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Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, made a congratulatory visit to the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces on February 8 to mark the 71st founding anniversary of the KPA.

The Supreme Commander was welcomed by enthusiastic cheers of the KPA service personnel.

After reviewing the guard of honour of the KPA arms and services, he had a significant photo taken with the KPA commanding officers before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il at the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces.

The KPA commanding officers burst out thunderous hurrahs, reflecting their greatest respect for the Supreme Commander who, with an iron will and faith, and outstanding wisdom and leadership ability, adds glory to undying exploits the great leaders had performed in founding the army and building a rich country with a powerful army and exalts the prestige and image of Juche Korea at the highest level.

Kim Jong Un sat together with generals and other officials of the ministry, and commanders of KPA large combined units and combined units at the conference hall of the ministry, warmly congratulated them on the Army Day, and made an important speech.

He extended warm congratulations to the beloved service personnel and their families of the entire army celebrating the significant Army Day.

He spoke highly of the revolutionary armed force that made strenuous efforts last year for the country and the revolution so as to firmly guarantee, by force of arms, the heroic struggle of the Korean people and lay solid foundations for proudly creating the future of the country.

Stressing the need for the KPA to effect a great surge and innovations unprecedented in the Party's history of revolutionary struggle and the army building this year and thus fulfil their historic mission for the times and revolution, he set forth militant tasks to be tackled by the People's Army.

He said that the entire army should be made an ideologically pure entity, a community united by the same blood, thought, intention and destiny with the Party, the education in the revolutionary traditions be strengthened among soldiers, and the education in our state-first spirit be carried out profoundly with proper methodology.

He said that the People's Army should have a large share this year, a crucial year in carrying out the five-year strategy for national economic development.

He specified the ways for successfully carrying out important tasks facing the KPA this year.



Kim Jong Un Visits the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces on Army Day



FRONT COVER: DPRK students startling the world (at the 27th World Memory Championships)

Photo: Han Chol

Pictorial KOREA is published in Korean, Chinese, Russian and English.



Kim Jong Un delivering a speech on his congratulatory visit to the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces



Firm is the determination and will of the Party to shape a new roadmap toward building a powerful socialist country for realizing the wishes of the great leaders and no force can check the dynamic advance of our country, he said, appealing to the entire army to work hard for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche in firm unity around the Party Central Committee.

All the participants made a firm pledge to implement without

fail the militant tasks set forth by the Supreme Commander and thus fulfil the honourable mission and duty of the KPA as befits an elite revolutionary force developed under the care of brilliant commanders of Paektu in reliably defending the country and safeguarding peace and taking the lead in making a breakthrough in socialist construction.

Article: Kim Mi Ye



Kim Jong Un Enjoys Congratulatory Performance with KPA Service Personnel



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un enjoyed a performance given by the State Merited Chorus to celebrate the 71st founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army on February 8 at an annex to the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea together with the commanders of the large combined units and combined units of the KPA.

Leading officials of the WPK Central Committee and the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK also saw the performance.

The moment Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju appeared in the auditorium, they were welcomed by an outburst of thunderous cheers of the audience reflecting their infinite loyalty and ardent respect.

The Supreme Leader, while encouraging all the KPA service personnel who greeted the Army Day in soaring revolutionary

enthusiasm to firmly guarantee the prosperity and development of the socialist country on the strength of invincible military capabilities, warmly congratulated them.

The performers made an impressive artistic representation of the indisputable spirit and might of the heroic KPA, ardent patriotism and loyalty of the army and people to invariably advance straightforward along the road of socialism, sharing ideology with the Party Central Committee, breathing the same breath as it and keeping pace with it, and their absolute trust in the WPK.

The audience was greatly moved by the solemn and rich emotions and refined musical interpretation of the performance.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un waved back to the cheering crowds and expressed great satisfaction over the wonderful performance.

Article: Choe Song Sun



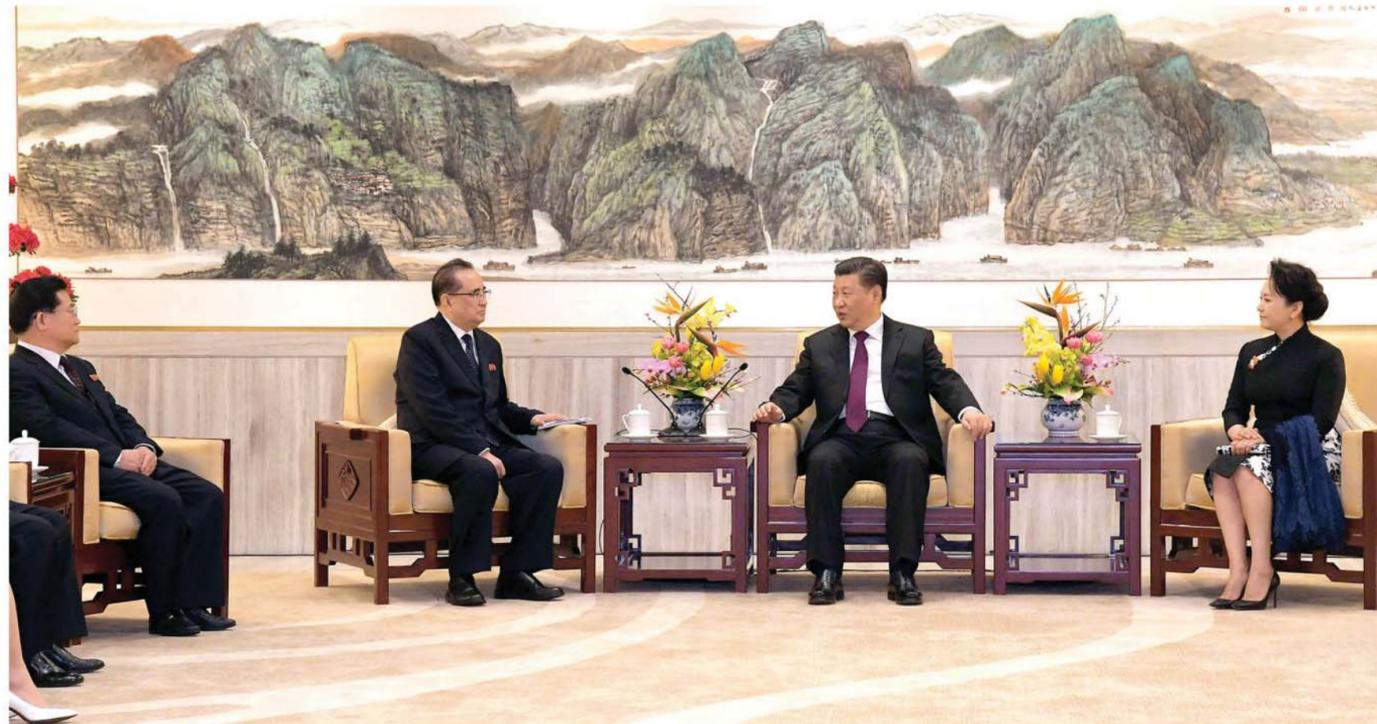
Congratulatory Banquet Held in the Presence of Kim Jong Un





Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan enjoyed the performance

Epic Performance of DPRK-China Friendship and Solidarity



Xi Jinping and his wife met and had a talk with leading members of the DPRK friendship art delegation prior to the performance





A friendship art delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea visited the People's Republic of China in January.

The delegation arrived in Beijing on the morning of January 24, enjoying sincere hospitality of the Chinese Party, government and people since it arrived at Dandong Railway Station, border station of China.

The DPRK friendship art delegation gave performances to a full house at the State Grand Theatre in Beijing from January 26 amid great interest and expectations of the Chinese Party, government and people.

President Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and his wife Peng Liyuan met the DPRK delegation and enjoyed its performance at the theatre on January 27, together with Chinese Party and government officials, artistes and Beijing citizens.

The performance started with the prelude "Korea-China Friendship Will Be Ever-lasting". Colourful music and dance pieces were put on the stage including the songs widely sung by the two peoples during the years of heroic creation and struggle.

Amid the singing of songs of friendship and unity which resounded through the mountains and rivers of the two countries for decades, impressive pictures of the leaders of the elder generations of the two countries and the top leaders of the two parties, who have shared the intention and feelings in the great course of the DPRK-China friendship, meeting with each other were screened on the stage background, accompanied by enthusiastic applause of the audience.

Through such numbers as female solo and male chorus "We Love You, Socialism" and song and dance "Dash toward Future," the entertainers impressively represented the dignity and prestige and the rosier future of the DPRK which is advancing along the road of Korean-style socialism while demonstrating the might of its single-minded unity under the wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Female vocal trio and male chorus "Our National Flag," which sang highly with a solemn and enthusiastic representation of the ideological and emotional feelings of the Korean people to enjoy all glory under their national flag, touched the heartstrings of the audience.

As they reflected the strong will of the Korean people to throw in their lot with socialism, "Let's Defend Socialism," "Song of Socialist Advance" and other songs deepened the friendship between the two peoples which has been forged in the joint struggle for the cause of socialism.

Orchestral music for *kayagum* "Arirang" depicting the Korean typical folk



Xi Jinping and his wife presented a floral basket to the performers and mounted the stage to congratulate them on their successful performance and had a photo taken with them

song, which is widely known to the Chinese people, with mysterious timbre rich in national flavour and refined rendition, and tap dance "Prime of Youth" which represented the surging ardour of youth greatly impressed the audience, sending a wave of enthusiasm and joy over the auditorium.

Also put on the stage were female duet and male chorus "Song of Changjiang," "No Communist Party, No New China," "Socialism Is Nice" and other Chinese songs in the years of rejuvenation of the Chinese nation along with the proud 70-year history of new China and other songs reflecting the time-honoured history of China and patriotism and optimism of the Chinese people, gripping the hearts of the audience.

The performance ended with a Chinese song "We'll Never Forget This Evening". It showed in a vigorous and original representation the aspirations and desire of the peoples of the two countries to write more beautifully the epic

of friendship and unity and won resounding acclaim as it blended the feelings of the performers and audience into one.

Xi Jinping and Peng Liyuan presented a floral basket to the performers, mounted the stage to congratulate them on their successful performance and had a photo taken with them.

The performance continued until January 28.

The State Grand Theatre, where the DPRK's revolutionary opera "The Flower Girl" and finely adapted opera "A Dream of Red Mansions" were performed on a large scale, was crowded every day with people who came to see the performance of the Korean artistes.

Whenever the performances were over, the audience gave a big hand and presented baskets of flowers and bouquets to the Korean performers, while remaining in the auditorium for a long time unwilling to leave the theatre.

They also lavished praise on the extraordinary influence of the performance, expressing their hope and belief that the Sino-DPRK cultural exchange would be bolstered up.

During the stay the delegation enjoyed welcome performances of the Chinese artistes and visited several places in Beijing.

The performance tour of China by the friendship art delegation, the first friendship mission in 2019 to bring into reality the important agreement reached by the top leaders of the two parties and the two countries, brilliantly adorned a page in the history of the DPRK-China cultural and artistic exchange that ushered in a new efflorescence and marked a significant occasion in boosting the kinship ties between peoples of the two countries as required by the new era.

Article: Kim Phil



The performances were loudly applauded by their excellent artistic influence





Seething with Enthusiasm for Increased Electric Power Production

From the outset of the year the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex is waging a dynamic campaign to increase electric power production by giving fullest play to its generating capacity and modernizing generating facilities.

Workers and technicians of the Youth Workshop, workshops Nos. 3, 4 and 5 establish a strict system of checking machines and facilities and put great attention to technical management aimed at maximizing the capacities of boilers and generators.

Workshops in charge of materials supply make efforts to satisfy the demands for raw and other materials needed in general overhauls, and workers in the maintenance and repair sector strive to tap every possible latent reserve and apply advanced methods so as to conduct the overhauls of generating facilities in terms of quality.

The technical personnel of the complex wage a vigorous technical innovation campaign to promptly solve knotty problems in maintaining the normal operation of the newly installed generators and renovating other generating equipment on a modern basis.

Thanks to the surging enthusiasm of its officials and workers to make a breakthrough for reenergizing the national economy by tapping every potential prepared by dint of the spirit of self-reliance, the complex is making greater achievements in the electric power production.

Article: Pak Yong Jo
Photo: An Chol Ryong



The complex ensures normal operation of generating machines and increases their efficiencies

Ryongsong Raising Fierce Flames of Innovation

Workers at the Ryongsong Machine Complex, one of the leading producers of the ordered equipment in the DPRK, who successfully carried out the last year's national economic plan, are arousing their enthusiasm for working fresh miracles and feats from the beginning of the year.

Senior officials of the complex are making scrupulous plans for supplying raw and other materials, managing equipment and technology, and staggering production, in order to produce large machinery needed for the February 8 Vinalon Complex, Hungnam Fertilizer Complex, other important factories and enterprises, and the construction of the Tanchon Power Station.

In the raw materials supply sector the operation of electric and induction furnaces and other machines is ensured as required by technical regulations and standard manuals. And useful ideas of technical innovation are actively adopted into production of main bodies and other parts of large machines.

Workshops and workteams in charge of processing are dynamically waging drives to emulate and overtake leading ones and share experience, thus introducing new jigs and equipment and steadily developing technical skills of the workers. In the course of this, they are hastening the processing and assembling of machinery and equipment.

The compressor workshop, which developed a new model of compressor last year, is giving satisfactory solutions to technical bottlenecks arising in the production of compressors of various models.

The complex is inspiring creative zeal of scientists and technicians and bolstering contacts with scientific research organs to technically reconstruct production processes and develop new products, thereby consolidating the foundations for reenergizing production.

In hearty response to the New Year Address of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un to upgrade designing and processing techniques in the machine-building industry and develop and produce a variety of modern machinery and equipment, all the officials and workers of the complex are exalting their ardent zeal for increased production.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: Ri Chol Jin



Mt Kumgang, Korea's Celebrated Mountain



Mt Kumgang, one of the six celebrated mountains of Korea, covers Kosong and Kumgang counties and some part of Thongchon County of Kangwon Province.

Located in the middle of the Great Paektu Mountains, it is an aggregate of all beauties of the

nature, including those of mountain, valley, lake, sea, seashore and landscape.

Its scenery, in which sky-high peaks, rocks in various shapes and forms, steep cliffs and deep valleys, innumerable pools and ponds and thick forests, are in good harmony with each other to

form a beautiful picture.

From olden times, it is said that “it seems to have all superb scenic beauties as stones do ten thousand of tricks, water does one thousand of cute things and trees are admirable” and “don’t tell about the beauties of nature before seeing

Mt Kumgang.”

For its natural and geographical features the mountain area is the home of over 1 200 species of plants and 250 species of vertebrate animals.

It has a great number of historical sites and relics showing the Korean people’s wisdom and talents,

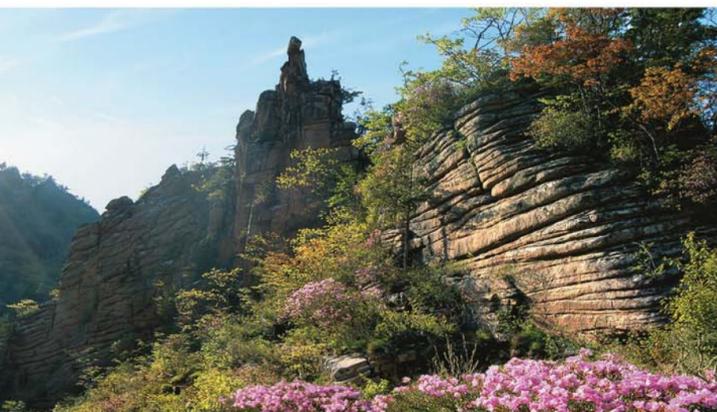
including old tombs in the early period of the class society, fort, building, tower, tombstone, sculpture of Buddhist image, metalwork and woodwork.

Its rare and precious plants and animals, rocks in various myriad forms, natural caves, waterfalls, hot springs and lakes were registered as the national

living or natural monuments for their great scientific significance and scenic beauties.

Article: Choe Ui Rim

Photo: Ri Min Chon, Kim Jin Ho, Ri Song Il, Pyon Chan U



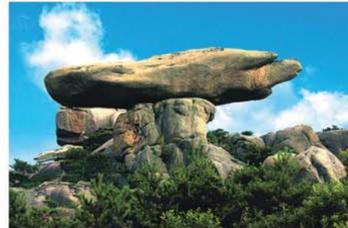
Mt Kumgang in four seasons



Samson Rock



Myriad-shaped rock in Pyol Kungang



Mysteriously-shaped rock in Chonbuldong



Ship-shaped rock in Tongsoktong



Rock on Sujong Peak

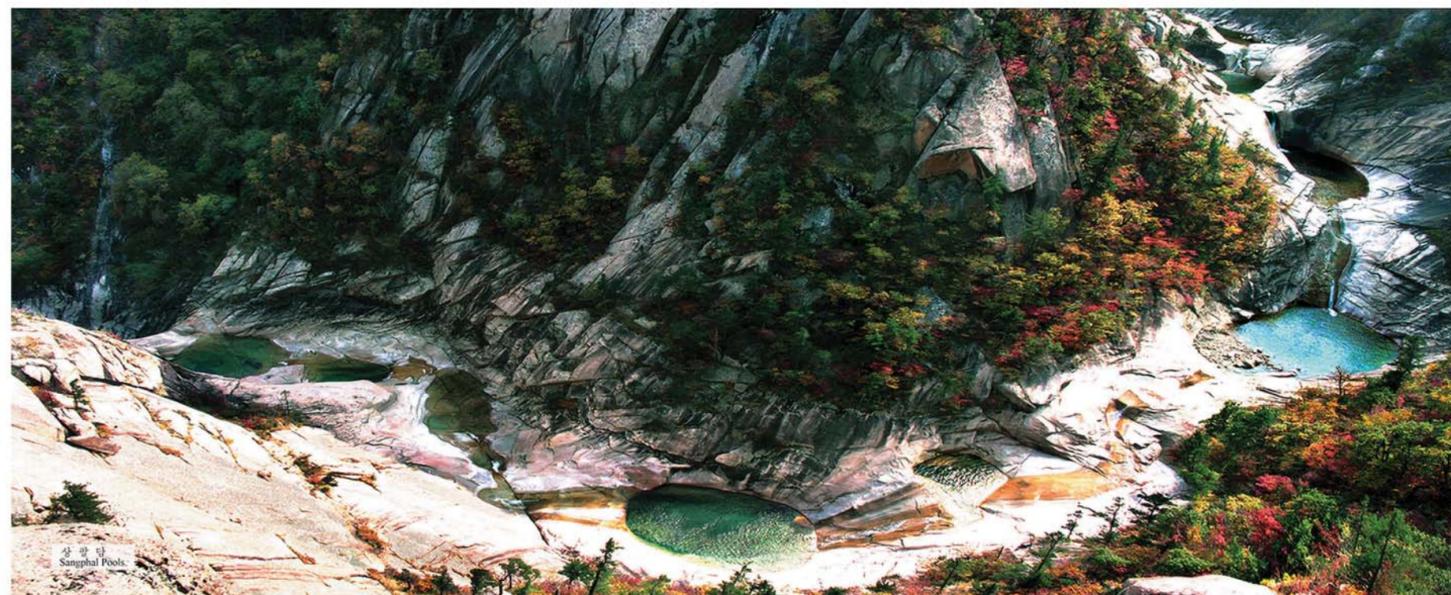
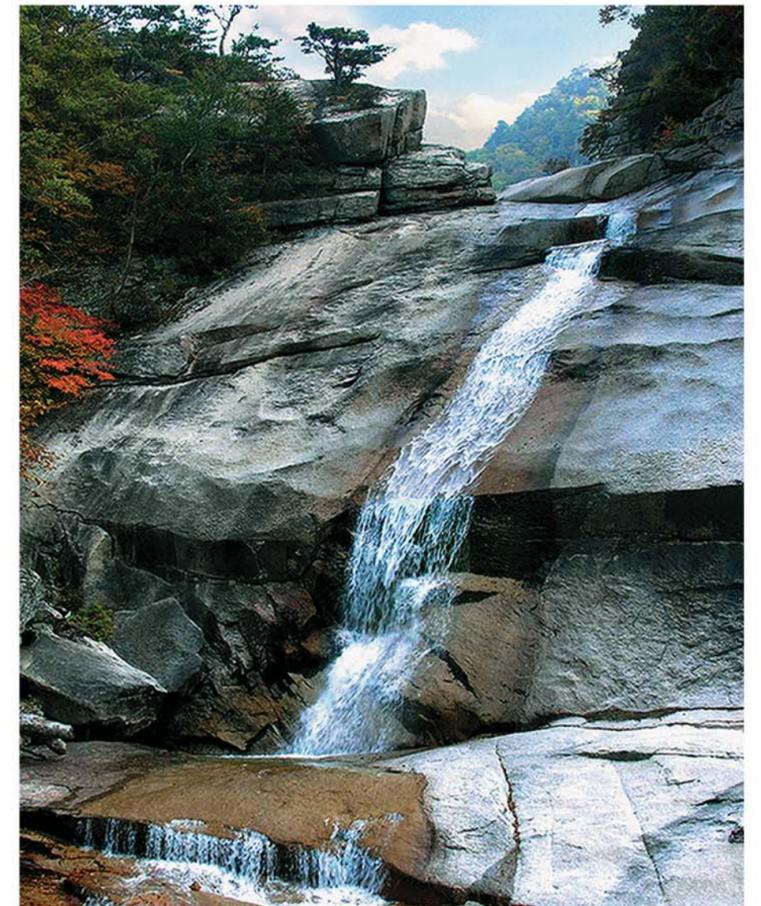
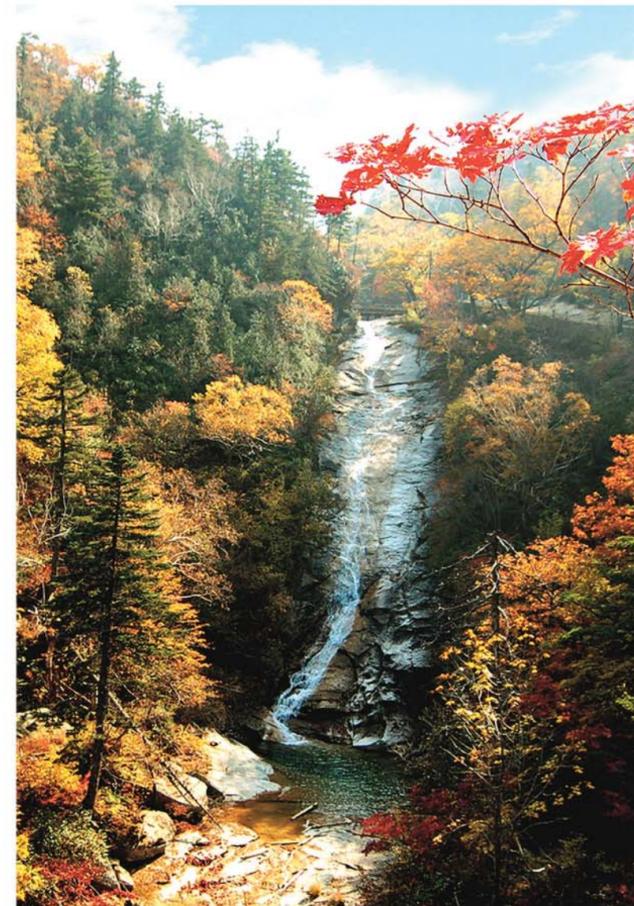
Sangphal Pools



Pyol Kungang

Kuchon Falls

Ogyong Falls





Lagoon Samil



Sea Kumgang

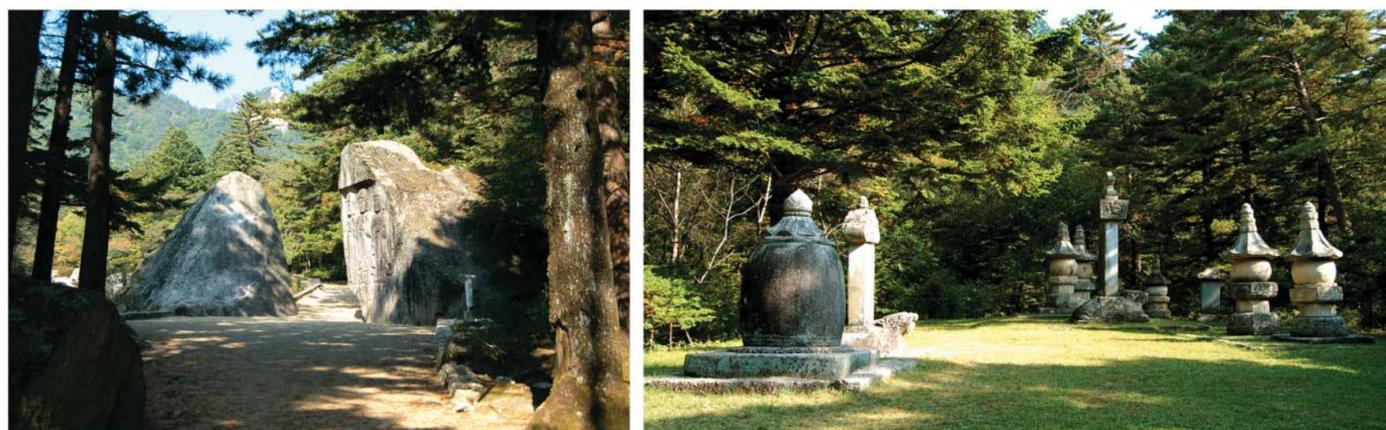


Chongsokjong



Typical plants in the Mt Kumgang area

Mt Kumgang was registered as a world biosphere reserve at the 30th session of UNESCO International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme.



Historical sites and relics in Mt Kumgang



Sci-Tech Complex, Everybody's Favourite Haunt

The Sci-Tech Complex on Ssuk Island in the Taedong River is frequented by people every day.

A magnificent building in a unique style in the shape of an atomic structure, the complex is a multifunctional sci-tech dissemination base fully equipped with necessary facilities of learning for all people.

Not only scientists and technicians but also young and old people, especially students and disabled persons, forget the lapse of time as they are so engrossed in the quest of knowledge before computers.

Kim Chung Hyok, a postgraduate student of Kim Il Sung University, said the data browsing service system of the complex was very helpful to completing his paper for academic degree.

"My colleagues call me an inventor and walking dictionary as I readily solve problems arising in my study and production with the help of the question-and-answer room," smilingly said a worker of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, who is a junior of the online college of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

As a hub of nationwide sci-tech dissemination, the complex focuses on promptly providing new sci-tech data to universities and colleges, scientific research institutions, provincial sci-tech libraries, Mirae digital libraries and other sci-tech learning spaces across the country.

A Russian personage who visited the Sci-Tech Complex said, "The Sci-Tech Complex of the DPRK is a wonderful place which gives people necessary knowledge and makes them fascinated by the world of science unawares. It is a grand palace of learning for all people, which can be boasted of to the world."

Article: Kang Su Jong
Photo: Hong Kwang Nam





The DPRK players on the winners' rostrum



Korean Students Honoured As Grandmasters of Memory

The 27th World Memory Championships held in Hong Kong, China, in December last year, drew more than 260 players from 18 countries and regions, including the DPRK, China, Russia, the US, the UK and France.

Pang Un Sim, Ri Song Mi and Kim Su Rim, girl students of Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, competed in the championships.

All the participants were divided into four groups including veteran, senior and junior levels. They competed in ten subjects, and they were ranked and awarded medals according to their scores in each subject. Their final rankings were decided with an aggregate score.

The DPRK players won seven gold, seven silver and five bronze medals, and lifted four trophies, setting four new records in the championships. In particular, Pang Un Sim took the first place in the senior level and Ri Song Mi came third in the junior level, both of them obtaining the International Grandmaster of Memory awards.

At the awards ceremony the president of the world memory competition association said that he was very pleased that the DPRK students attended the championships and their achievements were unbelievable and surprising.

Foreign players, coaches and jury

members hardly repressed their envy and admiration for the three Korean students, who made up only 1.12 percent of all participants and made their international debut but took possession of 15.8 percent of all medals and 44 percent of new world records in the championships.

It was no accident that the DPRK girl students were successful in the world memory event.

Their coach Cha Yong Ho, a section chief of the same university, directed a great deal of efforts to developing and completing a new teaching method for breaking the world records set by world memory aces while making preparations for the championships.

His high ambition to train frontrunners in the worldwide competition and intellectual inquiry bore fruit: he succeeded in systematizing a new associative memory method for everyone and his students' practical ability improved markedly.

The students were also very eager to learn. They worked day and night without rest to polish their skills, repeatedly training what they learned.

Thanks to their enthusiastic efforts, the lecturer and students of the university could bring honour to their country and their university as well.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho
Photo: Ri Ryong Un



Pang Un Sim



Ri Song Mi



Kim Su Rim





Women make up the overwhelming majority of the employees of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill in the east Pyongyang area.

The compound of the mill looks like a park as it is covered with fruit and other luxuriant trees of good species and has fantastic resting places.

The workers lead a fulfilling and optimistic working life at their workplaces equipped with cultured and hygienic working conditions and environment.

At the two nurseries and a kindergarten some distance away

from the production units their children grow happily as they sing and dance merrily.

And there are the Phyongbang Health Complex equipped with cultural and welfare facilities, neatly furnished sports grounds and the hall of culture, which are the favourite haunts of employees.

Full of Joy and Optimism

In particular, the workers' hostel, which was built on the bank of the Taedong River by the state in 2014, is the lovely home of unmarried workers.

It is furnished with necessary facilities for living as well as cultural and leisure life, including beauty salon, reading room and cooking practice room with a full set of kitchen utensils.

Young women often prepare foods at the cooking practice room and invite their friends to serve them.

In the morning they leave the hostel with a determination to work harder, and in the evening they come back with a pleasure of having overfulfilled their daily quotas.

All women workers of the mill strive to increase production, helping one another forward, with the pride of being the master of the factory.

Article Kim Son Gyong
Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Women workers of the mill enjoying joyful and optimistic life at their workplaces provided with ample working conditions and cultural and welfare facilities



Statue of composer Kim Won Gyun



Kim Won Gyun University of Music

Inaugurated on March 1, 1949, Kim Won Gyun University of Music has developed into a major centre for training musicians in the DPRK, and a hub of musical art education, information, data service and distance learning.

It consists of the faculties for vocal music, traditional instrumental music, Western instrumental music, musical composition, piano, manufacture of musical instruments, and online education, as well as a postgraduate course, the Korean Traditional Music Institute and an orchestra based on double woodwind instrumentation.

Attached to the university are Pyongyang Music School No. 1 for basic education and Pyongyang Music School No. 2 for the training of popular singers and electronic instrumentalists.

The university was reconstructed in 2006 on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River.

The main building of the university includes classrooms, the musical composition faculty and the Korean Traditional Music Institute, and the two-block building for special courses has hundreds of private lesson rooms, 60-, 83- and 300-seat multipurpose halls for the recitals, and a sports hall.

The concert hall serves as the venue for domestic and international artistic





performances.

The teaching staff who have accumulated rich experience in stage performance and teaching are the pride of the university.

Teachers in charge of special courses make it a fundamental principle in selecting reserve students to visit, together with the professionals, various parts of the country and find those with musical talents.

The university that attaches great importance to private lessons investigates in a comprehensive way merits and demerits of every student and applies the most reasonable teaching methods.

It has so far produced many graduates, who distinguish themselves in major art troupes, including the State Merited Chorus, National Symphony Orchestra and Mansudae Art Troupe.

Kim Won Gyun University of Music has been awarded the Order of Kim Il Sung, the top decoration of the DPRK, for its glorious merits as befits the highest institute of the Juche-based musical art education.

Article: Mun Jin Yu
Photo: Choe Myong Jin





Researchers in scientific discussion



Toward Higher Goals

The Institute of Cutting-edge Science at Kim Il Sung University was organized in 2014 as a comprehensive research and development base for the purpose of playing a pivotal role in establishing top-notch industrial sectors and turning structure of the national economy into that of knowledge-based economy by integrating

several research groups in the field of core basic technologies and thus utilizing the intellectual and material sources more efficiently.

Under the institute are IT, nanotechnology, bioindustry, electronic-materials, analysis, telecommunications industry and other research divisions and a laboratory.

The institute puts an emphasis on strengthening cooperation among the different divisions to develop their own monopoly techniques onto the world level and maintaining organic relations with colleges and faculties for joint research. Students and postgraduates who are enlisted in the joint research projects improve their scientific and

theoretical qualifications and practical abilities.

IT, bioindustry and nanotechnology divisions directed efforts to working out concrete scientific and technological plans for promoting the independent and Juche character of the national economy and improving the people's living standards and to implementing specific measures to this end. In recent years they have developed a host of cutting-edge techniques and goods with

competitive edge in the world.

A dozen kinds of conventional analyzing facilities and devices, developed by the analysis division on the basis of new analyzing methods, have been introduced in foodstuff and pharmaceutical factories and other units across the country, the level of their accuracy and precision proving in the production of goods favoured by the people.

The electronic-materials, scientific experimental

apparatus and telecommunications industry divisions have developed new materials, techniques and equipment conducive to making the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific.

The institute is making strenuous efforts to gain more sci-tech achievements.

Article: Kang Su Jong

Photo: Hong Thae Ung



Sci-tech achievements of the institute contribute to modernizing production processes and improving quality of products at the Taedonggang General Fruit Processing Factory, Ryugyong Kimchi Factory and other factories

Sports Village Crowded with People

The Pyongyang Municipal Sports Village which was built on Mo Island in the Pothong River last year hums with a variety of sports activities of sportspersons and fans.

Covering a total area of some 71 500 square metres, the village encompasses a gym, hostel for athletes, outdoor training ground and the like.

Crossing the bridge newly built over the Pothong River, you can see first the parachute-shaped three-storeyed gym with hundreds of seats, including a basketball court and halls for physical

training, *ssirum* (Korean wrestling), table tennis and such games as *janggi* (Korean chess) and *paduk* (go).

The four-storeyed hostel with an accommodation capacity of some 200 people has such amenities as shop, barber shop, beauty salon, library and amusement hall. In particular, on the top floor is the sci-tech learning space for sportspersons where they can study the trend of developing modern sports and acquire various sports techniques through a national computer network.

At the outdoor training ground with an

area of over 30 000 square metres, there are a football ground with 1 500 seats and basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton courts as well.

The sports village afforested and landscaped with good species of trees goes well with the floating flower garden in the river, adding more to the picturesque scenery, thus becoming a favourite haunt of many people.

Article: Mun Kwang Bong

Photo: Kim Yun Hyok, Ri Jin Hyok





The gym with hundreds of seats houses courts for playing basketball and table tennis, physical training hall and other facilities



Sci-tech learning space and welfare facilities in the hostel



Top Ten Taekwon-Do Players of the DPRK in 2018



Pak Mi Hyang



Kim Kum Jong



Kim Nam Su



Ham Su Gyong



Kim Il Hwa



Kim Hyang Sim



Kim Un Hwa



Wang Myong Guk



Ri Song Hun



Rim Wi Sok

Little Girl's Dream

In June last year a national exhibition of children's science fictions and models-2018 took place in Pyongyang.

Among all the presentations many visitors were nailed before a crayon painting *Big Apple*, depicting a schoolgirl in front of a schoolboy just falling down while trying to embrace an apple as big as he could hardly hold in both arms.

The crayon painting that won the top prize in the exhibition was presented by Pak Hye Yon, student from Tonghung Junior Middle School in Central District of Pyongyang.

Pak's parents made their daughter learn music since she was three. Though she preferred drawing to music, they thought their daughter would hardly become a painter.

Pak's talent for drawing which had been

neglected even by her parents was found and cultivated by the teachers of Ryonhwa Primary School in the same district, her class teacher Pak Hyang Sim in particular. So the girl began to learn fine art at the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace since she was a second grader.

In 2017, two years after, she submitted her crayon paintings, *Morning of the Holiday* and *Magnificent View over the Ryomyong Street*, to the 26th international children's drawing exhibition held in Khabarovsk of Russia.

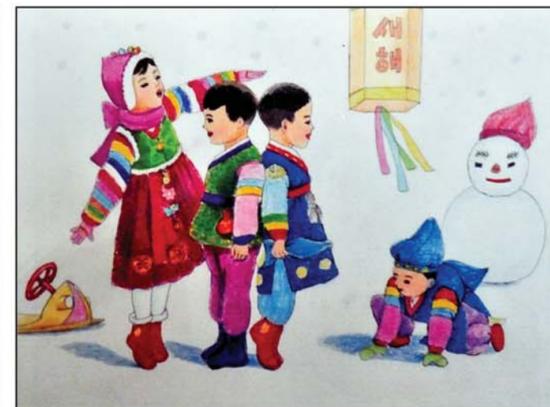
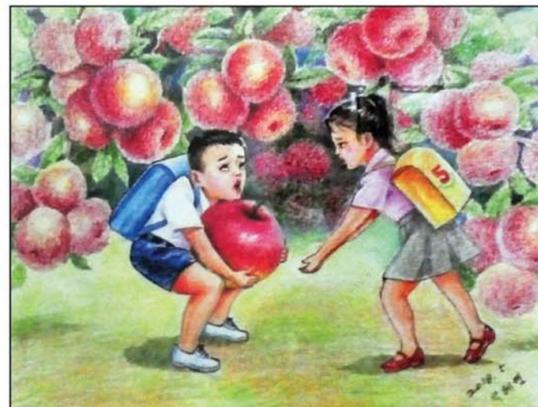
She won the gold medal with her pencil drawing, *Delight of the First Day of School*, at the 7th national pencil drawing festival held in February last year to celebrate the birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

Thanks to the educators who find out her bud of talent and cultivate it, the little girl's drawing ability is developing remarkably.

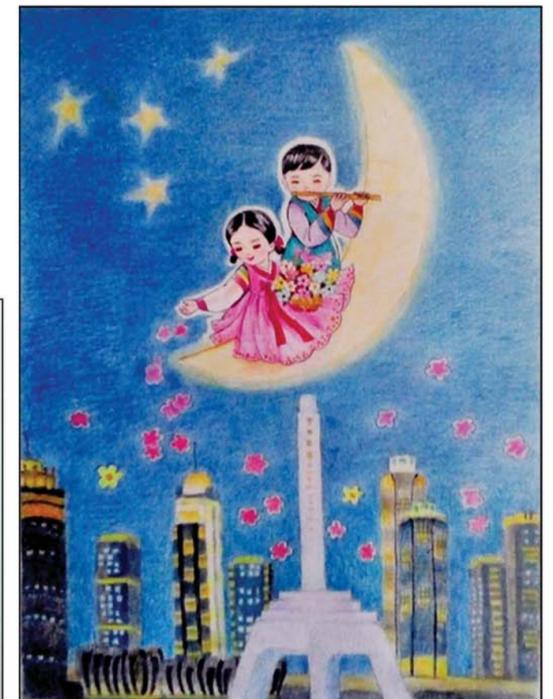
Article and photo: Ri Myong Guk



Certificate Pak Hye Yon won at the 26th international exhibition of children's drawings



Some of her drawings



Demonstration of Independent Spirit of the Korean Nation

March 1 this year marks the 100th anniversary of the popular uprising of the Korean people that left an indelible trace in the history of their struggle against foreign invaders.

The Japanese imperialists who militarily occupied Korea in 1905 turned the whole country into a sea of blood by enforcing the most barbarous colonial fascist rule and trampling upon the sovereignty and right to existence of the Korean people.

The March First Popular Uprising was an explosion of the pent-up anger and resentment of the Korean nation who had been exposed to extreme humiliation and mistreatment under the ten-year long brutal “sabre rule” of Japanese imperialism.

On March 1, 1919, thousands of young people, students and citizens gathered in the playground of Sungdok Girls’ School on Jangdae Hill (the present site of the Pyongyang Students and Children’s Palace) in Pyongyang and solemnly proclaimed Korea to be an independent state. Then they held a menacing street demonstration shouting the slogans “Long live the independence of Korea!” and “Japanese and Japanese troops, get out!” As the demonstrators marched out onto the streets, they were joined by tens of thousands of people. In Seoul a demonstration was held with the participation of hundreds of thousands of people, including the peasants from the provinces.

The Japanese imperialists mobilized their gendarme, police and even army troops to indiscriminately massacre the demonstrating masses, shooting and stabbing them. However, the demonstrators continued their march, the second rank stepping forward to the van if the front rank fell.

With the demonstration in Pyongyang and Seoul as the start, the uprising swept across all the 13 provinces of the country, spreading even to the Korean compatriots elsewhere such as Manchuria, Shanghai, the Maritime Province of Siberia and Hawaii and thus becoming truly nationwide resistance.

At that time every Korean with a national conscience took part in the uprising irrespective of occupation, religious belief, age and sex.

Between early March and late May in 1919, 1 542 demonstrations and uprisings took place, involving over two million people, and towards the end of the year a total of three million people rose in the struggle against the Japanese imperialists in 229 prefectures and counties among 232 prefectures and counties across the country.

Shocked by the Korean people’s high spirits of resistance, the Japanese imperialists mobilized not only the ground and naval troops stationed in Korea, the gendarme and the police but also the troops in the Japanese mainland, so as to repress the uprising.

They showered bullets upon the unarmed demonstrators, and arrested and massacred the innocent people and reduced villages to ashes.

From March to May, over 7 500 Koreans were killed and 15 900 seriously wounded.



People turned out in March First Popular Uprising against the Japanese barbarous colonial fascist rule

The report on the Japanese outrages during the March First Popular Uprising, even in the least reduced numbers, said that more than 30 000 men and 1 000 women were arrested, over 10 000 men, 300 women and 300 children killed, and over 50 000 men and 1 000 women injured.

Though the March First Popular Uprising ended in failure, the Korean nation demonstrated to the whole world that they are a people with a strong spirit of independence and that they are a people with indomitable stamina and ardent patriotism who fear no sacrifice in order to regain their country.

One hundred years have passed since then.

However, the Japanese reactionaries are shunning sincere apology and

compensation for the crimes committed upon the Korean nation during the 40-year-long colonial rule, but going to great lengths to deny and avoid the settlement for their crime-ridden past. Worse still, they are persisting in their manoeuvres to justify their past history of aggression and crimes and revealing their ill ambition for reinvasion of Korea.

Japan must be well aware that the spirit of independence displayed by the Korean nation a century ago has now become stronger than ever before and that the Korean people, always remembering the most heinous past crimes it committed against them, are keenly watching it.

Article: Pak Yong Jo



Foreign newspapers on the Korean popular uprising

