And she made efforts for new investigations. In the course of this she knew that 85 per cent of the diseases among the people are caused by different kinds of pathogenic organisms like bacteria and viruses.

After graduation from college she decided to develop a natural antibiotic which would be effective in preventing and treating infectious diseases. Her research project started from no better than scratch. "Dozens of years have passed since I buckled down to the research task. At the beginning I didn't know the project would take me a whole life," she recalls now.

Committing herself to the effort she paid primary attention to the principle that her medicine should be made from domestic materials while being suitable to the physical properties of the Korean people. She studied many classical medical books including *Tonguibogam*, one of the three classical medical encyclopedias of Korea, and chose natural materials that are highly anti-biotic. Meanwhile she directed a great deal of effort into the scientific establishment of their pharmacological actions.

To sum up and analyze so much information was by no means an easy job for her. Without yielding to a multitude of difficulties, she scaled up the realm of



her achievement. Scores of years of experiments and analyses brought her ideal data finally. Follow-up animal-based tests and clinical practices confirmed the successful project. Now Kim established a technical process to manufacture a new-generation antibiotic.

At the moment she is working hard to put the production of the antibiotic on an industrial basis in cooperation with officials and researchers of the organs concerned. As a new-generation broad-spectrum natural antibiotic made by compounding dozens of kinds of microelements and bio-active additives the new preparation is effective especially in treating tuberculosis in its early and convalescent periods, chronic bronchitis and other infectious and inflammatory diseases. The medicine is also a keratin peptide compound which stimulates the growth of the cells, so it is an effective medium of rehabilitation that helps rapid restoration of the immunity of the cell and tissues, leading to containing and sterilizing bacteria and restoring and treating the affected area of the body; it is also a nutritive and antioxidant preparation as well as an enzymic catalyst, diuretic and painkiller. The medicine brings no relapse of any disease treated. It has no side-effects even when used for six-nine months, and the percentage of complete recovery is nearly 90 %.

The medicine can be made from materials easily available in Korea in forms of injection, tablet and capsule.

Sim Yong jin

Efforts Unnoticed

THE PYONGYANG SPORTS Team recently achieved nice results in several international and national games thanks to the great efforts of the researchers of the scientific information laboratory of the team.

In the course of studying the athletes' competitions and training, the researchers realized that if some parts of the specialized physical training apparatuses were renovated, the efficiency would be further improved.

An Jong Hui, assistant director of the team for scientific research affairs, and researchers including Ri Yong Su and Ri Ryon Hwa pooled their efforts and wisdom to refashion training facilities to suit all athletes' physical features. Many new instruments were also made to help training. Now they sought a more scientific method of training.

To find out a more-advanced scientific training method the researchers first buckled down to the task of developing a program for the use of the training instruments. After scientific examination of the athletes' exercise with the instruments, they developed a physical training support program and updated a judo analysis program. In particular, the latter program made it possible to promptly draw out a table of competition and analyze and assess the performance correctly.

Sok Yong Chol, Pak Yong Gum and other researchers developed a reserve athletes' mentality estimation program to select good reserves who are prepared physically, technically and intellectu-



Athletes go through examination of physical abilities.

ally and a program to estimate individual athletes' physical types, biological ages and style of physical growth for selection of good athletes. They studied other research works to increase the scientific accuracy of the training, including improvement of network information and correct administration of calories for all athletes.

Information researchers made great efforts to help coaches and athletes know the global trend as soon as possible by giving them data on games and sports information through the discussion of tactical plans, analysis of games and scientific lectures.

Medical researchers rendered scientific medical assistance to every athlete by measuring the body and examining its functions every week and month. They made a great success of the research work to scientifically measure every athlete's physical

exhaustion and recovery state and best physical condition by examining the electrocardiogram function, subcutaneous fat, lung capacity and pulsation and analyzing physical abilities.

Thanks to their endeavour last year the athletes from the team snatched 49 medals—including 24 gold medals—in many international competitions such as the Konstantin Korotkov international boxing tournament held in Russia and the Asian Junior Games.

An Jong Hui says, "The global trend of daily developing sports demands of us deeper study of the sports science. We'll make much more successful researches to put all performances of our team on the world standard as soon as possible, and thus contribute to the country's sports development."

Kim Kwang Chon

Patriotic Emotion Nurtured

“MANY YEARS HAVE passed since I made my debut upon my county’s honour. I have always valued my home village and tried hard to live up to the expectations of my parents and neighbours and my teachers. I feel proud of myself in front of the people of my home town and my juniors.” These are what former weightlifting star Kim Myong Nam, Asian titleholder and twice world weightlifting champion, said when he visited his alma mater, the Tongnim County Juvenile Sports School in North Pyongan Province.

Born in Tongnim County, he began his career in the school. (He keeps many memories about the school in his mind.) One day he had field exercise. His coach gave him the first training task of the day to climb up a steep mountain peak twice. In order to finish his task earlier than others, Myong Nam, a boy of unyielding spirit, ran and ran with an intention to be the first, trampling upon young and small trees. The coach admonished him for his misconduct, “The man who doesn’t prize a tree

or a grass of our country can never win the match on our country’s honour. You can achieve successes only when you have a patriotic mind as well as high techniques.” The coach’s words became Myong Nam’s motto, which he remembered while he put his all energy in the training and competitions.

Not only Myong Nam but also the DPRK’s first Olympic weightlifting champion Pak Hyon Suk and Labour Heroine and People’s Athlete Ri Song Hui nurtured the love for their home town and country at the school.

“The success in training young athletes lies not only in scientific methods,” says Kim Myong Ho who has been headmaster of the school for over 20 years. “In parallel with reasonable training methods suitable to the physical and mental conditions of the trainees, you have to implant in them the determination to add glory to your country by becoming excellent athletes without fail. This is the unanimous will of the instructors of my school.” O Sun Gi is one of the exemplary in-

structors. Merited Athlete Pak Ui Myong and other instructors used to be famous sportspeople. They are proud of their trainees growing competent. Whenever they hear that their disciples won international and national competitions, they feel elated—like a gardener does seeing ripe fruits he has grown.

They are now increasing sports events and putting the trainee selection and instruction on a highly scientific level with their strenuous efforts in keeping with the soaring enthusiasm for sporting activity.

Last year, the school snatched medals in the events of table tennis, weightlifting and football at the 50th national games of the juvenile sports schools. Ko Su Hyang who took the top place in total in her category of weightlifting has a dream to be a star by winning international games.

Cherishing attachment to their home town and country, all the instructors and students are doing their best to materialize their dream.

Song Yong Sok





From left: assistant headmistress Kim Hye Gyong and students Pak Hyon A, Kim Song I, Kim Ryo Jun, Kim Ui Sun and Om Hyon Ju.

Schoolchildren Renew Custom

IN MARCH LAST YEAR THE Vladimir Spivakov international charity foundation sent a letter of invitation to students of Kumsong School of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea asking them to attend the 10th round of the *Moscow Welcomes Friends* international festival.

Encore

An artistic performance was given in the Moscow International Music Hall indoor theatre on June 1 in celebration of the International Children's Day.

Five students of Kumsong School put the Korean song "Our Nation Is the Best" on the stage. From the beginning the audiences were enraptured by the cheerful sounds of the saxophone and synthesizer, pleasant rhythm of the bass guitar, vigorous and forceful tone of the percussion instruments, and peculiar melody of the kayagum. Moreover, when Kim Song I, saxophone player, sang in a beautiful voice accompanied by the highly skilled instrumentalists, the audiences made a delightful response to the music. No sooner had she finished

singing than a roar of cheers for encore burst forth along with thunderous claps. Now the Korean children sang Russian songs *Katusha* and *The Bird in the Air* along with instrumental music. Song I's cute and pretty movements and fluent Russian and saxophone playing struck the audiences with wonder, causing another encore.

On the evening of June 3 the hall of Moscow M.V. Lomonosov State University witnessed a closing performance of the festival. Originally the Korean children were scheduled to appear on ▶

► the 8th turn. But the organizing committee of the festival changed the schedule so that the Koreans were the first to get on the stage. The students of Kumsong School gave a marvelous play of a set of world-famous music pieces and then performed Russian songs by way of vocal and instrumental music, creating a warm atmosphere. Cheers of encore burst forth from the audiences. Now there rang a series of Korean animation songs; Kim Ryo Jun changed from the drum kit to the xylophone, Pak Hyon A from the synthesizer to the accordion, and Om Hyon Ju from the kayagum to the hour-glass drum, when Song I, player of the saxophone, now sang animation songs in an enthralling tone. In this way the Korean children staged three programmes, breaking the custom in which an organization performs only once with only one programme. The festival organizing committee awarded them a diploma in congratulation of their successful activities.

View of the Korean Future

The festival, attended by a lot of little talent from across the world, featured the praise of the Korean children. Ekaterina Shirman, 50, chief of the board of directors of the Vladimir Spivakov international charity foundation, Russia, extolled the Korean children, saying she was very happy to have the Koreans in the festival and that they made the festival spectacular.

A Georgian teacher admired the Korean children, saying he was more than attracted to them when they played at least two instruments each and sang both Korean and Russian songs flawlessly. “Their performing skills are great,” he gave thumbs up.

Peter Gulko, 53, member of the festival organizing committee, said, “I admire the Korean children for their high artistic skills and unusual talent. They’ve performed different shades of musical pieces quite well, making concerted breath, rhythm and speed from the beginning to the end. I know they are highly qualified and have got a strong basis of artistic training. I think I’ve seen the rosy future of the country in the bright and cheerful images of the Korean children.”

Artistes in Early Teens

Months later, in September, eight students of Kumsong School including the abovementioned children were invited to an international festival of stage art in Norway. They put on the stage what they had prepared in a short period of time. Kim Song I performed the saxophone solo “The Captivating and the Admiring,” Ri Wi Song the vocal solo “The Song of the Happy People,” Ham Ok Hui the violin solo

“Tondollari,” and Sim Jong Hyang the solo dance “The Water Jar Dance”. Their performances were highly applauded for their admirable skills and artistic representation. The drum kit and xylophone player Kim Ryo Jun, the synthesizer and accordion player Pak Hyon A and the kayagum and hour-glass drum player Om Hyon Ju were all 13 years old. The bass guitar player Kim Ui Sun and the violin player Ham Ok Hui were 14, Kim Song I and Sim Jong Hyang were 12 and Ri Wi Song was 16. All of them were born into workers’ families; Hyon Ju comes from Musan County, North Hamgyong Province and Song I from Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province.

Deputy director of the school Kim Hye Gyong says, “We are training many outstanding vocalists, instrumentalists and dancers. We are determined to train more excellent artistic talent who will contribute to the artistic development of the nation.”

Kim Yong Sun

The letter of thanks for the performance at the 10th round of the international festival “Moscow Welcomes Friends,” and the diploma of the festival.



A Great Pride

By Kim Hae Song

(Continued from the last issue)

JIN HAK RETURNED HOME late at night. His grandmother laid a table for him without any words, guessing by his cloudy countenance that the result of experiment was undesirable. Only after a good while Jo opened her mouth stealing glances at her grandson. “Well, what do you think of the girl you’re working with?”

“Do you mean engineer Sun A? She is so-so,” Jin Hak replied uninterestedly.

“I think she is good enough,” Jo said, “I hope I’d have such a girl for my granddaughter-in-law.”

She was being quite absurd, Jin Hak told himself, giving a half laugh. “Don’t be silly, grandma,” he said. “I could hardly tell you she is a good girl.”

“Elderly people have a correct eye. I tell you women’s beauty lies in the mind instead of her appearance,” the grandmother said admonishingly.

Probably the grandmother was attracted to Sun A as she often visited her home at Jin Hak’s request carrying his stories and giving a helping hand to the old woman. Sun A was humble in appearance—with no enticing smiles. But she had something attractive about her. Perhaps it was the aroma of her sincerity.

The grandmother seemed to have brought the topic of the girl in order to relax Jin Hak’s nerv-

ousness. She said, “You know I’ve had much trouble living in a family whose men were and are all technicians. And I know it isn’t a smooth sailing to research into a new technology. It may be quite turbulent or even dangerous. Plouging such a way you need to have a true mental support. The most terrible thing for a man bearing a heavy burden is loneliness.”

The warmth of her words was an encouragement to Jin Hak. He felt happy to have such a grandmother. He thought he was rather her grandson than son of his parents. His grandmother often proudly said he was just a copy of his grandfather. Whenever Jin Hak was serious, he put his lower lip under the upper one and chewed it. The grandmother argued it had been just the habit of his grandfather. “You cannot hide the bloodline,” she said, showing her special affection for Jin Hak. He was well aware of her expectation for him to take over the great pride of his grandfather who wished to make a world’s power of his country.

Two days passed since the first test took place. About the evening when Jin Hak and his colleagues were making analysis of the data of the test on the computer, the chief engineer entered the room without any prior notice. With little acknowledgement of the researchers’ greeting, he approached the computer in haste, and asked, “I hear the light-

burned magnesia lumps were poorly baked. You’d better know that in many cases some trifling elements have a big effect.”

Seeing his uncle involving himself in the work as soon as he returned from a foreign tour, Jin Hak wore a pleasant smile on his face, and said, “You’re going to burn magnesia in a lightning, aren’t you? Why don’t you make a return-home statement first?”

The chief engineer laughed pleasantly, realizing his mistake. Then he eased the hunger of Jin Hak’s team. He said, “As we expected, the foreign method of calcination based on gasification is an extremely delicate one in a technical point of view and the fuel resources are quite limited, so it isn’t agreeable to our condition. We’ve got to cast our lot with the supplementary heating method which is our own way of calcination. This is the very statement of my delegation.”

Jin Hak felt quite burdened as if the destiny of the factory rested on his shoulder. After giving a small account of the economic condition of the country he had visited the chief engineer got down to the work. Making a perusal of the test data for a while, he began to tap the butt of his pencil against the table softly. Then he gave his opinion, saying, “I’m afraid the whirl and eruption of the gas are the problem. If you have flatulence in your body, you’ll have a trouble in digestion, don’t you?”

► His words seemed to be flailing Jin Hak relentlessly, for he now remembered how Sun A had hinted her opinion about exhaust of the gas and the location and structure of the gas channel. At the time he had refused to accept the idea, reducing it to be a “narrow” conception from a student of a study-while-working course. He had asserted his idea, saying, “Our new method of calcination is intended to enhance the heating efficiency to the maximum, unlike the old method of raising the quantity of heat alone. So the more quickly the gas is emitted, the greater amount of heat will be lost.” Sun A had yielded to Jin Hak’s self-righteous argument. Now Jin Hak realized that he had had to respect Sun A for her rich experience in kiln operation. He had incurred failure for his self-respect, not for any theoretical mistake. Euphemistically, he, captain of the supplementary heating team, had failed to shoot a goal while dribbling the ball alone in the offensive field.

The clock on the wall struck the hour, and the chief engineer got to his feet immediately, casting a curt glance at the clock. “I’ve got to go. You can get a correct judgment only when you examine the inside of the kiln, so you’d better have some rest until the kiln is cool,” the chief engineer told, before saying good-bye.

After his uncle left, Jin Hak could not raise his head. He strolled up and down the room, chewing his lip which was blistered for tiredness. Now he said to Sun A full of remorse, “The cause of failure was just my nice head. My excessive self-conceitedness led to burning a huge amount of

fuel for nothing.”

Sun A was also regretful, saying, “Frankly speaking, I didn’t assert my opinion because I wasn’t sure of my theoretical ground. I was poorly informed.”

“You didn’t feel like arguing because you hated me, I suppose,” Jin Hak lamented.

“You needn’t torment yourself,” Sun A advised, “when there’s a person who has failed in the job for ten years now. Failure teaches success, you know.”

“I don’t agree,” he argued stubbornly, “I don’t feel like using such a phrase to cover up my failure. Once you told me to value the state fund as my own money. I don’t think I could make due compensation for the loss I caused to the factory. I cannot forgive myself.”

Silence fell. Jin Hak was lost in self-criticism. *This is a matter of the level of personality instead of that of ability. What a poor pride you have had, looking down on your comrades!* Jin Hak criticized himself.

The outside of the room got a little dark. Suddenly Jin Hak changed his clothes for overalls and put on thick gloves. He asked Sun A solemnly, who was bewildered at his behavior, “I hope you’ll get on the same boat with me tonight, Sun A.”

Sun A’s eyes became wide-opened. “What are you going to do?” she asked.

“Please follow me anyway,” Jin Hak demanded.

She went out of the room after Jin Hak. The test kiln area was silent in darkness, except the monotonous sound of the blower that was running to cool the kiln. When they got under the kiln, Jin Hak asked Sun A in a controlled

voice, “Can we get into the gas channel through the ventilation pipe?”

At last Sun A noticed what Jin Hak was going to do. Surprised at his attempt she shouted, “No. What’s this adventure for?”

“The greatest loss for us is the loss of time,” Jin Hak declared, “how can we lose any more days when the factory is in a fix?” He tried to persuade the girl—his voice was high-pitched.

But Sun A stood in his way and cried, “Don’t you know how badly the factory needs you? You are a gem of the factory.”

The word *gem* she blurted touched the boy’s heartstring. “Don’t be worried,” he said boldly, “the kiln is rather cool, so it’ll be OK with me. You stay here on duty for an emergency.”

Jin Hak pushed Sun A out of his way and stepped into the emergency entrance under the chimney. Fortunately, the door of the entrance was open as the kiln needed cooling. Gripped with an impulse to face even the last moment of his life, he crawled ahead inch by inch. Using a torch he climbed up the ladder inside the chimney. Some way up, there appeared a ventilation passage. He moved down the passage on all fours like a soldier in battle. In a second his eyes were sore as the sweat ran into his eyes. He was angry at himself for his reckless heroism to dash into the gas channel without any preparation. *Poor greenhorn, you have to pay for your nice sense of superiority. You grow up to be a man while realizing your self.* Jin Hak told himself, making his way stubbornly. He began to feel dizzy.

(To be continued)

Children Grow Happily and Healthily



Triplets: (from left) Ri Kun Myong, Ri Son Hyang and Ri Pok Hyang.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited Kim Song Ok at her home in Neighbourhood Unit No. 86, Jongbaek-dong No. 1, Ranganang District, Pyongyang. She was known to the public through the media when she had triplets six years ago. At the time the parents named the first child Son Hyang, the second Kun Myong and the third Pok Hyang; the first characters of their names altogether read Sonkunpok, which mean blessings in the Songun era.

Exchanging greetings with the father, Ri Myong Mun, who works at the Pyongyang Municipal Building Materials Management Bureau, I was led into a room. The three children rushed out to welcome me. "Your children are all strong and healthy like your



Silver daggers and gold rings given to the triplets and their parents.

husband," I said to Song Ok. Then, she told me the following story.

When Song Ok was three months pregnant she went to the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital. The examination turned out the diagnosis that she had triplets.

She was immediately admitted into the hospital and put under medical observation. Not a day passed without checkup. When there was something wrong she was given a lot of preparations including priceless drugs and tonics. As a result she was deliv- ▶

► ered of the children with ease. The babies were under the close care of the doctors and nurses at the hospital until they weighed four kg each when they were moved to a baby home. When they left the hospital silver daggers and gold rings were given to the triplets and their parents according to the state usage.

The children grew sound and healthy at the baby home. When they were four years old the parents brought them home. On returning home they saw the certificate of a new dwelling waiting for them. The state had allotted a three-roomed apartment on the Thongil Street so that the family could bring up the triplets without any inconvenience.

When the family moved to a new flat, they had many visitors, including local Workers' Party of Korea and government officials, service workers of a grocery store, a nursery supply service station and an industrial goods shop. The first question of theirs was what they wanted.

I was engrossed in her story, when the door bell rang. The visitors were the chief of the Jongbaek-dong No. 1 Clinic and the doctor in charge of the children. They were there for checkup of the triplets. Entering the children's room Han Su Ok, chief of the clinic, said, "I know we are responsible for these children's health."

Now Song Ok told me another story: One day two years after the children were sent to the baby home the parents had pestered the nurses of the baby home to let them take Kun Myong home—and they got it. (They had been sorry that they were leaving their children simply under the care of the state.) Days later, however, Kun Myong lost his appetite and fell ill for no particular reason. At the moment the family doctor

came and rebuked them for their having brought the child home instead of entrusting him to the baby home. She accused them of having "violated the law" before rushing the baby to hospital. "I was chagrined over it," the father told me with a smile.

The door bell rang again, and soon some women from a grocery store and an industrial goods shop stepped in, announcing that they brought supplies for the triplets. Their hands were holding various kinds of things. "It's very kind of you," Song Ok said thankfully. The saleswomen told unanimously that it was their own duty, and asked her to look after the children well, without any worry about purchase of materials. The children were happy to have the foods and goods, and the saleswomen were happy to see the bright images of the children—that was a true image of the harmonious country.

We were talking of a pleasant topic over the children when there went yet another door bell. This time it was Sin Kum Suk, manageress of a company under the district people's committee, and her employees. They brought

different kinds of school things and clothes for the children. Song Ok and her husband were quite thankful, and the manageress said, "You deserve the benefit. Our country regards the birth of triplets as a sign of the national prosperity, you know. And happiness gets greater when you share it with other people, doesn't it?"

Song Ok was almost tearful with gratefulness, saying, "From olden times they said you have to do fifty thousand days' work to bring up a child. But we haven't done even a day's work for our children's upbringing. I don't know what to do to repay for such a great care of the state."

I saw her tearfully overwhelmed with thankfulness. The scene of the society working sincerely for the sake of the children in every respect convinced me of the bright future of the children in the socialist country that does whatever it can for the children.

I left the triplets' apartment, believing that they would happily grow to be fine pillars of the country.

Kim Il Bong

Neighbours call on the triplets.



Father-and-son Designers

SOME TIME AGO IN front of the Okryu Children's Hospital I saw two men talking in a happy frame of mind. "This is really a good site for the children's hospital. Your efforts are worthwhile," said one of them.

"Thank you, father. I often hear people say that the Okryu Children's Hospital before the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital looks like a baby in mother's arms and the two buildings go well with each other," said the other man. The father was Merited Designer Cha Cha Yong and his son Cha Kyong Su who both work at the Pyongyang Urban Planning and Designing Research Institute.

In his childhood, Kyong Su perceived his father as a diligent designer who was always buried in piles of designs and relief maps. But seeing new streets of Pipha, Munsu, Kwangbok and Thongil built one after another as his father had designed, the child was often full of pride in his father. This left something to remember always in his growth. After graduation from college with honour, he made up his mind to be an excellent designer like his father.

On his first way to the research institute, his father told him, "Even drawing a line, you should always think whether the posterity might be disappointed at the formation of a street with no marked individuality, or whether people might feel uncomfortable living in a densely-set urban district you design." However, at that time Kyong Su, hearing his father's meaningful words, dreamed of his fame for his structures in Pyongyang instead of sensing the designer's responsibility.

When new buildings were to be erected in an urban district, he designed them to have similar shapes following the "trend," giving no thought to the relations between the buildings and their circumstances, carried away with his intention to "show the



modern sense of beauty." Worse still, the fatal error in his design was that he seldom thought of the residents' living convenience. Though he drew the design with his own painstaking efforts, his design came to be rejected by his father who was responsible for design examination. *The present era demands rapid development in the field of designing, too. But my father's view doesn't go well with the aesthetic sense of us new generation,* Kyong Su thought. It was his first "great" work. So as time went

by, he felt bad about his father. For the moment, designing discussions of the family that had been a regular event since he was at university discontinued as his father stayed away from home. At that time his father was engrossed in giving the "life" to his son's design in his research institute even at midnight. Later when Kyong Su was given the design modified by his father he was surprised at its originality, exquisiteness and reasonableness. Now he had a new view of his father.

Kyong Su began to make exertions with a different attitude. Nearly 20 years later he came to be famous as an excellent designer with special ability of space planning and treatment and his designs were recognized as the ones meeting the people's aesthetic sense and convenience. Thus he cut quite a figure in planning of urban development.

His father Cha Cha Yong often admonishes, "Our job is not to erect any special building. We design Pyongyang."

Students of the Pyongyang University of Architecture on their field practice recognized them and asked questions vyingly. Both the father and the son said, "There is only one secret of success. It is to design Pyongyang with your heart, not with hand skill."

Chae Kwang Myong

The “*Paduk* Classroom”

SOME TIME AGO I VISITED the Sinwon *Paduk* Club in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang. The club had over ten *paduk* boards. All the seats were taken up by children who were lost in playing *paduk* (a national board game of Korea). Some of them were immersed in tackling *paduk* puzzles.

I met Ha Ok Ryon, manageress of the club. She said, “This club was opened seven years ago. Large numbers of *paduk* fans including children have been patronizing it. As the days go by, more and more children are coming here. It is often said that the Korean chess needs a thousand tricks while *paduk* ten thousand. This means *paduk* is very good for developing the intelligence of children. So we decided to teach it to them. We chose able teachers and studied the teaching methods best suited to their age and psychological traits. To begin with, we taught them the ABC of *paduk* for a few months, and then gave them full-dress lessons. The teachers observed the children’s ability of assimilation and taught higher-level *paduk* moves accordingly. Now we have many *paduk* master-hands and talented players who are the pride of this club.”

She pointed to a wall posted with photos of children who had won or ranked high in *paduk* contests. Among them was Ri Su Yon, winner of the 2009 Pyongyang children’s *paduk* contest, three other winners in yearly contests and ten-odd high-prize

winner. Besides, there were photos of children who had won technical awards and notices showing press comments applauding them. Worthy of special note was the certificate of merit awarded to Manageress Ha for training so many successful children. The photos and notices let me know the pride of the club and the merit of *paduk*, when a *paduk* teacher told me of a boy praising him for working out a *paduk* puzzle quickly. Kim Yong Myong was the child who received a technical award for best playing at the September 10 Prize national martial art contest in September last year and won first place at the Pyongyang autumn children’s *paduk* contest in November last year. The puzzle the boy had just solved belonged to the fourth-grade category, the teacher told me and went on, “The boy started to learn *paduk* two years ago when he was only four. He finished the basic course in a month and took part in contests in a half

year. Though he was the youngest player, he played so cleverly as to drive his opponents into a corner. He was given many technical awards and was introduced on TV and in newspapers as a *paduk* genius. I think he will be a master player of *paduk*.”

Towards the evening parents came for their children. The teachers gave them pocketbooks recording the day’s performance of each child and the next day’s home tasks, plus other notes for their reference. The manageress said that they test children every Saturday and show the results on the competition chart. “We will find out still better teaching methods suited to the children’s intellect and rear excellent *paduk* experts,” she said. Now the clubhouse has become a dear haunt for *paduk* fans and children who call it “*paduk* classroom.” I left the place wishing the “classroom” to produce more able *paduk* players in future.

Jo Yong Il



Devoted Minds

APRIL 1 IS ONE OF THE happiest days for the school children and students in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea because school opens on the day. In the run-up to the day families make good preparations for the new school year, in a happy frame of mind over the growth of their children. Yet there are families unlike those happy ones—they are busy with preparation of teaching programmes for the new school year. One of them is that of Ko Ui Dok who live in Neighbourhood Unit No. 96, Janggyong-dong No. 2, Sosong District, Pyongyang.

The teacher learns

The master of the house, Ko Ui Dok, 76, has long worked at the Russian literature department of the Foreign Languages and Literature Faculty, Kim Il Sung University. Although he is a veteran lecturer and researcher, the Professor and Doctor is usually worried before the school opening day. He says of his mind, "The opening lecture is of critical importance to the students because the success will decide the enthusiasm of the students for learning. I do my best to prepare the first lecture."

His dogma has been consistent for more than 50 years. Once there took place a teaching contest. His department excluded him from the contest in view of his advanced age. Learning this Ko argued, "You may get old physically, but the spirit of a lecturer would never become senile." Then he made a methodical preparation. His fellow teachers were surprised to see the veteran lecturer get ready for the contest, for he was making every effort as if it were the first of his lectures, sometimes viewing his own

image in the looking glass. It was quite a moving scene.

Ko has been enthusiastic about scientific studies as well. Ten years ago he was given a task to compile an electronic Russian-Korean dictionary as part of the Multi-lingual Electronic Dictionary for MAC in compliance with the requirement of the IT era. By mobilizing his staff he completed the task successfully. And the next year he completed a comprehensive Russian-Korean dictionary which has 300 000 entries, rendering remarkable service for education. In the past he developed two subjects including the Russian Grammar on accordance with the tendency of educational development and wrote more than 40 kinds of textbooks and reference books and over 100 essays. Meanwhile he trained five Doctors and lots of talented people through strenuous efforts. He commands everybody's respect for his manner of assimilating new information all the time instead of showing off his attainment.



To be a good teacher

Ko's daughter-in-law, U Yun Hui, is also a teacher. She has been teaching at the Foreign Languages School under the Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies for a dozen years. Like Ko she is busy preparing her lessons. She has made positive efforts to learn from Ko's experience and adopt his method of instruction. And Ko's concern for her is great enough. He speaks to her in Russian at home all the time, believing that the teacher's attainment means that of the students. Whenever she sits up all night working to improve her linguistic ability in keeping with the developing reality, her husband gives her a helping hand. (He works at the City Management Research Institute under the State Academy of Sciences.) U enjoys respect both at home and at school. She made contribution to students' winning of a number of national and international contests including the 12th international Russian Olympiad of students held in June 2008, by giving them functional instruction.

Recalling the time when her students got the top award at the international contest, she says, "Many people call me a good teacher. Whenever I hear such praise, I find myself both happy and worried. This spurs me to work harder to improve my own ability so as to help my students grow as pillars of the country in the future."

The country's future is bright as it has many such families of teachers who are always exerting themselves to be nice teachers.

Song Yong Sok

Cherishing the Ideal of Humanitarianism

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had an interview with deputy secretary Yu Ju Yong, head of the disaster control department Kim Yong Il, department head Kwon Jong Sun and head of the public medical service department Kim Chol of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Exerpts:

Reporter: I know the activities of the DPRK Red Cross Society span a long time. Could you tell me how your organization came into existence?

Yu Ju Yong: When Korea was liberated on August 15, 1945, it had a deformed economy because it had been under the Japanese military occupation for scores of years. The public health condition was more than deplorable. In order to improve public health and sanitary condition the state decided in April 1946 to form a Red Cross organization as a mass-based entity for public health, hygiene and relief work. Accordingly, the Red Cross Society of North Korea was established on October 18, 1946, and renamed the DPRK Red Cross Society in December 1948 after the founding of the DPRK.

The society is committed to the efforts to promote people's welfare, improve the hygienic standards and conduct mass-based activities for prevention of all sorts of infectious and other diseases in peace time; and to give relief and humanitarian aid to the wounded and disabled soldiers in wartime in compliance with the spirit of the Geneva Convention. In the spirit of humanitarianism it relieves the victims of unexpected disasters and builds up a closer connection with all its counterparts in the world and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.



From right: Kim Yong Il, Kwon Jong Sun, Yu Ju Yong and Kim Chol.

With the adoption of the DPRK Law on Red Cross Society it has a solid legal foundation and well-ordered organizational structure from the Central Committee to the affiliates so as to perform its mission and duty to the full according to its legal duty and principle of activity.

Reporter: The society has creditably fulfilled its mission and duty for promoting public health and welfare and disaster relief since its establishment.

Kim Yong Il: You're right. After its foundation my society set up branches in provinces, cities and counties, and gave itinerant treatment free of charge to inhabitants in localities without doctors. And it conducted mass movements to promote a hygienic and cultured way of life among local residents and carried out the work to promote public health and get rid of infectious diseases. In this way it developed into an organization with large membership in a few years after its foundation. Under its patronage over 200 medical service centres and health and sanitation facilities were established to contribute to protection of human lives and

promotion of their health and welfare.

During the Fatherland Liberation War the society organized frontline relief squads suited to the wartime environment and gave helping hands to the work of evacuation of patients and treatment at field hospitals. In the postwar period it arranged the social programme of assisting war victims. As a result hundreds of thousands of articles of clothing, quilts and blankets and thousands of tons of food were distributed, and medical service was given at the Red Cross hospitals in provinces and tens of thousands of healthcare posts. Along with this, the RCS established Red Cross orphanages for war orphans and helped the reunion of families and relatives separated in the war.

The society has directed efforts toward the work of helping the south Korean people and defending the right of the overseas Koreans, which are the consistent concern of the DPRK government. It had inter-Korean Red Cross talks with its south Korean counterpart several times. As a result, our art troupes and home-visiting

▶ groups of people went across the demarcation line to south Korea in 1985. In September 1984 when the flood hit some regions of south Korea 7 200 tons of rice, 500 000 metres of cloth, 100 000 tons of cement and large quantities of medicines were sent to the victims. Thanks to proactive endeavour of the RCS more than 60 former unconverted long-term prisoners including Ri In Mo returned home to the north. Besides, dynamic humanitarian campaigns went ahead true to the idea of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration, thus effecting reunion of separated families and relatives in the north and the south, exchange of letters and multimedia images. Over 100 000 of the Korean residents in Japan who had been forcibly taken there during its military occupation of Korea returned to their homeland following the DPRK-Japan Red Cross talks.

Reporter: I think it has long cooperated with the International



A campaign goes for recovery from natural damages.

Committee of the Red Cross and national Red Cross societies in the world.

Kwon Jong Sun: Since its foundation my society has kept close contact and cooperation with

the ICRC and sister RCSs. It joined the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on May 11, 1956. It has since rendered services to relief activities by sending relief sup- ▶

Young Red Cross volunteers plant trees in autumn.



► plies and funds to the victims of natural disasters like flood, hurricane, tidal wave and earthquake in scores of countries on the principle of humanitarianism. Especially, when some regions of my country consecutively suffered unprecedented damages by floods, tidal waves and typhoons from 1995, it worked hard to stabilize the victims' livelihood and restore ravaged facilities in close cooperation with the IFRC.

Reporter: I want to know what kind of projects are under way these days.

Kim Chol: According to the strategic plan due to finish in 2016—which was adopted in the meeting of the DPRK Red Cross Society in November 2012—we are now putting emphasis on preventing and alleviating the risk of disaster while making advance preparations for it and enhancing the ability of control. This will improve the life-saving capability and self-reliant reha-

bilitation. In connection with branch offices and local people's committees we are now conducting different activities to verify the risk of disaster, train volunteers for disaster control and offer emergency relief to victims. Meanwhile, we join hands for the work of rehabilitation and reconstruction as much as we can.

Young people's Red Cross voluntary activities are also going smoothly, like tree planting in spring and autumn, promotion of highway safety and dissemination of hygienic information. Public activities for good health are un-



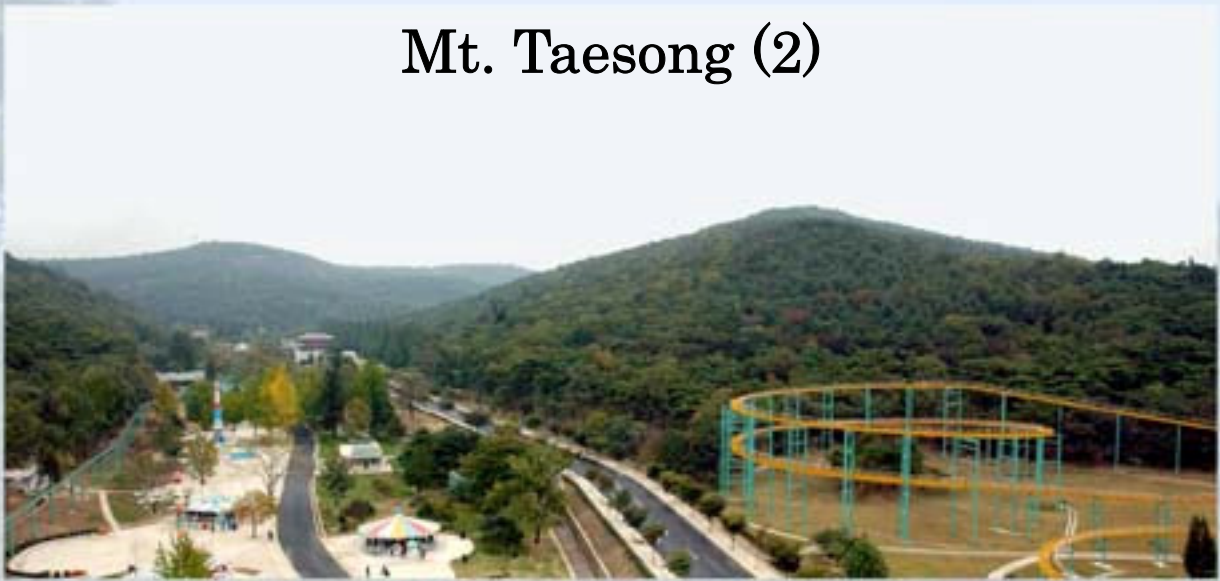
A water supply and sewage project has finished in cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

der way such as arrangement of short courses on setting up comprehensive sanitary facilities and their maintenance. We will keep making every possible effort to fulfil our duty true to the basic principle of the international Red Cross movement. □

A get-together is held to introduce activities of the DPRK Red Cross Society on the occasion of the World Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.



Mt. Taesong (2)



IN ADDITION TO THE honourable records of history and culture, Mt. Taesong was counted as one of the Eight Scenic Spots in Pyongyang for its green foliage all the year round.

Beautiful Mountain Resort of the People

In Mt. Taesong six peaks of Kuksa, Somun, Jangsu, Ulji, Pukjangdae and Jujak range one after another as if to make up a folding screen. A particular traditional attraction of the mountain is the expansive spread of pine tree forests that are green all the

year round. The beauty is elevated by all kinds of flowers that come into bloom season after season. The lush woods and full blooms attract flocks of birds like pheasants, migratory grosbeaks, orioles, woodpeckers and gray-backed starlings and wild animals like roe deer, hares and squirrels.

There are many natural monuments as well in the mountain. Typical of them are the Taesongsan *Catalpa ovata*, Taesongsan Tuchung Tree, Taesongsan *Abeliophyllum distichum* and Taesongsan *Wisteria floribunda*. In particular, the Taesongsan *Abeliophyllum distichum* is a rare

kind of plant that is to be found in Korea alone, consisting in one genus and one species.

The mountain has been developed into a place of education in the revolutionary tradition and a comprehensive recreation centre. On the top of the Jujak Peak stands the Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery where there are buried Kim Jong Suk, anti-Japanese war heroine who was infinitely loyal to President Kim Il Sung, and other revolutionary fighters who fell in the struggle against the Japanese imperialists for the liberation of the country and the freedom and liberty of the people. In the mountain are to be seen many trees that bear revolutionary slogans written by the fighters in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The mountain resort has a loop road, artificial lakes like the Tongchon and the Michon, pools like the Ingo and the Sasum, beautiful waterfalls and a small power station.

In the mountain district there is the Central Zoo occupying hundreds of hectares of land and the

The South Gate in Mt. Taesong.



► Central Botanical Garden with all kinds of plants growing in hundreds of hectares of area. They are great attractions of working people and children and students who want to have more information in addition to their lessons.

Schoolchildren are not there simply for getting knowledge about nature. In the Pyongyang Folk Park built in an expansive area around the site of the Anhak Palace under the foot of Mt. Taesong in September 2012, the working people and schoolchildren get better informed about the history of civilization and culture developed by the Koreans for ages. In many sections of the park they can have firsthand view and experience about historical materials and data on the Taedonggang culture created by the Koreans in their land for five thousand years from the primeval time up to the modern, successive states and their founder kings,



The Taesongsan Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery.

illustrious and patriotic military commanders and famous figures, contemporary struggles against foreign invasion, activities for scientific and cultural development, and typical folklore and customs.

There is a wonderful fun fair in the mountain resort, which has different kinds of amusement facilities favourite with visitors of all ages. The fair is crowded all the time, especially on holidays and Sundays. The place also has a

swimming pool, a boating ground, a folk game ground, restaurants, shops, cafes and all other necessary service establishments.

A spectacular scene opens in front of the South Gate on holidays. Sports and folk games take place there on the May Day, international holiday of the working people, the international children's day, national and folk holidays. These events are usually attended by foreign guests. □

The Pyongyang Folk Park.



Koguryo's Typical Ethos

KOGURYO (277 BC – AD 668) DISTINGUISHED itself as a 1 000-year-old Oriental power by defeating uninterrupted aggressions of foreign invaders and honourably defending the national sovereignty. The success was inconceivable apart from its tremendous national power, people's patriotism and the spirit of giving priority to the military affairs.

The people of Koguryo regarded national defence as the highest honour and sacred duty. So it was part of their daily life to learn horse riding, archery and sword wielding. At that time *kyongdang*, a martial art learning centre, was ubiquitous in Koguryo. Many young people gathered there to learn and train martial art day and night.

Tongmyong, founder king of Koguryo, was good at martial art; he was a master of archery. According to the legendary tale of the establishment of Koguryo he was fond of archery from his childhood. He could hit even a fly on the hand-spinning wheel with a bow.

He was named Ju Mong because a master of archery was called *jumong* at the time. It was said that his son, King Yuryu, too, was skillful at archery from his early years. Once, while practicing archery, he made a mistake of shooting an arrow at a woman's water jar leaving a hole in it. Then he shot another arrow with a mass of mud to plug the hole successfully.

The Koguryo people's zeal for martial art can be seen in the fact that they would put stress on hunting, *ssirum* (Korean wrestling), *subak* (fistfight) and *sokjon* (stone-throwing) when they played amusement games or matches. The most favourite was hunting. It was an organized and large-scale match in which participants vied to catch animals on their horses. So it resembled actual warfare. During the Koguryo period a national hunting match was held in spring and autumn each year in the presence of the king or ministers. Excellent warriors singled out across the country took part in the match, demonstrating their resources and gallantry to the full. ▶

A mural in the Tokhungri Tomb shows horse-riding history.





A mural in the Yaksuri Tomb is dedicated to the show of hunting.

► Besides, martial art matches were conducted briskly by localities and villages. This is evident in numerous Koguryo tomb murals including the mural paintings in the Yaksuri Tomb, Tokhungri Tomb and the Hunting Tomb. The mural paintings show the hunters taking tigers, bears, deer and so on on horseback. On these occasions the feudal dynasty chose future military commanders. *Ssirum*, *subak* and *sokjon* were also favourite matches of the Koguryo people. *Subak* and *sokjon* could be played by everyone regardless of place, and they cultivated the strong physical ability, agility, courage and teamwork among the people. They turned out quite effective in battles against foreign invaders. Hence, Koguryo actively encouraged these matches. Murals in Anak Tomb No. 3 and other remains vividly show scenes of those matches.

The Koguryo people's way of life centring on giving priority to martial art resulted in cultivation of matchless strength, prompt mobility, strong will and unbending offensive spirit that rendered great service to the increasing of defence capabilities of the country. The ordinary pace of the people was almost the same as running, and an old record wrote that Koguryo dispatched ten *chollins* (a man who walks 250 km a day) to a neighbouring country. Koguryo had a 300 000 strong standing army, which could be

enlarged to be one million strong in a moment in an emergency. Foreign invaders suffered repeated disastrous defeats thanks to the stout and unyielding resistance of the Koguryo people who were burning with patriotism and possessed of great martial art. The head of a defeated foreign enemy force left his last words that they should not attack Koguryo again. The martial spirit of Koguryo was the main factor in successfully beating back constant attacks of foreign invaders after its establishment, and adding lustre to its history of the 1 000-year-long Oriental power. It also became a

mighty guarantee in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity with credit over the whole period of its existence.

Kim Un Jong

Anak Tomb No. 3 gives a sight of *Subakhui*, a kind of martial art.



Korean Nation's Horse Riding Custom (2)

IN KOREA THE HORSE riding custom was soundly handed down to the countries that came after Koguryo. The people of Koryo Dynasty (918–1392), successor of Koguryo, inherited Koguryo's habits of arrow shooting on horseback and sword and spear wielding. In its early years the feudal Koryo Dynasty enacted a law on selecting courageous, strong and nimble young men and teaching them *kungma* (riding and archery). In the local communities warriors good at riding and archery often gathered to have a match, and the losers gave a treat to the winners. The authorities strictly banned such a practice for fear it might spawn gambling, but when it was found that it helped the training of military arts, it was given the verdict of innocence. There were not a few masters of martial arts who dashed through flames on horseback like the wind like Han Hui Yu.

Koryo organized special units, like Singigun (units with superb horsemanship) and Mabyolcho (special cavalry), with local warriors good at horse riding and

archery in order to guard the Royal Palace and form national defence units. *Kyokku* (a kind of polo game) was prevalent among cavalymen in the Koryo period. In the game players on horseback rushed to the ball in the centre of the ground to strike it past the goal on the opposite side. The game required to have equestrian skill, strength and the knack of using wooden mallets. In the days of Koryo Dynasty and the Feudal Joson Dynasty, warriors regarded *kyokku* as an essential competing event for getting the knack of arrow shooting on horseback and sword and spear wielding, and played the game widely. A historical record says that even women in Koryo played *kyokku*.

In the Feudal Joson Dynasty (1392–1910), too, horse riding and archery were encouraged as a national undertaking like in Koryo. Kings and ruling circles of the dynasty encouragingly claimed that "riding and archery are fortes of Korea," and pointed out horses as the first of the three treasures of the country.

In particular, *masangjae* (horsemanship) was remarkable. Various skills were included such as standing on the running horse, turning one's body right or left while grasping the saddle, dragging one's feet on the ground while hanging on the horse, lying aside with one's back across the saddle, headstanding on the horse and hiding one's body under the horse's belly. *Masangjae* was built on *Rongmahui* and *Jonyuma* of Koryo. Later, it spread to Japan. When a Korean messenger to Japan who was sent there over ten times from 1607, demonstrated *masangjae*, the ministers of the Tokugawa shogunate were wide eyed in surprise. So the Japanese feudal government officially asked the feudal Joson to send scores of *masangjae* performers in 1635.

History shows that the Korean people trained themselves physically and spiritually and defended the country against foreign invaders while inheriting the horse riding custom from olden times, and widely spread their excellent culture abroad. □



Tam Jing's Patriotism

TAM JING (579 – 631) WAS A FAMOUS painter of Koguryo. He taught the Japanese how to paint and how to make paper, Indian ink and water mills by building on the advanced technology and culture of Koguryo. Tam Jing's activities in Japan are recorded in the *Chronicles of Japan* and the *Records of the Horyuji Temple*.

It is known to the public that mural pictures of the Golden Pavilion of the Horyuji Temple of Japan were painted by him when he was in Japan on its invitation in 610. The murals on the four large walls and the eight small walls, pertaining to the doctrines of Buddhism, show a high artistic level—exquisite composition, delicate depiction and vivid colouring. In particular, the paintings of the Pure Land of Amida and the Goddess of Mercy are masterpieces. The Goddess of Mercy is portrayed beautifully and elegantly with tender and simple depiction. Her good and balanced figure, the thin-creased costume covering her body and the vivid depiction of her hand holding *yoiiju* (magic stone) lightly evoked great admiration. And the lifelike depiction of her bright face with lips lightly closed and downcast eyes show her beauty wonderfully. The painting also shows a pair of fairies with bead-decorated clothes on flying in the sky with a tray in one hand.

Following is a story of what happened when Tam Jing painted the murals. Tam Jing was once invited to visit Japan. There he propagated the method of painting pictures and making dyestuff. One day monks of the Horyuji Temple asked him to paint murals on the walls of the Golden Pavilion of the temple which was newly built. Tam Jing accepted the request. He went to the temple and made a preparation. A few months passed but he didn't start his work, for he heard that millions of foreign aggressors were making inroads into Koguryo. *Can my country repulse the enemy? If not, my fellow countrymen would fall into misery*, he thought. Obsessed with the worry, he couldn't make good pigments or muster any strength to hold the brush.

When he spent several months in agony, monks of the temple started to doubt him. *Is he really a famous painter of Koguryo? He seems to be an idler*



Tam Jing's painting on a wall in the Golden Pavilion of the Horyuji Temple.

pretending himself as a painter, the monks told themselves, without any knowledge of his worry. Tam Jing heard such criticisms but still he couldn't paint murals. He thought that if he painted murals under coercion, they couldn't be wonderful works, and that even if he completed them, nobody would see and value the murals if they knew they had been created by a member of the ruined nation. One day the chief priest of the temple called on him and said, "I've brought you good news. General Ulji Mun Dok of your country has defeated the aggressors."

"Is it true?" Tam Jing asked, springing up from his bed in which he had been lying listlessly.

Confirming that it was true, he was full of joy. The next day he washed his body clean in the clear mountain water. Then he started painting. Rejoiced at the victory of Koguryo he, afire with enthusiasm, engaged himself in painting, his arm dancing over the wall. Those wonderful murals came into being in this way. As the story of the completion spread, a large number of monks and Japanese people came to the temple to see murals, and they were all struck with admiration. They said in unison, "Such mural paintings cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Tam Jing's skills are very marvellous." Tam Jing told them, "The success of these murals is not attributable to my brushwork. You'd better know they are permeated with the soul of Koguryo people who are indomitable, resourceful and brave." □

Ancient Grave Newly Unearthed in the Taedong River Basin

RECENTLY AN ANTHRO-
pological team consisting
of researchers of Kim Il Sung
University and the Academy of
Social Sciences found out a lot of
things of historical interest in the
Juhyondong site in Ransan-ri,
Kangdong County, Pyongyang.
The findings date back to the
Neolithic era. The remains were
found from the sedimentary stratum
in a natural cave which is
18 m long, 4 m wide and 7.3 m
high. The sedimentary stratum is
5.8 m deep. The findings include
260 pieces of human bones which
account for nine human bodies,
22 fragments for seven earthen-
ware vessels, a hanging trinket,
two knives made of shell, and 81
pieces of animal bones in five
kinds.

According to Han Kum Sik,
chief of the human evolution re-
search section of Kim Il Sung
University, the human bones
were established to belong to an-
cient Koreans in the Neolithic era.
So far the Taedong River basin
has produced bones of ancient
Koreans in the Neolithic era as
well as human fossils belonging to
the early, middle and late periods
of the Paleolithic era, and yet
none of them have had so many
human bones in a place as the
Juhyondong site. Researchers
have reached a scientific conclu-
sion that the site was a grave in
the Neolithic era. “In shedding
light on the character of the site,
it was important to identify
whether it was a shelter of the
people who inhabited in the area

or a grave,” said Dr Kang Jin Gon.

Of the human bones that be-
long to nine bodies, there are al-
most all kinds of special bones for
two complete bodies—including
skulls, shoulder blades, clavicles,
arm bones, ribs, pelvises, and
bones of legs—which agree with
the anatomical structure. Human
bones have been found in cave
sites that come from the Neolithic
era, but none of them had such
complete sets of bones as those
discovered in the Juhyondong
site.

The grave was 0.8 m deep
underground, 4 m long and 2 m
wide. This hints at the supposi-
tion that the hollow was dug to a
certain size for the burial of the
dead. The relatively well pre-
served bones of two bodies seem to
be those of men, who were laid in
a certain direction and at a cer-
tain interval with the face upward
and the legs straight downward.
Relics including earthenware
were located only in the place
where there were found human
bones, but there were none of
such things as ground stone im-
plements and tools of labour and
eating in the Neolithic era. This
confirms the idea that the site
was a grave, not a human shelter.
And the earthenware pieces went
through examinations to identify
their substances, and it was es-
tablished that they were made by
using the weathered clay of mica
schist—easily available in the
Kangdong area—for the basic
material or by adding talc to the
basic material. The technique of

carving patterns on the earthen-
ware is the same as the one de-
veloped in the later middle years
of the Neolithic era; this indicates
that the Juhyondong site dates
back to the later middle years of
the Neolithic era.

The DPRK Archaeological
Society reached an agreement
through a number of academic
conferences that the human bones
found in the Juhyondong site are
possibly those of ancient Koreans
in the Neolithic era. The grave
in the Juhyondong site is the first
of its Neolithic kind found in
the Pyongyang-centred Taedong
River basin. The unearthing of
the site has provided another
material foundation for profound
study of the Neolithic culture of
the country centred on Pyong-
yang. The relatively complete
bones of human bodies unearthed
there, including the skulls, are
clues for scientific explanation of
the anthropocentric features of
the ancient Koreans when the
Koreans were acquiring physical
features. And a precondition was
laid for scientific and theoretical
analysis of the traditional forms
of grave of ancient Koreans,
methods of making graves and
customs of burial.

The discovering of the Ju-
hyondong site has thrown a new
light on the fact that the Neolithic
culture created by ancient Kore-
ans was handed down through the
Bronze-age culture to that of
Tangun Korea.

Song Yong Sok



Human bones unearthened.



Pieces of earthenware found.

A trinket.

Knives made of shell.



The DPRK's Foreign Policy

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea has invariably pursued solidarity with the people of all countries that aspire for independence, and developed relations of friendship and cooperation with them true to the ideas of its foreign policy—independence, peace and friendship.

The DPRK has consistently adhered to independence, an important idea of its foreign policy. The world has many countries, big and small, developed and developing. However, you cannot divide them into the high and the low or the instructing and the instructed. All nations are equal and independent, none of them is allowed to violate others' sovereignty, and they must firmly defend their own sovereignty—this is the standpoint of the DPRK.

In retrospect, the situation in the Korean peninsula was very grave in recent years. Finding fault with the DPRK's launch of a satellite for peaceful purposes as the launch of a "long-range missile," the United States railroaded a new "resolution on sanctions" against the DPRK at the UN Security Council on the absurd pretext of the "threat" and "provocation," and started the aggressive military offensive against the country. It staged various joint military exercises like Key Resolve, Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian, driving the situation to the brink of war. When the world was watching the serious developments with apprehension, the DPRK took powerful physical countermeasures, showing its will and potentials to defend the national dignity at any cost. By maintaining the idea of independence with credit on the road of safeguarding the nation's dignity and socialism, it has invariably advanced along the road it chose, when some countries were in political upheavals.

The DPRK is loyal to the idea of peace in implementing its foreign policy. The idea reflects the wish of mankind to live in a peaceful world, free of war. Nothing is more precious for the Korean people who suffered the catastrophic war in the 1950s than peace. The DPRK has long made sincere efforts to ensure peace in the Korean peninsula. Entering the present century it proposed to replace the armistice

system—which had been on for several decades since the Korean war—for a peaceful one, and exerted efforts in order to create a peaceful environment in the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, the US, captivated by the wild ambition for world supremacy, escalated the tension in and around the Korean peninsula while carrying out aggressive nuclear war rehearsals against the DPRK. Owing to its moves there is a growing danger of another war which might break out at any time in the peninsula.

It is important above all things to build up powerful self-defensive capabilities since grey clouds of a nuclear war are always hovering over the Korean peninsula. To the end, the DPRK has achieved a powerful war deterrent to defend its sovereignty and peace and safeguard its dignity. The world's progressive people extend active support to the DPRK's endeavour to ensure peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world and realize the wish of mankind for peace.

The foreign policy of the DPRK presupposes the expanding and developing of relations of friendship and cooperation with all countries in the world. It is a consistent foreign policy of the DPRK to develop friendship and cooperation with all countries that aspire for independence. The present times require all countries to improve and develop relations with other countries on the basis of a new viewpoint suited to the changed historical environment. Now those countries that were hostile to or kept away from the DPRK in the past have sealed state relations with it, and are promoting many-sided exchange and cooperation. More recently, several countries have established diplomatic relations with the DPRK. It is tangible proof of the validity and vitality of the DPRK's foreign policy.

The DPRK will, in the future, too, strive to defend peace and realize global independence by expanding and developing relations of friendship, cooperation and good neighbourliness with all countries that respect the DPRK's sovereignty and are friendly to it.

Kim Il Ryong

Three Arrows for Security—What for?

LATE LAST YEAR JAPAN ADOPTED NEW defence programme guidelines, a mid-term defence buildup plan and the first national security strategy. Calling them three arrows for security, the Japanese authorities argue that they are intended to ward off the threats looming around Japan and ensure the security of the nation. Refusing to agree to their argument, the public opinion claims that the ambitious scheme, namely the three arrows for security, pursues the underhand purpose of creating a pretext for casting off the postwar system by making up a tense atmosphere of “threats” from around the country.

The new defence programme guidelines maintains that Japan should scale up its defensive and counteroffensive capabilities of the ground, sea and air Self-Defense Forces. Probably this has changed the nation’s status into the one of overseas offensive sustained by its Self-Defense Forces equipped with both defensive and offensive capabilities.

Meanwhile Japan has boosted the defence budget for the first time in a dozen years thanks to the mid-term defence buildup plan. According to the plan the total sum of defence budget for the coming five years amounts to around US\$239.5 billion. And the budget has a specific clause that an amphibious mobile unit will be organized in the ground Self-Defense Forces to recover islands and that new weaponry will be purchased. The Japanese *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper reported that the ground Self-Defense Forces decided to change four of its 15 divisions and brigades into mobile-style units in five years to come. This is intended to make units—like the American Striker units—that are to be dispatched to disputed areas in contingency aboard military transports along with combat automobiles, the newspaper commented.

Publishing its national security strategy Japan claimed that it would establish a new arms export principle. This hints at the policy of expanding the war industry and making efforts to research into and develop new types of weaponry by expanding the foreign trade of war supplies. The Japanese *Tokyo Shimbun* newspaper stated in an editorial that the Abe government’s pursuance of lifting the arms embargo and building up armament is causing great

public apprehension as it is an act of shunning the principle of total defence. The Japanese media comment that Abe is boisterously talking about the “threats” from the neighbours in an attempt to create an environment for the SDF to grow strong enough to attack enemy bases.

After the adoption of the three security-related policies Japan made absurd allegations that the Tok Islets were in dispute between Japan and Korea. Impervious to all reasons, it insisted on the “need to settle the Tok Islets issue, watch the neighbourly nations’ moves and take a countermeasure for the purpose”. The chief executive visited the Yasukuni Shrine and made sinister statements about the problems of its past crimes, while the ultra right forces have made reckless attempts. This is causing growing apprehension among the international community as they are straining its relations with neighbouring nations.

Japan has embarked on the struggle to regain a “strong Japan” in real earnest since early this year. It is making substantial preparations in full scale to revise Article 9 of its “pacifist Constitution” which prohibits the retaining of a national army and the provoking of war and to reshape the Self-Defense Forces into National Defense Forces.

In the final analysis, the three arrows of security adopted by the Japanese authorities is meant to repeat their predecessors’ record of attempt to accomplish the old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere”. Referring to the fact, the American New York Times website pointed out that Japan had chosen a desperate bid by attacking the Pearl Harbour on December 7, 72 years before, that Japan’s start of a war against the US as a way out of its fix in the war against China had been something like making a double bid, that the riskier the bid is, the sweeter your victory tastes, and that Abe in this era seems attempting to repeat the pre-WWII dictatorship of Japan.

The Abe-headed ultra right forces’ attempt to repeat the tragedy of history will push Japan into nothing but a bottomless whirlpool.

Choe Kwang Guk

What's the US Seeking Underhand?

NOW THE INTERNATIONAL community is worried about the situation in the Korean peninsula. As it did last year the United States is aggravating the tension in the Korean peninsula this year while uttering ill-natured remarks on the DPRK's just and fair proposals.

As was reported, the DPRK National Defence Commission made public crucial proposals and an open letter to the authorities, political parties, public organizations and people of all strata in south Korea. One of the proposals to the south Korean authorities is that both sides take a practical measure to halt all acts of provoking and slandering each other and discontinue all hostile military acts against each other in consideration of the prevailing serious situation in the Korean peninsula. Soon after the proposals the DPRK decided to take substantial steps first on its own part to call a full halt to all militarily hostile acts, which might get on the nerves of the south side, on the ground and in the sea and sky in the frontline areas.

The US, however, has labelled the DPRK's proposals as a "camouflaged peace offensive" to gain "propaganda effect." Then, why is the US Administration speaking ill of the fair proposals of the DPRK? Driven into severe domestic economic crises, the US recently raised taxes forcibly and automatically cut the federal

budget \$85 billion. The politicians of the US are bewildered at the federal debt of \$17 trillion (it has already surpassed the federal debt limit) which led to the closure of some federal government departments. To cope with this, they are finding a way out of its economic chaos in provoking a new war.

Historically, the US has had economic booms along with wars. It is an open secret that the US triggered off the aggressive Korean war in an attempt to survive its economic crisis in the late 1940s. The repeated crises from the 1950s through the 1970s coincided with the Vietnam War and the US's attacks on Lebanon and Dominica. Those crises in the 1980s and the early 1990s induced the US's attacks on Grenada and Panama, and the start of the Gulf War. Air raids against the then Yugoslavia in the late 1990s brought excessive profits to the US war industry, raised the price index of the US stocks to an unprecedentedly dramatic climax and brought about the crucial dominance of dollar against euro in its first confrontation.

Now the United States is working to provoke another Korean war to tide over its economic crisis and make fabulous profits. It is dead set on carrying out its plan of global quick strike, the keynote of which is to strike any region on the earth within an hour—after it decides to—with

smart conventional weapons fired from submarines, warships and fighter-bombers. The plan is being pushed ahead with on the basis of a new kind of cruise missiles of high striking density. (The missiles will be capable of altering their own programs and striking targets simultaneously in the stage of flying.) The plan is too ambitious to believe it only aims at an individual state. It is obvious that the plan seeks for reckless pre-emptive strike.

Due to the US's ambition of world supremacy the danger of a thermonuclear war is increasing with each passing day. Military experts argue that the US's plan for global quick strike is a new scenario of another world war. If a war breaks out in Korea, it will turn into a world war beyond the Korean peninsula. And the US is mistaken to think that the odds would be in favour of it if it establishes an MD system which aims at attaining military supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region and accomplishes the aforesaid plan.

In a report the Carnegie Foundations warned that the supersonic missile, which is in the development according to the plan, would be likely to be wrong recognized by the early warning system of Russia, and that it would then lead to Russia's pre-emptive nuclear retaliatory strike.

No country will sit idle waiting to be attacked.

Kim Myong Chol

The Ryongaksan Ginkgo Tree

THE GINKGO TREE stands on Mt. Ryongak in Ryongbong-ri, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, beside the ancient Pobun Hermitage built in the period of Koguryo. The tree, more than 500 years old, rises to the sky with its strange appearance.

At first, three ginkgo trees were planted close together, but they grew into one over a long time. It is 28 metres in height, 3.7 metres round at the base, and 16.5 metres round at the crown. It has three trunks which divide into many thick stems at the height of 2.5 metres to make a broom-like crown. The three trunks are 1.8 metres, 2 metres and 1.7 metres round each at the breast height.

It is associated with many legends. One of them says that three friends on a visit to the hermitage swore to be brothers and planted three ginkgo trees there.

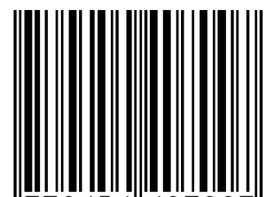
The Ryongaksan ginkgo tree is an unusual case of three trees grown into one and so is of great significance from the botanical point of view, and it adds charms to the scenery of Mt. Ryongak.

Kim Il Bong





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