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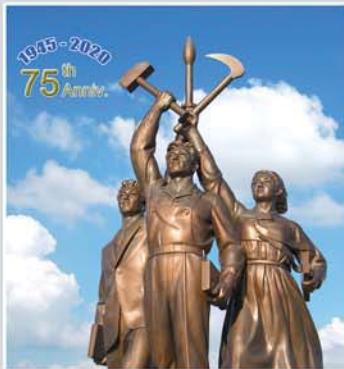
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Front Cover: The Workers' Party of Korea celebrates the 75th anniversary of its founding in October this year

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok



Back Cover: In the festive evening

Photo taken by Ri Yong Myong in October 2017

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Political Ideal of WPK

THE PEOPLE-FIRST POLICY is the political ideal of the Workers' Party of Korea.

It means regarding the masses of the people as masters of the revolution and construction, relying on them and making selfless, devoted efforts for their interests.

Kim Jong Un puts the position of the people on the highest possible level, and administers the politics of attaching importance to them by which he solves all problems arising in political practice by relying on them.

The being he respects and worships above all is the people. He defined the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the guiding ideology of the Party and the State, as the people-first principle, and set forth the idea of applying President Kim Il Sung's and Chairman Kim Jong Il's outlook on the people thoroughly.

In his work ***Making Selfless, Devoted Efforts for the Good of the People Is the Mode of Existence and Source of Invincible Might of the Workers' Party of Korea*** published on October 10, Juche 104 (2015) he said that the history of the Party is just the path travelled by the Korean people, that its might is their might, that its greatness is their greatness, and that its victory is the victory achieved by them; he clarified that the great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is, in essence, the people-first principle, and that the mode of existence of the Party is serving the people.

He put forward the slogan "**Everything for the people**

and everything by relying on them!" and has made sure that the slogan has been the fundamental principle and mode of activities of the Party and the State to the letter.

The Supreme Leader administers the politics of love for the people by which to take full responsibility for and care of their destiny and life.

During the past eight years the Korean people once stood at the crossroads of war or peace, and broke through countless trials, and in the course of this they grew stronger and developed to a higher position.

All the thinking and practice of the Supreme Leader are directed to resolutely safeguarding the life and safety of the people. It is his will that there is nothing more important than defending the safety of the people, and that all potentialities of the country, human, material and technical, should be concentrated on the effort to relieve them of misfortunes as soon as possible.

In the early days of the world-sweeping pandemic which threatens the existence of mankind gravely, Kim Jong Un, with his far-sighted acumen and resolute determination, took strong preemptive and blockade-style measures to check the inroads and spread of the infection.

He is devoting his all to the sake of the people. Making selfless, devoted efforts for the people is a phrase representing the current era in the country.

The Supreme Leader continues his journey of selfless, devoted efforts for the people

with a noble outlook that he has nothing more to wish for even though his body may be scattered like grains of sand for the people, and a will that he will not hesitate to undergo all sorts of hardships for the good of them. On the journey he unhesitatingly inspected frontlines when the dignity of the country and the destiny of the people were at stake, and tried and got on a new underground train, cable car, and amusement facility to be used by the people. The journey has also produced such anecdotes as those of his forced march in the midnight and his forced march in the scorching heat. The harder the time is, the more selfless, devoted efforts he makes for the good of the people.

It was a bold decision only he could make to set forth the idea of making a frontal attack for a breakthrough run through with selfless, devoted efforts for the people, and propose to build the Pyongyang General Hospital on the best spot in the capital city of Pyongyang for the promotion of the people's health.

The term of politics has been long used as the concept of ruling over the people. But the politics of the Korean Supreme Leader means his love for and devotion to the people: He shares sweets and bitters with them and dedicates his all to them.

Thanks to the people-first policy the dignity of socialist Korea has risen even in grim trials, and the people have become able to enjoy a worthwhile life.

Kim Kum Hui



Edifices Built on Best Places

PLACES WITH ALL NECESSARY conditions are regarded as best places.

Korea was seething with enthusiasm for the building of a new country after its liberation from the Japanese military occupation on August 15, 1945. At the time lots of things had to be built in Pyongyang.

Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, showed primary concern for the building of a university to educate sons and daughters of the people.

Mentioning that the position of the university was most important, the national leader himself made a field survey and fixed the top of Ryongnam Hill as the site of the university.

The hill rises near Moran

Hill, which has long been called garden of Pyongyang as it constitutes the heart of the city's scenery, and the Taedong River that is called *chongnyu* and *okryu* as its water is clear. The top of the hill commands not only splendid views of Moran Hill and the Taedong River but also a general view of the city. On the very top of the hill was built the university, the first of its kind for the people in the country.

The centre of the city was also developed for the sake of the people. A crucial index in defining the character and nature of a country's social system is how to form a city, especially, its centre, and what building is built in the centre. The central axis of downtown Pyongyang is Namsan Hill.

Earlier, designers wanted to set up a government building on the hill. But Kim Il Sung rejected their plan at once, saying: I do not think it is a good idea to put up a government building at such a nice place. In the centre of the city there should be a public building to be used a lot by the people instead of a government building.

In mid-December Juche 62 (1973) Kim Il Sung went up the hill and suggested building a large library there since the city already had a palace of culture and a schoolchildren's palace. Then children would study in the schoolchildren's palace and adults would do in the library, he mentioned, adding that the people would like it if a library was ▶



A view of Munsu Water Park
(August 2019).

A panorama of Kim Il Sung University.



built on the hill. Thus the Grand People's Study House, a grand palace of learning for all people, rose on the hill, a spot the leader had valued for 20 years.

The Grand People's Study House situated in the centre of the capital city is surrounded by such buildings for the people as the Mansudae Art Theatre, the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace and Pyongyang Department Store No. 1.

Like in Pyongyang, structures for the promotion of the people's well-being appeared at all scenic spots easy of access across the country.

One year, during his inspection of Wonsan, Kangwon Province, Chairman Kim Jong Il stopped his car while passing by a workers' holiday camp along the road to Songdowon. The spot fronted the blue sea and backed onto Mt Jangdok. The Chairman suggested building an open-

air theatre on the spot, saying: Then working people could come to Songdowon together with their children on Sundays to go swimming in the sea, have lunch under pine trees, look round the botanical garden and the zoo during the daytime and enjoy an art performance or film in the open-air theatre on the way back home in the evening.

Now the Songdowon pleasure ground with the open-air theatre built in it serves as the most ideal resort.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea masters of the best places are the people, and the criterion of evaluating such places is the requirements and interests of the people. A place good and convenient for the people is just a best place, and the absolute criterion is that all best places should serve the people.

The story of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm ▶



► is very impressive. From old vegetables were something difficult to get in North Hamgyong Province because of its situation in the cold northern region of the country.

In July 2018 the Supreme Leader looked round Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, in the province with a plan to create a large-size vegetable greenhouse farm there. At that time the local area was used as an airfield. Mentioning that if a vegetable greenhouse farm was

created there it would be marvellous, the Supreme Leader said he was most pleased to find and do one worthwhile thing after another for the sake of the people like that.

It is regarded as natural in the country to vacate an airfield or even a more important thing if it is for the interests of the people.

When the site for the Pyongyang General Hospital was to be selected, a spot in the Munsu area, the best in the city, was

selected. All citizens are pleased that the hospital is situated on the picturesque Taedong riverside and easy of access.

Earlier the Koryo Medicine General Hospital, the Kim Man Yu Hospital and the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital were built in the Munsu area. Later the Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, the Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, the Ryugyong Dental Hospital and the Okryu Children's Hospital were built in the area. Thus the area has turned into a hospital village. If the Pyongyang General Hospital is built in the area, it will be further perfected as a modern and general medical service area.

Best places in the country do not simply mean physiographical positions but bases of happiness for the people.

Rim Ok



Views of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm.



Matter of Utmost Concern

Gold Cushion

ON JANUARY 16, JUCHE 107 (2018) Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected Pyongyang Teachers Training College despite the intense cold of mid-winter.

The Supreme Leader highly praised it for having written a lot of textbooks to carry out the programme of universal 12-year compulsory education and for its scientific achievements such as the introduction of an educational predicting technique which helps put lectures on a scientific basis with the emphasis put on students' independent thinking.

Learning that all its educational administration work was directed to raising students' enthusiasm for learning and their performance, he spoke highly of the idea. And seeing a simulation lesson given in both virtual and practical situations, he praised the college for having invented the novel method of teaching. He was also satisfied with a method of estimating whether students have reached the level of the teacher, and different methods of giving lessons in a classroom arranged to combine school education and family education. They were superior teaching methods, he said.

Quite satisfied with the admirable educational conditions and environment of the college, he stayed there for long hours.

He said with a beaming smile that he was very pleased and happy while looking round a multifunctional gym and a library which looked like a miniature of the Sci-Tech Complex, and seeing advanced educational equipment, modern teaching aids and furnishings and facilities for management and operation of the college.

He went on to say that he felt as if he had plucked a star from the sky or laid a gold cushion for the sake of the teachers responsible for the future of the country and that he could picture the bright future of the country.

On a Far-sighted Basis

Kim Jong Un visited the Songdowon International Children's Camp on May 30, Juche 102 (2013). President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il had inspected the camp several times.

He said: We ought to improve children's camps as excellently as possible thinking of the lofty intention of the great leaders (the President and the Chairman) who loved children so much. This camp is still flawless in terms of structure though 20 years have passed since its renovation, and the layout and structure of its buildings are also nice. The remodelling project should be done in such a way that the inner and outer walls would be

newly coated.

The Supreme Leader added that the slogans to be set up at children's camps should be those appropriate for children and that the slogan "Let's go the thorny path cheerfully!" he saw while driving along the road to the aforesaid camp was not proper for children.

He continued to say: It is advisable to set up slogans like "Children go camping when the General goes to the front" and "We are the happiest in the world" at children's camps. The slogans are very nice. We should be proud of these slogans and exalt their true meanings.

Stressing the need to facelift the camp admirably and improve its operation, he suggested that camping be organized even in winter. He said that winter camping would also be possible if only a proper heating system was provided, that winter camping would also make it possible to keep the buildings in good condition, and that winter camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp would be a signal of the establishment of another camping model in the country.

The Supreme Leader went on to say that he realized more keenly the need to carry out all construction projects on a far-sighted basis, and that buildings had to be designed to represent contemporary features and to meet the prospective needs of 100 or 500 years to come. □



From Ill to Good



IN SEPTEMBER LAST RESIDENTS OF KANGbuk-ri, Kumchon County, North Hwanghae Province, moved into new houses. As they were built like a miracle in the village a few months after it was afflicted by a natural calamity, the villagers were unusually excited. They wrote to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, a letter that reflected their boundless gratitude for the benevolent care of the Workers' Party of Korea that strove to save them from their misfortune. The letter reads as follows:

"It is our great honour to write to you, our respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, benevolent father of us Kangbuk-ri people.

"Even in a dream we wish to go to see you and make a deep bow of gratitude.

"You heartily wished us a happy life with attachment to our new village and houses and our locality eternal good luck. Today we are happy to write this letter to thank you with the joy of having moved into new houses.

"All of us were so excited that we turned out to dance full of happiness deep into the night. We often felt a lump in the throat at the thought of your great efforts to relieve us of the aftereffects of the calamity.

"Owing to the unexpected heavy rain and fierce gale, the houses and public buildings collapsed and the paddies and wheat and barley fields turned into a mess. We lost heart and gave up at the sights. Not a single proper building was left in the *ri* seat.

"Then you sent the Korean People's Army soldiers, defenders of the country, to our farm to clear

the whole *ri* seat of the debris and build a socialist village beautiful enough to be envied even by urban people in a mere several months.

"Now even those who have lived in the locality for ages say that they could hardly identify the sites of their old houses.

"We are greatly obliged to you for your having provided new palatial houses to us who had been left homeless overnight. And we did not expect at all that you would traverse such a long

► felt, the window sill you sat on relieved of all worry, the ceiling and the kitchen range whose heights you estimated, and the pot you opened.

"A farm worker, who used to say until several months ago that she wanted to go and stay with her daughter in a different locality, has settled in a new house you provided. Another farm worker, who had been so eager to have a house with several rooms because his son, an ex-serviceman, is old enough to get married, was provided with a large house with three rooms, so now he is busy trying to choose his likely daughter-in-law among all the local girls.

"The most pleased are the children. They are



way to our village to see if the new houses would be to our liking.

"Asking repeatedly if we liked the houses, you looked round houses, opening the lid of a pot and estimating the height of the ceiling. Seeing you on television, we all became tearful at the thought of whether there would be anyone else as benevolent as you who was so kind as to read the mind of us farm workers in detail.

"Dear respected Marshal,

"We are quite pleased with the room floor you ►

looking forward to the day when their school starts, counting the days on their fingers to see when they will be able to study in the school you looked round.

"Dear respected Marshal,

"Our village was called Kangbuk-ri because it is situated north of the lower Ryesong River that caused calamities alone, but now it has earned the name of Kangbok-ri meaning a new land of happiness known to the whole world, which is overflowing with blessings like a river

thanks to your benevolence.

"Almost every day we see on television the miserable people who are left homeless in floods in other countries. Far from being provided with housing, they have no party or government to worry about their life.

"On the contrary, we are tearfully happy and grateful for the care of our State which regards it as the most important of its affairs to take care of those who have undergone calamities and builds houses for ordinary farm workers free of charge, and for the benevolent care you show us while sparing nothing for the people.

"We really appreciate your care, dear respected Marshal.

"We will keep the palatial houses neat and tidy, handing them down from generation to generation, and thus we will maintain our village as a model socialist rural village to be envied by the whole world.

"We will take good care of the fields where you even counted the grains of rice ears so as to gather a good harvest from the fields every year.

"Your good health is our great desire and happiness as you are our dear father. We respectfully wish you, dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un, savior and great benefactor of us Kangbuk-ri people, will be in good health.

"Concluding the letter, we chant from the bottom of our heart:

"Long live respected Marshal Kim Jong Un!

"Long live the Workers' Party of Korea!

"Long live our socialist country!

"September 18, 2020

"All the residents of Kangbuk-ri, Kumchon County, who have moved into new houses"

Yom Song Hui





Self-development First—Strategic Line

SELF-RELIANCE IS THE revolutionary spirit the Korean people have maintained over the history of their country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, while pioneering and advancing along the road of prosperity with their own strength. It is a spirit of an independent being who carves his or her own destiny out with his or her own strength. So it is not merely related to a matter of how to live but the important one of whether to live as independent people or slaves. The Korean people chose the way of living independently, that is, the one of self-reliance by which they hew out their own destiny by relying on their country and their own strength.

What we can depend on at present is our own strength; nobody is willing to help us or hopes we will prosper and get stronger—this is the philosophical principle Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), implants in the heart of the people firmly.

In his first days of leading the Korean people in the build-

ing of a powerful socialist nation he set forth an idea on the spirit of self-development first and saw to it that they embodied self-reliance as an invariable mode of revolution and struggle. At the Seventh Congress of the WPK held in May Juche 105 (2016) he said that the general line of socialist construction and the spirit of self-development first should be held fast to as the permanent strategic line for achieving great victory in the building of a powerful socialist country.

At important meetings held later and in his New Year addresses he stressed the idea that the only road they should take is the one of achieving prosperity by dint of self-development.

At the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in April 2019 the Supreme Leader said that self-reliance and self-supporting national economy are the bedrock of the existence of the Korean-style socialism, the motive power of its advance and development and the eternal lifeline essential to the des-

tiny of the Korean revolution. Then he reaffirmed that it is the WPK's steadfast political line to build a socialist power under the uplifted banner of self-reliance. And at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK held in December 2019 he stressed the need to smash straight through all the barriers in the way of their advance.

He proved the validity and vitality of self-reliance with his revolutionary practice.

In March 2016 the Supreme Leader declared the beginning of construction of Ryomyong Street on the spot. He said that the project was not simply the formation of a street, but a political occasion for demonstrating the stamina of the DPRK that, standing up more steadfastly in the face of all forms of sanctions and pressure from the hostile forces, is dashing to beat the world, its advance to realize the supreme ideal of the people and the fact that it can do what it is determined to and become as well-off as anyone else in the world in its own way.

A panorama of Ryomyong Street.



His call upon the Korean people to rise up resiliently by relying on their own strength encouraged the builders greatly. They finished the framework of a 70-storey high-rise apartment building in a little over 70 days, and tiled its exterior in a dozen days. Meanwhile, frameworks of scores of apartment buildings rose up in a little over four months after declaration of the construction. In April 2017 the inauguration of the street was held, which had been built into the model and standard of modern architecture by the country's own strength, technology and materials.

One January day a few years ago the Supreme Leader inspected the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. While looking round different places of the mill, he stopped at a barotor machine. The machine consumed less dye and energy, and helped save much cloth. And it made it possible to further increase productivity as its change of colours was faster. Learning about such performance of the machine, he said: How good it is to make things by ourselves! Self-reliance is the only way out.

In August 2018 when he was guiding the test run of a new-type tramcar, he said that it was really wonderful, that the new-type tramcar was the fruit of self-reliance, and that he liked the Korean workers' way of creation.

Once he visited the Wonson Army-People Power Station built by the people of Kangwon Province. Pointing to the large Korean writing *Self-reliance* inscribed on the dam of the power station, he said that it really invigorated him, and that the power station was the one which had proved again that self-reliance was the only way out and that there was nothing impossible to do when they held fast to self-reliance and self-development as a driving force.



A new-type tramcar runs along a street in Pyongyang.

Self-reliance is the only way out! This slogan is to be heard in all his field-guidance trips, and it throbs as the pulse of the times. Things of Korean make preferred by the people are on the increase thanks to the firm will of the Supreme Leader who holds that their own things should be made more and better no matter how hard it may be.

The Korean people, with their own efforts and technology, made artificial satellites, subway trains, lorries, tractors, trolley buses, tramcars and light aircraft. Things of Korean make also include Kumkhop-, Sonhung- and Kyonghung-brand foodstuffs; Maebongsan- and Ryuwon-brand shoes; Choljuk-brand socks; Arirang-brand electronic appliances; Sonamu-brand satchels; Mindulle notebooks; and Unhasu-, Pomhyanggi- and Mirae-brand cosmetics.

Kim Jong Un saw to it that science, technology and education were adhered to as the engine for a grand onward march of self-reliance. At the Seventh Congress of the WPK he put forward the building of a sci-tech power as the primary goal for the country to attain in building a powerful socialist country. And at the Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK

and other meetings he elucidated the tasks and ways to raise the sci-tech potentiality and the educational level in the country. And he saw that universal 12-year compulsory education was enforced, and took practical measures for enhancing the State concern and guidance for scientific research.

Today in the DPRK more and more model units are taking the lead in making the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific. And a lot of working people are training themselves as well-informed workers and performing their due role as intelligent developers of science and technology under the slogan of making all the people well-versed in science and technology. A dynamic campaign is going on to get rid of dependence on foreign factors and proclivity to import while making the national economy Juche-oriented and modern.

The whole country is filled with enthusiasm for self-reliance in work amidst the vigorous campaign to secure a sure guarantee for putting the national economy on a new phase of growth by expanding and reinforcing the foundation of the self-supporting economy.

Yom Song Hui



Far-sighted Leader

WHAT IS CHARACTERISTIC of DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's activities in leading the development of the State is foresight. A good example is the line of self-reliance he is stressing more strongly.

The line is based on his scientific analysis and judgment of the present world and the reality of his country. The present situation of the world where the high-handedness and arbitrariness of imperialism are rampant clearly indicates that capital import-oriented dependence on foreign countries fraught with economic subjugation and upheavals cannot ensure stable and reliable independent development. Furthermore, for the DPRK which is under extreme sanctions and blockade aimed at isolating and suffocating it, it is an acute issue to adopt a correct line of its development. The hostile forces' sanctions will grow more and more serious as long as the country follows its independent line. In the circumstances Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un has foreseen that self-reliance is the only banner his country should adhere to.

His line of self-reliance is not just a stopgap step to cope with the sanctions and blockade. In his first open address in April 2012 he summed up the 100-year history of his nation full of changes from a miserable colonial country to the world power, and affirmed that the permanent strategy of the Korean revolution and its final victory lie in marching straight along the road of independence and the road of socialism.

The whole course the country has travelled and the things it has created in the course over the past eight years under the

guidance of the Supreme Leader prove the truth of self-reliance. His spirit of self-reliance is the keynote of the Juche philosophy that one is the master of one's own destiny and has the strength to carve one's destiny out. With the belief that the defending of the country's sovereignty and security depends only on the strengthening of its self-defence capacity, he has developed a powerful war deterrent. As a result the country is focusing all its effort on the economic construction, undaunted by any change in situation.

Even in unprecedented manifold trials and difficulties the Supreme Leader, optimistic about final victory, is making a breakthrough for victory by dint of correct policies. By making sure that the national economy is being made Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific, that materials are recycled in the sector of light industry, that domestic raw materials, fuel and other materials are used to revitalize economic sectors, and that there take place a campaign to maximize production and economy and a campaign for creation, he is leading the country's head-on confrontation with sanctions of the hostile forces, thus giving full play to the strength of self-reliance.

At the end of last year the country witnessed the modernization of Samjiyon City and the completion of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, the North Hamgyong Provincial Tree Nursery, and the Phalhyang Dam of the Orangchon Power Station. All these can be referred to as miracles, and they are the fruit of self-reliance.

Nobody had thought that the country would conduct and com-

plete such gigantic construction projects simultaneously in the worst difficulties. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, however, confident of the might of the single-hearted unity and the strength of the people, pushed ahead with those projects simultaneously, thus developing an ideal land of socialism. In the face of any obstacles on the road ahead, he is mapping out the future while foreseeing final victory.

With clear insights into the position and role of his country of strategic importance as the gateway to and bridgehead of Asia, he is opening up a broad avenue to prosperity of the nation. Despite the sanctions against the country he is planning its more wonderful future.

The Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea clarified the line of smashing straight through the barriers in the way of socialist construction by dint of self-reliance. This also proves the foresighted leadership of Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission, who is renowned as a powerful leader breaking through any difficulties undauntedly.

In order to gain victory in the agricultural front set as the major thrust area in the frontal breakthrough he gave his first field guidance of this year to the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory that was under construction by dint of self-reliance. His beaming face at the time convinces me of the country's bright future.

*Yahia Zakaria Khiralla,
chairman of the Arab Regional
Committee for Friendship and
Solidarity with the Korean People*

My Dear Party, You're My Mother

*I CALL YOU FIRST WHETHER I'M IN BED OR
on a long journey
As you're the first to care for me.
My dear Party, you're my mother.
Whoever but you would look after me so dearly?
I will never barter my happiness in your embrace
for the entire world.*

It is a verse of *My Dear Party, You're My Mother*, one of the Korean people's favourite songs.

From the day of its founding (October 10, 1945) the Workers' Party of Korea impressed the Korean people as a mother as kind-hearted and meticulous as their own they called first whether they were in bed or on a long journey.

One day after Korea's liberation (August 15, 1945) from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation Kim Il Sung, the leader of the new Korea, heard from an official that he had seen a woman with a child on her back assiduously transplanting rice seedlings in a locality he had been to.

Kim Il Sung stopped work and left for the place immediately. Having arrived at the farm he rebuked the local officials for letting women transplant rice seedlings with their babies on their back, asking them if they regarded them as their own parents and relatives.

Back to his office at dawn he said earnestly to the abovementioned official: We're here to work for the good of the people. We should not treat them in such a way, you know. During the anti-Japanese armed struggle in Manchuria we would fall in the snowstorm but rise again because we knew we were not allowed to die leaving our miserable people behind. How could we neglect the people we recovered that way?

In the whole period of his leadership of the revolution Kim Il Sung, the founder of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), always thought of the people, and devoted his all to translating their aspirations into practice and meeting their requirements.

He visited not only factories, farms and mountain villages but also solitary islands for on-the-spot guidance. He took parental care of the people's life in detail, such as the problem of food, clothing and housing.

His boundless benevolent care for the people made them realize the world of his infinite affection surpassing the parental one, and they trusted and followed him as their own father as well as their leader.

During his entire career since he started to work at the Central Committee of the WPK in 1964, Kim Jong Il, the eternal General Secretary of the Party, led a life of great devotion with the noble intention of becoming the foundation to make the people happy and make the country of the people rich and powerful.

So the Korean people trusted and followed the Party, entrusting their destiny entirely to it while singing the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* that reflects their happy life under the care of the Party.

*I cannot make a success of my long journey of life
without your care.
I would lose all of my life if I were out of your
embrace.
My dear Party, you're my mother.
Whoever but you would strive to make me
renowned?
I will follow you alone to the end of the world.*

The people's faith in the WPK is invariable.

The more trials and ordeals they face, the greater their trust in and expectations of the Party are becoming.

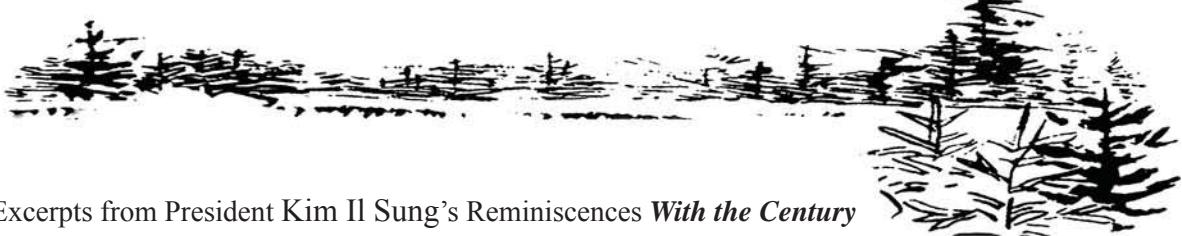
Chairman Kim Jong Un of the WPK regards the mind of the people who are sincere in trusting and following the Party as the greatest wealth of the revolution, and is carrying on the policy of good care for the people constantly.

One sultry July day in Juche 101 (2012) the Supreme Leader visited the Ryugyong Health Complex near completion. Looking round different places of the complex, he carefully examined everything lest there should be any slight defect that might cause the people inconvenience. He said there were still some parts that needed finishing touches, and earnestly asked the officials to bear in mind that there can be no satisfaction in doing things if they are for the good of the people, and work hard until the completion of the complex.

As the saying goes, "A drop of water reflects the universe," the aforesaid simple episode fully shows the Supreme Leader's view of the people.

The people's wealth keeps increasing day after day as he continues with his journey of devotion day and night, saying he is most pleased when he does things one by one for the good of the people.

Yom Song Hui



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

Homeland Party Working Committee

THE CREATION OF OUR own communist party was the unanimous desire of the Korean revolutionaries and one of the most important strategic tasks, which the young communists had set themselves, when they had started the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Throughout the armed struggle against Japanese imperialism, we carried out an independent line of founding a party by expanding and consolidating its basic organizations with the fine vanguards, who had been trained in the practical revolutionary struggle.

The Korean People's Revolutionary Army, the main force of the anti-Japanese revolution, became the leading force in founding the party, charged with its organizational and ideological preparations. The work of founding the party had been organized and carried out on a full scale, with the KPRA Party Committee gaining momentum in its leadership function and role; it became a powerful motive force, which offered strong political backing to the armed struggle and, at the same time, strengthened party leadership over it and its mass foundation and effected a great upswing in the overall Korean revolution, centred on the armed struggle.

In the second half of the 1930s, the building of party organizations, promoted by the communist vanguards, who were directly engaged in the anti-Japanese

armed struggle, formed the main stream of the communist movement in our country and represented its fully orthodox nature.

Our founding of the party progressed with difficulty, owing to complicated processes from its outset, due to the peculiar situation of our revolution and the various attendant problems.

The Korean communists had to undergo great pains and undertake long roundabout course, a direct way for others, paying extremely dearly on their way to founding their own party. Owing to our peculiar situation of living in an alien country, we were forced to undergo trials and agony, which were not experienced by the communists of other countries, in addition to the hardships common to the resistance fighters of colonies in the course of founding parties.

As mentioned before, the Comintern had withdrawn its recognition of the Korean Communist Party in 1928, authorized that it should be reorganized and called on the Korean communists active in Manchuria and Japan to join the party of the country of their residence on the principle of one party for one country.

Some of them had regarded it as an inevitable fate that the Korean communists could only accept and adopted the passive attitude of joining a foreign party, obedient to the trend of the times, looking forward to a favourable phase. Others, displeased with

the subjective conduct of the Comintern, had continued their activities as before for some time against this decision, without transferring their party membership to the party of the country of their residence; as they had been engaged in sporadic activities out of their habit, they could not, however, keep up their existence for long and had all given up.

It is probable that communists join a foreign party for a short time, if need be. As the communist movement is a national movement, as well as an international movement presupposing class solidarity, it is not strange for communists, the performers of the movement, to join a foreign party organization for a time and transcend their nationality.

When the headquarters of the Comintern were situated in Moscow, quite a few leading figures of communist parties and political exiles from other countries, who had been staying there, registered themselves temporarily at organizations of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and led their party life there, while maintaining membership of their own parties.

The point at issue was that the Comintern had deprived the Korean communists of their parent organization and thereby forced them into the disgraceful state of having to live in a rented room.

For this reason we had regarded the conduct of the Com-

intern as unreasonable from the start. However, we had not made any desperate attempts, straining our every nerve, such as acting against it or abandoning the movement itself. We had accepted the measure of the Comintern as a temporary step and steadily worked to found a new type of party by our own positive efforts.

Above all, we had sought ceaselessly for ways suited to the specific reality of our revolution within the framework permitted by the principles put forward by the Comintern, while stepping up preparations to found an independent party. The founding of the Society for Rallying Comrades, which consisted of vanguard fighters of the DIU, can be regarded as a starting-point in this undertaking.

Until the first half of the 1930s, when the main force of the KPRA was active in eastern and northern Manchuria, our efforts to found a party had hardly reached the depth of the homeland.

Admittedly, during those years we had already formed several basic party organizations in various places of the homeland, such as Onsong and Jongsong along the River Tuman. But the main theatre of activities of new-generation communists to form party organizations, had still been eastern Manchuria. We had expanded our party organizations in close relations with the party organizations of all counties in Jiandao, concentrating our efforts on consolidating the Party Committee of the KPRA, and trained hardcore elements, who would be needed to form party organizations in the homeland on an extensive scale in future.

It was at the Donggang meeting held in May 1936 that we deliberated the policy on the party's founding in all particulars and debated measures for its realization, guided by the spirit of the Nanhutou meeting. The meeting raised for debate the task of laying down, on a full scale, the organizational and ideological

groundwork for founding a party in the homeland and discussed, as a measure to this end, the matter of organizing the Homeland Party Working Committee and expanding vanguard party organizations, comprising the hard core of the revolutionary struggle. The meeting emphasized on the whole that the building of party organizations should not be confined to the guerrilla army or be conducted only in the areas of northeast China, and that the organizational and ideological foundation for founding a party should be laid down even in the depths of the homeland. Noting that up until then basic party organizations had only been formed in some border areas along River Tuman, the meeting also stressed that from now on party organizations should be built in wide areas of the homeland and that in order to provide unified guidance to preparations in the homeland for founding a party, the Homeland Party Working Committee

should be established.

In order to intensify party guidance over the anti-Japanese national united front movement, which was expected to develop throughout the country, a Homeland Party Working Committee urgently needed to be established.

To make sure that this committee, entrusted with such an important mission, met with reality, we had to ensure an open-minded exchange of opinions with communists active in the homeland, who were familiar with the situation of Korea.

Pak Tal's visit to our secret camp offered us a good chance to exchange our opinions on this issue. The building of party organizations constituted one of the main topics of our conversation.

After deliberations on the matter of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, I held a serious discussion with Pak Tal for several hours on the formation of party organizations in the homeland.

When I expressed my intention to set up organizations of the ARF and also communist party organizations in the homeland, Pak Tal asked me with great surprise what kind of communist party organizations I had in mind. I took his question as a matter of course. It appeared to have sounded rather strange to Pak Tal, when I had told him of my intention to build communist party organizations in the country, where no communist party existed, where all attempts to rebuild a party had come to naught and the pathetic efforts and passion of the fighters consumed to that end had remained only as sad memories behind bars, and where the freedom of association had been banned by law long ago.

When I replied that I meant organizations of our communist party, the communist party of Korea, he asked once more.

"What is the opinion of the Comintern about your intention to form communist party organizations in Korea? I mean, has the Comintern approved this move?"

"It is our own business. Why do we need the Comintern's approval in this matter? We do not need to obtain the approval of the Comintern, with regards to the formation of our party organizations in the homeland, do we?"

Pak Tal tilted his head dubiously.

"The communist party of each country, as a branch of the Comintern, is duty bound to be guided and regulated by it; consequently, how can we dare form our party organizations without the Comintern's approval? Do you think that the Comintern will permit our own way of handling this matter?"

Pak Tal was certainly impeded by a dogmatic way of thinking.

"Revolution is naturally an undertaking, to be done of one's own free will, not at anyone's dictate or someone else's approval. Tell me, Comrade Pak Tal, did you start the revolution at the request of somebody else? And did



► you form the organization in the name of Kapsan Working Committee, with someone's approval?" "No."

"Did Marx ask for anyone's approval when he organized the League of Communists? What about Lenin when he organized the Bolshevik Party?"

Dumbfounded, Pak Tal made no reply.

"Marx and Lenin founded parties without anyone's approval; it does not stand to reason that we cannot do so. The Comintern already set a task for the Korean communists to rebuild their party in its theses, adopted in December 1928. We are going to form our party organizations in the homeland as stated in the theses; who will dare dispute this fact? The Comintern cannot criticize it, either. In this matter, approval or ratification is out of the question. The matter is related to the sovereignty of the Korean communists. We can deal with our own affairs among ourselves; there is no need to ask outsiders how we should handle our own affairs, is there? Surely we are the masters of the Korean revolution?"

Only then did Pak Tal agree that his thought had been quite superficial, and expressed his full support for our stand and suggestion.

"I've been the victim of really foolish notions. I hadn't thought that we ourselves are the masters of the Korean revolution and considered that the Comintern decides on the revolution in each country. By the way, General, if party organizations are formed in the homeland, who will they belong to? Where should they expect guidance from?"

"The party organizations in the homeland will be affiliated to and guided by the Party Committee of the KPRA. Under the present peculiar situation, where there is no communist party in Korea, the Party Committee plays the role of General Staff, assuming leadership over the whole Korean revolution. Its activities are

firmly protected by armed force. The barbarous rule of the Japanese imperialists, via their gendarmerie and police, has removed all possibilities to rebuild the party in Korea. Most fighters, who had been on the run for rebuilding the party, have been incarcerated now. Only the Party Committee of the KPRA, secured by force of arms, is staying clear of the enemy's claw. This is the reason why it acts as leader over the Korean revolution as a whole.

"The role of the Party Committee of the KPRA as General Staff of the Korean revolution is the natural outcome of the development of the communist movement in our country. History required us to take up this mission. The Homeland Party Working Committee to be organized in future will be protected by arms by the KPRA."

"I have nothing more to ask now."

Pak Tal beamed with a smile.

We immediately turned to discuss practical matters, related to the formation of the Homeland Party Working Committee.

This discussion also began with questions from Pak Tal. He seemed to put questions first, before thrusting himself into an argument.

"The homeland is now abuzz with controversy about the matter as to which of the two should be organized first, a party or mass organizations. The Hamhung group insists that the construction of a party should be given priority, while the Tanchon group and Hongwon group stick to the opinion that mass organizations should be formed first and that a party can be founded next only through practical struggle."

"What do you think, Comrade Pak Tal?"

"Unfortunately I don't have my own opinion. By common knowledge, a party seems to be the first to be founded. But I am not sure."

Pak Tal was thinking that the source of this controversy was the

December Theses of the Comintern. The original title of the theses was *Theses on the Tasks of the Korean Peasants and Workers*. In this document, the Comintern urged the Korean communists to engage in positive work among worker and peasant organizations, make every effort to acquire fighters within the new and old national liberation organizations, including Singan Association, concentrate every concern on making much account of the ideological unity of the party and try every possible way to rebuild the Korean Communist Party at the earliest date, strengthen and develop it. Some communists, however, were confused, as they thought of the theses as suggesting simultaneously the construction of a party and mass organizations.

"In my opinion," I said, "this question cannot stir up a controversy. Priority should be decided by specific conditions and situation. The December Theses matter little to this question. It will be all right to form either a party organization or a mass organization first, depending on regional conditions.

Even if only three people are qualified for party membership, they can organize a communist party circle. But if no one is eligible for party membership, a mass organization may be formed first, where communists can be trained to form a party organization later. As a matter of course, since both party and mass organizations are related to each other, you must not artificially separate one from the other. You must not forget, however, that no matter which one is given priority, the communists must direct all their energies to training the reserve force of the party among the popular masses. As long as there are vanguard fighters, who are qualified for party membership, a party organization can be formed at any time."

Pak Tal asked me what would be the function of the Homeland Party Working Committee I planned to organize.

(To be continued)

Immortal Juche Idea (6)

Popular Masses Are Subject of Social History

IT IS ESSENTIAL FIRST TO know what is the subject of history in order to gain a scientific understanding of how society develops and how history advances. In other words, the cause and motive force of the socio-historical movement should be explained correctly. This is prerequisite for the correct explanation of all questions arising in understanding the law of development of social history such as the nature, change and development of the movement and its driving force.

Starting from the new philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything, the Juche idea elucidated, for the first time in history, a new Juche-oriented socio-historical principle with the popular masses as the central factor. The most fundamental and elementary principle in this regard is that the popular masses are the main agency of social history.

What, then, is the reason for the popular masses being the main agency of social movement?

First, it is that all social movements result from the aspiration and demand of the masses to live independently.

Human history has developed to socialist society via primitive, slaveholding, feudal and capitalist societies. Various social movements which gave cause for such processes of historical development were all brought about by the independent requirements of the masses. This applies to the struggle of slaves against slavery, the

peasants' movement against feudal rule, the working-class movement against exploitation and oppression by capital and national-liberation movement in colonies against imperialist colonial rule. Such movements are inconceivable apart from the demand of the masses to live and develop as masters of nature and society free from all restraints.

Secondly, it is that the masses of the people alone are blessed with the power and wisdom to transform nature and society.

Nature and society are remodelled precisely by the creative power of the popular masses.

The maintenance and development of society requires, before anything else, the unceasing production of material wealth,

and the masses of the people are immediately the producers of such material wealth. With the invention of steam engine mankind entered the era of the industrial revolution, and then the era of information industry and digital economy by developing advanced machines and equipment including computer and artificial satellite.

And it is indisputable that the popular masses are the creators of not only science and technology but also literature and the art, and that they are a reflection of the people's social activity for remodelling nature and society. The masses are directly in charge of production and are creators of science and the art.

Not only that, they constitute the decisive forces in transforming society. It is by their struggle that the old society is remodelled constantly into a new, advanced

society. Nature and society are ceaselessly refashioned and developed and history moves forward through the medium of the masses' creative role. This means the enhancement of the masses' position and role.

However, the popular masses do not naturally become masters of nature and society to make history intentionally. They can hold the position and perform the role of the main agency of history only when guidance and the masses are combined without fail. In a nutshell, the popular masses can hold the position and perform the role of the main agency of the socio-history only when they are led by a wise party and leader.

This can be proved by the reality in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Despite the hostile forces' lasting savage sanctions against it, the Korean people are continuously working world-startling miracles in all fields of social life including economic construction, cultural construction and defence upbuilding. They facilitated Samjiyon City, constructed Mirae Scientists Street, Ryomyong Street, Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp, Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, and launched earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong 4.

Like this the popular masses are creators of history, but they can make history independently and creatively as its independent agency only when they are guided by a party and a leader.

Kim Son Myong

By Dint of Love and Trust

GRASPING PUBLIC SENTIMENT and moving their heart with love and trust was the main feature of the art of leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il, the eternal General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea. Whenever he formulated lines and policies, guided the building of the Party and the State, and solved problems arising in the revolution and construction, he always made sure that everything reflected his love for and trust in the people.

The Chairman solved all problems arising in the revolution and construction by moving the heart of people with his love for and trust in them.

In the mid-1990s the imperialists intensified despicable economic sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the moves to isolate and stifle the country. Moreover, consecutive natural calamities hit the country, causing manifold difficulties.

At this juncture the Chairman trusted workers of Jagang Province to rely on their own strength and set an example for the whole country in making a breakthrough in solving the electricity problem. True to his trust the workers built dams and several medium and small size power stations, and made generator parts though they were suffering from severe food shortage.

In January Juche 87 (1998) Kim Jong Il visited the province in the bitter cold of around 30°C below zero, inspecting nearly 20 units there. What he keenly felt while looking round them was the confidence that there would be nothing impossible to do when the people turned out in high spirits like the workers of the province had done. He named the fighting spirit of the workers Kanggye spirit, and in-

spired the whole country to follow the spirit.

Later, the Chairman recalled that what had encouraged him most greatly during the Arduous March was the Kanggye spirit, that the spirit invigorated him and became a support to him, and that it enabled the Korean people to make the Arduous March and forced march successfully.

Today the people of the province still say unanimously that the Chairman's trust in them enabled them to become creators of the spirit at that time.

His methods of leadership to move the heart of people with his love for and trust in them found clear expression in his deep concern for their living, the supplies for them.

In March 2006 the Chairman inspected the construction site of the Samsu Power Station. Casting a glance over the whole construction site from the dam he gave detailed instructions on the problems arising in the project. Then he asked officials about the matter of evacuating the local residents from the area which would be submerged in water in the future.

Hearing that they were going to evacuate the residents by letting them live together in others' houses, he said that he came to the construction site to learn about the matter as the evacuation of the residents had not been mentioned in the many relevant documents he had read.

In May 2009 he went down into an underground pit of the Ryongyang Mine where water was dripping from the ceiling, and stood by a digger to see miners work.

A writer wrote as follows on the fact:

"Though the world does not know, the people do. Our Comrade Kim Jong Il, as an ordinary man, cares about the country without ceremony,

residents who will be evacuated from the area to be submerged.

This is merely one of the episodes associated with his politics of love for the people.

When he went to see soldiers in charge of coastal defence, he took a measure to protect their faces against the sea wind lest they should be chapped. When he visited industrial establishments, he would look around their hostels to see if bedding was thick enough and if rooms were warm enough. And looking round canteens, he counted the kind of dishes to be served for workers' meals, and requested earnestly that workers be taken good care of. During his inspection of those establishments where supplies were provided well for their workers, he would express great satisfaction, inspiring officials to pay close attention to the life of workers.

One winter day Kim Jong Il visited the Chollima Steel Complex. While inquiring about the supply service for its workers, he had a shadow pass over his face at the fact that the temperature of the canteen for smelters was not so high. He said that even high-nutritious meals were useless if the workers took them in a cold place, and instructed the senior officials of the complex to call the workers together and apologize to them, and raise the temperature in the canteen without fail.

Afterwards, they developed a fixed lever of the assembling tool of a CNC lathe, a hemispheric drill bit, an injection nozzle and different sizes of small gears consecutively, and introduced them in several industrial establishments like the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory.

Those sci-tech achievements were highly appreciated as they had pioneered a new phase of the material processing technology.

THE METAL POWDER INJECTION-MOULDING technology helps mass-produce products of complex shapes with metal or non-metal powder, so it is recognized as an advanced technology of the 21st century. Dr Kim Jong Gon, associate professor of Kim Chaek University of Technology materials science and technology faculty, says, "If you use the metal powder injection-moulding technology you can mass-produce small-sized products of complex shapes at a less cost. In a word, you can get maximum profit from small investment. This is the greatest advantage of this technology."

A dozen years ago a research group headed by Kim was conducting a research project to produce a rare-earth permanent magnet by dint of powder metallurgy technology. In the course of accumulating experience in powder metallurgy and studying the relevant data they came to know that most of advanced materials in the world were developed by dint of the powder metallurgy technology. And they also found out that the essence of the technology was the metal powder injection-moulding technology which was referred to as a revolution in the field of moulding processing. This made the group know about the metal powder injection-moulding technology, and since then they set about the research into the technology in earnest.

They had neither relevant experience nor basic technical data. They, however, continued the research. During the days they developed core techniques of powder injection moulding one after another such as the one of making agglomerant, that of removing agglomerant and that of sintering. Six years later they finally succeeded in making a dozen kinds of metal powder injection-moulded products, and introduced the achievements in a factory on trial.

Afterwards, they developed a fixed lever of the assembling tool of a CNC lathe, a hemispheric drill bit, an injection nozzle and different sizes of small gears consecutively, and introduced them in several industrial establishments like the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory.

climbs up to the peak of the farthest mountain on this land and goes down into an underground pit unhesitatingly to see his people.

"No doubt the Heaven would bow to him. The people would be purely loyal to him. What could check the advance of the people who march forward with this great man?"



Research gets intensified.

In June Juche 109 (2020) all the eight scientists of the research group, who had established a production technology based on metal powder injection-moulding, were awarded the February 16 Science and Technology Prize. And the main developer Kim Jong Gon was selected as one of the national top scientists and technicians 2019.

Today they are striving to ensure the integration of education, scientific research and production related to the aforesaid technology, and intensifying joint research with different research institutes and factories.

Meanwhile, they are producing various kinds of powder injection-moulded items.

Their effort to get maximum profit from minimum investment is going on.

Choe Sol Mi

The countless anecdotes of love for and trust in the people that happened during the Chairman's revolutionary leadership are still told and retold today.

Yom Song Hui

Gravity-fed Waterways Stretch



Ri Yong Guk.

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA Today reporter had an interview with Ri Yong Guk, deputy director of a bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Irrigation is a matter of crucial importance related to the characteristic conditions of agricultural production and climate in this country, I think.

You are right. Farming has long been regarded as the basis of everything. It is a general idea that farming is impossible without water.

My country has a climatic feature that drought and flood repeat periodically. Moreover, it has a limited area under cultivation, and rice cultivation in paddy fields takes a lion's share in farming. As there is a saying that rice farming is water farming, only the completion of agricultural irrigation can ensure stable farming and high yield of crops.

So the Workers' Party of Korea set it as an urgent task to accelerate irrigation in the work to put agricultural production on a firm material and technical basis, and has paid close attention to the completion of the

project.

The history of irrigation in the country started after it was liberated from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, I think.

It is the Korean peasantry's centuries-old desire to do farming on their own land. To this end, the Party made sure that they became the owners of land through the agrarian reform, and saw to it that irrigation systems were established so that they could do farming to their heart's content without worrying about water.

In April Juche 36 (1947) Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, inspected the Mathan irrigation project on the spot and opened up a new chapter of irrigation.

The completion of the Kae-chon-Lake Thaesong Waterway in 2002 was followed by that of the Paengma-Cholsan Waterway in 2005, and the Miru Plain Waterway in 2009.

The first-stage project of the South Hwanghae Provincial Waterway was completed in the year when the Seventh WPK Congress was held. This year the second-stage project of the waterway was finished.

In South Hamgyong Province a gravity-fed waterway was completed in Kumya County, and another similar project is going on.

What is notable is that nationwide forces have been mobilized for irrigation projects under the care of the State. Accordingly, the irrigation and water conservancy sector is paying deep attention to maintaining and reinforcing the irrigation facilities, equipment and structures in a planned way, and controlling water scientifically and technically.

The construction of gravity-fed waterways has been done vigorously, I think.

The first gravity-fed waterway in the country is the Kae-chon-Lake Thaesong Waterway.

It was constructed according

to the grand nature-remaking policy of the WPK to transform water pumping-based irrigation systems into gravitational ones. By using the natural law

that water flows down to a lower place the project was completed in 28 months. This made it possible to fully irrigate over 100 000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields in 15 cities, counties and districts, and prevent the damage by stagnant water in the West Sea Barrage basin by controlling the flood capacity of the Taedong River. Besides, it made it possible to save power of tens of thousands of kW, develop fish farming, and improve the surrounding landscape.

Secret of Increased Production

VARIOUS HEALTH FOODS from the Amnokgang General Foodstuff Factory in Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province are gaining public favour. Not long ago I visited the factory to know the secret of its success.

Pacesetter for Sci-tech Learning

I met Kim Chun Sil, general manager of the factory, at its sci-tech learning space. Every day she spends a lot of time on the shop floor and at the sci-tech learning space. Her manner of work has continued invariably since she was appointed to her present post three years ago. This enables her to learn advanced technology and conceive novel ideas. Last year she invented a method of making nutritious drops with buckwheat and lecithin, and it was awarded a certificate of patent of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

With profound knowledge she is guiding the production scientifically and technically. She knows well what is the main factor in enhancing the safety of the products, and increasing the production. However busy she is, she meets researchers and technicians regularly to discuss with them about how to solve technical problems arising in the production. And she stays all night at the sci-tech learning space to hit on new solutions.

Last year products from the factory ranked within the top three at a provincial sci-tech festival and the National Sci-Tech Festival. This was associated with the effort of the general manager. She says that only when she takes the lead in the campaign of ability, will she be able to turn the production and business management into the course of direct application of science and technology.

Knowledge Is Power

Last year the factory carried out over 40 technical innovations and developed over 20 varieties of products of seven kinds including fermented vinegar-based drinks, fermented soybean foodstuffs and fried grain chips. And a dozen production processes were awarded certificates of food safety management system, including the biscuit, noodle and drink production ones. This is inconceivable apart from the reliable scientific and technical personnel of the factory.

Meanwhile, not a few young workers of the factory have distinguished themselves as masters of invention. Paek Kum Ju, 24, is one of them. She developed a method of producing functional drink which not only helps recover from fatigue and treat hypertension but also is good for the beauty of women. The method won a DPRK certificate of patent.

She says, "Some people make light of science and technology in producing foodstuff, and think they need no more than high skills. It's true with their past, but today they can do more things only when they know science and technology. Knowledge is power."

The factory is striving to produce popular products faster and more.

Pak Yong Il



New Types of Shoes Manufactured



“THE TRAINERS ARE JUST fit for my feet as they are designed by a 3D foot measuring device, and the colour is to my liking.” “The shoes are so light and comfortable.” These are people’s comments on shoes from the Ryuwon Footwear Factory.

The factory is producing different kinds of trainers and professional sports shoes as much as it wants. This can be known through the fact that its shoes won first place at a footwear show where those from different factories were rated according to their popularity. The factory owes the success to designing of good shoe patterns first.

The designers make even a simple pattern with great care. They regularly study the global trend in the development of trainers and the domestic demand for them, and they habitually observe the shoes of the passers-by while walking along the road. In the course of this they create patterns that appeal to the tastes and aesthetic senses of men and women of different ages in different seasons. A typical example is the creation of patterns of laminate printing-based trainers, knitted trainers and injection-moulded trainers.

The workers of the factory also create unique patterns. Novel patterns are selected through a mass prize contest, and those which enjoy great popularity are introduced into production. In June this year the factory created over 40 patterns of children’s shoes along with those of hundreds of kinds of trainers for adults.

Designing in accordance with the patterns follows up quickly. In case of the similar patterns the quality of shoes depends on ▶

the relevant material and technical process. What is important in making trainers is to make them light and convenient for exercise. So the new product development laboratory has nearly completed a 3D designing program which makes it possible to ensure the aesthetic features of shoes and satisfy technical requirements.

Technical innovations have been brought about in the production processes as well. Rational methods of cutting and those of processing outer rims of shoes are invented to meet the technical requirements for trainers of new types. A pneumatic shoetree removing machine has been made and introduced into the production process, thus making the process automatic.

And the domestic production of the screen printing ink has been realized.

The factory also has made achievements in recycling the waste such as artificial leather scraps that come from the insole production.

Such efforts bore fruit: Men’s and children’s trainers for spring and autumn from the factory won the December 15 Medal of Quality which is conferred on the best products in the country.

Diversifying trainers in terms of kind, shape and colour is an invariable business strategy of the factory.

*Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Song Ik*



New Observation Devices Developed

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of Korea meteorological observation has long been an important undertaking. Today, with rapid progress in science and technology, different kinds of high-performance devices have been developed and in use to attain success in observing and predicting the weather.

The developers of the devices are researchers of the Hydro-meteorological Forecast Device Institute, the Hydro-meteorological Academy. In particular, the observation devices developed by the researchers of the meteorological observation device laboratory are in effective use to offer basic weather and climate data badly needed for weather forecasting

and different fields of the national economy.

One of them is an automatic meteorological observation device capable of observing temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, wind velocity and direction and precipitation automatically and transferring the relevant data in real time. When it was applied to meteorological observation stations across the country, it was favourably commented upon as it made it possible to save labour and time, conduct meteorological observation in real time, and ensure its accuracy.

Later, the researchers intensified the research to develop another automatic device to observe many more meteorological elements. Soon they de-

veloped and introduced into practice a device which can observe twice as many meteorological elements as before. It was much more improved in capacity for storing and transmitting data and network communication, and it could work by solar energy as well. The collection of extensive and accurate basic data on weather and climate by the device has enhanced the promptness, correctness and scientific accuracy of weather forecasting.

The researchers also made progress in grasping the meteorological conditions of those regions with unfavourable natural conditions, and explaining the features of their climatic change. Mt Paektu can be cited. It is the highest mountain in Korea, and the area is the coldest one with the most changeable weather. In the area the wind blows very hard and changes suddenly, and the sky is covered with thick clouds frequently compared to other areas, and thus it often witnesses relevant electrical phenomena. Besides, there often happens a tornado around Lake Chon. So the climate in the Mt Paektu area is unpredictable.

The researchers developed an automatic meteorological observation device and installed them on the Janggun Peak, the highest peak in the mountain, and on the shore of Lake Chon to observe the meteorological and climatic features of the mountain area. This helped reduce the observers' trouble in the severe cold and ever-changing weather conditions,



Research is under way for meteorological observation devices.

- ▶ and have a scientific understanding of the meteorological and climatic change in the mountain.

Besides, the researchers pushed ahead with the development of other kinds of meteorological observation devices needed for different fields of the national economy. They thus made a device to collect the meteorological data needed for agricultural production, the one that can measure soil humidity, evaporation, temperature of soil and pH of soil. Its usefulness is getting clear in practice. It was introduced in the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm newly built in 2019, making a great contribu-

tion to good harvest of vegetables.

The researchers also developed an automatic marine meteorological observation device, a portable digital gauge for measuring atmospheric pressure, and a soil analysis meter for measuring soil fertility.

Now they are conducting extensively and in depth the research to develop more advanced devices such as an unmanned one.

Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Song Hak



Young Doctor of Medicine

THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences boasts a young teacher, Jo Kye Ryong, who received a PhD in medicine in his twenties for his successful introduction of a bio-resonance therapy into clinical practice.

As child Jo used to surprise his parents and kindergarten teachers by memorizing different pictures he had seen once—it was since he was four years old. In his kindergarten days he worked out answers to mathematical problems of several-digit numbers by means of mental arithmetic. His unusual inborn memory and enthusiasm for study greatly helped him broaden his knowledge in his primary and junior middle school days and in his days at Pyongyang Middle School No. 1. So he always led others in study.

Looking back upon his days at Pyongyang Middle School No. 1, Jong Un Hui, the teacher in charge of his class at the time, recalls: “One year there was held a multi-subject academic contest of middle school students across the country. Jo participated in the contest with some students of the school. Then I was surprised to see the problems presented on the computer display because they were difficult enough to baffle us teachers. Jo, however, worked out the answers to all the problems by dint of his own novel and original ideas. The jury, too, commented that he was a promising student.”

While attending Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, he received a lecture on interferon. Interferon is a protein or a glycoprotein which has an antiviral action. This action happens when a virus or a germ enters the body of a vertebrate animal or a cultured cell. Interferon had long been used for the prevention and treatment of cancer as well as viral diseases. However, the process for making an antiviral medicine with interferon was not confirmed yet, so the university was intensifying the research on it.

At that time Jo decided to delve into the unknown world, and buckled down to the research. Ri Jong Gon, the teacher of the university who guided Jo in the research, says, “After school he would sit up deep into the night for the research. I was deeply moved by the way the young student was making such strenuous efforts.”

When he was a third-grader, Jo made public the paper *Study on Synthesis of Interferon Gamma*, which is conducive to making an antiviral medicine that enhances the immunity of the human body as a whole. And then he developed the program *System for Judging Cases of Internal Treatment of Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers* which helps decide cases of pharmaceutical or surgical treatment, and thus he received a DPRK certificate of invention.

While attending the postgraduate course of the university he made public the paper *Experimental Study on Bio-resonance Therapy*. It was rated as one of value which can tangibly help promote the health of the people. This earned



him a master's degree.

When the human body is exposed to electromagnetic waves for a certain period of time, the waves cause resonance with natural frequency of the body to produce a therapeutic effect. This is the bio-resonance therapy.

Ri Jong Gon says, “Afterwards, Jo proved the advantages of the therapy one after another through clinical practice. At that time all the patients who got the treatment expressed their satisfaction as it was unique and its efficacy was good.”

Two years after the publication of the paper he received a doctorate of medicine for his making a lot of achievements in introducing the therapy into clinical practice. Meanwhile, he wrote and made public some valuable reference books conducive to the development of medical science, including *Bio-resonance Technology and Its Application* and *Electric Field of Mobile Phone and Health*.

Kang Ri Hye, deputy director of the Scientific Research Department, says, “It is only a year since he began to work with us. Over the period, however, he has written a lot of books—it would have taken years for other teachers to do it. He is young, and no one can match him in enthusiasm for scientific research.”

Whenever Jo's colleagues congratulate him on his successful research, he says that he has a long way to go to live up to the expectations of his teachers and other people who helped him.

Sim Chol Yong

A Day of Amateur Marathoner

HOW IS HE SO ENERGETIC AND HEALTHY? Anyone has this question after hearing about Pak Jong Gil, a 78-year-old man who has participated in eight marathons including the 2019 Autumn Amateur Marathoners Race.

When they visit his house in the Wau Workers' District, Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, for an answer to the question, the elderly man is wont to say about five habits he has been keeping to all his life.

It is his unbreakable routine to go for a jog every morning, breathing fresh air in the mountain district. He took up the habit decades ago when he started work. At that time the distance between his home and workplace was about four kilometres, and he used to run the distance. Even after he retired, he kept to the habit invariably, running at least five to ten kilometres every morning.

In April Juche 93 (2004) he, in preparation for an amateur marathoners race, ran over 80 kilometres to and from Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province, in a dozen hours to the surprise of people. He has got experience in several races, and is now making thoroughgoing preparations for the coming competition. He has already mapped out weekly and monthly training plans.

The old man's another habit is cold-water rubbing. Even in cold winter days he does not skip doing it. To him the time of rubbing himself with a cold wet towel is a special time for training himself physically and mentally.

Ri Chan Jin, section doctor in charge of the old man, calls on him at his home at 4 pm every day. He says, “Pak is very healthy perhaps because he does the morning jog and the cold-water rubbing every day. All his health indexes are normal, including blood pressure, temperature and pulse.”

Diligence is the standard by which Pak judges personality. Handsome is that handsome does—this is his motto of life. He cultivates the kitchen garden alone, and asks his children to live assiduously.

Also notable is his eating habit. He hates overeating and unbalanced diet, and prefers vegetables.

Usually, he loves to eat vegetables and soybean food, especially, potato, garlic and spring onion. This may have helped him to maintain his sturdy and nimble body with a height of 163 cm and a weight of 52 kg, the old man says. “Keep away from alcohol and tobacco, and love mu-

sic”—this is what he never fails to tell. As he likens alcohol and tobacco to narcotics damaging the body and mind, he has not taken up drinking and smoking. This enables him to maintain power of locomotion and lung capacity good enough to be admired by young people.

The old man's view of music is remarkable. He always says that man should live optimistically, and love music in particular. He spares no effort and time for appreciating music or buying CDs of new songs.

He is full of vigour for his advanced age, and he often ends his talk with people as follows:

“The secret is nothing special. If you keep to these five habits, you may live long in good health.”

Kim In Son





Triple World Taekwon-Do Champion



Pak Mi Hyang breaks boards at the 20th Taekwon-Do World Championships.

PAK MI HYANG FROM the Pyongyang Taekwon-Do Club is a triple world Taekwon-Do champion. She won the women's individual sparring event at the 18th, 20th and 21st Taekwon-Do World Championships, thus securing a firm position as a strong Taekwon-Doist and elevating the honour of her country which is the home of the martial art.

Pak began to learn Taekwon-Do during her primary school days. She was learning calisthenics in the Thongilgori Primary School, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, when she

was ushered into the world of Taekwon-Do by Kim Yong Suk who used to be an instructor of the Pyongyang Students and Children's Palace. Kim, an instructor of the Pyongyang Taekwon-Do School at the moment, recalls, "I found Mi Hyang endowed with proper senses and build for an athlete."

The day she stepped into the Taekwon-Do training hall of the palace Mi Hyang made up her mind to become an admirable martial art practitioner.

She spared no pains to bring her determination into reality. What she found most difficult to

learn was to jump-kick a higher part of the human body and to kick in a 180 degrees swing. Kim Yong Suk still remembers what had happened one of those days, saying, "After the routine exercise one day I asked Mi Hyang to remain while others were dismissed to return home. I took her to an apparatus for kicking exercise. There I showed her some demonstration movements and then told her to follow my example. But she was afraid to try it. Now I told her she was too feeble to bring her hope into reality. And I asked her not to walk into the training hall un-

► less she was determined to add lustre to her country."

That evening Mi Hyang stayed in the hall deep into the night until she got to perform the necessary movement flawlessly.

Thanks to her tireless effort, her technical level improved steadily and now she became No. 1 in her group. She made her debut at the 9th Sobaeksu Prize National Schoolchildren's Taekwon-Do Championships, when she won the women's 40kg individual sparring by defeating all her rivals. Watching her fight, the spectators commented that she had a unique kicking technique.

Later she was admitted to the national team. Though she was the youngest in the team, she had the strongest desire to be a Taekwon-Do star.

She redoubled her effort to

catch up with the leading practitioners; she was the first to begin the morning exercise and was the last to leave the training hall. Sunday or holiday, her clothes were wet with her perspiration. Her untiring endeavour resulted in rapid improvement of her ability, which led to her win at a number of national and international competitions.

But intoxicated with the wins in her early age, she failed to come within the top three places at the 19th Taekwon-Do World Championships—due to her slip. She felt terrible, recalling the images of her parents, instructors and fellow practitioners who had wished her to bring glory to her school and club. Now she sorely felt that there had to be no satisfaction at all in training.

Pak, regarding herself as a

Pak wins the women's individual sparring event of the 21st Taekwon-Do World Championships.



new recruit, engaged in more fervent drills, while her chief coach Jang Kyong Ok made stricter demand. As a result, Pak regained her championship in two rounds of the Taekwon-Do World Championships.

Over the past dozen years she has won dozens of gold medals and two technical prizes at international contests. By last year she had been put on the annual list of the best ten Taekwon-Doists of the DPRK several times.

Pak says, "I have fulfilled my hope I nurtured as a child, and I know I owe my success to my instructors and other good people who have given me selfless guidance and help in my career. And I am sure I will be able to translate my dream into reality as I am under their care."

Sim Yong Jin

“I Want to Book a Room Here”



“IT DEPENDS ON HOW THE ELDERLY ARE looked after to rate a country as good or bad. This old people’s home is an excellent example.” This is what Wolfgang Nowak, former general bureau director of the German Chancellor’s Office, wrote in the visitors’ book in the Pyongyang Old People’s Home after looking it round in November Juche 106 (2017).

Not long ago I visited the home.

As I drove some distance along the Taedong riverside past Kumnung Tunnel No. 2 and across the Chongnyu Bridge, there came into sight the home amid various fruit and flowering trees. The two-storey building was distinctively characterized by the national flavour, covered with a red gable roof and

surrounded by a stone fence with pierced openwork of cranes.

In the yard of the home Choe Chong Sim, the director of the home, welcomed me. As a nearly 50-year-old woman, she said with a smile, “At the moment we look after the people who have no one to rely upon. They’re provided with food, clothes, underwear, footwear and other daily necessities at state expense.”

Guided by the director I looked round different places.

I first dropped in at room No. 125 where I met two old women, Kim Chi Ok, 93, and Jong Chun Sil, 89. They were veterans of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953). ▶

“At this home we are fully supplied with all necessities, and we receive various health tonics on national holidays,” Jong said, and added that on their birthdays many college students and young people visit them to congratulate them.

Then I went to a fitness room equipped with a multifunctional comprehensive massage chair and exercise equipment such as exercise cycle. Impressive were the elderly engrossed in exercise in the room.

“When I sweat here with some exercise, I feel refreshed and feel as if I were young again,” said Hwang Sam Nyo, a 76-year-old woman who had been a worker of the Janggyo Cooperative Farm in Kangnam County, Pyongyang.

Then I heard excited cheers of “Kol!” “Ssyung!”

and “Excellent.” They were coming from upstairs where there was going a game of *yut* (a folk game of Korea) between the *chong* (blue) team and the *hong* (red) team. The *chong* team’s leader Kim Sun Ok, a 75-year-old woman who had worked at the Sangwon Cement Complex, drew all the attention by displaying her skill of throwing *yut* sticks.

Looking at the bright and pleasant faces of the elderly, I remembered the words of a foreigner who said, “I want to book a room here” after looking round the old people’s home.

I left the home hoping the elderly would lead a happier life.

Article by Kim Hyon Ju
Photos by Ri Song Chol

World of Magicians



Kim Kwang Chol (right) and Kim Ju Song are engrossed in creating a new programme.

THE MAGIC ART OF THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea is enjoying popularity for its unique tricks, novel ideas and strong national colour. The following is about some magicians of the National Acrobatic Troupe.

In His Father's Footsteps

Kim Kwang Chol, director and magician of the troupe, is a son of the world-famous magician Kim Thaek Song, a Kim Il Sung Prize winner, Labour Hero and People's Artiste. The father won special prizes and first place at different international magic festivals. He was awarded the title of "Magic King" at the 16th International Modern Magic Festival held in July Juche 70 (1981).

Kwang Chol grew up under the strict instruction of his father. He made efforts to apply into the production of magic tricks his father's opinion that the magic art should show a genuine beautiful life of man rather

than artistic skills. In the course of this he produced a lot of magic programmes reflecting the Korean people's life and sentiments. *Cards Trick* and *Umbrella Trick* he performed won the Grand Prix at the 20th International Modern Magic Festival held in the then Czechoslovakia in July 1985. At that time he was 19

years old. Later he kept producing other programmes, and thus won the technical prize at the Monte Carlo International Magic Festival held in March 1996.

He became a Kim Il Sung Prize winner and People's Artiste for the success.

Following in his father's footsteps he is still devoting his all to production of magic art reflecting the life of the Korean people.

Leading World with Science

Kim Ju Song, a magician of the troupe, says, "This is the era of science and technology. So we should introduce modern science and technology into magic production in keeping with the requirement of the developing era so as to lead the world in the aspect."

In essence, magic is a kind of deception, and if modern equipment and advanced techniques are applied to magic production, it will result in tricks and curious representations beyond imagination, thus arousing greater interest in the audience, Kim asserts.

From his first days at the

troupe after graduating from the Pyongyang University of Computer Technology he strove to introduce science and technology into his magic tricks. Thus he created large-scale functional programmes such as *On the Water* and *With a Bus*. He also produced various communicative and fantastic ones including the one in which he guessed at the figures of cards while covering his eyes.

Now his performance enjoys public favour as it is always new and unique.

New Generation

Jong Na Ri and Kim Un Sok represent a new generation of the troupe's magicians. Though they are young with short career and little experience they produced the programmes *Flower and Butterfly* and *Amusing Yut Game* last year, getting unstinted applause. They have the knack of producing magic tricks suited to the aesthetic sense of the times and full of national qualities and emotion, thus drawing the attention of experts as promising magicians.

They are pooling their wisdom to create a new item peculiar to the Korean nation.

Article by Kim So Yong
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok

Jong Na Ri and Kim Un Sok are in training.



National Intangible Cultural Heritage (47)

Sumbakkokjil

SUMBAKKOKJIL (HIDE-and-seek) is a Korean folk game with a long history.

The translated version of *Pakthongsa* compiled in the period of Koryo (918–1392) and other books compiled later have records of the game.

Pakthongsa was a textbook for foreign language education at that time. This tells that it was a children's game played widely enough to be recorded in such a linguistic textbook during the Koryo dynasty.

In modern times following the period of the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910) the game was played in a more diversified manner.

The game used to go by various names in different regions.

The Korean word *sumbakkokjil* was derived from the way the game is played. In the game a child set as a seeker tries to spot the other children.

Generally the game was played a lot in a yard around a house or in a wide open space of a village on a full-moon night in summer.

The seeker, who is on the last of turns counted or loses in the scissors-stone-cloth, leans against a tree or rock set as the position and, with his eyes closed, counts numbers, while other children disperse and hide themselves.

After counting, the seeker looks for the hiders. When he finds out a child, the seeker returns to his position and touches it with his hands or feet, naming the child loudly. Then the identified child "dies." The child, who is found out by the seeker, does not "die" if he runs and touches the seeker's position before the seeker can. And

when a hider reaches the position successfully unseen by the seeker, he remains "alive."

Both those found out by the seeker and those remaining alive stand around the position and cheer for the remaining hiders, singing the following verse.

*Hide yourselves well lest you should betray hair.
Hide well, the seeker's approaching you.*

The game comes to an end when all the hiders come out.

Then the "dead" children play scissors-stone-cloth and decide the seeker, and the game is repeated.

It is a good game for children to foster their observation and circumstantial judgment and agility.

While thinking how and where they should hide or watching where and how they hide, children develop their intelligence.

Whenever children play the game in a village, their singing and pleasant laughs resound throughout the village.

While playing the game children deepen their friendship and promote harmony.

The tradition of the game is carried on. Kindergartens and primary schools teach children how to play the game during extracurricular activities or the playing time. And the game is introduced through Korean Central Radio or television or other kinds of mass media.

The pleasant and interesting folk game of children was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

Blind Singer



PAE OK RIM IS A MEMBER OF THE artistic circle of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. She is well-known as a blind singer among the people.

I Wish I Would Be Pride of My Mother

Pae lost her sight when she was two. One night she had high fever suddenly, and slipped into a critical condition. She got out of a crucial state at a hospital but she was diagnosed as becoming blind because of keratomalacia. Baffled with the reality that the child, who had enjoyed watching an animation the day before, lost her sight, her mother could not help but weep bitterly. Later she strove desperately to bring eyesight back to her but in vain.

When Ok Rim reached the age of discretion, she changed into a quiet and gloomy girl. Whenever she heard the laughter of children playing outside, she was so envious of them that she would turn up music so as to keep away from their laughter. Only music gave her consolation. While listening to music, she was pleased, imagining the beautiful world that she could not see with her eyes.

She has an excellent instinctive taste for music. When she heard a new song she would sing it flawlessly. And she learned from her mother how to play the guitar. Sometimes she wrote and composed her own song. She also had her dream like other children. *If I had eyes, I could sing on the stage*, she thought. Her mother could not neglect her daughter's

aspiration, so she went to see ophthalmologists.

In 2010 Ok Rim got a keratoplasty operation, but it failed to bring about a due result. Hope disappeared from the girl. Her mother, disappointed at her futile effort for her hopeless daughter, shed tears of sorrow alone. Grasping her mother's hands the girl said inwardly, "I wish I would bring happiness to you. I wish I would be a pride of you, dear Mum."

Beam of Light

In 2014 officials of the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled visited Ok Rim. While asking about her life they advised her to join the artistic circle of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. This lit a spark of hope in the girl's mind. In the circle she got systematic education in vocal music and playing the electric guitar from the experts who had learned at Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music.

As she could not see she had to learn all notations by heart, and make much more effort than ordinary people would to possess artistic skills. Her effort to learn vocal music and to play the electric guitar was unusual, and the selfless guidance of the officials of the association touched the heartstrings of people. During the days she managed to solve the knottiest problem of rhythmic representation, and that of keeping ensemble with other musical instruments of the artistic circle, thus developing into a skilful player and singer.

At last her dream came true. In 2016 she took part in an artistic performance of the disabled and sang a song on the stage for the first time. Her clear and beautiful voice and delicate and truthful artistic representation evoked admiration from the audience. Renowned theatres in the country invited her to perform on their stage. Gradually, her stage expanded to the theatre of the Royal College of Music in London, the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, and a Chinese theatre. Inspired by the successes she learned to play *johaegum*, a Korean musical instrument, this year.

Today she is not only the treasure of her mother but also that of the country. She says, "Though I am blind, I can see the bright light in my mind. This light will always illuminate my life."

Now she is 27 years old, and she is devoting her heart and soul to artistic activities full of vigour. There are young men proposing to her, attracted by her untiring zeal for and optimism about life.

Rim Ok

Quality Certification Develops

SOME TIME AGO A KOREA TODAY REPORTER had an interview with Jin Yong Sok, head of the Central Quality Certification Office of the Quality Management Administration.

I think quality certification is important in further developing the national economy and improving the people's living standards.

Absolutely. The main content of quality management is to manage active development and production of excellent goods suited to the trend of developing times, and integration of the quality and standard of all products.

As the quality management is sort of an international affair, the guarantee of quality based on inspection of quality in the past has changed into quality certification (product certification and management system certification). Accordingly, quality-certified products have favourable conditions for sale and export, but those without similar certification cannot be sold and exported properly. In particular, quality certification is mandatory for the marketing and exporting of products which are likely to directly affect the health and safety of people and environment.

In my country those production units with quality certification are on the increase continuously. In the first half of this year over 40 units in different sectors including light industry, the electronics industry and public health received the quality management system certification, food safety management system certification, quality certification and GMP certification for nearly 100 production processes. Meanwhile, a hundred and dozens of products from some 30 units have been registered as February 2 Products. This shows that there has been a remarkable progress in improving the quality of products as compared to that of the same period last year.

Recently the introduction of the quality certification system has been further developed, and could you tell me what the factors are?

Quality certification is a job that will keep taking place in the future, too. The factor of the progress in the job is, first of all, the change of officials and working people's viewpoint and way of work.

In the recent three years dozens of establishments including the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory and the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory have made much headway in improving the quality of products. These units set up a management office or appointed an official for dealing with the quality management, and applied scientific methods of quality management in all processes like purchase of raw materials, designing of products and processes, management of production processes, examination and testing of products, and investigating the demand after sale.

The second factor is that quality certification has been conducted thoroughly on the basis of science and technology.



Let me give you an example. The leading units in the undertaking are attaching importance to science and technology, and paying primary attention to the strengthening of their own scientific and technical forces, and their close cooperation with scientific research institutes. In order to churn out quality and safe products which can enjoy confidence of the customers all the time they are firmly holding fast to science and technology, raising the level of modernization of production processes and equipment, and meeting hygienic requirements thoroughly.

Another factor is that a campaign to overtake, model after and share experience with others has been waged vigorously. The effort to improve the quality of products is not aimed at development of given units at all. The development of individual units in my country presupposes collectivism, and is related to that of the State. Achieving collective development while helping and leading one another—herein lies the superiority of our socialism.

A clear example is that some local industrial factories which are small in scale and relatively weak in production foundation have actively introduced advanced technology and excellent experience, and are now producing quality-certified goods.

The reality shows that close mutual cooperation guarantees rapid development at all units.

When all sectors and units steadily push the work of expanding and introducing the quality certification system and seeking for scientific methods, there will be greater successes in the economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards.



(Continued from the last issue)

BUT WHENEVER I GLANCED BACK AT THE girl, I found her engrossed in knitting alone as if she had no interest in the television programme. *Oh, that's the woman*, I thought. At the moment I banged on the room floor with my fist when I saw an unmistakably likely goal fail as the ball the left wing of the April 25 team had kicked rushing up to the goalmouth rebounded after hitting the goal post.

"Oh, my!" the girl screamed in surprise at the same time.

"I'm sorry," I apologized to her.

She laughed softly and said, "That's all right, but I'm afraid you might break the floor."

The football match ended in victory for the April 25 team as I expected. Quite pleasantly I stood up and expressed my gratitude to the girl, saying, "That's very kind of you to let me watch the TV programme."

"You're welcome. See you again," she said with a gentle smile, but she would not stand up to say good-bye.

I felt hurt at once. Outside, I, with a bitter smile, said to Un Sik, "I see your next-door neighbour is a 'young madam.' How impudent she is to keep sitting when I say good-afternoon and good-bye!"

Surprised, Un Sik looked at me, and said, "Kil Sun can't stand up, Ki Chon. She's an honoured

True story

Life and Promise

Tokko Hyon

disabled soldier."

"What?" I cried in surprise.

I was dumbfounded. I could not believe it. And I quite hated myself for making such absurd remarks about the girl when I knew nothing about her personal misfortune. I felt like going back to her home immediately to apologize to her, but I didn't.

This is how she and I came to know each other.

Strangely enough, her face occasionally rose before my mind's eye from then on. Then I found myself wanting to think of something further and deeper.

One day, several days later, I was hurrying to my eldest sister's home on the way back from work because of a certain family affair when I came across the girl on the road in front of Chongjin Railway Station.

A gentle autumn rain was falling with dusk spreading in the sky, and I recognized the familiar face of the girl in her wheel chair slowly coming near in the rain. She was in a light green shirt with a white-edged collar and sleeves, with no umbrella at all—I didn't know why. She was accompanied by a young woman with a baby on her back.

"Hello, Kil Sun. Nice to meet you," I said approaching her. For a moment she wore an inquiring look before recognizing me. Then she looked pleased to see me.

She said she was there for an evening outing. When I asked her why she did not hold an umbrella, she said she wanted to be exposed to such a rain.

She had impressed me as a quiet girl, but now I found her out-going with a sonorous voice.

When I told her I was going to see my sister at her home in Songphyong District, she clapped her hands abruptly.

"Is that true?" she asked and with a giggle, said to the accompanying woman, "Now, Chun Ok, here's your companion. Hurry up. If you keep late for home this way, you might be rejected by your family, I'm afraid."

Introducing to me the woman as an alumnus of her middle school, Kil Sun said she had met her a

little while before. Chun Ok had to go in the opposite direction to go to her home and she was on her way back from work, Kil Sun explained, but she kept accompanying her.

"Would you please take Chun Ok to her home, Ki Chon? Let me take a walk home slowly by myself," Kil Sun asked.

I was disappointed to hear her say so. Frankly I wanted to have a talk with her as our meeting was opportune. But she was pressing me so eagerly that I could not help but walk with Chun Ok, a stranger to me, instead of Kil Sun. Chun Ok looked rather unhappy.

Strange to each other, we both felt awkward. I was thinking of how to change the atmosphere, when she first addressed me.

"Do you know Kil Sun well?" she asked me.

"Only a little," I replied, explaining what had happened in Kil Sun's home days before.

Then Chun Ok only smiled an indifferent smile.

"I hear you were at the same middle school with Kil Sun?" I asked.

"Of course. And we grew up together from our days in the kindergarten," she explained, "we know each other so well."

"How long is it since she was discharged from military service?" I asked again.

"It is already six years as it was three years after her joining the army that she was discharged," she said with a short sigh as if it were difficult for her to talk.

After a while of hesitation, I asked Chun Ok again if she knew how the girl had been wounded.

"Yes, I know. Having heard that Kil Sun was returning home discharged, I followed her parents to the station to meet her. But I never imagined she would be in such a plight. I was so taken aback that I burst into tears throwing my arms around her. Then the officer who had taken her with him scolded me, shouting, 'What are you crying for? Kil Sun is an honourable soldier. She saved two children from fierce flames at the risk of her life. If you want to greet her in tears, get off at once!' But I saw tears stand in his eyes as well.

"Later I heard the details of what had happened to her.

"One day, while going on a mission, she was passing by a village when she saw a house on fire. There were no grown-ups there as they were not informed of the accident yet. There were only elderly people and children in the village. Kil Sun, hearing that there were two children in the burning house, threw herself into the fire. While coming out with the children in her arms, she fell badly wounded on the waist by a falling beam," Chun Ok did not finish her words in anguish.

I, however, came to know and feel everything—

what Kil Sun thought of at the moment, how she acted in the flames and how she did later in the face of her misfortune. Because she was a soldier, and so was I.

"What was she diagnosed with?" I asked.

"Acute myelitis, I was told. For six years since her discharge she has been taken to all hospitals across the country, but her illness is not yet cured," Chun Ok explained.

Then, to change the atmosphere becoming leaden again, I, with a sign of laughing, said, "Still, Kil Sun is cheerful. Her voice is sonorous, and she loves smiling."

"From her childhood she was good at singing songs and reciting poems. Her hope and ambition were unusually fantastic...." Chun Ok explained. "In our Children's Union days we waged a campaign to raise rabbits, and Kil Sun said rabbits were too small and that she wanted to raise a big pig like adults did. Actually she raised a pig, and managed to assist it in giving birth to a litter of piglets."

"Is that true?" I exclaimed in surprise. Chun Ok then smiled as if she were looking back upon those days.

"That's not all," she went on to say. "Kil Sun was the best runner at our school. She always won whether it was a 100-metre or two-curve lap race." And with a thin sigh Chun Ok suddenly bit her lip before saying, "What's the use of talking about it now? Her hopes are all blighted.... Whenever I meet Kil Sun I'm really at a loss what to do. I quite regret having married and become a mother of a baby because it seems that I display my happiness to the miserable friend of mine. I even wish that I were a man."

Chun Ok's words were shocking to me.

I thought of Kil Sun knitting alone in the room. *Was she a brave soldier rushing into the roaring flames?* I wondered.

I could not help but take my hat off to the girl who, without any pessimism, smiled brightly as if it were her nature even after sacrificing her beautiful youth unhesitatingly. Then I felt like helping her as a man. I still didn't know what and how to do to help her. But I decided often to ask Un Sik or Kil Sun directly about her life and do my best to help her. It was my duty, I thought.

One day, a fortnight later, I returned home from work to find my father and uncle sitting at a supper table. Uncle is the general manager of the Phohang Motor Transport Company.

I was very glad to see him because I knew I could meet him only on the New Year's Day as he was very busy with his work. So he went by the name of "New Year's Day uncle" among my relatives....

(To be continued)

Ostrich Dishes and Goods Grow Popular

AS A HIGHLY PROFITABLE BIRD, THE OSTRICH is regarded as an ideal object in poultry farming of the 21st century, and the realm of its use is increasing with the passage of time.

African Bird Acclimatized in DPRK

Situated on the outskirts of Pyongyang, the capital city of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is the Pyongyang Ostrich Farm.

Korea, is the Pyongyang Ostrich Farm.

Mun Chol, general manager of the farm, told me, "We began to raise ostriches in September 1989. We acclimatized them to the climatic conditions of our country so that they could survive any season. Now farming of the birds has been normalized."

According to him, they worried much when they began to raise the birds. Because they doubted if the birds could ever acclimatize to the climatic conditions of the country. They also doubted if the

birds which used to romp in the desert could live in an enclosure, and worried that the large birds might jump over the fence.

Their concern turned out futile.

Through the study of ostrich they came to know that the bird is strong in resistance to both heat and cold and that it never jumps over a fence unless it is excited.

But because of their changed environment the birds laid few eggs and did not eat well in appre-



▶ hension. Only after beginning to acclimatize themselves they increased in weight and the hens laid 40 to 60 eggs each a year.

Ri Song Su, a worker of the farm, said with a smile, "It is said that the ostrich is a predatory bird. But the bird is quite tame, and likes to eat and romp in the playground day and night. It, however, should not be surprised. Its kicking is as strong as heel kicking by a horse, so you should be careful."

Highly Productive and Profitable Bird

"With high effectiveness of investment, ostrich hen's prolificacy is nearly 50 times greater than beef cow's, and the bird's feed unit is merely 10 percent of beef cattle's. And the output of meat and hide by the bird is 10 and 20 times greater than that by beef cattle," said Han Kyong Yong, manager of the farm's ostrich meat processing factory.

Mentioning that an ostrich gives over 20 kilograms of meat and 1.4 square metres of quality hide, the manager said ostrich eggshells and plumes are used to make artefacts and fans or dusters and that ostrich hide is used to make footwear and bags. The

footwear and bags are quite popular with people as the hide is more durable than cowhide or alligator hide and unique in pattern, he added.

Ostrich bone pipes are also popular, Pak Kwang Chol, a member of the farm's artefact studio, said and went on to say, "Ostrich bone is strong in adsorptive power, so it prevents nicotine, tar and other evil substances of tobacco from being absorbed into the human body, and is effective in helping remove foul breath and phlegm and relieve coughing. Ostrich bone pipes won a gold medal at the 16th national invention exhibition."

The aforesaid factory uses ostrich meat and by-products to produce 24 varieties of ostrich meat products of 12 kinds including sausages and dumplings, and sends over 100 tons of ostrich meat and by-products to public catering establishments in Pyongyang every year.

Growing Popularity of Ostrich Meat Dishes

In Central District, Pyongyang is situated the Yaksan Restaurant, part of the Changgwang Restaurant Chain. The restaurant is famous for its os-

▶ trich meat dishes.

Kim Chol Min, a regular customer of the restaurant who lives in Pulgungori-dong No. 1, Pothong-gang District, Pyongyang, said, "The best of ostrich meat dishes is steak. Other kinds of meat become hard if heated. But ostrich meat remains soft and retains its own taste along with an aroma like that of alcohol even if long heated."

Han Song I, head of the restaurant, said, "My restaurant started service with ostrich meat steak.

Now we serve 20-odd varieties of ostrich meat dishes including spicy ostrich meat soup, steamed ostrich neck meat and pan-broiled ostrich giblets. Ostrich meat is soft, tasty and highly nutritious. The meat is health food just as good as beef because it is rich in lysine and other nutrients."

According to her, ostrich meat is good for growth of children, prevention and treatment of adult diseases and recuperation of elderly people and patients.

Head cook Choe Ok Nim is the pride of the restaurant as she is excellent at cooking various ostrich meat dishes to customers' liking. She said, "There is nothing to throw away about the ostrich. All its meat and by-products are nice foodstuff materials good for health. In the course of serving ostrich meat dishes, we came to know that ostrich oil is good for beauty and the treatment of arthritis. Then we began to serve the ostrich meat steak with the oil."

Not long ago the restaurant developed a method of cooking ostrich foot jelly good for nourishment and health, winning a DPRK certificate of invention.

Ostrich, the bird of great utility, is getting closer to people's life.

Article by Pak Un Yong

Photos by Ri Song Ik



Ostrich meat and its processed goods are supplied to service establishments.



Ostrich goods are favourably commented upon by people.



Traditional Condiments Get Tastier



Traditional methods and techniques of making *jang* are carried on with to retain the original tastes.

JANG IS A UNIQUE CONDIMENT of the Korean nation, representative of the country's food culture. The meaning of the word *jang* covers soy sauce, plain paste and peppered paste altogether.

Indispensable Condiment

In Korea *jang* is one of the condiments indispensable to the people's eating habit. According to the historical book *Samguksa-gi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) written in the period of

the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), a speciality of Palhae (the late 7th century—the early 10th century) was the soybean malt of Chaeksong, and people of Silla (the early mid-first century—935) chose *jang* for wedding presents to be sent to the bride's family.

Beans, which have long been referred to as "meat" from the field, contain more protein than any other kinds of grain. Boiled beans digest at only 70 percent, and bean-curd does at 90 percent. But *jang* digests at almost 100 percent. It is counted as

health food as it contains various nutritional ingredients such as protein, sugar, minerals and vitamins harmoniously. In the past each family used to make *jang* in Korea, so the preparation methods and the tastes were varied. And the nobility of a family depended on the taste of its *jang*.

Generally around Riptong (early November), the Koreans boiled beans fully and pounded it in a mortar. Then they made it into balls which are called *meju* (malt) in Korean. After the malt

was fermented spontaneously for several months, they crushed the dried balls, put the powder in a sterilized jar, poured salt water in the jar and left the jar open to clean air and sunlight. Two or three months later there came black liquid in the jar. They poured it in a saucepan and boiled it to make soy sauce. And they fermented the leftover in the jar to make paste. They mixed the paste with red pepper powder and other seasonings and fermented to make peppered paste.

The Koreans season food with soy sauce, eat bean paste as it is or use it to cook a soup, and use peppered paste as a side dish to stimulate appetite. *Jang* performs two functions as side dish and seasonings, so it is put on table for every meal of the Koreans. It produces a unique savory taste which is known as the sixth taste adding to the original five tastes—salty, sweet, bitter, sour and hot.

Genuine Taste of *Jang*

The Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory is situated on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River. It produces *jang*, pickled fish, pickled vegetables and others. Among the products *jang* is a typical product of the factory. It produces *jang* using an in-

dustrial method by introducing advanced techniques into the traditional process of making it while making it retain its own tastes.

The taste of *jang* depends on the state of its fermentation. So the factory has applied a technique of using *bacillus subtilis* to ferment microorganism, thus ensuring enough time for fermentation and ripening of the condiments. At first the factory had produced the Pyongyang Meju Soybean Paste, the Pyongyang Meju Peppered Paste, the Pyongyang Peppered Rice Paste and a fermented soy sauce. Now it is actively developing new products to satisfy the growing demand for similar condiments. It has developed the Pyongyang Soybean Paste for Wrapped Rice suited to the Korean people's habit of eating wrapped rice like lettuce-wrapped rice, the Pyongyang Vinegared & Peppered Paste suited for slices of raw fish and the Pyongyang Plain Bean Paste.

The development of functional *jang* is going on dynamically. Jon Ho Chol, manager of the factory who is a bioengineering expert, suggested the idea that *jang* containing Koryo medicinal materials in it would be better for human health. By defining the combination ratio of the condiment and wild edible greens

the factory has developed kinds of functional *jang* one after another, which retain their own tastes along with the aroma of the greens. The condiments with the additional content of lance asiabell, broad bellflower roots, shepherd's purse, water garlic, ginger, garlic and sesame seeds are very effective in the prevention and treatment of different diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and functional disorder of liver. This is because the anti-oxidants in soya beans including saponin and isoflavanoid match well with ingredients of the various Koryo medicinal materials.

Nine products from the factory have been registered as February 2 Products, including the Pyongyang Meju Peppered Soybean Paste, the Pyongyang Meju Soybean Paste and the Pyongyang Garlic & Peppered Soybean Paste. The *jang* production process received a certificate of ISO 22000 food safety management system. The custom of making *jang* including the factory's technique of making the condiment was registered as Item No. 4 on the list of national intangible cultural heritage in 2018.

It is the factory's business strategy to carry on the traditional method and technique of making *jang* and make the condiments retain their own taste.

Rim Ok

The products are packed.



Sustained Effort to Conserve Plants

THE RESEARCHERS OF THE BOTANICAL Institute, the State Academy of Sciences, have surveyed the preservation of progenitors of pine and magnolia, the national tree and flower of the DPRK, the propagation of the plants and their distribution, and are striving to solve scientific and technical problems arising in spreading the plants across the country.

In particular, based on their scientific study on how to plant the pine in all seasons and how to artificially multiply the species, they are intensifying the work to spread it.

They are also taking a measure to conserve Korea's indigenous rare species of plants like *Pentactina rupicola*, a natural monument.

And they have succeeded in establishing a method of growing such trees as Sangwon poplar, red oak and black alder which are of great economic and ornamental values. In addition, they are pushing ahead with the work to introduce other research findings which proved profitable, including a method of using a choice species of *Rana ornativentris* to exterminate forest pests.

Sim Chol Yong

Family of Tailors



Kim Yun Hui.



Jong Hyon Sim.

KIM YUN HUI AND JONG Hyon Sim are both tailors working at the Yogap Korean Costume Shop in Phyongsong, South Phyongan Province. They are mother and daughter.

Kim, Merited Tailor, has dedicated 47 years of her life to the tailoring of Korean costume. When asked of the reason, she says, "I still remember what my mother asked me to do."

Her mother was also engaged in making traditional Korean clothes. Her daughter's memory of her everyday life is that she was always busy. To say nothing of at her workshop, she worked over the tailoring at home as well. Neighbours often came to see her asking to do some needlework.

One day, back home from school, Kim asked her mother if she was tired. The reply was, "You feel seldom tired of what you like to do. I wish I would be able to make more beautiful Korean clothes. I hope you will be a Korean costume tailor like me."

Kim nurtured her dream

making Korean clothes for her doll. Later as she hoped, she learned at the then Sinuiju Specialized School of Light Industry, majoring in the clothing course. And in 1973 she got a tailor's job at a Korean costume shop.

The 20-year-old bob-haired girl built up her ability thinking up ingenious ideas and displaying unbounded creativity.

Her capacity turned out to be wonderful at a national garment processing contest one year. Drawing tailors and needle workers from across the country, the contest demanded they make clothes for a random type of person within certain hours.

Kim did not only tailoring but also needling to make a piece of clothing of suitable colour and style for a given man. She was highly praised by the jury and experts.

She has presented everyday clothes, holiday attires and wedding costumes to a number of national Korean clothes shows since 2002, winning diplomas. Her wedding costumes and holiday attires were of light green,

pink and other soft, bright and light colours, patterned after natural things like flowers, especially, azalea, royal azalea and rose, which present gentle and simple tints. The experts and visitors to the show gave her a big hand.

Kim was awarded the title of Merited Tailor in Juche 93 (2004). She has trained over 200 tailors, one of whom is her own daughter, Jong Hyon Sim.

Jong is often asked why she chose the job of tailoring, when she says, "My grandmother and mother were tailors of Korean costume. Since I was a child I have seen my mother enjoy public respect for her good Korean clothes. My childhood dream was to become a tailor like mother."

Working with her mother for 20 years she has also developed into a respectable worker.

The mother and daughter tailors are making sincere efforts for traditional Korean costume art regarding the public respect as their greatest treasure.

Pak Un Yong

MT MYOHYANG (5)

Historical Relics

Mt MYOHYANG IS FAMOUS FOR NOT only its scenic beauty but also its many relics showing the time-honoured history and culture of the Korean nation.

Among the relics are buildings, sculptures, pagodas, stone monuments, paintings, craftworks, printed materials and the like.

Typical of them are temples built from around the 7th century. According to the records inscribed on old stone monuments, the mountain had over 360 temples including Ansim and Pohyon temples, over 150 of which are recorded in history. It was also said that the temples kept many relics such as Buddhist images and paintings, wood blocks of the Buddhist scriptures and utensils used for Buddhist rituals and life, all from the periods of Koryo (918–1392) and the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910).

Many of the temples were burnt to ashes several times. Especially they were washed away by a flood in 1915 or destroyed by the Japanese imperialists' policy of destruction of Korean culture pursued during their military occupation of Korea.

More than 20 buildings and thousands of items of relics in Mt Myohyang were burnt or destroyed during the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953).

Thanks to the policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on preserving cultural relics, the old buildings including the main building of the Pohyon Temple have been restored to the original state and many relics are in good preservation.

At present there are many wooden buildings, including hermitages belonging to the Pohyon Temple district, in Mt Myohyang.

The Pohyon Temple, which was built in 1042, is typical of Korean architecture in the early 11th century and is of great artistic value.

As the largest one in North and South Phyongan provinces, the temple served as the centre of Buddhism in the area north of the Chongchon River. The buildings in the temple form an architectural group.

Pagodas and stone monuments can also be found in the mountain.

Most of the stone monuments are inscribed with

the history of the temples and Buddhist monks. Typical of them is that in the Pohyon Temple.

Octagonal 13-storeyed and square 9-storeyed pagodas are famous ones: They show Korea's stone architecture in the Middle Ages. The octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda built with delicately dressed granite blocks has wind bells at the ends of angle rafters of each roof. The 104 bells ring even in a light wind, evoking a peculiar emotion and testifying to high architectural skills.

Mt Myohyang has relics showing the development of printing technology in Korea. Typical of them are the 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures, and wood blocks of Buddhist scriptures from the days of Koryo and the feudal Joson dynasty.

Pak Thae Ho

An octagonal 13-storeyed pagoda.



Hwadam So Kyong Dok

SO KYONG DOK (1489–1546) was clever from his childhood, but he began to go to school only when he was 14 because his family was very poor.

Growing in a time when social contradictions of the feudal Joson dynasty began to loom, he got displeased with the feudal rulers' scramble for hegemony, arbitrariness and oppression. So he gave up government service and lived in seclusion in Hwadam while pursuing academic studies and striving to educate the rising generation. So people called him "Mr Hwadam" in general.

When he was 25, he established a materialistic outlook on the universe on the basis of his unique study, practical experience and special observation of phenomena.

Touring Mts Kumgang and Jiri and other scenic spots, he composed lots of poems singing of the beauty of the country, and put forward a materialistic outlook on the universe sympathizing with the people who were suffering from exploitation and oppression.

In his late years he made public some papers including his treatises "Record of Principles" and "Theory of the Basic Principles and the Atmospheric Force of Nature" that describe the philosophy he had studied all his life.

He held in his treatises that the motive power for the evolution and development of all things in the world as well as changes in their motion lies in not God or something spiritual but in material substances, and



that the great combination of the material substances constitutes the sky and the earth, while the minor combination, different things. And he judged that all sorts of things and phenomena as types of existence of material elements are related to and dependent on one another, and are in steady motion.

Like this So tried to consider the essence of the natural world and the law of its development from a materialistic and dialectic viewpoint, albeit naively.

The following is an episode about So Kyong Dok.

In Kaesong there lived a famous *kisaeng* (a kind of beauty entertainer) Hwang Jin I.

One day, during a chat with aristocrats over wine at the foot of Mt Songak, Hwang heard the aristocrats referring to So Kyong Dok as the only aristocrat who had a good moral sense and was noble-minded.

At that time So had given up government service and was engrossed in academic pursuits in Kaesong.

Thinking that even an aristocrat who was said not to be given up to amours would yield to her, Hwang decided to visit him.

Afraid that she might be rejected if she approached So as a *kisaeng*, she put on a student's attire and went over to him. She said she wanted to learn from him. The man welcomed her,

and taught her day and night as she wanted. Several days passed like this. Pretending to be on intimate terms with him, Hwang would sit up at table until late at night before spreading her bed beside him for the purpose of sounding him. Pretending to toss about in sleep, she sometimes put her white arm on his chest and sometimes stretched her white leg across his belly.

"Ha! She must be very tired," So would say, quietly putting her arms and legs right.

Many nights passed that way, but he never fingered her body.

He only taught her to be engrossed in her study.

At last Hwang returned without any success in her attempt to tempt him, and told the aforesaid aristocrats about the fact. He was the only man not given up to amours, she added.

She also said, "I think So is noble-minded because he is a peerless scholar rather than an aristocrat."

While reviewing his whole life, So said, "Now that I have come to have no doubt about anything through learning, I'm really in high spirits, and I'm satisfied that I've lived a worthwhile life."

So left behind a collection of his works titled *Hwadamjip* of three volumes.

Rim Ok

Koguryo Mural Tombs and Relics Unearthed

RECENTLY RESEARCHERS of the Archaeology Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, unearthed and ascertained two Koguryo mural tombs with gold ornaments in Wolji-ri, Anak County, South Hwanghae Province.

The first tomb is of a traditional Koguryo style with a stone chamber and an earth mound with its ceiling boarded with parallel triangular props. Discovered on the four walls and the ceiling of the chamber were the pictures of four guardians, patterns of lotus flower and leaf, cloud, pipal tree and tortoise shell, and those of constellations which could not be seen in other Koguryo mural tombs unearthed before.

The second tomb, too, is of the same style as the first one. Unearthed in the tomb were a picture depicting the sun and many other pieces of murals.

Excavated in the tombs are nine pieces of gold ornaments such as an elaborately crafted gold earring and a flower petal-shaped ornament.

The constellations and fantastic pictures drawn on the murals of the tombs and the gold earring and other relics show the level of development of astronomy of Koreans in those days, their view on religious beliefs and the developed level of their metalwork.

The DPRK Archaeology Society confirmed that the mural

tombs were built in the first half of the sixth century.

Considering historical records which say only officials of above the third rank were entitled to use tombs with murals in the period of Koguryo, the newly unearthed relics explain the fact that the area was one of the important administrative hubs of Koguryo.

The discovery of the Koguryo tombs with murals of four guardians in Anak County makes it possible to have a more accurate and correct understanding of the history and culture of the one-thousand-year-old powerful country of Koguryo and verify the oneness and commonness of the national culture once again.

Kim Myong Hak



Mausoleum of King Tangun

TANGUN IS THE FOUNDER KING OF ANCIENT Joson, the first state of the Korean nation. He was born in the present Pyongyang area. He had been known as a mythical being in the past. In 1993 his remains were unearthed and ascertained in his tomb in Kangdong County, Pyongyang, and thus he was recognized as a real person.

The tomb had been robbed by the Japanese imperialists in the pre-liberation days of Korea, so the later excavation yielded little relics. What is most noteworthy, though, was the discovery of bones for two skeletons.

Eighty-six pieces of bones were found in the tomb, most of them being arm, leg and pelvic bones. They constituted the skeletons of a man and a woman. The male one was confirmed to be that of Tangun and the female one his wife, who was buried with him. Tangun was considered to be a man of rather tall stature and strong physique who lived a long life in those years, while his wife was of a relatively young age.

According to a measurement by the electron spin resonance dating method those bones proved to date back to 5011 years (as of 1993).

Besides the bones, a piece of an ornamental frontal upright of a gilded crown and a fragment of its circlet plus a scale of a gilded belt were un-

earthed in the tomb. Several ceramic pieces and six coffin nails were found in the burial vault.

Ancient literature records that Tangun was the founder of Ancient Joson and that the Korean ancestors had memorials at his tomb in Kangdong in the remote past. *Samgukyusa* (History of the Three Kingdoms), written in the period of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392), regarding Tangun as the founder of Ancient Joson, introduces the legend of Tangun and an account of him under the title of *Ancient Joson*. And *Jewangungi* (Rhymed Chronicles of Kings) tells about his founding "Korea (Ancient Joson)."

Koryosa (History of Koryo) compiled in 1451 and *Tonggukithonggamm* (Handbook of the Eastern State) compiled in 1484 deal with Tangun's Korea. *Sinjungdonggukyojisungnam* (Revised Handbook of Korean Geography) compiled in 1530 and the *Chronicles of Feudal Joson Dynasty* tell that the Tomb of Tangun was in the west of Kangdong County, and was called Grave of Tangun among the people.

The Mausoleum of King Tangun was rebuilt in October Juche 83 (1994). It constitutes a cultural property with deep national character as it keeps the remains of Tangun, has rich historical contents showing the developed culture and the political, economic and military might of Tangun's Korea and ▶

- ▶ represents the traditional tomb style of the nation.

It is divided into sections of the monument to reconstruction, stone figures and the tomb.

The section of the monument to reconstruction has the Monument to Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun, the Monument to Improvement of the Mausoleum of King Tangun and gateposts of the mausoleum. The Monument to Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun stands to the west of the section. Engraved on the front side of the monument are the letters "Monument to Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun" and on its back side is a poem to praise and convey to all generations to come the leadership exploits performed by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who identified the founder of the nation and wisely led the reconstruction of the mausoleum.

Five gateposts, which are 1.5 to 10 metres high, stand on each side of the tomb in order of their height. They are in the style of



The Monument to Reconstructed Mausoleum of King Tangun.



The Monument to Improvement of the Mausoleum of King Tangun.

menhir of Ancient Joson. The already-existing Monument to Improvement of the Mausoleum of King Tangun was moved to the east of the section of the monument to reconstruction.

The section of stone figures has figures of four sons of King

Tangun and those of his eight loyal subjects.

In the section of tomb there are a tomb and a higher platform on which stand a stone table and a stone incense burner, stone lanterns on the left and right of the incense burner, a stone tiger on each corner of the square tomb, stone posts and dagger-shaped towers around the tomb.

The tomb is 22m high and each side of it is 50m long. It is a tiered pyramid with nine stages. It was constructed with 1994 pieces of stones, which weigh more than two tons each.

The gate to the burial vault is in the northern centre of the tomb. Hung on the northern wall of the burial vault is a portrait of King Tangun. Two coffin stands are laid in parallel from north to south. On the stands the bones of King Tangun and his wife, restored to the whole skeletons, are enshrined in the lacquer-painted wooden coffins covered with glass in the west and the east respectively.

The mausoleum is well preserved as a relic that implants national pride and self-confidence in the present generation and will do all those to come.

Pak Thae Ho



A portrait of King Tangun.



