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Front Cover: Production of ordered equipment accelerates at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex

Photo by  
Hwang Jong Hyok



Back Cover: A view of the Pothong River

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok

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# Collective Innovation Movement and Socialist Construction

**S**Ocialist construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has advanced century after century through the rapid development of the economy, defence, science, culture and all other fields. This is inconceivable apart from a mass movement, an all-people movement, which turned the strength of the popular masses into a powerful driving force.

On October 11, Juche 60 (1971) an Iraqi press delegation on a visit to Pyongyang asked President Kim Il Sung to tell them what he considered to be the most important experience of the fighting people of Korea.

Then the President said:

**“In our country, revolutionary struggle and the work of construction have been conducted in all fields as a mass, popular move-**

**ment. We have succeeded in all the huge and difficult tasks of revolution and construction by relying on the high degree of revolutionary zeal and creative energy of the people. An important key to the rapid progress of our socialist construction lies precisely in the fact that we have solved all our problems by the revolutionary method of relying on the masses and rousing them to action.”**

In December 1956 the national leader visited the Kangson Steel Works (Chollima Steel Complex at present). After explaining to the workers the prevailing situation in and around the country, he called upon them to produce 10 000 more tons of steel, saying: Let us break through the prevailing difficulties together, I believing in you and you trusting me.

His words served as the starting-point of the Chollima Movement to be under way across the country. Under the slogan of “Charge at the speed of Chollima!” the flames of a great revolutionary upsurge spread across the country.

In all parts of the country old norms were broken and lots of reserves for increased production and economization were mobilized while new miracles and innovations were brought about in all sectors of socialist construction. The workers of the Kangson Steel Works rolled 120 000 tons of steel billets using a blooming mill with only a 60 000-ton annual capacity, and those of the Kim Chaek Iron Works produced 270 000 tons of pig iron with the equipment of only a 190 000-ton annual capacity. And

**The first tractor and the producers of the first lorry.**



► a tractor and a lorry of Sungni 58 model were produced in some 30 and 40 days respectively, followed by the production of a bulldozer, a water pump, an excavator, a lorry-mounted crane, an 8-metre turning lathe and an electric locomotive.

Amazed at the rapid progress made in Korea's economic construction through the Chollima Movement during the building of the foundation of socialism in the country, especially, the transformation of people before great economic changes, a foreign journalist wrote in an article as follows:

"Whenever I heard here and there about the achievements in the Chollima Movement, I had doubts. When I heard that 'the five-year plan expected to raise the total industrial output value 2.6 times has been fulfilled in merely two years and a half,' I thought that the standard of the original plan might have been low.

"And when it was reported that 'the total industrial output value has increased 3.5 times and the average annual increase in the industrial output has reached 36.6 percent over the four years from 1957 to 1960,' I thought the original output value might have been too low.

"Moreover, I thought that even if that might have been true and even if the equipment had been expanded, there would have been a fierce intensity of labour. Rebutting my argument, both an official and a Labour Hero of the factory seriously say, 'We have had none of such a problem. We're all nearly compelled to go on holiday.'

"I often heard the phrase 'work with people' as well as 'technical innovation' and 'cultural revolu-

tion' but I could not understand them well. Then, saying he would tell me more about them, Jin Ung Won, the first Chollima rider of the Kangson Steel Works, came to see me at my lodgings.

"He said as follows: It was on October 22, 1960 after my workteam was awarded the title of Chollima Workteam. During his visit to my factory, the Premier [Kim Il Sung] had a talk with me. Patting me on my shoulder, he asked if my workteam had any problem and why we were failing to increase production. I replied I had thought in various respects and that I thought the reason lied in the work with people. Then he said: That's the fundamental question. The point is to transform people. All of them should be educated to make them progressive, and they should all become able to work cheerfully while taking pride in living by relying on their own strength. What is essential is to do the work with people well. It's good that you've realized it. True to his advice my workteam members have achieved their unity in the collective spirit of helping and leading one another forward.

"Only after hearing him out could I believe the miracle made by the Chollima Movement."

The Chollima Movement was a mass education movement to turn people into active elements in socialist construction, who would make continued innovations and advance onwards, and a movement for technical and cultural transformation to make innovations in economic construction and cultural development by giving play to mass heroism.

The Chollima era is never a memory of the past ►

► history. The Chollima-era fighting tradition of advancing while doing ten or a hundred days' work in a single day is still carried on.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un instructed that all the people should launch an all-people general offensive to frustrate the challenges of the hostile forces who were making last-ditch attempts and raise the overall strength of the DPRK to a new stage of development as the preceding generations had brought about a great upsurge in socialist construction overcoming all difficulties through the great Chollima upswing after the war.

The Korean people are now struggling to smash straight through all the barriers in the way of their advance. They are making breakthroughs in the struggle just in the spirit of collectivism. The motto of collectivism, in which all make collective innovations while helping and leading one another forward under the slogan of "One for all and all for one!" serves as the source of the force that inspires the people to socialist construction.

The Komdok Mining Complex, a large nonferrous mineral producer, boasts Hero Ko Kyong Chan's workteam famous for being a group of pacesetters. The workteam members make it a principle that their devotion should serve as the support to the development of the complex as well as that of the workteam. So they have conceded to backward workteams scores of working faces they had prepared with effort, and unstintingly sent their skilled hands to other units. As they are thinking of the interests of the complex and the development of the country before the interests of their own workteam, they have always been able to overfulfill their

plan of ore production by helping and leading one another forward.

Many other people are working faithfully for society and the collective with the belief that the honour of their collective is their own. They include Yun Ryong Sok, leader of workteam No. 1, the Pukji Cooperative Farm, Jaeryong County; Han Sung Chan, manager of pit No. 9, the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine; Kim Myong Wol, a senior eye doctor of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Hospital; Kim Myong Hwan, general manager of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill; Jo Song Gu, general manager of the Wonsan Power Station Construction Company; and Kim In Gyu, a department head of the Metal Engineering Faculty, Kim Chaek University of Technology. Their examples are being followed by the whole country.

Amid the brisk campaign to overtake others, follow others' examples and exchange experience, a great improvement is being brought about in production in all sectors and units of the national economy including the Sangwon Cement Complex and the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill.

Collectivism is fundamentally ensuring advance and victory.

Active publicity is given to the achievements and experience of leading units, and the whole country is afire with revolutionary enthusiasm and optimism: All people are eagerly taking part in the collective innovation campaign, and projects of creation and construction are making headway in all parts of the country.

*Ri Jong Nam*

**An upsurge is brought about in production in all sectors and units of the national economy.**





## Spirit of Heroes Carried On

ONE OF THESE DAYS I visited the Weaving Division of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. I was welcomed by Pak Ki Yong who has been working at the mill as head of the division for over three decades.

He led me to a billboard hanging on the left wall of a corridor. It was posted with the photos of 16 heroes produced by the division, including Ri Hwa Sun, the first hero of the division in the 1960s. I was looking at the board, when Pak told me the following story.

Ri Hwa Sun introduced a dozen technical innovations from 1964, including a method of zig-zagging round looms, thus lighting the torch of a multi-loom tending campaign. From then on she kept overfulfilling her annual plan. Later, the multi-loom tending campaign spread throughout the mill, kindling

the flame of innovation. In the course of this many of the weavers became heroes and model workers. Ri also trained more than 160 weavers as skilled hands, and participated in the Second National Meeting of the Vanguard Workers in the Cholima Workteam Movement held

in May 1968, making a speech on her experience.

Pak then said that before the billboard they often hold oratorical meetings, discussions and oath-taking gatherings with a view to carrying on the spirit of the heroes. Guided by him I went to a workshop which was

▶ resounding with the smooth buzzing of looms. There my eye was caught by the slogans “Let us smash straight through all the barriers in the way of our advance!” and “Self-development, prosperity by dint of self-reliance.”

Pak introduced me to Merited Weaver Ri Myong Sun, who has been working at the workshop for over two decades. The total length of the fabric she has woven is 2 400 km. And the distance she has covered while tending her looms is 400 000 km, which is equivalent to that of ten rounds of the earth. Ri also made strenuous efforts to help those who lagged behind others so as to make her workteam into the one of model workers helping and leading one another forward. Pak mentioned that Mun Kang Sun, the 16<sup>th</sup> hero, is one of the weavers trained by Ri, and that over 170 skilled hands she has trained are pillars of the division.

When I asked Ri how she could work so honestly for such a long time, she replied that she thought the heroes were watching her, and that their spirit encouraged her to do so.

There I could meet An Mi Gyong, who was the first to fulfil the first six months’ task this year. Though not so tall, An was an enterprising girl full of vig-



Apprentices are taught how to weave.

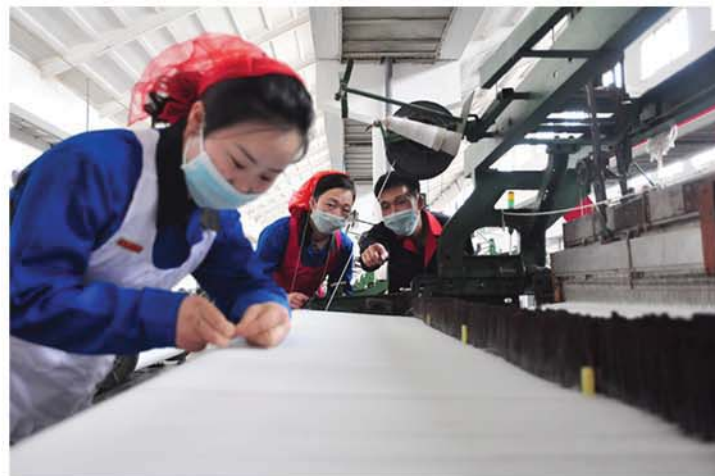
our in her early twenties. Saying that she could become a model worker thanks to a “treasure notebook,” she showed it to me. Written in the fuzzy notebook were the characteristics of each loom, methods of cutting the time of tying the broken thread, requisites for managing many looms, new ideas she got during experience swapping and discussion with colleagues, methods of simple maintenance of looms, and the experience of mechanics.

The head of the division said that the originator of the notebook was Hero Ri Hwa Sun, and that though the owner of it

changed, the hero’s spirit was still carried on. He also proudly told me that over 50 and ten of the factory’s workers had fulfilled their assignments for the first half of the year and their yearly tasks by last March respectively.

Looking around the division I was convinced that the spirit of the heroes would be carried on by the weavers of the new generation. I left the mill, promising that I would visit it again when the division produced the 17<sup>th</sup> hero.

Article by Kim Il Bong  
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok



## Production of Ordered Equipment Stepped Up

**I**N KOREA THE TAEAN HEAVY MACHINE Complex is a leading producer of generating equipment and ordered equipment.

It is mainly producing equipment for major construction projects.

Kwak Tae Won, leader of processing workshop No. 1, says, "It was in February when we were pro-

cessing a power generator for Tanchon power station No. 5 under construction. At that time we had to make T-slots on the rotator. But we didn't have the necessary machine. Having decided to make it by our own efforts, we and the technicians of the complex pooled wisdom and efforts, and thus we completed it in several days and processed the power generator ahead of schedule."

Kim Un Chol, a lathe operator who was tasked with processing its axis, says, "When I was given the task of processing the 10-odd-metre-long axis of the power generator, I, as a young man, worried that I might fail to process it. But everyone encouraged and helped me, and thus I could finish the task five days ahead of schedule. At that time I had confidence that I could do something for the country."

That's not all. The workers of the complex helped complete the phosphatic moulding drying furnace in the Suncheon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory by developing a welding jig to make the fire grate for the furnace. The workers of the complex's steel casting shop improved the moulding method to prevent air bubbles from forming in steel castings, thus helping reduce the production cycle of water wheel and large gear with less labour.

Based on their success in transforming an automatic welding process last year, the workers of the generating equipment- and ordered equipment-related sheet metal processing shops increased three times the speed of welding the bodies of the equipment for the establishment of the C1 chemical industry while ensuring their quality on a high level.

Meanwhile, the large-size machine shop, generating equipment assembly shop and ordered equipment assembly shop produced dozens of units of ordered equipment while helping and leading one another forward.

The other workers of the complex spent their spare time helping the generator assembly shop short of manpower assemble magnetic pole iron core and winding, enabling the complex to finish its task at the fixed date.

Kim Kwan Sik, assistant-chief engineer in charge of technical affairs of the complex, says, "In the future, too, we'll demonstrate the honour of our complex as a leading one with one mind and one will."

*Sim Chol Yong*



## Taste of Pyongyang Beer Bettered

**V**ARIOUS SORTS OF BEERS PRODUCED in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are satisfying the demands of people thanks to their own tastes and aromas.

Ri Hye Sun, a waitress of a beer house, says, "Pyongyang beer has a history of over sixty years. The coolness and pleasant flavour make you feel refreshed and at ease."

The beer is produced by the Pyongyang Brewery. The factory also produces weak beer, strong beer, draught beer, dark beer and barley tea.

Kim Kyong Sop, general manager of the factory, says, "What is important in making Pyongyang beer retain its own taste is water. And my factory was built here in this place because it has a source of quality natural water."

The factory is using cornflour as a subsidiary raw material. It helps better the colour of the beer and make it more flavoursome by adding to the taste of malt and the aroma of hop.

Kim Song Chol, an official in charge of technical affairs of the factory, says that part of the secret of the good beer may be the traditional method of production. According to him, other breweries are producing beer by fermenting and maturing raw materials quickly in a tank. But this factory ferments the materials primarily in the fermenting



**In the sci-tech learning space.**

process and then during storage so as to make the beer retain its own taste and aroma. It is increasing the beer production by the method which has been long used.

Meanwhile the factory is pushing ahead with the work of further improving the quality of the beer systematically. Last year the beer and soju production lines of the factory received DPRK Quality Control Certification, and some time ago soju, Pyongyang beer and Pyongyang draught beer from the factory were put on the list of the February 2 Product.

The factory also produces beer to order from abroad.

*Pak Yong Il*

**Brewing and bottled beer production processes.**





# Earnest Request

OFFICIALS SHOULD MAKE TIRELESS efforts for the good of our people who are the best in the world. They should seat the people on golden cushions even if it means their pains. This is what Chairman Kim Jong Un of the Workers' Party of Korea always requests officials to do.

He always thinks of the people first, and considers everything in the interests of the people. He requests that top and absolute priority be given to the demands and interests of the people even in constructing a single building or producing a simple thing.

One November day in Juche 101 (2012) the Supreme Leader inspected the Ryugyong Health Complex once again just before its inauguration. While looking round different parts of the complex, he mentioned that it would have lots of visitors when it opened, and said that what mattered was to make sure there was no problem in operating the complex in winter and that perhaps it would enjoy greater popularity in winter than in summer.

Before leaving the complex he requested relevant officials to run the complex well by organizing the service and operation scrupulously in the coming winter so that the people could enjoy much benefit from it, and to operate the complex properly and provide good service in the future so that the people could enjoy a happy and cultured life to their heart's content as creators and enjoyers of socialist culture.

One February night in 2018 a trolley bus with the Supreme Leader on board was running along a street of the capital city. He had made time to ride in the new-type bus, saying that he would feel assured only after riding in it himself.

Mentioning that it was impossible to know about the performance of the new bus only by seeing its appearance, he asked the accompanying officials to examine carefully if it had any defect through the eyes of the people who would use it.

He earnestly said that the capital's public transport sector should make a strenuous effort to provide good traffic facilities to the people, particularly in winter, with the revolutionary outlook on the masses by which to regard the people's demands and appreciation as absolute criteria and thoroughly meet them and in the spirit of serving the people devotedly.

One October day in 2019 the Supreme Leader inspected the hot spring resort project near completion in Yangdok County. After looking round different places of the construction site, he said: As even a single building reflects the idea of the times, the extent of the dignity of the people and the level of their civilization, construction is as important as

the ideological work. We should establish the Juche orientation in construction so as to thoroughly apply the our-nation-first principle, the people-first principle.

Referring to the hot spring resort of Yangdok County as the Party's gift for the people, he repeatedly requested that a more exact demand be made to complete it to be absolutely perfect.

During his inspection of the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, he said that smart and high-quality footwear should be produced a good deal for the people, and while looking round the Thongil Street Fitness Centre, he asked to furnish the centre better and operate it well so that it could offer greater enjoyment to the people.

While inspecting the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory, he stressed the need to put the production of pickled fish on a scientific and modern footing and on a higher standard and churn out tasty and highly nutritive pickled fish so that the Party's policies of noble love for the people could pay off in practice and help the people to get substantial benefit.

When he was at the Okryu Children's Hospital for inspection, he requested that the hospital serve as the one conducive to the promotion of children's health and as the practical proof that the Party's policy of public health service is that for the people. And while looking round the Pyongyang Vegetable Science Institute, he referred to vegetables as vitamin complex indispensable to the diet, and requested that choice varieties of tasty and highly nutritive vegetables suitable to the climatic and soil conditions in the country be cultivated a lot and supplied to the people.

Like this, the revolutionary activities of the Supreme Leader are never apart from his thought of the people even for a single day or moment. His patriotic, revolutionary work always starts with his care for the people. His love for the people manifests itself in his continuous journey of painstaking field guidance for the improvement of the people's living standards.

Now the typical banner the country holds is "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" which demands attaching importance to the people and serving them faithfully, and top and absolute priority is given to the demands and interests of the people in working out and applying whatever lines, policies and measures of the State.

All officials, bearing deep in mind the word *the people*, are devoting their all to doing things for the good of the people, and find their true worth of life in solving the people's problems.

*Yom Song Hui*

# Political Idea Manifest in Pyongyang General Hospital

PYONGYANG GENERAL HOSPITAL NOW under construction on the bank of the Taedong River in the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one of the most important projects in the country.

On March 17 this year Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un went to the construction site to announce the beginning of the project and break ground first to signal it.

In accordance with the joint resolution adopted by the April meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea the country took more thoroughgoing State emergency anti-epidemic measures to cope with the steady spread of the worldwide epidemic, and drastically adjusted or carried forward to next year some important construction projects planned to be done this year. But the construction of the hospital is still going ahead.

The country is putting in primary efforts for the project neither because it is short of hospitals nor because it wants to generate economic profits.

There are lots of preventive and curative medical care bases including Kim Man Yu Hospital, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences Hospital and Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and their number is steadily growing. In recent years alone there have been built and opened Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital and other special hospitals and Okryu Children's Hospital in the city.

The DPRK has got the universal free medical care system in force, and health care centres are all built and operated at the State expense.

Accordingly, the construction of the general hospital can be said to be a nonprofit undertaking for the State. It, however, will satisfy on a higher level the desire of the people who want to live in good health while getting the most advanced medical care. This is why the State attaches importance to the project.

The fact tells that the State regards it as more important than economic profit to protect the lives of the people and promote their health and that the relevant work is steadily pushed ahead with.

On March 9 the Venezuelan Internet homepage *El Club de Las Naciones*, in an article titled "Public Health Is Main Criterion for Socialist Image," wrote as follows:

One of the major reasons why the socialist public health care of Korea attracts the attention of the international community is that it is based on the preventive policy. The State regards it as a way to

protect and promote the health of the people to prevent diseases so well as to keep them from falling ill, and it invests a huge sum of money in preventing diseases and providing the people with hygienic living and working conditions. There are fine medical service centres in operation across the country. This is not because the country is better off than others but because the State regards the lives and health of the people as more precious than whatever on earth.

The State makes unsparing investment in education and the people's livelihood. Thanks to universal 12-year compulsory education all children learn free of charge until they reach the working age. Higher education and all other types of education including the online one for those on the job are also given gratis.

It also undertakes the building of educational and edification establishments for the rising generation. In recent years Pyongyang Teachers Training College was rebuilt in a modern way, and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace—a students' centre for afterschool activities—and the Songdowon International Children's Camp were spruced up.

The State assumes full responsibility for the people's housing; it invested a colossal sum of money in the construction of Mirae Scientists Street, Ryomyong Street and many dwelling houses in Samjiyon City, all of which were given to the people for nothing.

Such popular policies have been in force despite the rigorous circumstances in which the country has been exposed to the vicious, uninterrupted sanctions imposed by the hostile forces.

At present the DPRK is steadily increasing the expenditure for popular policies while directing a great effort to the State emergency anti-epidemic campaign to check the inflow of COVID-19 infection which is causing unheard-of calamity worldwide. The Third Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK held last April decided to increase the expenditure on education and public health by 5.1 and 7.4% respectively this year compared to that of last year. The enforcement of such popular policies is attributable to the invariable political idea of the Party and the State holding fast to the people-first principle.

Thanks to the idea of regarding the people as God and giving absolute priority to their requirement and interests, the construction of Pyongyang General Hospital is making headway despite the prevailing adverse conditions and circumstances.

*Yon Chung Hyok*

# Under Unfurled Banner of Juche

**E**TERNAL GENERAL Secretary Kim Jong Il of the Workers' Party of Korea gave top priority to the Korean way whereby the Korean people use their own brains in doing anything and do it with their own effort in keeping with their own actual conditions during his revolutionary leadership spanning scores of years.

In December Juche 67 (1978) he declared the slogan "Let us live our own way!" as a strategic one to be maintained by the WPK.

Regarding the term "our own way" he said in plain language as follows:

Our own way just means the Juche-oriented way and there is no other way better than it. We are not to abandon our own superior way or live others' way under others' coercion. We should wear clothes suited to ourselves. Only then will it be convenient to move and make us look fine. If we wear borrowed clothes instead of our own, it would feel uncomfortable and look awkward. We should live our own way in any condition. We should manage state affairs in our own way, develop the economy and culture in our own way, and

build up defence capabilities in our own way.

"Let us live our own way!" serves as the source of a powerful spiritual strength, the principle of activities and the mode of life in all the thinking and practice of the Korean people.

In the mid-1990s the allied forces of imperialism unprecedently intensified their moves to isolate and stifle socialism in Korea, availing themselves of the greatest loss of the Korean nation, that is, the demise of President Kim Il Sung on July 8, 1994. Their political and military provocations and pressure, and atrocious economic sanctions and embargo extremely aggravated the situation in the Korean peninsula, hindering the country's normal economic construction and landing it in severe economic difficulties. Moreover, the continuous natural calamities caused food shortage. As a result, the WPK and the Korean people were faced with the worst adversity, and the existence of each family and individual was threatened. This made them undergo the hard time dubbed as Arduous March.

In the grim period Chairman Kim Jong Il of the

DPRK National Defence Commission established the mode of Songun politics by which to set the People's Army as the main force of the revolution and the pillar of the country and, by relying on it, propel the overall cause of socialism. Thus he could safeguard the destiny of the country and nation.

Songun politics was the basic mode of socialist politics because it was recognized as an original mode of politics suited to the actual conditions of the country.

In the early 2000s the Chairman put forth the line of economic construction in the Songun era to accelerate the defence upbuilding and economic construction in their own way. He clarified the road of advancing socialism under the banner of the Juche idea by making public his classic works *Socialism of Our Country Is a Socialism of Our Style as the Embodiment of the Juche Idea* and *Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish*.

He also made sure that the Korean people pushed ahead with socialist economic construction in their own way.

The early 1980s witnessed the construction of the West Sea



Scenes from the Korean feature film *Star of Korea* and the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood* produced during the revolution in the art and literature.

► Barrage by the country. It was a gigantic project: They had to erect a dam across the 8-km-long rough sea where the difference between the high and low tides was enormous and whose water was scores of metres deep, along with several locks through which different vessels including 50 000-ton ones can pass, and dozens of sluices.

The Chairman proposed a Korean-style method of construction to carry out the project in a three dimensional and all-round way. From the outset a powerful building force conducted the project on the ground and the sea and under the water simultaneously, thus it was completed in a short span of five years by dint of the country's own design, technology and materials. As a result, it changed the Taedong River, which had discharged into the sea for thousands of years, into a large artificial lake, with the dam linking Nampho City and Unryul County, which had been separate from each other by the sea, and made it possible to solve fully the problems of irrigation, industrial and drinking water in the surrounding areas.

Kim Jong Il also saw to it that modern machines and equipment including a 10 000-ton press and a large oxygen plant were made by employing the country's own way, and wisely led the laying of a solid foundation of an independent national economy in all sectors of the national economy such as the metal and light industries and agriculture with the coun-

try's own equipment, materials and technology.

During the time of Arduous March and forced march in the 1990s Jagang Province was the first to undergo the Arduous March as it was in much more unfavourable conditions than others in all respects. Taking this into consideration, the Chairman set the province as the pilot in breaking through the prevailing difficulties and arousing the whole country to a grand march. He visited the province in order to acquaint himself with its actual conditions in detail and introduce its examples throughout the country.

From January 16-21, 1998 he looked round nearly 20 units in the province. While inspecting different kinds of medium- and small-size power stations the province had built by its own strength and technology and many factories and enterprises there, the Chairman named its fighting spirit Kanggye spirit to be emulated by the whole nation. Thus the Kanggye spirit spread to all sectors and units, making it possible for the country to successfully overcome the grim trials of the Arduous March.

The Chairman developed the Korean-style socialist culture. In the early 1970s he supervised the effort to make an opera by adapting the immortal classic masterpiece *The Sea of Blood* created by President Kim Il Sung when he was engaged in his anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At that time operas were all bound to European form or Changguk (traditional Korean musical opera). The Chairman set Korean-style creation as the main orientation in the production of a new opera, and saw to it that the orchestral music of opera was created with folk and famous songs as its main melody. He also led the creation of a new kind of stage art, that is, three dimensional stage art supported by a revolving stage. In particular, he saw to it that stanzaic songs and *pangchang* (off-stage chorus) were introduced in the opera.

Thus the revolutionary opera *The Sea of Blood* marked a significant turning point in creating a new style of opera, unfolding a new history of producing *The Sea of Blood*-style revolutionary operas. Besides the creation of opera, there was ushered in a great heyday of Juche-oriented art and literature suited to the Korean people's sentiments and emotion and their aesthetic requirements in all fields of art and literature such as drama, dance, fine arts and acrobatics.

Thanks to the revolutionary leadership of the Chairman who laid a firm foundation of independence during his guidance on the revolution and construction, the Korean people are vigorously pushing ahead with socialist construction with the confidence in their own strength and by dint of their own effort.

Ri Su Gyong



The West Sea Barrage.

## Writing Brush in Emblem of WPK

**T**HE HISTORY OF BUILD-  
ing up the Workers' Party of Korea as ruling party consists in that of expanding the ranks of the Party and consolidating it organizationally and ideologically. The primary task in this respect was to make it mass-based. A party is the vanguard of a certain class that struggles to realize the requirements and aspiration of the class. But if a party is built for the sake of a given class alone, it will not be able to perform its duty as a revolutionary party, and get support from the broad masses of the people.

Taking this into consideration, the WPK has made consistent efforts to build itself up as a mass party that represents the interests of all the people and embraces the progressive elements of the working people from all walks of life.

The emblem of the WPK, bearing a hammer, a sickle and a writing-brush, is a piece of eloquent proof.

Addressing a rally held in the then Moranbong Public Playground, Pyongyang, on October 14, 1945, in honour of his triumphal return to the homeland soon after Korea was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, Kim Il Sung, the founder of the WPK, said: The time has come when we Korean people have to unite our strength to build a new, democratic Korea. To contribute positively to the work of building the state, let those with strength give strength, let those with knowledge give knowledge, and let those with money give money.

His words reflected his will to put forward intellectuals, as

well as workers and peasants, as the main revolutionary force for the building of a new Korea, and as constituent of the Party.

The will of his was later fully expressed in deciding on the emblem of the Party. One day in late July 1946 he called an official to his office and told him that they needed to have the Koreans and all other people of the world have a correct understanding of what sort of party the Workers' Party to be founded was, and that a new emblem of the WPK should be decided on to that end. He asked to design the emblem of the Party well enough to express properly the characteristics of the Party that would develop into a mass party deep rooted in the working masses.

Several days later, while examining a design of the emblem, he said that it was wrong that it depicted only the workers and peasants without regard for the working intellectuals. Mentioning that neither the revolution nor the building of the country could be done without intellectuals, he said they needed intellectuals both in the struggle to do away with the old society and take power and in the building of a new society. He went on to say that only when the emblem of the Party was surely made to depict the workers, peasants and working intellectuals all together would it be able to symbolically show that it was a unified party of the working masses, and that the emblem of the Party had to be designed in such a way that it could symbolize the unity of peasants and working intellectuals centring on the working class, and the leading role of the class. In designing the emblem, he add-

ed, they had better put a hammer for the working class, a sickle for the peasants and a writing-brush in Korean style for the working intellectuals, instead of a pen.

On his advice the designers produced a new design. They, however, drew the emblem in the order of a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush, merely taking it into consideration that the order should be that of workers, peasants and intellectuals in terms of the relationship between the classes.

While examining the design Kim Il Sung said that in view of the composition and with a view to making it symbolize the firm unity and cohesion of the working masses including the workers, peasants and intellectuals, the handles of the hammer, the sickle and the writing brush should be crossed midway, with the hammer on the left, the sickle on the right and the writing brush in the centre, and that the writing brush should be surely placed in the centre, a little higher than the other symbols. He went on to say that drawing the writing brush on such a higher position reflected the meaning that in future all the workers and peasants, too, would have to attain a high level of knowledge and culture and do their best to contribute to the building of a prosperous and highly-civilized independent country.

The next day the leader examined the design revised by the designers. Saying that lines of distinction should be drawn to make the handles of the hammer, sickle and writing brush distinguishable from one another so that anyone could clearly know the order in which the

## Fundamental Question of Philosophy Raised by Juche Idea

**S**UPPOSING THE JUCHE Idea is a big building, we can say that its philosophical principle is the foundation. A spacious foundation is essential for building a large house and a properly-placed foundation is needed to erect a well-balanced house. And a strong foundation is prerequisite for a strong building. The Juche idea owes its recognition as the thinking of our age to the truthful and scientific character of its philosophical principle.

The Juche idea is the first to put forward the fundamental question of philosophy with the consideration of man at the centre, and elucidates the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything. What, then, does the Juche idea take as the fundamental question of philosophy?

The fundamental question of philosophy is the basic problem, which lies at the bottom of all the problems to be solved for the philosophy to fulfil its mission.

The basic mission of philosophy is to serve the aim of helping people to carve out their destiny. The human history began with

man's thinking and study of his destiny. Mankind has created and pushed forward their history through their groping and paving the way of carving out their destiny. All the spiritual and material wealth they have produced in the realms of science, technology, literature, arts and whatever else is the result of their activities to shape their destiny.

It is the same case with philosophy. Therefore, the fundamental question of philosophy should be the one of helping people to carve out their destiny.

What, then, does the question of man's destiny boils down to? It does to the one of relationship between man and the world, because man can shape his destiny only in the framework of the world since he is a component of the world.

People live in the world, to be more concrete, in nature and society. Wherever they are, they always keep relations with nature and society in order to maintain their existence, and for this reason their destiny is shaped in relation to nature and society. Therefore, in order to answer the question of human destiny it is essential to learn what kind of relation man keeps

with the world, what kind of position he has and what kind of role he plays in the world. Only then would it be possible to know if man could carve out his destiny by himself, and, if so, how he should think and act to the end.

After all, the question of man's destiny is condensed into the matter of the position he holds and the role he plays in the world. A syllogistic of this consideration suggests: what is essential about the fundamental question of philosophy is to clarify how to shape man's destiny. The question of man's destiny is just the one of the position he holds and the role he plays in the world. Accordingly, the fundamental question of philosophy boils down to that of the position man holds and the role he plays in the world.

The main reason why the Juche idea is the most accurate philosophical thought lies in that the idea has put forward a new fundamental question of philosophy with the emphasis put on the man's position and role in the world, that is, just on the consideration of man himself.

*Kim Son Myong*

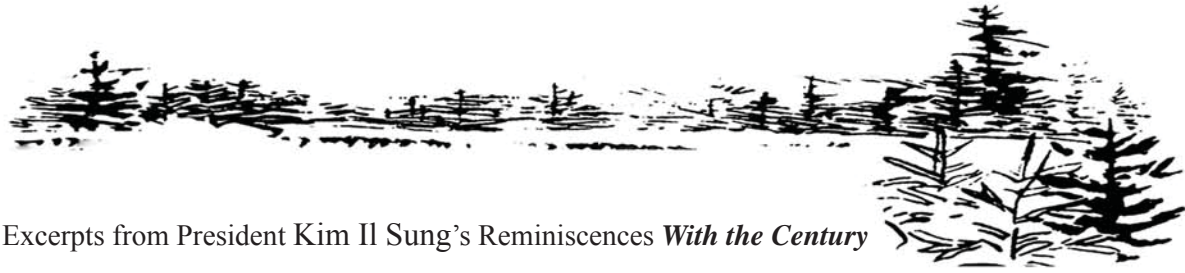
► symbols were placed, he took a pencil and drew a model design.

The emblem created like that has served as the shining symbol of the WPK, with the intellectuals in Korea regarded as part of the main revolutionary forces.

Thus Korean intellectuals contributed a large share to the endeavour to accomplish the socialist cause as the eternal companions, faithful helpers and good counselors of the Party not only during the building of

a new country but also during the grim Fatherland Liberation War, postwar reconstruction and socialist revolution. Their role is going on invariably at the moment.

*Ri Jong Nam*



Excerpts from President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

## The Boys Who Took Up Arms

**ONE** NOTEWORTHY effect the advance of the People's Revolutionary Army to the Mt. Paektu area had on the younger people was their fiery enthusiasm for enlisting in the guerrilla army. Each time the forests and valleys along the River Amnok echoed to the sound of gunshots, young people flocked to our secret camp in an endless stream hoping to join us.

As the volunteers increased, many interesting events took place.

Once we were visited by a dark-complexioned boy with bushy hair wearing wet trousers. He earnestly pleaded to be allowed to enlist in the guerrilla army, saying that he wanted revenge for his brother's death. The boy came from the village of Shangfengde. He said that his eldest brother, who was teaching at a night school for youths and children in his village, had been killed by the police, since it had been disclosed that he supplied the guerrillas with food, and that his second brother had joined my unit just before the battle at Pochonbo was fought. That was why he wished to join the revolutionary army. The name of the boy with bushy hair was Jon Mun Sop.

Joking, I said to him that the young people who came in dry

clothes were too numerous to enlist all at one time, so how could a playful fellow like him, who came in wet trousers, expect to be admitted. At this, he explained, saying his mother was to blame for it.

Jon Mun Sop had told his mother that he would leave with the guerrilla army unit, which had stopped over at Shangfengde village. His mother cut him short, declaring he was too young to be a guerrilla. When her son went off to sleep, she put his trousers into the washtub, thinking that if he had nothing to wear because his only trousers were in the tub, it would be impossible for him to follow the guerrilla army.

He was annoyed by this. His joining the revolutionary army had already won the approval of the Children's Association.

He had been prepared to run naked to Mt. Paektu if it meant he could become a soldier of the revolutionary army. Early in the morning he took his trousers out of the tub, hastily squeezed out the water and put them on. Seeing his determination, his mother finally consented to his joining the guerrilla army.

This shows what a fever to volunteer had swept the northern border areas of Korea around the area on the River Amnok and the vast regions of West Jiandao. As the case of Jon Mun Sop shows,

not only young people in their twenties or thirties were eager to join, but also teenagers.

At first the commanding officers in charge of recruitment would send these boys back home immediately, not even asking my opinion. Until then, none of the men and officers had ever thought that boys of fourteen or fifteen could fight, arms in hand.

Even Kim Phyong, who was fond of children, would shake his head whenever these boys came to us.

One summer's day in 1937, when our unit was bivouacking on the highland of Diyangxi, he came and asked me for advice, saying that about 20 kids, each shorter than a rifle, were plaguing him with requests to join and he did not know what to do with them. "I told them to come back when they were a little bigger, but they would not listen to me. In the end they started pressing me to let them see you, General.... They say they won't leave until they've seen you, General. They are as obstinate as mules."

I went to the boys and had a chat with them. I told them to sit down on a fallen log, then asked them, in turn, what their names were, how old they were, what their fathers did and where they came from. Each time I asked a question, the kid I was address-

ing would spring to his feet like a bouncing ball to answer the question. What was common in their behaviour was that they all tried to look as grown-up as possible. They had all lost parents, brothers or sisters, witnessing horrible scenes of their family members and relatives being killed in the enemy's "punitive" operations, and this was why they had resolved to take up arms: to avenge their deaths. Having this heart-to-heart talk with them, I felt that in their thinking they could match several wise men.

As the saying goes, children mature early in troubled times. All these boys saw was misfortune and their life was full of hardship. The children of Korea were all too familiar with the world, though young. Revolution moves and awakens people with great force and at great speed. There is profound truth to the words of the sage who likened revolution to a school that teaches the new.

The 20-odd boys who flocked to our bivouac hoping to become guerrillas were all miserable victims in one page of our nation's history, a page beset by vicissitudes. I was greatly moved by these little boys, who so passionately volunteered to shoulder the heavy duty of social transformation and take part in an armed struggle that was trying even for adults.

If I remember correctly, Ri Ul Sol and Kim Ik Hyon, Kim Chol Man and Jo Myong Son were among the boys I met that day. Though today they hold the positions of Vice-Marshal, General or Lieutenant General in the Korean People's Army, at that time they were little cubs who had to stand the test of whether or not they were capable of holding a

rifle.

"What has to be done with these children?" I thought.

I was at a loss as to what I should say to send them back home, these young hawks so ready to go through fire and water. Life in the revolutionary army was one that even robust young men at times found hard to take, becoming stragglers if they could not keep up the tireless training and constant self-discipline.

I tried to persuade the boys with the following words:

"I think it highly praiseworthy that you should be so determined to take up arms to avenge the enemy for the murder of your families. This is a manifestation of the love you have for your country. But it is very difficult for us to accept you as soldiers of the revolutionary army, because you are still so young. You have no idea what incredible hardships your brothers and sisters of the guerrilla army have to undergo. In the height of winter, the revolutionary army has to sleep on a carpet of snow in the mountains. Sometimes they have to march in the rain for days on end. When provisions run out, they have to ease their hunger with grass roots or tree bark steeped in water, or with just plain water. This is the life of the revolutionary army. It seems to me you could not stand such a tough life. What do you say you return home now and wait to grow a bit older before you become a soldier?"

Nevertheless, I was talking to deaf ears. The boys carried on as before, asking to join the guerrilla army and insisting that they were prepared to go through whatever hardships were necessary, that they would sleep in the snow, fight as the adults did and

so on.

Never before had I felt the need for a military school so keenly. How good it would be if we could afford to train all these eager boys and harden their bodies at a military school. Previously even the Independence Army had had cadet schools all over Manchuria. But this was before Manchuria was occupied by the Japanese imperialists. Manchuria in the late 1930s was trampled under the jackboots of the large Japanese imperialist armed force. Therefore, it was impossible for us to run military schools, as the Independence Army had done. I wondered whether something like a training centre could be opened in the secret camp, but that was not feasible. All "barometers" across the world were forecasting that the Japanese scoundrels would unleash another September 18 incident in the territory of China. To cope with this, we were preparing grand mobile operations. Enrolling the teenagers in our armed ranks at such a moment was as good as shouldering an extra pack just before an arduous march.

However, it was impossible to tell them to return home merely because of unfavourable conditions. Frankly speaking, I was attached to every one of these boys.

They had no less class consciousness than the adult folk. On that day they made a particularly deep impression on me when they said they would go hungry, just as their elders did.

In contrast to the so-called patriots—who harped continuously on their love for the country, but only in words—to the renegades of the revolution, and to the degenerates who lived to no purpose and talked idly of the ephemeral

► nature of human life, what noble and passionate patriots these boys were, refusing to go back home and stubbornly demanding admittance into the guerrilla army. The fact that they wanted to become guerrillas at such a tender age was an act worthy of a bouquet before a decision was reached as to whether or not they should be admitted.

I wanted to train these highly combative boys into fighters. It seemed to me that although it was impossible to send them to stand on the first line right now, they might become the reliable reserves within one or two years if I found the right way to train them. What a wonderful harvest we would have if all of them grew to be combatants equal to our veteran soldiers in the next year or two.

If the veteran guerrillas made a stout-hearted effort to train them, even if it meant they had to sleep or eat less, I was convinced the boys would become agile soldiers in a short span of time. I planned to form a company with the boys on the principle that when circumstances permitted we would train them at the secret camp, and when the unit was out on manoeuvres we would take them with us, teaching and training them in action. In other words, I intended to form a special company that performed the role of military school and military and political cadres' training course simultaneously, in combination with education through direct action. Determined to enlist the boys in our unit, I told them to write a pledge. If you really want to join the guerrilla army, I said, you must put down your pledge on the paper tonight. Why do you want to take up arms in

the revolutionary army? How will you live and fight after you have become a guerrilla? Jot all this down, and after reading your pledges, we will make a decision.

My words left Kim Phyong and most of the other commanding officers feeling uneasy. The many children we had brought with us from Maanshan were already a burden to us, they said; if these boys were added to them as well, the load would be just too heavy.

The following day I read the written pledges from the boys and found that their resolve was excellent. Some of the children who did not know how to write dictated their pledges to their friends, but I did not mind this. It was not their fault if they were incapable of scribbles because of a lack of schooling. I told them their written pledges were all excellent. At this, they all let out a cheer, dancing with joy. I called together the officers above the level of company political instructor at Headquarters and officially announced that as of now we were forming a Children's Company with Children's Corps members from Maanshan and those who had come to us in West Jiandao.

Even after the official announcement of the formation of the Children's Company, quite a few commanding officers continued to feel anxious about this step taken by Headquarters. They were apprehensive that these children might become a stumbling block to our activities, that we would be at a disadvantage because of them, and that these little kids could not face the trials even the grown-ups found it difficult to endure.

I formed the Children's Com-

pany by virtue of my authority as the Commander partly because I wished to gratify the children's desire as quickly as possible.

First, I was touched by the children's ardent desire to take part in the revolution and the burning hatred that drove them to want to avenge the murder of their parents, brothers and sisters. My meeting with them awakened me to the need for training reserves for the guerrilla army. I came to think that the formation of a special military organization of children might be an answer to this need.

Looking back on the path traversed by successive orderlies, such as Jo Wal Nam, Ri Song Rim, Choe Kum San, Kim ThaeK Man and Paek Hak Rim, who joined the guerrilla army at a similar age to the kids in the Children's Company, I was assured that the children of 14 to 17 were capable of pulling their own weight.

Soon after forming the Children's Company, I made sure that its members were dressed in military uniform and presented with weapons, mostly Model 38 carbines. I still get a feeling of satisfaction when I recall the boys in the company, who were beside themselves with joy at the new uniforms and weapons.

The company set about training the next day in the highlands of Diyangxi. I was having a strenuous time at that period, drawing up plans for coping with the Sino-Japanese War, but I managed to find time quite frequently to guide their training. I demonstrated various moves and actions and told them that they should drill the full-step march over and over again so as to get accustomed to army manoeuvres. ►

► I also instructed them to aim for the enemy's breast during target practice.

The whole unit helped and looked after the Children's Company as they did their own brothers. Each veteran soldier took care of one boy so that every member of the Children's Company had a reliable guide and friend.

The women guerrillas, too, showed great affection for and made efforts on behalf of the kids in the Children's Company, taking charge of two or three of them each. The women taught them everything they needed to know about the everyday life of a guerrilla—how to cook rice, make a bonfire, sew and mend clothing and cure blisters on the soles of their feet—starting with the best method of arranging things in their packs.

My greatest concern was given to developing the ideological education of the Children's Company. Whenever I had time to spare, I was their teacher. I began by teaching the illiterate among them to read and write. The boys were greatly interested in the biographies of renowned men, so I talked a lot about the lives of famous men. I also lectured on the history of Korea's downfall. Many of the Children's Company dreamed of carrying pistols and hand-grenades with them, as An Jung Gun, Yun Pong Gil and Ri Pong Chang had done, to kill the emperor of Japan or the governor-general of Korea. I explained to them that independence was best achieved through nationwide resistance centred on armed struggle, not by individual acts of terrorism. Tireless efforts were needed to infuse these children with our revolutionary line.

Under the kind assistance and concern of the veteran guerrillas, our Children's Company rapidly grew up. They began to clamour for participation in battle, side by side with the veteran guerrillas. It was the battle of Xinfangzi that baptized the Children's Company. From this battle on they went through innumerable engagements with the enemy, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the veterans. Many things happened in the course of these battles.

In spite of the hundreds of precautions we had given them, these little guerrillas did unexpected things—things that went beyond the imagination of the grown-ups once a battle had started, things that left us breathless or made us double over with laughter. The boys, cool and collected at ordinary times, were gripped by feverish excitement as soon as the battle started, sometimes doing crazy things in their flurry. One boy was yanked down by the collar by a veteran soldier and fell on his buttocks: he had started blasting away with his gun while keeping his upper body exposed because he thought it was just too much of a nuisance to take cover.

Another boy had gone without a cap for some time because his brand-new cap had burned up in the campfire. From then on he concentrated so intently on the thought of a cap, that in an encounter with an enemy soldier his first move was an attempt to grab the man's cap before shooting him down. Because of this he very nearly lost his life. Another boy, who saw a roe deer while on sentry duty, was seized with an irresistible impulse to shoot it, which resulted in an emergency call for the entire unit.

Throughout the years of arduous war, the Children's Company members distinguished themselves in many battles. The unusual circumstances of life in the guerrilla army prompted them to display the kind of sharp intelligence and courage that was rare in ordinary life.

During the entire period of the anti-Japanese war the young men from the Children's Company fought as courageously as the veterans, despite their tender age and physical shortcomings, making heroic contributions to the armed struggle. The Japanese army and police had a standard warning for their men: Don't talk to guerrillas trained in the Children's Company. In other words, better avoid fighting with them.

Let me give Kim Song Guk as an example. He became a boy guerrilla with the help of Kim Il.

As he had faced many unusual hardships from childhood on, Kim Song Guk was quick to learn. In addition, because he was bold and aggressive, he mastered marksmanship and learned the guerrilla code of conduct quickly. In a few months, he was picked out as assistant to machine-gunner O Paek Ryong. Kim Il always looked upon him with profound affection.

During one very cold winter, while we were operating near the River Songhua, Kim Song Guk was out on a blocking mission for some time. One day he was warming his foot over the campfire and, as he felt the sole to be too hot, he pulled off his shoes.

Unfortunately, just at that moment the blocking party was attacked by the enemy. To make matters worse, the machine-gunner O Paek Ryong was not ►

► there. Ordered by the commanding officer, Kim Song Guk hastily set up the machine-gun on the ice of the Songhua and opened fire at the enemy. He was completely oblivious of the fact that he was fighting barefoot.

While he was engrossed in shooting, he felt somebody pulling his foot back.

He looked behind him angrily, to see Kim Il wrapping his foot in a torn piece of underwear. Only then did he realize that he had rushed into the battlefield with no shoes on. After the enemy was beaten back, Kim Il reproached him, saying: "Don't make such a spectacle of yourself! Do you want to have your foot amputated?"

After finishing the battle, Kim Il came and told me that he had seen Kim Song Guk running over the ice of the River Songhua, the machine-gun on his shoulder. Each time he lifted his bare foot from the ice there came the sound of tearing skin. Of course, Kim Song Guk was no ordinary fellow, machine-gunning barefoot on the ice in the biting cold as he did. Nevertheless, Kim Il, too, was an uncommon person in that he followed the little machine-gunner through the hail of bullets and swathed his foot with pieces of cloth torn from his underwear. If Kim Il had not done that, Kim Song Guk would have ended up with seriously frostbitten feet and become a wingless bird.

Later, Kim Il and I stood surety for him when he was admitted to the Communist Party.

The young guerrillas who took up arms at a tender age without belonging to the Children's Company, also made an important contribution to our victory in the anti-Japanese war.

One of the young guerrillas who trekked many steep mountains shoulder to shoulder with us in the anti-Japanese revolution, was Thae Pyong Ryol, who came to the Mihunzhen Secret Camp in the spring of 1936 at the head of a women's platoon. He told me that he had joined the KPRA and taken up arms at the age of 15 or 16.

He was nicknamed "Chili". It meant that though short and of small size, he was mature in his heart. He fought audaciously and lived a well-regulated life. After joining the anti-Japanese guerrillas he took part in the battles at Miaoling, Jinchang, Jiansanfeng, Mujihe, Dapuzaihe, Dashahe-Dajianggang, Emu county town and in other battles, and performed as well as any veteran. He became a perfect marksman in the course of performing these military services.

In half a year all the boys in the Children's Company grew into soldiers indistinguishable from the veterans. They made truly marvellous progress.

Toward the close of 1937, when they had all become full-fledged soldiers, we disbanded the Children's Company and spread its members out to other companies. This way they were transferred from the reserves to active army units.

Not a single renegade or laggard appeared among the guerrillas who had been trained in the Children's Company. This proves how loyal they were to the Party and the revolution, the country and the people. Even in the trying days before national liberation, when fascism was going through its struggle to the death in the East and the West, they all faithfully carried out the small-unit

activities under my command. In the years of building a new Korea it was they who, as division commanders or regimental commanders, built the armed forces of the country hand in hand with the revolutionary elders and crushed the US generals and tanks in the "punch-bowl".

Kang Kon, the first Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army, joined the revolutionary army at the age of 16. He was 30 when he was appointed Chief of General Staff. At the end of 1948 he paid a visit to the Soviet Union. The high-ranking military cadres of the host country, mostly generals and marshals, who were present at the airport to meet him, were really surprised to see that the Chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army was such a young man.

When Kang Kon told me of this after his return home, I remarked with a smile:

"If I had been there I would have told them that you were already a renowned soldier in your childhood."

Since the days of the Children's Company I have come to think that a man's physical age does not coincide with his mental age. Of the two age categories I place more emphasis on the latter. One's mental age in youth or in childhood may leap forward by two, three or even five years in one year.

The education of young people is one truly essential factor in the shaping of a country's future. As shown by the experiences of the Children's Company, the earlier, the more carefully the successors of a revolution, the reserves, are prepared, the better it is for the future of the country. □

# Factory with Many Inventors

## Creative manager

**H**ONG HYON GIL, MANAGER of the Pothonggang Organic Compound Fertilizer Factory, is known as a creative man. The workers comment that when he is in deep thought, something new will come into being. What catches your eye first before entering the compound of the factory is a cylindrical chimney scores of metres in height. It came into being thanks to the manager's idea.

It happened soon after the inauguration of the factory. While looking around the factory, Hong

noticed that fine dust was flying in the air in the compound. In the course of examining all equipment of the factory he came to know that the dust originated from the very low chimney of the dust collecting apparatus attached to a raw materials mixer. The chimney, set up during the building of the factory in order to prevent such phenomenon, was failing to collect fine dust.

He thought and thought, and finally conceived a bold idea of erecting a conical chimney on the existing one, and put it into practice. Thus it became possible to ensure clean air in the factory



Hong Hyon Gil.

compound.

Besides, he has invented a dozen kinds of new equipment such as an automatic packing machine and a loading conveyor belt.

## Giving priority to profit



Ri Yong Chol.

Ri Yong Chol is a senior engineer of the factory. He does everything on the principle of ensuring profit.

What he did first after he began to work at the factory was the rational arrangement of production processes. While looking around workshops he came to know that the production processes were in an unfavourable order. This caused a considerable waste of manpower and space, and hindered the improvement of labour efficiency. Now he researched to rearrange the equipment in keeping with the trend in the economic development and according to the production processes while having collective discussions with workers. And he also pushed ahead with the work of modernizing equip-

ment to suit the rearrangement of the production processes, and developing a program for the establishment of an integrated production system.

As a result, the production equipment was rearranged rationally, and a raw material pulverizer, a sorter, a moulding machine and so on were transformed to suit the actual conditions of the factory.

Workers of the factory say this made it possible to save manpower and power by 50% and 60% respectively compared with the previous days, and that the production of the fertilizer nearly doubled.

## Master of invention



Pak Yong Su.

Pak Yong Su, operator of a raw material-filling machine, attends Kim Chaek University of Technology online. On the basis of what he learned from the university he has invented valuable things, thus being known as a master of invention in the factory. A bucket lift installed in the factory is an invention of his. Previously, two conveyor belts dozens of metres in length carried raw materials into the raw material-filling machine. While operating the machine, Yong Su

thought that if the raw materials were conveyed vertically, it might save the space. So he, with the positive help of the university's teachers, made the bucket lift which proved successful during a test run. Other equipment was installed on the site that had been occupied by the conveyors.

Later, he invented a product loading machine and different jigs, making a contribution to the increase of the fertilizer production and the modernization of production processes.

Sim Chol Yong

# Taedonggang Furniture Factory

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 70<sup>th</sup> FOUNDING anniversary of the Taedonggang Furniture Factory in Pyongyang. As a furniture and fittings producer it has contributed to the improvement of the people's material and cultural life.

In the 1970s, when Ragwon Street was under construction in the city, the factory was tasked with producing the furniture for the apartment houses built in the new street. It waged a mass-based technical innovation campaign to produce quality furniture for the convenience of the people. This brought about innovation in the production of furniture. The furniture of the new houses were to the liking of their residents, and would become the first topic of their talk about their houses.

Besides household furniture the factory started to produce those for public establishments and service facilities in the 1990s. Products from the factory could be seen in the Okryu Restaurant famous for the Pyongyang cold noodles, the Chongnyu Restaurant, the Pyongyang Condiments Factory, the Central Mushroom Institute, the Mansudae Art Studio, hotels and other units

all over the country.

Furniture and fittings from the factory did not get deformed in humidity, were durable even after a long time and looked fine, thus being known as high quality products, and the demand for them increased day after day.

With the development of the times its production processes have been put on a modern and scientific footing by the introduction of CNC technology into the wood processing equipment and furniture decorating process, the introduction of a 3D designing-support program and the computerization of production and business management.

Meanwhile, it often holds a technical innovation and invention exhibition and a designing prize contest that involve all its technicians and workers. This makes it possible to introduce new ideas of technical innovations and designs, the fruit of the masses' creative wisdom, and train competent designers and skilled hands.

The furniture designs that combined utility and beauty proportionately came within the top three places at a national industrial art exhibition, and

▶ the furniture based on the designs such as a dressing table and wardrobe were put on the list of February 2 Product. *A New Method of Improving Quality of Furniture Painting* was highly evaluated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Sci-Tech Festival as it was conducive to the development of the painting industry. Besides, the natural painting materials-based products from the factory were rated as excellent at the Pyongyang International Green Building Material and Furniture Exhibition.

Now the factory produces over 240 kinds of furniture, and the number is on the steady increase.

The Taedonggang Furniture Exhibition House in Sochang-dong, Central District, Pyongyang, has on display the factory's furniture and fittings. It also offers services on order.

The house is frequented by many people, and their opinions are valuable hints for making new products.

The users of the goods say, "The Taedonggang furniture is light and durable. They have little change despite the passage of time."

Although plastic furniture is now in vogue, the traditional wooden furniture from the factory is still popular.

Rim Ok

# Wonderful Medicinal Efficacy

THE YANGDOK HOT SPRING comprehensively contains elements appropriate for natural medical treatment, and the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort boasts geographical characteristics and natural environment good for having a bath in hot spring.

*Tonggukyojisungnam (Handbook of Korean Geography* compiled in 1481) has a record that there are three hot springs 8km north of Yangdok County, Phyongan Province and that the springs are quite hot.

Situated in a mountain region of a low elevation, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort is the most ideal place for natural treatment as it is shaded by pine trees in a valley.

The spring water evenly contains different ingredients necessary for acceleration of metabolism. It is rich in sulphur and contains an extremely small amount of radon. The hot spring is mainly composed of metasilicate, sulphur and fluorine. Being mildly alkaline, it is high in pharmacological action and therapeutic efficacy. It contains no ammonium, nitrous acid and ion nitrate, which are pollution assessment indices, and no pathogenic microorganism.

The hot spring is especially good for the treatment of eczema, neurodermatitis, psoriasis, arthritis, muscular and bone diseases and neuralgia; it acts as antibacterial and anticancer agent, facilitates blood circulation and accelerates absorption and excretion of inflammatory wastes.

If rheumatic polyarthritis patients get hot spring treatment, it increases the gluco-steroid hormone concentration in blood. And the treatment cures the ovarian dysfunction, normalizes and adjusts all physiological functions of the body and acts as a strong antidote. It also prevents calcium from leaving bones, thus strengthening them and preventing osteoporosis. It accelerates the growth of the body and prevents arteriosclerosis.

If a diabetic takes a tepid bath in the spring water or drinks the water, it promotes insulin secretion, thus reducing blood sugar.

Taking a bath in the spring water normalizes the function of the autonomic nerve, and raises the anagenetic ability. It also quickens the regeneration of injured nerves, and markedly shortens the process of coalition of fractured bones.

Yom Song Hui



# Through Indefatigable Efforts

**T**HE BIOLOGICAL BRANCH of the State Academy of Sciences has developed the newflin broad-spectrum antiviral injection which is very effective in treating different kinds of viral diseases. The injection has been verified to be much better than other kinds of similar medicines developed earlier. With its therapeutic effect assured in clinical examinations as well, the injection was given a DPRK patent.

The developer of the injection is Kim Won Thae, 60, researcher of the academy. In 1992 he developed  $\beta$ -cyclodextrine penicillin solution, doubling the therapeutic efficacy of penicillin. In 2003 he developed multifunctional antioxidant health drink EM-X which is especially efficacious in retarding aging—it earned him a DPRK patent.

It was in 2008 that he buckled down to the research in an-

tiviral medicine. At that time many people in the world were suffering from viral diseases such as novel avian flu and AIDS. There were a lot of antibiotics but the lack of antiviral drugs caused troubles in treatment. Furthermore, the viruses became resistant to those medicines, decreasing the effect of virus treatment.

Now Kim was obsessed with the idea how to develop a medicine which would allow no resistance. He knew he could not feel at ease as there were no such kinds of diseases in his country. This is why he started the research. He set an innovative goal of developing the medicine by a new method of his own, not by relying on the worldwide-acknowledged one. Thus, in less than a year, he developed an antiviral drug which was highly efficacious in the treat-

ment of influenza and hepatitis. Its effect became conspicuous in 2009 when it was used against sweeping flu.

Not content with the success he energetically worked on other kinds of antiviral agents. In the course of this he succeeded in developing a strong broad-spectrum antibiotic substance, and confirmed a rational ratio of mixture of various microelements, thus making a completely different broad-spectrum antiviral injection. The injection was highly rated for its being capable of removing viruses at the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> seminars of the National Hepatological Society. There are opinions that it might be efficacious in the treatment of COVID-19 infection as it has a very strong capability to remove various kinds of viruses.

The researcher also developed a new medicine capable of curing hepatitis.

People's desire for a long and happy life is growing along with the rapid development of modern science. To this end he is redoubling his effort to develop antiviral medicines conducive to the improvement of their health.

*Pak Yong Il*



**Kim Won Thae**  
(first left).

**The newflin broad-spectrum antiviral injection.**



# Teaching Aids Researchers

**T**HE SCI-TECH EXHIBITION Hall of Kim Chol Ju University of Education has on display experimental apparatuses and teaching aids developed by teachers, researchers and students of the university. Many of them are credited to researchers of the High-tech Product Development Institute established merely five years ago.

Jong Se Yong, head of the institute, says, "Most of my researchers are in their twenties and thirties, but the experimental apparatuses and teaching aids they developed are in wide use at many educational institutions including my university. A meteorological information measuring device we developed for the educational purpose won the first prize at the 10<sup>th</sup> national exhibition of sci-tech achievements of universities."

The device, which was made by Kim Hyang Song, chief of the development laboratory, and other researchers, can measure the wind speed and direction and precipitation by using supersonic technology, and receive promptly and exactly the information from the spot of measurement by means of radio communications. The high-tech



**Efforts are made to develop educational equipment and teaching aids.**

equipment can help students have a correct understanding of hydrometeorology, so it is popular with teachers of junior and senior middle schools.

A multifunctional teaching table developed by the researchers is also widely introduced in the educational sector. It consists of various electronic devices, an amplifier with a wireless microphone, and a wireless computer-supported remote control device with a laser pointer. Thus it enables teachers to teach different subjects in a classroom.

Recently they have developed scores of kinds of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids, including a 3D image virtual display and a remote-controlled

network selector which are both helpful for teaching in a multifunctional classroom; a hyperbolic path demonstration device; a demonstration device showing the force acting on a moving body; and a cycloid demonstration device showing the property of brachistochrone.

The inventions received certificates of the Good IT Product of the DPRK, and those of invention, new idea and introduction respectively.

Modern equipment for education and teaching aids they develop with strenuous efforts help improve steadily teachers' teaching ability and students' creative power.

*Sim Chol Yong*







Kim Rye Sun consults her doctor.

## TAKING SPECTACLES OFF AFTER 52 YEARS

**T**OKCHON CITY PEOPLE'S Hospital No. 2 is situated in downtown Tokchon in northern South Phyongan Province, and the hospital boasts a doctor who has a knack for curing congenital myopia. Today those cases not only in the province but also from across the country come to the hospital to see the doctor. He is Kim Jong Chol, head of the ophthalmic department.

Some time ago I went to meet him for news coverage. In the ophthalmic treatment room I saw a dozen patients waiting for their turn.

When I told Kim about the purpose of my visit, he, with a perplexed look, said that he could not make time as he had many patients to treat. Then he excused himself, saying I had better meet Kim Rye Sun, a woman from Yangji-dong, Phyongsong. So I decided to see her first. It was when Rye Sun was seven that she began to wear glasses because of her congenital myopia. At that time her visual acuity was -12 Dpt. With the passage of time her eyesight gradually became poorer. By the time she was 40 the visual acu-

ity of her right eye had been -30 Dpt, and that of the left eye -14 Dpt. Now she could hardly discern things 10 cm away from her eyes even with the glasses on. She visited different hospitals in the country and took all the medicines that were said to be efficacious for the treatment, but in vain.

One day in June last year she heard about Kim Jong Chol, and she decided to have an operation on her right eye first because different medical institutes had concluded that she would lose the sight of her right eye before

long. She had no other choice but to have an operation. Thus she had an artificial lens insertion operation on the eye, and recovered a week later.

In retrospect she said, "The moment the eye patch was taken off my right eye, I could gradually see vividly the bright light, beautiful world, figures in a wall clock, and dates and days on a calendar without the help of glasses. It was the happiest day in my life."

A month later she had the same operation on the other eye, and now she did not need to wear the glasses. At last her visual acuity was restored to 0.8 D after 52 years.

"The result of the checkup of my eyes today is also good," she said and added, "I have always said the socialist free medical care system is good, but I have never keenly felt its benefit like now. It has restored my eyesight."

According to her, the doctor has cured over 50 congenital myopia cases, and those with other eye diseases including glaucoma



Kim Jong Chol.

and cataract.

When it was almost lunch time I could meet the department head again.

He apologetically said, "My job is always like this, but I can say it is worth doing. As you know

the old saying goes that when the price of a man is 1 000 nyang (an old Korean monetary unit), that of his eyes is 800 nyang."

Article by Kim Hyon Ju  
Photos by Ra Phyong Ryol



Kim (left) wears glasses no longer.

-14.5 Dpt at the age of 18.



-20 Dpt at the age of 20.



-25 Dpt at the age of 23.



## To Cure Obstinate Disease



A therapy of an obstinate disease is under discussion.

**N**OW THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUFFERING from rheumatism is on the increase across the world. According to data less than 17% of patients were rheumatic cases in 1990, but the percentage increased to 18-25 in 2005.

Researchers of the Rheumatism Laboratory, the Clinical Institute, Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, are solving many problems in rheumatism research. Head Ri Myong Hak, Dr Ri Po Hum and researchers Ri Yong Jin and Kim Paek Hwa of the laboratory noticed that there had not been established a correct method of diagnosing the disease in its early stage, and made detailed survey of the records of the relevant cases and examined them. Building on this, they found

### Hamhung Fortress

**T**HE HAMHUNG FORTRESS SITUATED ON Mt Tonghung in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, dates back to the period of the Koryo dynasty (918-1392). The fortress encompasses the mountain and plain areas with Mt Tonghung for a background. As one of the nine forts that came into being after Koryo reclaimed the northern part of Korea, it was built in 1108. At that time it was called Hamju Fortress. It was rectangular north to south, and the walls in the mountain section were single and those in the plain area double.

The gates of the fort were set up in appropriate positions in consideration of their topographical

and traffic conditions. They were called Phaedongmun (east gate), Phungsomun (west gate), Jinnamun (south gate) and Jinbukmun (north gate) respectively with a tower on each of them. Inside the fort were barracks, arsenals and food depots. And on the highest place there was Pukjangdae (northern commanding post) overlooking the inside and outside of the fort. At the post there was the Puk-sang Pavilion, but now on the site of the pavilion there stands the Kuchon Pavilion which was rebuilt in 1713.

The fortress served as an important stronghold in fighting against foreign invaders during the Koryo dynasty and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

out new diagnosis indexes and detailed them, thus inventing a method of diagnosing gonarthrosis in its early stage without using diagnosing appliances or experiments. In the course of this they made clear that if gonarthrosis becomes chronic, it might cause different complications. They also confirmed that if regimens according to different forms of the disease are followed properly, it might help check and retard abrasion of articular cartilage, the cause of the disease. Meanwhile, the laboratory wrote the books *Research on Non-medicinal Therapy of Gonarthrosis*, *Rheumatology*, *Research on Shoulder Joint Illness*, and *Diagnosis and Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Its Early Stage*.

Their research findings are drawing the attention of the global medical circles. Ri Yong Jin's treatise *Symptoms and Signs of Significance in Diagnosing Gonarthrosis* made public on the January 2017 issue of a Chinese medical magazine created an international sensation. Not long afterward he was invited to an international academic seminar held in the UK in the presence of medical scientists of authority.

Ri Myong Hak says, "Our success is only the first step. We will continuously push ahead with the research to completely eradicate the disease which inflicts sufferings on people and threatens their lives."

Sim Chol Yong

and traffic conditions. They were called Phaedongmun (east gate), Phungsomun (west gate), Jinnamun (south gate) and Jinbukmun (north gate) respectively with a tower on each of them. Inside the fort were barracks, arsenals and food depots. And on the highest place there was Pukjangdae (northern commanding post) overlooking the inside and outside of the fort. At the post there was the Puk-sang Pavilion, but now on the site of the pavilion there stands the Kuchon Pavilion which was rebuilt in 1713.

The fortress served as an important stronghold in fighting against foreign invaders during the Koryo dynasty and the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910).

Kim Tae Song

## Challenging for Victory

**T**HE FEMALE CONTORTION duo of Korea is recognized as a strong one in the acrobatic gymnastics circle of Asia. They are the acrobats from the Sports Club of the DPRK Ministry of Commerce.

They took first place for the first time at the Eighth Asian Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships held in 2013. The competition was attended by many experienced gymnasts from Asia. Many of them had won the same event at other international competitions.

The Korean gymnasts were comparatively greenhorns who had never attended such an international competition. They, however, performed difficult movements—a series of tossing and catching for three somersaults and a non-stopping standing on one hand—wonderfully. The spectators were impressed

by their rhythmic and attractive performance done to a soft tune. Thus, they won first place at the championships.

Seeing the girls who were full of joy at their win, their coach said, "Your success doesn't surely lead to the next one. There are many strong rivals dreaming to win in the world. We must challenge them."

Later, they created new difficult movements and redoubled their efforts to perfect them for the next competition.

But the duo was faced with an unexpected problem: For some reason the equilibrist became unable to exercise several months before the competition. And it was a risk to replace her with another at the time.

At this juncture, a girl in the junior group volunteered to substitute for the equilibrist. Recollecting that time she said that

she did not know what made her do so and that she had only thought that she also should do something for the sake of the country.

With such a laudable thought the new equilibrist and the support trained hard and mastered such difficult movements as the former's landing on the shoulder of the support after pirouetting in the air. The stunts enabled them to take first place again at the next championships by beating their strong rivals.

After two consecutive victories, they invented such new stunts as the support's catching the equilibrist after the latter performs a 360° backward somersault with the back straightened and the latter's 900° backward pirouette before holding the support's waist between her legs and doing two consecutive backward somersaults. Others



# I'll Remain a Winner

(9)

Kang Ho Jin

LEFT ALONE, SUN HUI Lhuffed and puffed at the coach's demand, and arrogantly approached a judoist doll in the corner. She plucked the doll with her strong hands, and dashed it onto the floor over her shoulder. She did it again and again, shouting inwardly, "All right! I'll do it two thousand times, not two hundred times as he has asked, and I know I'll no longer let the coach decry my movement."

From her childhood Sun Hui most disliked being scolded whether it was right or wrong, and would feel repulsive.

It took her two hours to do the relevant movements each four hundred times instead of two hundred times. Now she was all in a sweat.

Utterly exhausted, Sun Hui collapsed down beside the doll, when she was surprised to hear the coach's voice from behind her.

"How do you like the movements? Are you confident you can do them with ease now?" asked the coach.

Looking back, Sun Hui found him watching her with his arms folded. Jumping to her feet, Sun Hui, stony-faced, simply replied,

"Yes."

The coach asked again, "Do you mean you can employ the movements skilfully in competition, too?"

Sun Hui said yes.

The coach, however, shook his head and asked, "Do you know what your demerit is, Sun Hui?"

Sun Hui felt confused.

"It is that you fail to control yourself," said the coach.

The girl could not understand him.

Then the coach explained, "If you want to defeat your rival and become a world star, you should control yourself first. Don't be enslaved by your feelings. Your characteristic demerit is that you think too much of yourself affected by a useless sense of pride. Do you think you're a judoist with the perfect spirit and techniques because you're a People's Athlete who won Olympic and Asian championships?"

Instantly Sun Hui's face flushed red.

"Mr Coach, I'm afraid I'm mistaken," she said and compressed her lips.

From then on Sun Hui's effort became more strenuous.



Thus she won the women's 57kg-category event of the Grand Prize International Judo Masters held in Germany in the run-up to the 2001 World Judo Championships.

One day, a month before the World Judo Championships, Sun Hui suddenly fell down on the floor of the training hall doubled up with a pain in the abdomen. She was diagnosed with appendicitis, and she had to get an immediate operation. But after a heated discussion, the doctors decided to let her survive the acute stage of the disease by employing a treatment with needles and moxibustion as required by the girl.

The World Judo Championships took place in Munich, Germany, in July Juche 90 (2001). It was Sun Hui's second visit to the city that year.

She took part in a women's 52kg-category judo event of the championships. She won con-

secutive victories, beating her British, Romanian and French rivals. And she had a semifinal match with Japanese rival Yokosawa who was known to have a feat of winning with ippon. As soon as the match started the Japanese began to employ speedy fakes and technical movements in an attempt to take the initiative and the lead. Grasping her tactical intention, Sun Hui held her down from the moment of gripping and attacked her mercilessly. While watching for an opportunity, she scored two jukos by means of movements of throwing, thus winning the match.

In the final Sun Hui had to fight with a German rival who had rich experience in international competition and good records. This time, too, she defeated the rival by waza-ari (half a point). Thus she won all the five matches, gaining the world championship she had sought so eagerly.

Standing on the dais of honour Sun Hui was full of unbounded joy and happiness. But getting off the platform, she knew she had to start again now. *This is merely the beginning, she thought. To keep winning the world championship I have to train harder overcoming much more ordeals. What kind of training shall I do? And how? What kind of technical movement should I practise anew in order to make the better use of my forte? What kind of rivals will face me in the next championships?*

Sun Hui was already thinking of the next world championships. She was determined to make much more efforts for a greater victory without being content with the victory of that day.

Then she got on the mat with

a new goal and hope.

...

Before Sun Hui could know, it was high time to finish the day's training. Her charges different in age and stature stood in two rows before her. Now it was customary for the girls to sing *Patriotic Song* when the coach declared the end of the day's training.

*When will they be able to win a gold medal in an international competition and sing the song proudly?* Sun Hui thought, seeing the girls singing the song energetically, with trust and expectation in her eyes.

### 3. Her Desire

"Today is Sunday. Why don't you have a day off?" Sun Hui's husband Kim Chol said casually, while reading a sports technology magazine in an armchair.

Sun Hui, folding up her training wear to put into her bag, turned her head to look at him.

The man of big build always wore a smile on his bright manly face, impressing people favourably at the first sight. He was a senior women's judo coach of the Rimyongsu Sports Club. He had just come back home the day before from the field training of his charges to prepare for the national championships. And Sun Hui had always stayed in the training hall. Now they were together after a month when they had had a talk merely on the phone. This was commonplace in their life, and they even considered it normal. Now, however, Sun Hui found herself hesitating for a while at his advice.

In fact Sun Hui, too, wanted to have a good day together with her husband for the first time after a long time. Yet she knew her charges were still not well prepared for the coming champi-

onships.

When Sun Hui had been appointed judo coach of the Moranbong Sports Club, she had found something mortifying. It was that whenever there had taken place domestic competitions such as the national championships and the technical innovation competition, women judoists of other sports clubs had been seldom afraid of those of her sports club. A women's judo coach of a certain sports club had gone so far as to say that his charges did not warm up for the match when they knew their rivals were from her sports club.

Angry about this experience, Sun Hui had made up her mind to train her charges into matchless judoists without fail.

Even her husband was her rival, so the man and wife often had to face each other with their own charges. And when there was coming a match, they both secretly tried to get information on the tactics, competition modes and fortes of each other's charges.

Kim Chol usually hated talking about work at home. He liked staying in a family atmosphere.

Sun Hui, too, wanted to be an ordinary wife at home, so she, if possible, would avoid talking about work with her husband.

"I have to go because my charges are waiting for me in the training hall. I'll come back early in the evening," Sun Hui promised in an apologetic tone.

While casting an affectionate glance over to her, Kim grinned and shook his head.

"All right. In fact I also have to go to work. But I was sorry to tell you. Now let's go together," he proposed.

After a while the man and wife left home together.

(To be continued)

tory, the girls said, "We trained against our physical limitation while striving to improve the already completed stunts. In the future we'll make efforts to break the new record."

Sim Chol Yong

worried that the duo might fail to perform those stunts. But they simulated the movements scientifically proving that they could perform them.

Thanks to such tireless efforts the duo became the power-

ful one that could not be ignored in all competitions, and won another round of the aforesaid championships for the fourth time.

When asked of the secret of their fourth consecutive vic-

## Two Decades with *Paduk*

**P**ADUK (GO) IS AN interesting traditional sport of Korea. The moves of *paduk* are profound, diverse and complicated, and it is widely encouraged among the people. One of them is Ri Se Chung, 64, a resident of Neighbourhood Unit No. 19, Ryugyong-dong No. 1, Pothonggang District, Pyongyang.

He began to play *paduk* 25 years ago, and now he is a member of the Korea *Paduk*

is almost a daily routine for my family to play *paduk* in the evening. As the eldest daughter-in-law and I have become umpires, all the family members are engaged in the game. My home is like a *paduk* house as a whole.”

Last year Ri, together with his eldest son, took part in the Pyongyang inter-district *paduk* contest, and his high skills drew the attention of the public.



Ri Se Chung (centre) oversees a *paduk* match of his grandchildren.

Association. He has participated in the national amateur *paduk* players' contest every year and ranked among the top three winners. His two sons and two grandsons of his are also amateur *paduk* players. Whenever all of his family gather in his home in the evening, they have *paduk* matches. Jo Yong Hui, the man's wife, says, "It

In 2000 he began to work as director of the Pyongyang Municipal *Paduk* House. He has since disseminated the sport to educational institutions including the Kyogu Kindergarten in Central District and Hadang Kindergarten No. 1 in Hyongjesan District as well as to the visitors to the *paduk* house in a planned way.

Among his 200-odd disciples are Ryu Rim and Jang Ryo Gyong, *paduk* players of the Korean Taekwon-Do Committee. They are among the best *paduk* players in the country, and fully displayed their ability in an international competition.

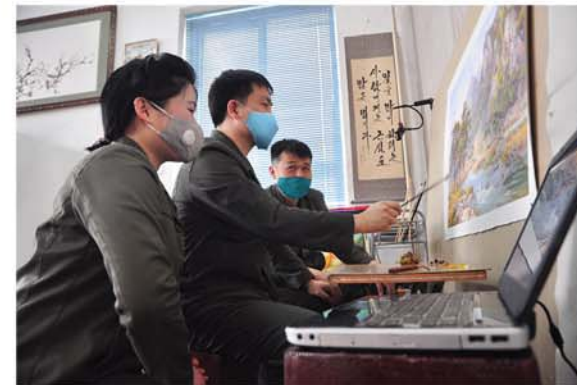
Many of his disciples have become *paduk* players or coaches superior in ability to their old instructor, teaching the rising generations.

Not resting on his laurels Ri has contributed over 20 articles relating to *paduk* to *Rodong Sinmun*, *Pyongyang Sinmun* and *Cheyuk Sinmun* to help amateurs. Some time ago he compiled the book *Basic Paduk Theory and Its Application*. It contains the data on general knowledge of *paduk*, and the ABC and basic moves of the sport, all described to be helpful to the beginners.

When people ask him if he finds his job difficult as he gets older, he says, "*Paduk* reflects our nation's wisdom and talent. It has the longest history and is most superior among intellectual games. I find pleasure and pride in widely disseminating the tradition of our nation and further developing its superiority."

Pak Un Yong

## Promising Artist



Ho Chol Rim (centre).

**T**HE FOLKLORE PRODUCTION unit of the Mansudae Art Studio boasts an artist who is attracting the specialists' attention by creating masterpieces. It is Ho Chol Rim in his thirties.

In 2007 he created the distinctive landscape *Mt Oga in Summer* which was the first of his works, and thus he became known as an artist of marked individuality in the circle of fine arts. Three years later the landscape *Oun-dong in Autumn* and the Korean painting *Soldier's Romance* he presented were highly appreciated at a national art exhibition.

Later, he created the gold painting *Paektusan Secret Camp*, the Korean painting *CNC Technology Developers* and the landscape *Yangdok in Autumn*, fully demonstrating his ability.

His talent for fine arts began to develop in his childhood. As a boy sensitive to things, Ho, under the influence of his father who was an artist at the publishing house of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, began to learn the ABC of drawing.

He developed his talent while attending a fine arts circle of a middle school and then Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. The watercolour painting *Moranbong* he created in his middle school days won first place at a Pyongyang municipal middle school students' fine arts contest.

Recently, he has created the new-style double-glass paint-

ing *Pine and Goshawk*, demonstrating his high ability. He used over ten layers of glass in creating the painting so as to give a 3D effect while employing the traditional techniques of Korean painting. The painting vividly depicts the resilience of the pine and the disposition of the goshawk as a predatory bird. And its different colours harmonize thanks to the mild techniques of Korean painting, filling its observers with admiration.

"The techniques of Korean painting can create paintings of any style," Ho says.

The artist, who has created unique works using the techniques of Korean painting, is now in his heyday, and lots of people are waiting for another piece of his.

Sim Chol Yong

Ho's glass painting *Pine and Goshawk*.



# Makkolli, Traditional Drink of Korea



Researchers measure the state of microorganisms in fermented liquid of makkolli.

KOREANS HAVE LONG MADE DIFFERENT kinds of drinks and used them in their everyday life. One of the typical drinks is makkolli.

## Makkolli, traditional wine of Korea

Makkolli is a proper Korean word meaning a coarse wine, which derived from the practice of its rough making. Of the word “makkolli” the first syllable *mak* means *rough* and the latter part *kolli* stands for the gerund of the verb *filter*.

Depending on the kind of material used, makkolli is divided into high-class makkolli which is made from white rice and high-quality malt, ordinary makkolli made from cereal wastes and wheat malt, Koryo medicinal makkolli mixed with different kinds of medicinal materials, and some others.

In the past it went by such nicknames as thakju, jaeju and hoeju as it looks cloudy, kaju as it is made at home, saju as it is often drunk during the working hours, or nongju and nongthak as it is a favourite of peasants.

Of the traditional wines of Korea makkolli is the one that is made by the simplest method. And it is known that makkolli has been in use for ages. There are different historical documents with descriptions of makkolli, typically *Tonggukrisanggukjip* written by Ri Kyu Bo (1168–1241) who was a renowned poet during the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). They show that the Koreans’ practice of makkolli making began earlier than the time of the Koryo dynasty.

The original drink continued to be a favourite of the Korean people in their everyday life during the years of the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). There goes a tale that foreigners from a neighbour-

ing country on their visit to Korea were surprised to see peasants drink big bowls of makkolli at a gulp during the break of work.

As it is of low alcoholic content and has a pleasantly refreshing mixture of sour, sweet and astringent tastes, makkolli was in wide use in everyday life. Every family made makkolli and shared it with their neighbours during the break of work or over lunch in the scorching season of summer, relieving the fatigue and furthering friendliness, and this was almost a community tradition.

## Chonghyang, modern type of makkolli

Chonghyang is the top-ranking makkolli in Korea at the moment. Made by Chonghyang Makkolli House in Songsin-dong No. 3, Sadong District, Pyongyang, it has received the top prize at a number of shows and festivals including the Makkolli Show held in July Juche 99 (2010). Many people from Sinuiju, Chongjin, Hamhung and many other parts of the country visit the house to know the secret of the makkolli making.

Cook Kim Son Hwa of the house explains about the six-point formula of the traditional Korean drink like this:

First, the main material should be prepared carefully. As far as the characteristics and merit of makkolli are concerned, the primary importance should be attached to the diversity of the main materials. As makkolli was made by individual families, the taste, method of making and kind of material were varied extensively.

Secondly, the malt should be prepared properly. Thirdly, the main material and malt should be mixed proportionately. Fourthly, nice water has to be used. The fifth point is to use a good ceramic vessel and the sixth one is to keep proper temperature.

Keep to the six points while mixing the main material and malt well and leave it aging for 10–15 days at the room temperature of 18–20°C, and then you will be able to get sweet, cream-coloured and pleasant-smelling makkolli with the alcoholic content of 3–7%, says Kim.

In addition to the traditional methods the famous makkolli house is introducing novel methods to put new life into the old drink. A typical example is the application of different kinds of mould and enzyme like *rhizopus tamarii*. Meanwhile, carbon dioxide gas is impregnated into the drink in the hot summer days to improve the refreshing quality. In this way the traditional mode is combined with modern science and technology to open a new phase of the makkolli making.

## ► Makkolli industry gets lively

Rapid development and introduction of science and technology has not changed the taste, flavour and taste of makkolli alone. The public got a fresh idea of makkolli when scientific analysis was made to find out that the coarse wine contains a lot of active substances of the peptide and insulin types and, more importantly, anti-cancer materials—these are very helpful in treating cardiac diseases, cerebrovascular disorders, amnesia and osteoporosis, and in preventing diabetes and cancer.

This information caused a sharp rise in its demand. In order to satisfy the public interest in and demand for makkolli some people buckled down to the job of paving a way for industrial production of makkolli. They were just researchers of the Fermentation Institute of the Academy of Food and Daily Necessities Sciences. Through years of studies they separated pure aspergilli and enzyme from the natural world. And on this basis they successfully established the technique of manufacturing makkolli by an industrial method in Juche 98 (2009). This technique was introduced into a dried rice mill on a trial basis, and then into a lot of factories across the country, including those under the Changgwang Service Management Bureau.

Ro Hak Chol, a section chief of the institute, says, “We plan to make makkolli better and better for good health and long life of the people.”



At the moment draft makkolli is in growing demand because they know that the draft kind which contains a good deal of lactobacilli helpful for the body is much better than the one sterilized in the final stage of manufacturing. Taking this idea into consideration, the institute is concentrating its effort on the development of draft makkolli. Along with this it is pushing ahead with the programme of making makkolli sweet by fermenting the main material slowly without adding any sweetening substances like sugar, fructose and aspartame. Yet another task is to develop makkolli of different alcoholic contents from 1.5% to 15–16%, while making proper types of their container.

The researchers’ thoughtful studies are going on steadily.

Choe Sol Mi



# Infrared Electronic Whiteboard *Achim*, Winner of Top Prize

IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea ten best IT businesses of the nation are selected through an annual national exhibition of IT achievements. The businesses include Achim Computer JV Co Ltd, which has been put on the list for four years consecutively from 2016. The company is a developer and producer of various computers and relevant applications programs. It has plenty of experience in developing computers, LCD TVs, single-unit PCs and other electronic products. In 2018 it won software development certification, a certificate for its LCD Colour TV and quality control system certification for its electronic product assembly line.

Now an infrared electronic whiteboard developed by the company is drawing the attention of the educational sector. Previously the educational tablet computer *Achim* from the company was favourably commented upon by the sector. The computer simple in shape was very popular with students as its system was easy to use and fast in performance, and multi-functional to ensure text read-

ing, documenting, multimedia program reading and so on.

Now the country is pushing ahead with the effort to put education on the IT and modern footing, and this has been urging the company to develop new things. The scientists have worked on developing a new whiteboard free from the defects of those previously developed at home and superior in performance to the latter. While pooling their wisdom to that end, they concluded that it was rational to use the characteristics of infrared rays. Soon they developed a new kind of whiteboard in a short space of time.

Such whiteboards were fairly popular with the teachers. Some comments are: "The performance is very fast, including the writing speed, and the position of the pointer is exact." "It is useful for teaching as it has the function of recognizing many points—20 points at maximum—to enable a teacher and students to use it at the same time." "It is convenient to use as it is never affected by natural light, noises, electromagnetic waves or what else." "With over 300 tools it provides enough conditions for electronic teach-

ing, and its educational applications programs such as virtual laboratories and 3D programs are quite functional to help students improve their power of cognition." "It provides sources of subject-specific educational contents for curriculums of kindergartens and primary, junior middle and senior middle schools, ensuring more favourable conditions for teaching activities."

These comments can be heard in any educational institutions, including Taedongmun Kindergarten and Changjon Primary School in Central District, Pyongyang, and Hyesan Teachers Training College, that use such whiteboards. And more and more institutions are introducing the whiteboards that make it possible to attain the maximum goal of education. Last year the whiteboard was put on the list of the ten best IT products of the country.

Kim Song Chol, director of the company, says, "We have strong forces for developing both software and hardware. We will steadily strive to play a role as standard bearer in developing new electronic products."

*Rim Ok*



The assembly and test of all products are done in a responsible manner.



# Sapling Production—Primary Task

SOME TIME AGO A *Korea Today* reporter had an interview with Ri Yong Chol, general manager of the North Phyongan Provincial Tree Nursery.

**Today the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is waging a vigorous all-people campaign for forest restoration with a plan to turn all mountains in the country into gold mountains and treasure mountains. In this context, the role of each provincial tree nursery is very important in the campaign, I think.**

You're right. What is most important in forest restoration is to produce and supply tree saplings sufficiently. Otherwise, we could not plant trees in time and conduct afforestation and conservation and management of forests properly. The role of each provincial tree nursery is surely important in the current forest restoration.

**Your province has always been in the lead in forest restoration. This is because your nursery has produced and supplied in time the saplings needed for forest restoration in the province.**

My province has mapped out a ten-year plan for forest restoration and is carrying on the project in a far-sighted way. To this end we set detailed tasks and have carried them on substantially.

First of all, we give definite priority to securing seeds. Seeds are the main factor in producing healthy saplings with a high rate of rooting. We have put in efforts into securing saplings of good species such as Changsong larch and pine-nut tree, thus obtaining 150 tons of seeds each year to use them in sapling production.

We have also made efforts to increase the fertility of sapling fields. First we expanded pens to a larger scale, and increased the number of pigs, goats, ducks and geese. Now we produce hundreds of tons of manure every year.

While actively introducing advanced methods of raising saplings and taking a thorough measure for protecting the saplings from damage by blights and harmful insects, we have introduced a field responsibility system, thus enhancing the responsibility and role of each worker in sapling production. In this way we have produced and supplied tens of millions of saplings for forest restoration in the province for five years.

Meanwhile, we have pushed ahead with the work to modernize the tree nursery. Previously the sapling production had been done by a manual method. We started the modernization in September Juche 106 (2017) in order to fully satisfy the growing demand for saplings and meet the requirement of the

developing times. Now we have completed the modernization of a greenhouse which can produce saplings in all seasons, a seed selecting and sowing area, a light substrate production area, a sapling display ground and an outdoor cultivation ground, thus laying a firm foundation for producing 20 million saplings of many species on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis.

And we have provided a day nursery, a hostel and comprehensive welfare service and recreational facilities so that the workers can work without any trouble.

**I would like to know your future plan.**

Our goal is to make the sapling production range varied and raise the scientific, industrial and intensive level of the production to the world standard in a short space of time. In the past tree nurseries had engaged mainly in the production of forest tree species. In the future we are going to establish a system of producing saplings of trees for landscaping and fruit trees as well as forest trees.

And we will positively introduce the latest science and technology and keep accelerating the modernization of the tree nursery so as to perform our duty in afforesting and landscaping all mountains in the province and turning them into orchards. □

# O-il Health Drinks



THE O-IL GENERAL Health Drinks Factory on Rungna Islet in the Taedong River in Pyongyang was inaugurated in November Juche 106 (2017). In its early days the factory only produced scores of kinds of drinks. It has focused on expansion of production and development of new kinds of drinks, thus changing into a leading drink production base in the country. Today the popularity of the drinks from the factory is growing day by day.



## Unusual hour of reading

How is it that the drinks from the factory are popular with the public?

To the question Kim Un A, head of the factory's laboratory, said to me, "Our drinks have become familiar to the public because we do not neglect their opinion and liking, I think." Then she showed me a notebook. It contained the opinions of those who tasted the drinks.

The factory makes it a rule to write down such opinions in the notebook. Those opinions are read out to all the workers in the morning before the beginning of production.

The following are some of the opinions.

"Your strawberry yogurt lacks its own uniqueness. It has a strawberry flavour but not its natural aroma. In a word, it is half done."

"The sugar content of your apple juice is 5%. Can't you give a sweet flavour without using sugar? If so, those who are suffering from diabetes like my

parents would be able to drink it."

"If corn Eskimo is shaped like an ear of corn, it will be a more popular Eskimo, I think."

Now the five-minute-long hour gives new "research subjects" to all the workers in the factory.

## "We think of people's health first"

"We think of people's health first" is an invariable principle and ideal held fast to by the factory in its management and production activities.

Since inauguration it has put focus on research on how to ensure natural taste and flavour by using different kinds of natural materials such as natural fruit juice, natural vitamins and minerals. And it has put in effort to develop functional drinks containing nutritive elements such as collagen and peptide. In the course of this it has developed a lot of different drinks including chokeberry fermented drink, lecithin ice cream, lemon-black tea juice and sweet potato Eskimo. Insam health drink, peptide drink for big stature and collagen Eskimo are representa-





functional drinks such as black garlic drink which has a high anticancer effect, *sujonggwa* as a kind of Korean punch which prevents septicemia and is good for recovering from fatigue, raw milk Eskimo and soy bean juice Eskimo. Now it is producing over 500 varieties of health drinks.

**“We hope for active mutual cooperation”**

In November 2018 there was held the Pyongyang International Exhibition of Health and Sports Science and Technology in the city. Different functional drinks from the factory were rated as good at the exhibition. Especially, the drinkable hydrogen water was awarded the technical prize and the exchange prize for its high antioxidizing, anticancer and anti-aging efficacy. The factory has received more than 30 diplomas and certificates at various exhibitions and festi-

► tive of the factory’s functional drinks. In particular, hydrogen energy activation drink and hydrogen water mass-produced by the factory are quite popular with the public.

In 2019 the factory developed and produced over 50 kinds of

vals.

After looking round the factory, Thomas Schafer, the former German ambassador to the DPRK, wrote in the visitor’s book as follows:

“I highly appreciate your effort and development made in a few years. Hoping for the time to cooperate. Thomas Schafer”

Many other foreigners and overseas Koreans also wrote in the book their impressions of the factory’s products, and their hope that it would further develop.

Kim Un Hui, general manager of the factory, says, “We will further develop national and international cooperation and exchange in order to produce more wonderful and tastier health drinks.”

The workers of the factory are redoubling their efforts for its development.

*Article by Kim Son Myong  
Photos by An Yong Chol*



# Popular *Paekhak* Products

PEOPLE HAVE LONG regarded it as one of the five blessings to have fine teeth. So their demand for dental hygiene supplies is growing

Recently the *Paekhak*-brand goods produced by the Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Supplies Factory are popular with the citizens of the country. The factory situated in Songyo District, Pyongyang, produces over 30 kinds of toothpaste, gargles, and different dental hygiene supplies.

Some time ago it developed functional substances based on natural raw materials. On the basis of this, it developed functional and curative sorts of toothpaste such as poplar antibacterial toothpaste which is especially effective against stomatitis, phytic acid toothpaste for preventing tartar, whitening toothpaste, borneol toothpaste, strawberry-flavoured toothpaste for children, gargle for epidermal growth and Honggok-activated gargle. As they showed obvious effects, they were favourably commented upon at the autumn trade fair and other exhibitions and shows held last year, espe-

cially, the borneol toothpaste and the gargle for epidermal growth.

Pak Jong Guk, 39, a resident of Sungni-dong No. 3, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, says, “I’ve used the borneol toothpaste for some time. Flakes of borneol in the toothpaste remind me of ice crystal. It makes me feel refreshed and is highly effective in preventing caries.”

Jong Kyong Chol, 36, a resident of Misan-dong No. 2, Taesong District, Pyongyang, says, “Whenever I did not feel well and was tired in the past, my mouth blistered and was inflamed, and it was hard for me to brush my teeth. So I used the gargle for epidermal growth and, to my surprise, my mouth got well several days later.”

The dental hygiene supplies from the factory have become popular with people thanks to the effort of the managers, researchers and workers. General Manager Ri Yong Suk and other officers and researchers regularly visit different service facilities to get the public opinion of their products and, on this basis, further improve the

quality of the goods. Not long ago they set up a new peppermint oil refining line, the main factor in raising the quality of toothpaste. Last year they carried out 65 items of technical innovation, for example, the automation and modernization of such production processes as tube shoulder injection and multi-layer extrusion.

The Dental Hygiene Supplies Institute of the factory set a goal of developing more than ten kinds of new products this year, and is pushing ahead with new natural materials projects.

The goods from the factory are available at Pyongyang Department Store No. 1, Daesong Department Store and other shops.

*Kim Myong Sim*





# “Seagull” of Taedong



Ri Song Hui.

**R**I SONG HUI, CAPTAIN OF THE passenger ship *Moranbong*, is one of the few women captains at the Pyongyang Shipping Company. Before I met her I imagined that she was of great build and outgoing character, but when I saw her actually, I was surprised. I found her to be of rather average build and soft character wearing a smile all the time.

She says she sealed a tie with her ship 22 years ago. At the time she used to go for a walk along the promenade of the Taedong River, taking her little daughter with her. After the walk she often enjoyed getting aboard a passenger ship which travelled from the quay near Kim Il Sung Square to the one near the Tower of the Juche Idea across the river. A spectacular view unfolded before her eyes, attracting her like a magnet—giant fountains ejecting a spout of water high up into the sky from the middle of the river, passenger ships cruising in the spray, people having a pleasant time on them, all types of boats floating on the water like petals, and what else. They aroused her impulse to find her worth

of life in cultivating such a beautiful world herself.

Some time later, she was admitted into the crew of the passenger ship *Moranbong*. First she was given the job of receiving passengers. Yet it was too simple to satisfy her. She had been a singer in an artistic motivation group during her girlhood, and building on her experience she began to sing for the passengers, and sometimes told stories about the origin, history and natural ecology of the Taedong, which flows through the heart of Pyongyang as one of the five longest rivers in Korea. Her talks and singing got an increasingly appreciable effect on the passengers. Meanwhile, she assiduously assimilated knowledge and skills about navigation from the veteran crewmen including the captain and at crewmen’s courses.

In 2003 she was appointed captain of the *Moranbong*. “It’s nearly 20 years since I set out on my first voyage, but I still remember the day vividly,” says Ri.

As if testing the determination of the new captain at the wheel, the current was unusually fast and the wind blew as hard as ever, throwing high waves against the ship mercilessly. Without any hesitation, however, Ri brought the ship safely to the destination by taking the performance of the ship, wind speed and water current into consideration. Even her crew members, as well as the passengers, were quite struck with wonder for her ability.

With the passage of time Ri became able to control the *Moranbong* skilfully, considering the current of the river in any rough condition—she can tell the depth of the water even at a glance of the colour of the water. She was asked to move to other passenger ships at her company several times, but she refused to accept the offer, and has looked after her ship like her own flesh and bone, since the ship is associated with the memorable inspection of



Ri repairs the engine, and cleans the ship with her crew.

► Kim Il Sung, eternal President of the socialist Korea, who aboard the ship had given advice how to improve the passenger service.

Ri put effort into training her crew members able to give good musical, dancing and rhetoric entertainments to the passengers while in navigation. Meanwhile, she, hand in hand with her crewmen, set an example of admirable service.

Over the years she was honoured to participate in a number of national conferences. The route of her ship changed several times, but she has been accorded a warm welcome everywhere.

Ri’s hair has turned grey now, and her husband,

daughter and colleagues advise her to retire, but she says, “You know a lot of things have gone up along the Taedong, like Changjon and Mirae Scientists Streets, the Rungna People’s Pleasure Ground on the Rungna Islet and the Sci-Tech Complex on the Ssuk Islet. The river is getting younger, and so am I.”

She is still at the wheel of the ship with a pleasant mind, and hearing the whistle of her ship they call her “seagull” of the Taedong.

Article by Rim Ok

Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok



## Celebration of First Birthday

**K**OREA HAS A CUSTOM of giving a feast in celebration of a baby's first birthday while taking a photo of it. The day is usually called *tol* or *chot-tol* in Korean, while historical records refer to it as *chodoil*.

Families had a celebration in honour of their babies' first birthday. Relatives and neighbours paid a visit offering toys, foodstuffs or some money as a token of their wish for the babies' good future and having a good time.

In the past the celebration started with preparing the baby's clothes and dressing it on its birthday, followed by giving a birthday spread, seeing what the baby grabs from among his birthday presents and treating the guests to traditional dishes.

Mothers used to dress their baby in a rainbow-striped garment they had made themselves, and the technique of making such clothes was conveyed to daughters or daughters-in-law.

The baby's clothes varied from sex to sex.

Boys wore a jacket with multi-colored sleeves, blue trousers, a gold- or silver-pressed overcoat along with a first-birthday band and a hood of happiness. For overcoat *magoja* (a kind of Korean jacket) or *turumagi* (a Korean overcoat) with sleeves of many-coloured stripes was used.

And they wore quilted socks with embroidered decorations in winter and carried a first-birthday pouch on their side.

Girls wore a coat with multi-colored sleeves and a crimson skirt along with a first-birthday band, a gold- or silver-pressed hat and quilted socks in winter, and carried an embroidered first-birthday pouch on their side.

The first-birthday band was a sign of the wish for the baby's long life in good health, and the pouch for its happy and affluent life all the time.

Next, the baby was seated at the birthday table to let it take what it liked from among the first birthday presents. On the table were put traditional dishes, rice, noodles, rice cake, fruit, money and thread. Added to them were a bow and arrow, a sheet of paper, a writing brush and an ink stick if it was a boy, and a pair of scissors, a ruler and a needle if it was a girl. Seeing what the baby got, people would predict its future.

Then, the parents of the baby treated the guests to dishes and had a chat.

The dishes are called first-birthday food or *tolttok*.

The method of making the first-birthday clothes, the method of preparing the first-birthday table and the method of letting

the baby take what it likes from among the birthday presents are intangible elements.

In the modern times taking a photo of the baby on its first birthday was added to the celebration.

The celebration reflects the fine custom of the Korean people who love children and show deep concern for their growth and future development.

Now the celebration is further developing as required by the times while retaining its inherent characteristics. The Korean costume has been carried on and developed while keeping its national characteristics under the care of the State and public. Now rainbow-striped costume of the children is produced at factories, making it possible for every family to obtain the first-birthday clothes with ease.

Various toys are on sale at the Pyongyang Children's Department Store and other shops, and photo studios offer preferential service to the babies who celebrate their first birthdays.

The celebration, a traditional family custom which makes all families optimistic about the future of their baby and helps realize the harmony and unity of the parents and relatives, is on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok



## Satirist Kim Satgat

**T**HE REAL NAME OF Kim Satgat (1807–1863) was Kim Pyong Yon. He was generally called so as he wandered around the country wearing a *satgat*, a kind of conical bamboo rain-hat.

He was born into an aristocrat's family. While wandering about the country he witnessed the harsh exploitation and oppression by the corrupt and dissipated aristocrats and rulers, and the miserable life of the working people. This made him have burning hatred for the idle aristocratic bureaucrats, and sympathy for the people.

As a child he was quite clever and made unusual efforts. So he distinguished himself in his village school and was known even to neighbouring villages.

He liked to put what he saw, heard and felt into poems.

One summer evening he visited a poor peasant's home. The peasant awkwardly put a bowl of thin gruel on a straw mat spread in the front yard, apolo-

gizing for poor treatment several times.

Then the guest composed the following poem.

*A bowl of thin gruel is on  
a four-legged table.  
And the gruel reflects the sky  
and clouds.  
Master! Don't be sorry at all.  
I eat enjoying the green  
mountains mirrored  
by the gruel.*

There are not a few facts that Kim Satgat, with sympathy for the poor who had no rights, wrote indictments to solve their legal problems smartly. For example, an ox of a wealthy family gored a calf of a poor family to death, but the wealthy family would not compensate the poor for the loss. Then Kim Satgat wrote a relevant indictment to help the poor family get repaid for the calf.

Kim Satgat, with hatred for exploitation and tyranny of the rich men and aristocrats, wrote

not a few poems that scathingly satirized them. One day when he dropped in at a rich family's house, he was given a lump of spoiled rice for a meal. While feeling sad to be treated as being something subhuman, he composed the poem *Beneath a Zelkova* out of boundless hatred for the miserly family.

*The wicked family gives  
spoiled rice  
To a miserable visitor  
beneath a zelkova.  
What an evil thing it is  
in the world!  
I would rather return home  
to eat half-done rice.*

At first he began to roam out of private anger. But after coming to know about the life and sufferings of the people, he became fond of living among the poor working people, abandoning wealth, rank and fame.

Eventually he died while roaming in 1863.

Rim Ok

# No Today Apart from Yesterday

MANY COUNTRIES HAVE repented of their past wrongdoings, and are aspiring to establish new relations. Last year Germany officially apologized for a Nazi unit's murder of civilians in Italy in the past, and assured that there would never be an end to her responsibility at all. Recently, during a visit to Indonesia, the king of the Netherlands made an official apology for the acts of extreme violence it had committed in the country during its colonial rule. The king, mentioning that it was impossible to efface the past, said that he reflected on the past crime of his country with a deep understanding of the fact that the victims of the violence were still suffering pain and sorrow.

Needless to say, the apology consoled the victims, and deeply impressed the international community. In this regard the Asians, as well as the Koreans, cast a look of sharp criticism to Japan that is indifferent to the issue of atoning for its past crimes.

Japan, as a war criminal and defeated nation, inflicted innumerable misfortunes and sufferings upon Asian people. Especially, the extra-villainous war crimes it committed against the Korean people are unprecedented in history. It took millions of young Koreans to war of aggression to realize its wild ambition, and turned 200 000 Korean women into sexual slaves for its troops, with a view to stamping out the Korean nation.

Nevertheless, the successive politicians of Japan have been covering up or denying the extra-villainous crimes, absurdly asserting that Japan's policy of

colonization helped modernize Korea and that its continental war in the past century contributed to peace and security of Asia. Their war crimes were already given an international punishment. Article 6 of the regulations of the Nuremberg international military tribunal and Article 5 of the regulations of the Tokyo international military tribunal, both of which were established to punish war criminals, define the requisites for constitution of war crimes. Later the requisites became further detailed.

According to international conventions and regulations, the following acts are war crimes.

The first one is an act against peace. This includes planning, preparing, starting and committing a war, working out relevant programmes and participating in relevant plots.

The second one is the act of committing a prohibited military action, that is, the one of committing brutal atrocities against the recognized laws and customs of war in the course of war: For example, plunder and destruction in a militarily occupied area, use of poisonous gas, germ or chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

The third one is an act against humanity. It includes mass murder or enslavement of residents, genocide aimed at exterminating a nation or race, persecution or suppression for political and religious reasons and other inhuman atrocities before or during a war.

A man who plans, prepares and orders such acts or executes the order is judged to be a war

criminal regardless of his status as a member of government or junior soldier.

In November 1968 the UN adopted an agreement on applying no statute of limitations to war criminals, thus making it possible to arrest and punish such criminals even a long time after war.

Japan's past war crimes each come under the requisites.

Nevertheless, Tokyo reduced the contents of Kono's statement of 1993 that had acknowledged Japan's responsibility for the crime of slavery for the Japanese army for mere form's sake, and it is almost a routine in Japan that the cabinet ministers visit the Yasukuni Shrine which keeps the nameplates of the war criminals. Even a son of a war criminal's daughter has become the prime minister.

It is axiomatic that today is unthinkable apart from the past. Japan's denial of the international law on war crimes is a challenge to the international community opposing war and aspiring to peace. The country is showing off its purse, coveting a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, for the purpose of holding a leading position in the international arena. The international community is ridiculing Japan, attributing it to the country's absurd way of thinking as a political dwarf.

The Japanese politicians, who are disregarding their country's past crimes, are well advised to know that perhaps it will be helpful to them as well to know exactly that the statute of limitations does not apply to war crimes.

*Kim Il Bong*

# MT MYOHYANG (1)

MT MYOHYANG IS ONE of the celebrated mountains in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Located in the centre of the Myohyang Mountains in northwestern Korea, it has a circumference of about 120 km and an area of 375 sq km, and it is 1 909 m above sea level.

Around Piro Peak (1 909 m), the highest one, the mountain stretches out its smooth-curved ridges and peaks northwest and southwest as if it were opening its arms, and it has streams flow-

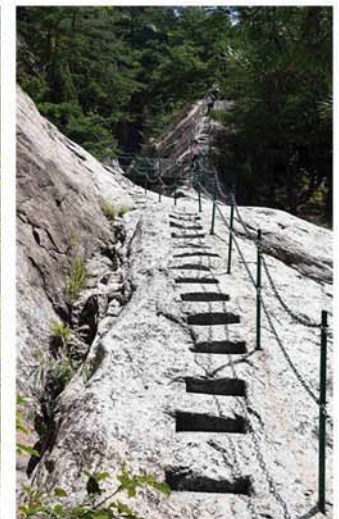
ing between valleys. The peaks whose heights are between 1 000 m and 1 900 m, including Piro Peak, Jingwi Peak (1 832 m) and Wonman Peak (1 795 m), rise precipitously with white clouds surrounding their sides, thus appearing both jagged and magnificent. The peaks have their own beauty: Thakki Peak looks like a flagpole with a fluttering flag on it; Tottae Peak resembles a soaring mast on a vast expanse of water; the Paeksan mountain looks as if it were covered with white snow;

and Siru Peak is similar to an upside-down steamer.

Valleys echo with the sound of their waterfalls falling down from steep cliffs, and ravines boast curious and spectacular rocks.

Rocks in the mountain are not only immaculate and beautiful but also unusually white with smooth surfaces. And as they contain lots of quartz which is hardly soluble in water, the broken quartz pieces are clean, and the water flowing through their crevices and the valleys are

A resting site and a climbing route.



► also clean and clear.

Commenting on the renowned mountains in the country, Saint Sosan, a famous Buddhist priest of Korea in the 16<sup>th</sup> century who lived long in the mountain, said, "Mt Kumgang is beautiful but not magnificent while Mt Jiri is magnificent but not beautiful. But Mt Myohyang is both beautiful and magnificent."

The thick forests in Mt Myohyang cover steep cliffs, rocks and precipitous peaks, so the mountain looks gentle and sublime.

As it rains much in the mountain with a humid climate, trees grow well even on the cliffs. In the area there are over 2 000 species of plants like those growing in northern and southern parts, lowlands and highlands. Flowers cover the mountain in spring, their fragrance wafting through the valleys, and it

turns freshly green in summer. It is tinged red and golden in autumn, and evergreen trees characterize it in winter.

The mountain is inhabited by over 40 species of wild animals such as bear, antelope, musk deer, roe deer, hare, badger and raccoon dog and by more than 190 species of beautiful and rare birds including Myohyangsan broad-billed roller, pheasant, migratory grosbeak, lark, oriole, greenfinch, scops owl, Eastern gray wagtail, woodpecker and cuckoo. Fishes as rainbow trout, char, sweetfish and minnow live in the Myohyang Stream.

The mountain has a lot of cultural heritage showing off the Korean nation's cultural attainments, artistic skills and creative talent. And it boasts the International Friendship Exhibition House where there are on display the valuable gifts presented to President Kim Il Sung,

Chairman Kim Jong Il and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un by many countries, regions and individual figures.

The mountain has been developed as a tourist attraction with such establishments for tourists and campers as the Pyongyang Schoolchildren's Myohyangsan Mountaineering Camp, Hyangsan Hotel and Myohyangsan Spa.

Climbing routes up the Sangwon Valley and Manphok Valley and to Piro Peak, and other sightseeing paths are arranged in such a way as to go well with natural scenery, along with convenient safety facilities, and resting places and pavilions.

The Pyongyang-Hyangsan train and the Hyangsan-Myohyangsan tourist coaches are in operation, and a tourist motorway links Pyongyang and Hyangsan.

*Pak Thae Ho*



The International Friendship Exhibition House.



