

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

Juche 109
(2020)

8

(No. 776)



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Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee Convenes Emergency Enlarged Meeting

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea convened an emergency enlarged meeting in the office building of the WPK Central Committee on July 25 as regards the dangerous situation in the city of Kaesong that may lead to a deadly and destructive disaster.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the WPK, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, presided over the meeting upon authorization of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee.

Pointing out that a critical situation has occurred in which it can be said that the vicious virus has entered the country, despite the intense preventive anti-epidemic measures taken in all fields throughout the country and tight closure of all the channels for the last six months, the Supreme Leader referred to the fact that a preemptive measure was taken on the afternoon of July 24 immediately after receiving the report on it to totally block the city of Kaesong and isolate each district and region from the other.

To address the present situation, he declared a state of emergency in the relevant area and clarified the determination of the Party Central Committee to shift from the state emergency anti-epidemic system to the maximum emergency system and issue a top-class alert.

The meeting unanimously adopted a decision of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee on switching from the state emergency anti-epidemic system to the maximum emergency system.

The Supreme Leader instructed all the participants to immediately organize work to carry out the decision of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee in their fields and units, and party organizations at all levels and every field to ensure and guarantee the most correct implementation of the directions and assignments of the Party Central Committee with a sense of great responsibility, loyalty and devotion.

He said that everyone should face up to the reality of emergency gravely, calling on them all to overcome the present epidemic crisis by remaining faithful and consistent to the leadership of the Party Central Committee with responsibility and devotion without losing the focus of thinking and action and uniting more closely behind it so as to defend the welfare of the people and security of the country without fail.



FRONT COVER: *March*, sub-thematic group sculpture of the Samjiyon Grand Monument

Photo: Kim Song Chol

Paektusan Pistols Presented to Military Officers



Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, bestowed *Paektusan* commemorative pistols on

leading commanding officers of the armed forces of the DPRK on July 26 on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War, and had a photograph taken with them.

Tribute Paid to War Martyrs



On the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery.

He was accompanied by KPA Vice Marshal Pak Jong Chon, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, and other commanding officers of the KPA.

He placed a flower before the cemetery and paid noble respects to the heroes of the great years who defended the country at the

cost of their lives and laid foundations of the powerful state of the DPRK.

Saying that the brilliant feats performed by the defenders of the country in the 1950s, who provided the valuable spiritual heritage of the revolution in the fierce flames of the war would go down in history, he expressed his belief that the heroic fighting spirit of war martyrs would be carried on as the eternal soul of socialist Korea.



Congratulatory Speech Delivered at the Sixth National Conference of War Veterans

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un delivered a speech at the Sixth National Conference of War Veterans, and the following is excerpted from his speech:

Greeting the 67th anniversary of victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War, I, on behalf of our Workers' Party of Korea and government, extend warm congratulations to you participating in this conference and other veterans of the war and people who performed wartime merits.

I also extend noble respects to the revolutionary martyrs, both sung and unsung, who sacrificed their precious lives in the sacred war for achieving the reunification and independence of their country and the freedom and happiness of their fellow people.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I offer my noble respects to the martyrs and veterans of the Chinese People's Volunteers, who set a genuine example of militant friendship by helping our people in their revolutionary war at the cost of blood.

But for the great July 27, there would not have been today of socialist Korea demonstrating its glories as the most dignified and independent powerful country, a people's country, in the present-day world and the imperialists' high-handed attempts to put Asia and the rest of the world in the sphere under their domination would not have been checked. It defined

the orientation of the new great history of the postwar socialist revolution and construction, created the proud traditions and wealth with which our country and people could achieve victory for ever, transformed the global political landscape and forcefully propelled the trend of the times towards independence and socialism—this is another great meaningfulness of the July 27.

Always remembering the truth that only when we have our sovereignty and right to existence guaranteed, can we achieve and promote happiness and in order to defend the destiny of our state and people, we must have strong power of our own, we will not halt even a moment on the road of building up the most powerful defence capabilities which no one would dare to challenge.

Although time passes and one generation is replaced by another, the heroic fighting spirit and undying feats of the victorious wartime generation will boil the red blood of our descendants harder for all eternity and the great spirit and feats will live for ever with the victorious advance of our revolution.

I sincerely request the respected war veterans across the country to lead a long life in good health, serving as the eternal source of our strength and spiritual mainstay.





the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill in Pyongyang and in different parts of the country.

Wreaths, bouquets and flowers were laid at the statues and cemeteries of martyrs, memorial towers for the fallen soldiers of the Korean People's Army and graves of martyrs across the country on July 27.

The participants in the Sixth National Conference of War Veterans laid wreaths before the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery on July 27.

They observed a silent tribute to the memory of the martyrs who, true to the order of President Kim Il Sung, had dedicated their youth and life to the sacred war against the gangster-like armed invasion of the imperialists. And they laid flowers before the gravestones of martyrs and recalled with deep emotion the worthwhile life of their comrades-in-arms enjoying immortality under the care of the Party.

That day the Cabinet of the DPRK hosted a reception in honour of the participants in the conference.

There was also a fireworks display in Pyongyang on July 27.

Looking at the gorgeous fireworks the spectators looked back on the immortal exploits of President Kim Il Sung who defeated the formidable imperialist enemies by dint of the Juche-oriented military ideas and outstanding strategy and tactics and thus laid a firm cornerstone of a powerful state. They were also more firmly convinced that they would emerge victorious for all eternity as they follow Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, another peerless great person.

Article: Kim Phil

Photo: By courtesy of the KCNA

Day of Victory Celebrated in Splendour

The Sixth National Conference of War Veterans took place at the April 25 House of Culture in the capital city of Pyongyang on July 27.

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, attended the conference.

The conference brought together war veterans and persons of wartime merit who had displayed unparalleled bravery and self-sacrificing spirit in the sacred war to defend the country in the 1950s.

Present there were chairmen of provincial Party committees, officials of ministries, national agencies and armed forces organs, teaching staff and students of revolutionary schools and youth and students in Pyongyang.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un came out to the platform of the conference together with war veterans and acknowledged the thunderous cheers given by all the participants reflecting their boundless reverence and trust.

The Supreme Leader delivered a significant congratulatory speech in which he spoke highly of the heroic life of the victorious wartime generation who performed undying feats and created the precious fighting spirit in the hard-fought Fatherland Liberation War, true to the leadership of Kim Il Sung, and expressed great confidence that the war veterans would reliably hand down to the rising generations the spirit of the 1950s as the bloodline of faith.

All the participants were greatly moved by his speech full of high

appreciation, respect, ennobling comradely love and a noble sense of revolutionary obligation for those who took part in the great Fatherland Liberation War.

When he finished his speech, they burst into thunderous cheers again, extending the highest honour and the warmest gratitude to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un for putting forward war veterans as valuable teachers who created the great history and the heroes who laid the foundations for an independent, powerful country and bestowing benevolent care on them.

A lecturer at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum made a speech, followed by a student of Kim Il Sung University and an officer of the Korean People's Army.

The venue of conference overflowed with enthusiasm of loyalty of all participants who were determined to live up to the great trust and love of the WPK that values war veterans as the elder generation of the revolution and the precious treasure of the country and gives prominence to them, and adds luster to their genuine life.

Kim Jong Un extended warm congratulations and greetings again to the war veterans across the country who had performed the immortal exploits that would shine for all eternity in the history of the country.

On the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the victory in the great Fatherland Liberation War all the people and KPA service personnel visited



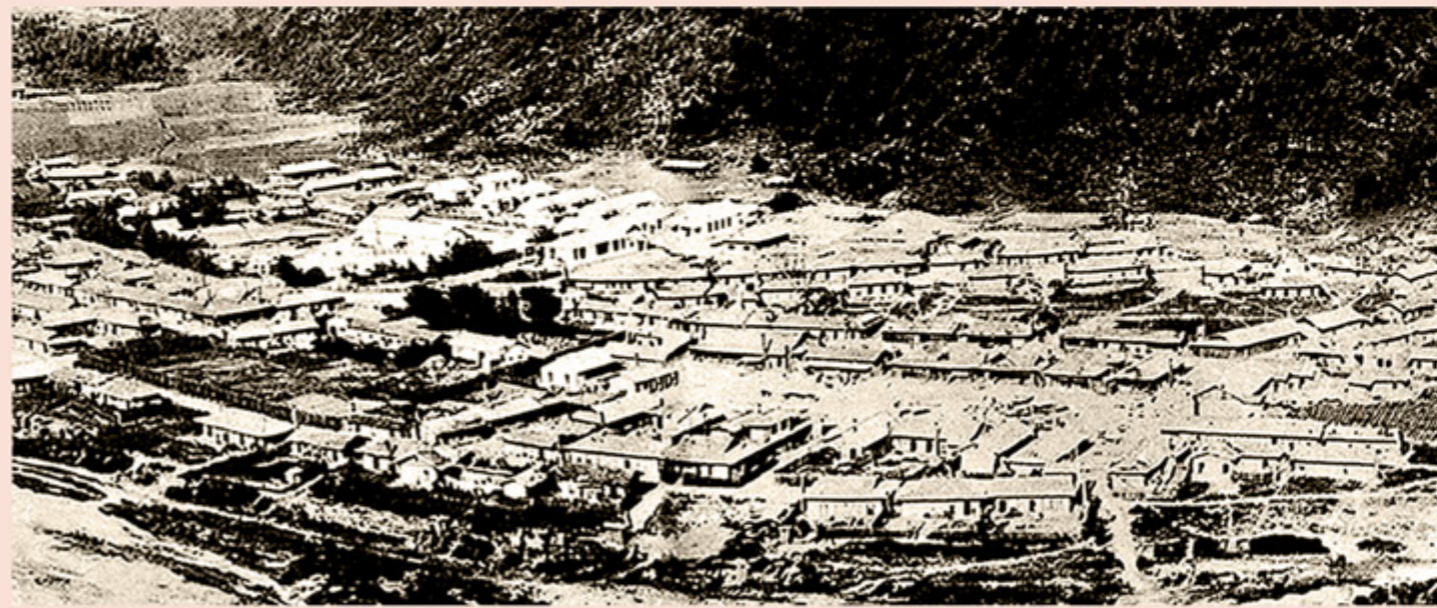


Kim Il Sung when he founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army

Saviour of the Korean Nation



The Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army was founded on April 25, 1932



The battle of Pochonbo fought on June 4, 1937 under the command of Kim Il Sung demonstrated the mettle of the Korean people who turned out in an anti-Japanese resistance and encouraged the revolutionary peoples of the world fighting for freedom and justice and against imperialism and fascism.

The Korean people, who celebrate the Day of Korea's Liberation (August 15), recollect the immortal exploits President Kim Il Sung performed in opening up the road of national resurrection.

In the first half of the last century, when the Korean nation was suffering great distress under the Japanese military occupation, Kim Il Sung declared an all-out war against Japanese aggressors and led the national liberation struggle.

He advanced the original line of waging an armed struggle with guerrilla warfare as its main form and founded the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army (reorganized into the Korean People's Revolutionary Army), the first revolutionary armed force of the Korean people, on April 25, 1932.

For the KPRA, which had neither the backing of a state nor support from a regular army, the confrontation with Japanese imperialism which was a self-styled leader of Asia and provided with modern military hardware was a

continuation of arduous and difficult struggle.

Despite manifold trials and hardship accompanied by fierce battles with tenacious enemy, heartrending sacrifices, biting cold and hunger, and so on, the Korean people waged the national liberation struggle without letup under the leadership of Kim Il Sung.

With an iron will, peerless courage and outstanding wisdom, he set forth correct lines, strategies and tactics at every stage and in every period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle for hastening the great event of national liberation, and maintained firmly the Juche-oriented stand in any complex and difficult circumstances.

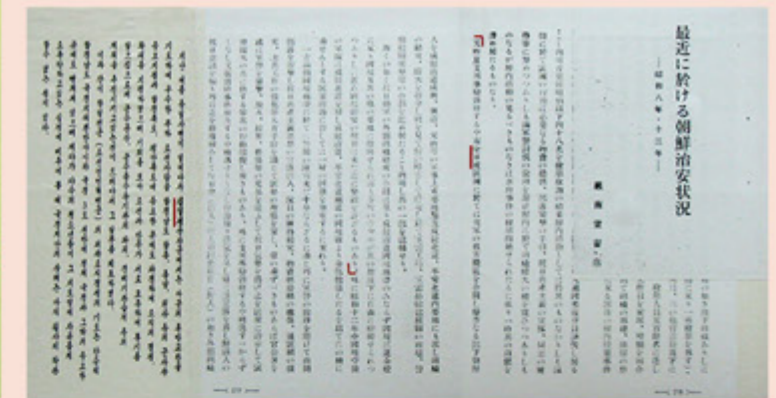
In the whole course of the armed struggle he held fast to the unique military idea of defeating the enemy's numerical, military and technical superiority by means of political, ideological, strategic and tactical superiority of the



Map of distribution of major organizations of the Association for the Restoration of Fatherland established and led by Kim Il Sung (May 1936 - August 1945)



The place where Kim Il Sung guided a national meeting of chiefs of ARF organizations in July 1944



From *Recent public security in Korea* published by the police bureau of the Government-General on the expansion and development of the ARF organizations

revolutionary army, and constantly created new strategic and tactical principles and methods of guerrilla warfare and developed them.

His noblest love for and trust in revolutionary comrades was what achieved unity of the anti-Japanese armed force in ideology, purpose and moral obligation.

Endowed with warm humanity and broad magnanimity, he placed a firm belief in everybody, who loved the country and the nation, and persuaded them to commit themselves to the struggle for national liberation.

With a keen insight into the rapidly-changing international situation and on the basis of the motive force strengthened with the KPRA as the core, he

issued the order of launching the general offensive for national liberation on August 9, 1945.

According to his order, the KPRA units and all resistance forces at home and abroad turned out at once to destroy the Japanese aggressor troops and occupy the enemy administrative organs.

On August 15, 1945, Japanese imperialism declared an unconditional surrender and the Korean people was liberated from the nearly half a century of the Japanese military occupation.

The three-thousand-ri land of Korea seethed with the delight over the liberation, and all the Korean people looked forward to the triumphal return of



Kim Il Sung delivering an address at the mass rally of Pyongyang citizens held to welcome his triumphal return in October 1945

General Kim Il Sung.

Preparatory committees and other colourful ceremonies to welcome the General were organized in Pyongyang, Seoul and other parts of the country.

However, Kim Il Sung, who fought bloody battles for two decades and achieved the historic cause of national liberation, returned to the motherland so silently.

Though Mangyongdae, his native place, was within hailing distance, he did not drop in at his home but went to the Kangson Steel Plant (present Chollima Steel Complex) for the building of a new country.

And only after he founded the Workers' Party of Korea he gave his first address to the people in the homeland on October 14, 1945.

Hundreds of thousands of people from not only Pyongyang and its outskirts but Sariwon, Haeju, Sinuiju, Kanggye, Wonsan, Hamhung, and so on gathered for the mass rally and shouted thunderous cheers.

The cheers were the outburst of the Korean people's highest gratitude to Kim Il Sung as well as the demonstration of their determination and will to turn out in the building of a new country under his leadership.

Article: Kim Son Gyong



People full of delight over the country's liberation



President Kim Il Sung talking with President Fidel Castro Ruz of the Council of State of Cuba in March 1986



Chairman Kim Jong Il meeting President Fidel Castro Ruz in March 1986



Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez of the Council of State of Cuba meeting in November 2018



Constant Ties of Friendship

On August 29 sixty years ago diplomatic relations were established between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Cuba.

The Cuban people waged an arduous armed struggle to overthrow pro-US dictatorship in 1959 and set up a genuine people's government for the first time in its history.

The DPRK, being faithful to its international obligation to render an active support to the Cuban people who heralded the socialist revolution in Latin America, established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba in 1960.

Since then, peoples of the two countries supported and cooperated closely with each other in joint struggle against imperialism and for victory in the cause of socialism.

The Cuban people have extended positive support for and great encouragement to the just cause of the Korean people to build socialism and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

And the people of the DPRK have always been on the side of Cuba, resolutely opposing vicious moves of imperialists against it and expressing firm solidarity with the struggle

of its people to defend the revolutionary gains and build socialism.

Friendly relations established and consolidated by President Kim Il Sung and President Fidel Castro Ruz never wavered in the worldwide political turmoil in the 1990s and developed century after century.

In November 2018 Cuban President Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the then President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, visited the DPRK, which served as a point in further bolstering

the friendship forged in the joint struggle for anti-imperialism, independence and socialism.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Korean people extend their fraternal greetings to the heroic Cuban people who are advancing vigorously under the banner of socialism and also sincerely wish that they achieve great success in the struggle to defend socialist cause and make the country thriving under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, overcoming all sorts of challenges and manoeuvres of hostile forces.



The DPRK and the Republic of Cuba develop their friendly and cooperative relations in the political, economic, cultural and other fields



Statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il in Samjiyon

The city of Samjiyon in Ryanggang Province at the foot of Mt Paektu greeted the first summer after its facelift.

Samjiyon County was promoted to the city at the end of last year after it was turned into a model of mountainous city encapsulating modern civilization.

The Pegaebong observation platform is sited to command a panoramic view of the city which goes well with dense forests in Mt Paektu.

Over 4 000 low- and multi-storeyed dwelling houses were newly erected, replacing old ones in the then county town area. It is difficult to find similar apartments around the city: Kwangmyongsong-dong on Milyong Street is characterized by low-storeyed dwelling houses rich in national identity, while Pegaebong-dong on Rimyongsu Street by modern multi-storeyed apartments.

Also distinctive are those at Ponnamu-dong on Chongbong Street.

Over 380 public and industrial buildings, such as factories and industrial establishments divided into production and leisure spaces, schools, hospital, library, hall of culture, gym, hotels and restaurants, add more to the appearance of the city in summer.

Thick foliage of white birch, *Picea koraiensis* and other trees lining the streets as well as green lawns are another charm of the city.

With each passing day happy laughter and merry singing of the citizens, and youth and students ring out louder.

Article: Jong Ki Sang

Photo: Kim Song Chol



First Summer in the Facelifted Samjiyon





The city of Samjiyon, including Kwangmyongsong-, Pegaebong-, Ponnamu- and Ikkal-dong, is green with trees of good species







Young scientists striving to solve scientific and technological difficulties arising in practice



Pioneers of Cutting-Edge Science and Technology

The Korean young people are glorifying the days of their precious youth with feats of creation for the county's prosperity, and among them are young scientists of the State Academy of Sciences.

Regarding the creation of new things as their ideal and goal, they have made a big stride in pioneering and developing several branches of cutting-edge science and technology and given satisfactory solutions to scientific and technological difficulties arising in reality.

They are playing pivotal and leading roles in developing software, microelectronics, physiological activators, nano and other advanced technologies.

Young scientists from the information science and technology institute made a great contribution to modernizing industrial establishments with an emphasis on ensuring the domestic

production of raw and other materials and equipment and integrating production lines .

Those of the geological institute solved in a short period of time the sci-tech problems arising in ascertaining distributions of useful resources in several regions and prospecting them.

Young researchers at the hydraulic engineering, nanomaterials and microbiological institutes, with a firm determination to work harder for the country and people in their youth days full of strength and passion, strived day and night to achieve lots of valuable successes.

In the course of this the number of academic degree and title holders grew remarkably among young scientists.



Article: Kim Mi Ye
Photo: Pak Chang Bok

Girl Prodigy Grown into Famous Artist



O Un Byol

Mansudae Art Studio, a renowned hub of fine art creation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, boasts a large contingent of excellent artists, and among them is O Un Byol from the Korean Painting Production Company who shows a remarkable ability in figure painting.

Her father, O Kwang Ho, was also a painter. As if she inherited her father's aptitudes for painting, O was especially fond of crayons or brushes before any other playthings. So people said she was an art prodigy.



Korean paintings *We Are Going Together to the Moon* (above) and *What a Beautiful Land We Are Living on* (below) she drew at six and nine



Diplomas O won in international contests: the first prize (above) at seven, and special prize (below) at nine



Her fine art exhibitions took place in several countries



Some of her Korean paintings

When she was two, her nursery teachers took her to the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts near her house at Jangchung-dong, Songyo District.

Little girl's talent caught the attention of Choe Song Ryong, lecturer of high repute. Though he was a stern teacher, Choe often marveled at her brightness to perceive more than what she was taught.

In the first year of her learning, O drew nearly 400 pieces of still life. At the age of five she became well known to professional painters.

Her participation in the 12th world festival of youth and students in 1985 was her first international debut. Afterwards she won special prizes and gold medals at several international fine art exhibitions and prize contests of children's drawings and even held her private fine art shows in several countries, which earned her international fame.

She studied the Korean painting at the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts and finished the postgraduate course. During her university days she won first prizes in two exhibitions held to mark the founding anniversary of the university and the national fine art exhibition for new painters held in 2002

respectively. She also won a prize at the national fine art exhibition in 2003.

After her graduation she worked at the Mansudae Art Studio as she wished, and in 2008, one year later, she produced a Korean painting that won the first prize at the national fine art exhibition.

Several of her Korean paintings won diplomas and medals at the national and other fine art exhibitions and were registered as the state's collection.

To retain the honour is far more difficult to win it—it's her frank feeling. She spends her leisure time either reading or listening to music.

She is an enthusiastic helper of her younger sister, Ok Byol, and other young artists in their creative activities.

Though she is now 40 and a middle-aged woman, O Un Byol still keeps the traces of her appearance in the 1980s when she was widely known as a little art prodigy.

Article: Kim Son Gyong

Photo: Ri Ta Jong





Pyongyang Municipal Aviation Club always takes leading places in the sporting aviation events of annual games including the Republic Championships.

It regards it important to select reserves with a clear head and suitable constitution for each event and instruct them to acquire correct techniques from the basic training period, thus preparing them into promising players. It also introduces modern training and measuring equipment so as to enhance the proficiency of training.

Recently it newly manufactured a folding-type engine-propelled model aircraft and others for several sporting events and invented many aids for training and competition, including the upwind detector.

The players of the club are training hard, rain or shine, to master the aeromodelling technology, an ensemble of designing, building and flying model aircraft, and thus win gold medals in competitions.

Article: Kim Phil

Photo: Ri Myong Guk



Up Toward the Blue Sky



Pagyon Falls

There are three famous falls in Korea, and one of them is Pagyon Falls in the city of Kaesong.

It is 37 metres high and 1.5 metres wide, and cascades down with great rapidity and a tremendous crash.

Over the waterfall lies Pak Pool, 24 metres in circumference, 8 metres in diameter and 5 metres in depth, which sits on a huge rock hollowed out in the shape of a gourd.

Below the waterfall is Komo Pool, 120 metres in circumference and

40 metres in diameter. On one side of the pool stands a rock in the shape of a dragon, whose upper part is exposed above water. There is Pomsa Pavilion on a hill in the west.

The wonderful view of the waterfall and its surrounding areas with several historical relics varies with the season, attracting many visitors.

Article: Jong Ki Sang

Photo: Pak Chang Bok

Flocks of Sheep Grazing by Lake Pujon



The Pujon Plateau in South Hamgyong Province, one of the eight scenic spots in Korea, offers spectacular scenery of highlands and valleys, and even sunrise over the faraway East Sea of Korea.

In the middle of the plateau surrounded by high mountains of some 2 000 metres is Lake Pujon stretching from north to south. An artificial lake, it is called “a sea in the mountains” featured by thick forests, and more conspicuous view is flocks of sheep grazing by the lakeside.

Hoban-ri to the south of the lake is well known across the country for raising sheep.

Though it is situated in one of the coldest regions of the country, it is increasing the number of sheep every year by introducing good breeds in keeping with the regional conditions and advanced raising methods as suited to physiological characteristics and living behaviours of sheep.

In warm seasons natural and artificial pastures by the lakeside and along the ridges of mountains are shrouded with grazing sheep.

Both collective and individual breeding methods are encouraged in the farm and households.

Good experience in sheep raising is widely known across the farm and a brisk competition for raising more sheep is being waged among workteams and individual households.

Regular measures are taken for veterinary and anti-epizootic work, so as to cut morbidity and death rates.

Meat, wool and skin from sheep raised in the farm are favourably commended for their good quality, and the wool is processed at the Hamhung Woolen Textile Mill.

The more the sheep-raising develops, the better the living conditions of the residents in remote mountainous villages become.

Article: Pak Pyong Hun

Photo: Choe Won Chol





Present-day Thaesong-ri



A few hours' drive along the Youth Hero Motorway from Pyongyang reaches a rural village nestled at the foot of the hills on the left. This is the seat of Thaesong-ri in Kangso District of Nampho.

Thaesong-ri is associated with the leadership exploits of President Kim Il Sung who visited it several times to acquaint himself with the livings of the farmers and explained what should be done to be better off.

When Lake Thaesong was built in the late 1950s to serve as a major source of the irrigation system in Nampho, the village was rebuilt at the present location and underwent several changes with the passage of time.

Recently, it facelifted its appearance as befits an ideal socialist village, thanks to the concerted efforts of the villagers and the builders from the city of Nampho.

In a little more than one year and a half they erected 110 odd dwelling blocks for more than 180 households, each block provided with all the facilities for living. Over ten public buildings, including Thaesong Health Complex, hall of culture, ri people's hospital, agricultural sci-tech learning space, nursery and kindergarten, were newly constructed or reconstructed.

In the evening the cozy houses covered with fruit trees resound with merry laughter and loud singing of agricultural workers and their children, who are full of delight and optimism about bright future.

Article: Choe Kwang Ho

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



Lighthouse Keepers

The Komal peninsula lies on the northeastern Chongjin, a major port city, in North Hamgyong Province along the east coast of Korea, and there stands Chongjin Lighthouse on its southeastern extremity. Previously called Komalsan Lighthouse, it has a little more than 10 inhabitants, including four keepers and their families.

The white lighthouse evokes admiration of the people for its harmony with surrounding scenery. However, little known are its keepers' efforts to operate the lighthouse and manage buoys all the year round, day or night and rain or shine.

Their life in a remote area with few guests for days seems to be monotonous and boring, but they are fully conscious of the importance of their

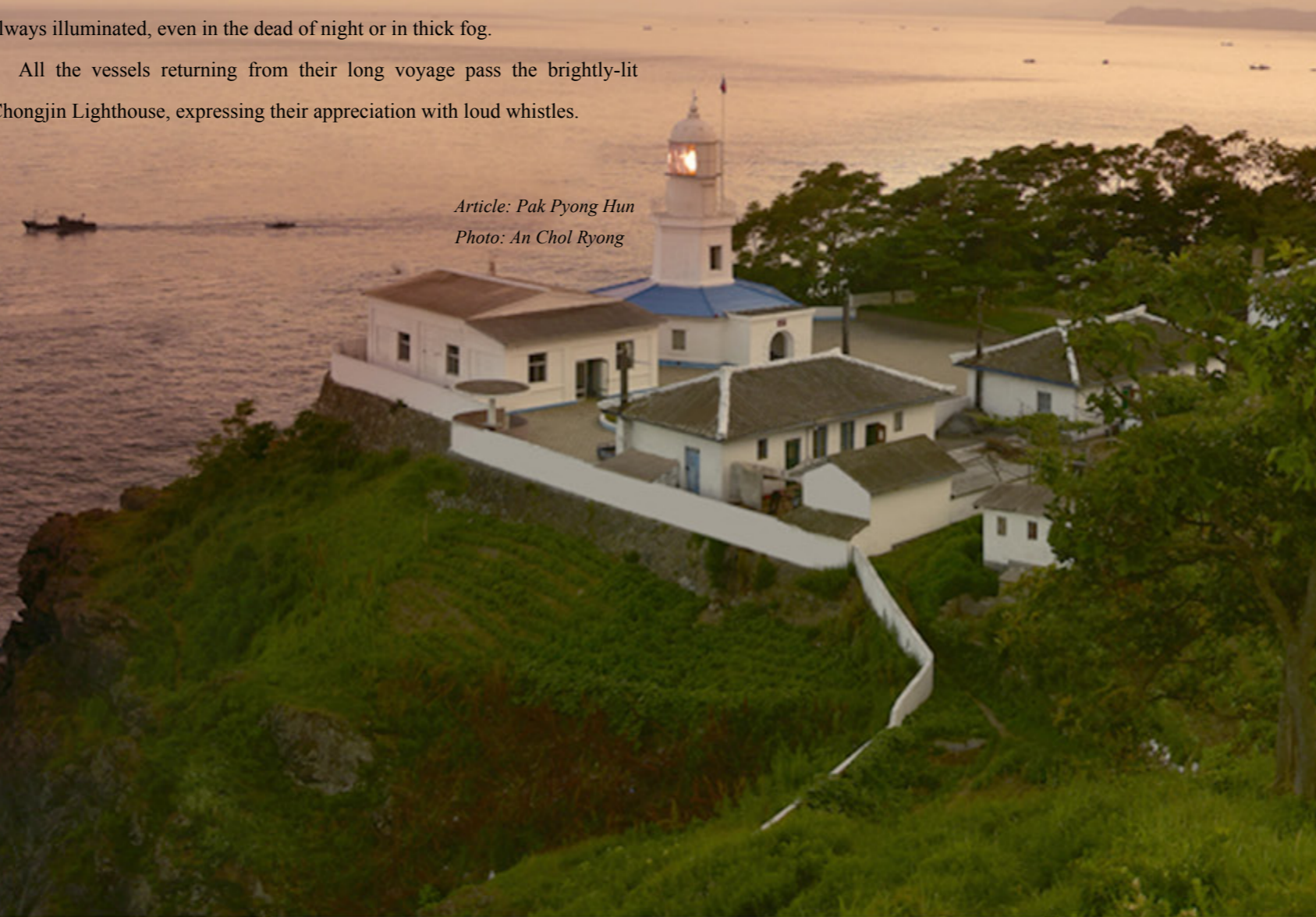
responsibility for the safety of the people and vessels on the sea.

Always keeping it in mind, they are pooling their wisdom and efforts to keep the lighthouse neat and tidy and upgrade the facilities in collaboration with technical experts.

Thanks to their painstaking efforts, the light on the Komal peninsula is always illuminated, even in the dead of night or in thick fog.

All the vessels returning from their long voyage pass the brightly-lit Chongjin Lighthouse, expressing their appreciation with loud whistles.

*Article: Pak Pyong Hun
Photo: An Chol Ryong*



Developer of Agrochemicals



Yu Son Ok

harmful insects.

She conducted countless experiments and endured bitter feelings of agony from repeated failures. But she never gave up and persevered with her work. At last she produced a biological agrochemical *Myongnok*, which controls 80 odd harmful insects.

Myongnok was greatly welcomed by farmers.

Not content with it, Yu continued her study of synthesizing new agrochemicals and produced several years later *Myongnok-3* with seed sterilizing and other additional functions.

In 2010 she succeeded in making a natural biological activator with resources available at home. Her new product contains more than 350 nutritive elements and organic substances, all conducive to helping the crop absorb sufficient amounts of nitrogen and other growth-promoting nutrients in the air and increasing the crop yield.

WIPO officially recognized this natural biological activator as a world's natural green environment-friendly organic compound fertilizer in 2017 and awarded Yu and her research team WIPO medals for invention.

Yu has so far developed nine biological agrochemicals and four of them won national patents.

In high appreciation of her meritorious contribution the state conferred on her the title of Merited Scientist and February 16 Science and Technology Prize, top honour for scientists and technicians.

Yu Son Ok is 65 years old, but she never feels exhausted in her scientific research.

Article: Kim Son Gyong

Photo: Hong Kwang Nam



WIPO inventor medal and diploma awarded in 2017 to Yu Son Ok for the natural biological activator

There are numerous intellectuals in the DPRK, who are making the country prosperous with their scientific and technological contributions.

Yu Son Ok, department chief of the Botanical Institute under the State Academy of Sciences, is one of such intellectuals.

She was a lecturer in veterinary science and animal husbandry at the Sukchon College of Agriculture in the mid-1980s, when she switched her principal subject to biological agrochemicals.

At that time, the infestation of harmful insects caused great damage to the country's farming, resulting in the reduced crop yields, and the use of chemical insecticides decreased soil fertility.

Yu felt compelled to give a solution to farmers' dilemma and made a bold decision to develop insecticides.

What she could learn through documentary studies, however, was that there was no other method than to use chemical insecticides for pest control.

She made painstaking efforts to find out a suitable way of pest control without giving harmful effects on soil fertility. She finally hit on an idea that plants, like animals, have their natural enemies and hence specific defensive functions, and began her study.

She was always pressed for time, conducting education and research in parallel, and she got into the habit of sleeping only two hours a day since.

She hardly spent her time at home, but in mountains, fields and laboratories to make component analysis of over 1 000 species of plants and selected 200 odd plants whose ingredients are the sources of the substance for killing

Four Consecutive Winners



At a break



Jong Kum Hwa and Ro Hye Song from the Ministry of Commerce Sports Club are national and Asian champions in the women's modelling duo.

Jong Kum Hwa is a veteran player who started the acrobatic gymnastics in 2008, and she has hardly yielded the first place at national games.

Ever since she won the gold medal in the women's modelling duo at the 8th Asian Acrobatic Gymnastic Championships in 2013, she retained her championship at successive events.

The present duo of Jong Kum Hwa and Ro Hye Song took the first place by overwhelming margins at the 11th Asian Acrobatic Gymnastic Championships in October last year.

The girls are striving to attain a higher goal of becoming world champions.

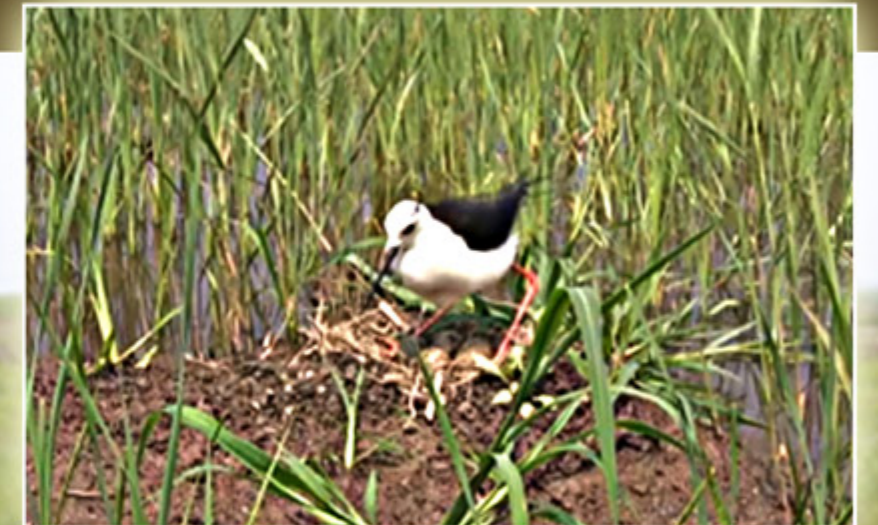
Article: Jong Ki Sang

Photo: Sin Chung Il

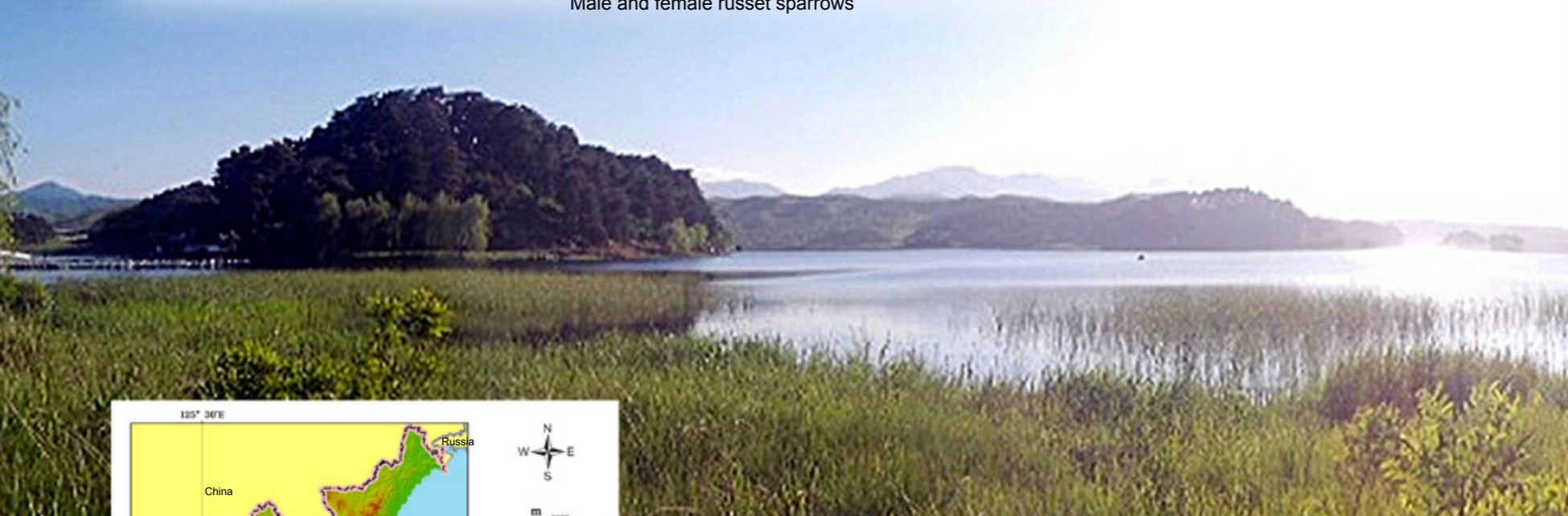
Breeding Places of Rare Birds Observed in the East and West Coasts of the DPRK



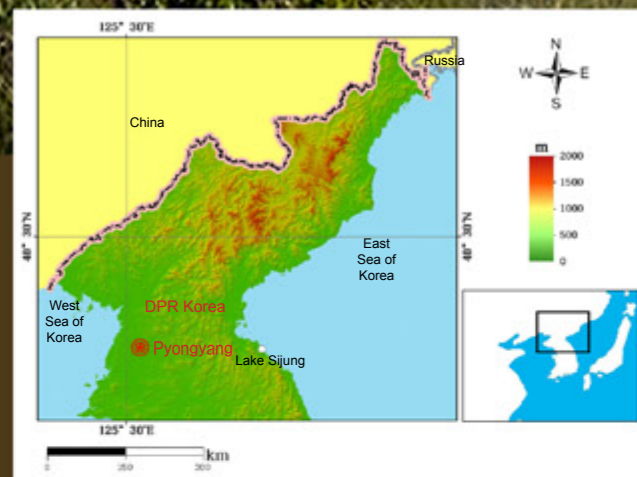
Male and female russet sparrows



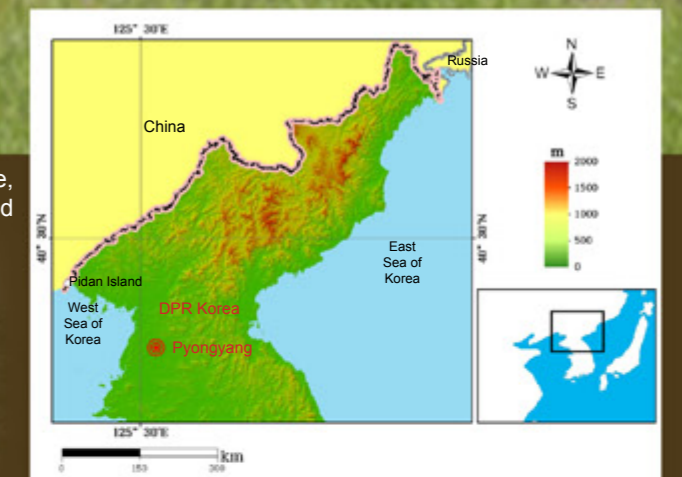
Black-winged stilt sitting on eggs



Scenery of Lake Sijung, Thongchon County in Kangwon Province, where russet sparrows breed



Wetland on Pidan Island, Sindo County, North Phyongan Province, where breeding places of black-winged stilts are found



Russet sparrow *Passer Rutilans* had not been known to breed in the areas north of central part of the Korean peninsula.

However, after biodiversity researchers found a pair (female & male) of russet sparrow *P. Rutilans* in the forests close to residential districts on the shore of Lake Sijung, Thongchon County in Kangwon Province in May 2018, the species was suspected to breed there. Based on the hypothesis, they conducted energetic

surveys but there were no positive records to support it until early this year.

Then, during their regular bird surveys around Lake Sijung and Lake Tongjong migratory birds (wetland) reserve (including areas of Lake Tongjong and

Lagoon Chona) between the middle and late days of May, they observed breeding of russet sparrow *P. Rutilans* and thus confirmed for the first time that the species is breeding there.

Along with it, the scientists recently

made a progress in the survey of black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus* in the Sindo migratory birds (wetland) reserve established in Pidan Island along the west coast of Korea.

Although the species had been originally

known as a migratory bird making only stopovers in the area located in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, it had also been suspected to breed there. But there were no positive records to support this hypothesis.

During intensive fieldwork between late June and early July this year, the researchers observed the breeding of black-winged stilt *H. himantopus* in the wetland habitat, the first of its kind in the country.

Ri Chung Song, section chief of Biodiversity Institute under the State Academy of Sciences
Photo: Ri Chung Song, Ryu Jin, Kim Kyong Chol, Pak Tae Bom

Old Architectural Structures on Moran Hill

Moran Hill in Pyongyang, whose name derived from its appearance resembling a blooming peony flower, abounds with historical remains associated with the Korean nation's intelligence and talent.

In particular, there are many remains of the Walled City of Pyongyang built in the period of Koguryo (277 BC-AD 668), including Ulmil and

Choesung pavilions, and Chilsong, Jongum and Hyonmu gates.

Ulmil and Choesung pavilions served as command posts for generals to keep watch on enemy's movements and command soldiers in defence of the fortress against the foreign invasion.

Ulmil Pavilion, a northern command post in the Walled City of Pyongyang, was rebuilt in 1714,

during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392-1910). It consists of a square-trimmed stone platform which was built in tiered shape at the bottom and in a narrowing pattern upward, giving majestic and secure impressions and looking higher than its actual height of 11 metres.

The gorgeous Choesung Pavilion stands on the summit of Moran Hill, boasting its unique feature

of a structure built on the hilltop.

Chilsong Gate was reconstructed in the period of Koryo (918-1392) and in 1711 and 1764. Walls on both sides of the gate are alternately positioned some 10 metres apart, and the gateway is placed diagonally. That the exterior wall protrudes to serve as outer fortress and the pathways inside the arched gateway and before the gate slope steeply are distinctive features of the gate.

Jongum Gate, the gateway to the walled city from a ferry under Chongnyu Cliff on the Taedong River, was built by erecting stone walls crisscross and placing a gate at a right angle to the walls.

Hyonmu Gate was a northern gate of the Walled City of Pyongyang. The present gate was reconstructed in 1714, and it stands at the lowest point where the walls stretching from the peaks between Choesung and Ulmil pavilions meet at right angles.

Pubyok Pavilion, one of famous historical remains on Moran Hill, was called Yongmyong Pavilion when it was first erected in 393 as an affiliate of Yongmyong Temple, a Buddhist temple. Later it was renamed as it looked like a pavilion floating on Chongnyu Cliff on the meandering river. The pavilion was burnt down by Japanese aggressors during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), and rebuilt in 1614.

Not only the above-mentioned ones but also other historical remains on Moran Hill, including the site of Yongmyong Temple, an octagonal, five-tiered pagoda and Chongnyu Pavilion, are under good preservation thanks to the DPRK's policy on conserving national heritage.

Article: Kim Mi Ye

Photo: Choe Won Chol



Chilsong Gate



Ulmil Pavilion



Choesung Pavilion



Chongnyu Pavilion



Hyonmu Gate



Pubyok Pavilion

