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A Porcelain Tea Pot, Cups and Saucers

Gifts presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by the vice-chairman of the International Service Committee in District 2760 of Rotary International, Japan in April 2009.

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Front Cover: A scene of the military parade and Pyongyang mass demonstration held in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War

Photo by Ra Ju Hyok



Back Cover: Murung Falls in Mt. Myohyang

Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol

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October and the Workers' Party of Korea

THE KOREAN PEOPLE HAVE SEVERAL anniversaries in October which are significantly related with the founding and development of the Workers' Party of Korea.

October 17, 1926

After the Japanese imperialists occupied Korea militarily in the early 20th century, the Korean people launched mass struggles of all kinds against the invaders, but their desperate efforts ended in setbacks and failure thanks to the nationalists and leaders of the communist movement in the early days in the country, who, without any guiding idea or strategy or tactics suitable to the historical conditions and specific realities of the country, were engrossed in blindly following existing theories and experience of foreign countries while resorting to factional strife for hegemony.

Learning a serious lesson from the critical faults of the nationalists and early-day communists, Kim Il Sung was convinced of the truth that national liberation was possible only when they relied on the exertions of the popular masses and solved all problems in an independent and creative manner. On October 17, 1926 he formed the Down-with-Imperialism Union (DIU) as a vanguard organization in the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of Korea. He mentioned the fact in his reminiscences *With the Century* Vol. 1: **"The Down-with-Imperialism Union was a pure, fresh political organism of a new type created in the throes of a historic cause by young people of the rising generation who aspired to socialism and communism, for the realization of national liberation and class emancipation with the ideal of anti-imperialism, independence and sovereignty."**

The formation of the DIU meant the starting point in the effort to found the Workers' Party of Korea and the beginning of the WPK striking its root. The programme of the DIU became the basis of the Party's programme, and the principle of independence advanced by this organization became the principle of the Party building and activity; and the

organization became the backbone in the establishment of the Party. Later the DIU expanded and developed into the Anti-imperialist Youth League and the Young Communist League. The meeting of leading personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-imperialist Youth League held at Kalun on June 30–July 2, 1930 declared the creation of the Juche idea and the Songun idea, the guiding ideas of the Workers' Party of Korea, and the birth of the Juche-oriented revolutionary line and Songun-based revolutionary line. On July 3 the same year the first party organization was formed with leading personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-imperialist Youth League. Called the Society for Rallying Comrades, the organization was the origin of the WPK.

Whenever October 17 comes round, the Korean people pay high tribute to President Kim Il Sung for his laying the historic foundation of the Party.

October 10, 1945

On October 10, 1945, less than two months after the country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, the Central Organizing Committee of the Communist Party of North Korea was established as the Party's central leadership. This was a brilliant fruition of the long-standing and energetic struggle of the Korean people for the founding of the Party.

In the earlier days the Korean people, according to the party-founding policy put forward by Kim Il Sung at the Kalun Meeting, formed rudimentary party organizations first and expanded and strengthened them steadily while pushing forward preparations for the Party founding in close combination with the anti-Japanese struggle. With the Society for Rallying Comrades as the parent organization the first Party organization in the homeland was born on Turu Hill in Onsong County, North Hamgyong Province, in October 1930, which was followed by the Homeland Party Working Committee organized in December 1936 which assumed the function of affording a unified guidance to the effort

► to build party organizations as well as the anti-Japanese struggle in the homeland. In March 1936 the East Manchurian Party Working Committee was established and in February 1937 the Changbai County Party Committee came into existence; regional party guidance organs, party cells and party groups were built in different regions of east, south and north Manchuria to mobilize masses in the anti-Japanese struggle forcefully.

In the Korean People's Revolutionary Army (KPRI) whose predecessor was the Anti-Japanese People's Guerrilla Army the KPRI Party Committee was formed as the supreme leadership organ to organize and control the Korean revolution as a whole regarding armed struggle, the preparations of the party founding, the anti-Japanese national united front movement, and the mass-based anti-Japanese struggle, while supervising party organizations in the KPRI units and those of all levels in the homeland and overseas in a unified manner.

A mass foundation for the party founding was also laid through the anti-Japanese struggle of all forms. The Association for the Restoration of the

Fatherland (ARF) was established in May 1936 which enlisted all people who kept antipathy against the Japanese imperialists. The ARF branched out all over the homeland including northern Korea and wide areas of Manchuria where Koreans were inhabited; it spread even to different parts of Japan.

Under Kim Il Sung's guidance the backbone for the founding of the Party was trained, and the primary Party organizations and mass foundation were laid in the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the fierce struggle of all-people resistance. This resulted in the completion of the cause of the Party founding in a short span of time soon after the liberation of the country.

With the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea the Korean people attained a radical turning point in their effort to hew out their destiny. Under the leadership of the WPK the Korean people established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that is ruled by the masses of the people and built up an independent national economy and set up a people-centric socialist system in their land. And they shat ►

Songs Dedicated to the Workers' Party of Korea, performance staged by the Moranbong Band on the WPK founding anniversary in October 2012.





The Korean people celebrate the anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il's election as general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea in October 2012.

► tered the imperialists' vicious schemes to stifle their country, thus exalting the prestige of their country. The Korean people hold colourful celebratory functions on the occasion of October 10.

October 8, 1997

President Kim Il Sung, who had long been the leader of the Korean people, passed away on July 8, 1994, which meant the greatest loss to the nation. Now the people were eager to have their great leader Kim Jong Il in the supreme position of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state since he had performed outstanding exploits while leading the Party and the overall Korean revolution for more than 30 years as the closest comrade and the most faithful assistant of the President. Nevertheless, the event of Kim Jong Il's assumption of the position of the general secretary of the Party took place only three years later, that is, on October 8, 1997. Over the years he had accomplished the great cause of exalting the President as the eternal leader of the nation and the state and safeguarded the country and the people from the intensive offensive of the imperialists by administering Songun politics in an all-round way.

After he began to work as the general secretary of the Party he continued his energetic Songun-based revolutionary leadership, thus flatly repelling the vicious offensives of the imperialists and laying a rock-firm foundation for the building of a thriving socialist nation, for which he had put forward a concrete plan earlier. Towards the close of his life in 2011, too, he visited many places around the country, including the Kwangbok Area Supermarket, in an effort to improve the living standards of the people until he died while travelling on a train for local guidance.

Such being his life, the Korean people, whenever October 8 comes round, are gripped with heart-warming recollection of his lofty sense of moral obligation towards President Kim Il Sung and his successful leadership of the Party and the revolution with iron will and patriotic devotion to the nation in the hardest time.

The Fourth Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea in April 2012 acclaimed him as the eternal general secretary of the Party. This is a manifestation of the unanimous will of the Korean people to be faithful to his ideas and intentions in conducting the Party building and activities.

An Nam Hui

The Motherly Party

WE SHOULD BE A motherly party that takes charge of the destiny of the people and looks after them—this is the principle the Workers' Party of Korea has consistently maintained since its foundation.

In retrospect, there arose different tasks in different stages of the development of the Korean revolution, but the view of the Party to the people whom the Party regards as its God has undergone no change at all. And the idea remains as valid as ever.

When the Korean people suffered the greatest national loss, that is, the demise of their great leader Kim Jong Il in December 2011, the world paid close attention to the WPK's policy orientation and political trend. At the moment, in the sea of blood tears the Party administered the politics of giving the top and absolute priority to the comfort of the people and dealt with all matters related with the Party's building and activity the way Kim Jong Il had done. Even in the sad time the motherly image of the WPK remained as it had been; it found its way into the heart of the people as a dearer protector.

"It is the firm determination of our Party to ensure that our people, who are the best in the world and who have remained faithful to the Party in the face of all manner of difficulties, do not have to tighten their belts again, but enjoy all the benefits of social-

ism." This is a quotation from the speech Kim Jong Un, first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, made at the military parade held in celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung in April 2012. Cherishing the firm faith that there is no satisfaction regarding the care of the people, he works devotedly to bring all benefits of socialism to the people.

In recent years the US imperialists' sanctions and other moves to stifle the DPRK have reached the extreme, but such rigours could hardly cause any change in the WPK's popular policies that serve the interest of the people. In an attempt to check the Korean people who were making a forceful forward march for the building of a powerful economic nation and improvement of their livelihood the US-led imperialist allied forces carried out reckless military exercises last March. In the critical situation Pyongyang held a national conference of light industry. This was a demonstration of the popular character of the WPK that is determined to bring an affluent material and cultural life to the people as soon as possible by adding fuel to the flames of the revolutionary upsurge to flatly shatter the anti-DPRK moves of the hostile foreign forces while defending the nation's peace and security by means of the Songun-guided armed forces. Thanks to the wise leadership of

the WPK, a lot of edifices went up in all parts of the country to offer an enjoyable material and cultural life to the people; typical of them are the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, the People's Theatre, the Ryugyong Health Complex, the People's Open-air Ice Rink and the Mansugyo Meat and Fish Shop. These establishments tell many legendary stories about Kim Jong Un's care for the people.

Wherever he goes, he first understands what kind of things the people like, and admonishes that the people's convenience should be the first consideration, that it is essential to be kind to the people, that officials should make sure that something given is a favourite haunt of the people, that they should spare nothing if it is for the people, and that they should make it perfect as it is to be used by the people. When he was in a building used by the people, he felt the floor with his own hand; when he visited a wading pool used by the people barefoot, he put off his shoes to go round there; sitting on a bench to be used by the people he asked to implement the principle of giving priority to the people's comfort rather than the aesthetic needs. Once he went up a staircase which had no rails yet in a building under construction to give concrete instructions to complete the project; once he looked round a construction site despite the

▶ strong wind, personally drawing sketches on his handbook to make the project perfect and excellent. Thanks to his deep care for the people wonderful and valuable treasures are provided to the people as a whole.

The WPK regards it as an important task to establish a thoroughgoing and lofty outlook on the people. Kim Jong Un put forward the idea that all officials should work their hardest to help the people be well off. This was an important occasion to establish a thorough view to the people in the whole Party. The slogan put up by the leader, "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" serves as the fundamental guideline in the Party's work and activities. Paying deep

attention to what the people demand and what the public sentiment is like, the Party adopts policies taking the people's aspiration and desire into consideration.

The WPK regards ordinary workers, farmers and intellectuals as its eternal companions to whom it casts its lot. Like a mother who cares more for sick or wounded children and gives them greater love and affection, the Party looks after them so that they have a worthwhile life. No matter what serious mistakes or crimes he may make, the Party values his conscience, boldly trusts him and leads him to start with a clean slate. Such being the situation, even the people who had a sinful past return to the

homeland to regain a worthy life.

The 4th Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea was a historic landmark in making the spirit of love for and trust in the people permeate the whole Party; it was also a turning point in enhancing the Party's militant power in an all-round way and accelerating the building of a thriving nation.

As the loving care of the Party reaches every nook and corner of the country, the people's confidence in the Party is growing as firmer as ever, and the people are marching forward forcefully along the road of independence, Songun and socialism, rallied firmly behind the WPK.

Sim Yong Gwon

The military parade and Pyongyang mass demonstration held in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the great victory in the Fatherland Liberation War display the single-hearted unity of the nation.



For the Sake of the People

Make Devoted Efforts!

IT HAPPENED WHEN THE FOURTH Conference of Cell Secretaries of the Workers' Party of Korea was under way in the presence of Kim Jong Un, first secretary of the Party. Giving important instructions related to problems arising in decisively improving the function and role of the Party cell as required by the development of the Party and revolution, he said that basic to the work of Party cell secretaries is to arouse the innermost feelings of the people. And he stressed that if you are to move the heart of the people, you should give your whole-hearted devotion to the people like a mother who does her all for her children.

Give your whole-hearted devotion! This is the lofty intention of the supreme leader who is determined to further strengthen and develop the WPK into the genuine guide and guardian bearing full responsibility for and taking care of the destiny of the popular masses. Wherever he goes, he gives primary attention to the interests of the people and spares no effort for them. And whenever opportunities present themselves, he emphasizes that all the Party workers should approach the minds of the people like the mother of a family and take care of them with parental affection.

Scrupulous Affection

One day in March this year Kim Jong Un made another inspection of the Jangjae Islet-defending unit of the Korean People's Army, situated on the most sensitive flashpoint in the southernmost part of the southwestern front. After going round quarters and the education room that day he called at the home of officer Jong Kum Chol. "I know yesterday was the first birthday of your son Hang Myong," he said and gave a birthday present he had prepared himself. When the leader visited the islet and saw Hang Myong in August last year he knew about his first birthday. From then it was ever present in his mind.

On the Deck

In March this year Kim Jong Un went round the restaurant ship *Taedonggang* that was under construction by the People's Army.

Looking into various places of the ship conducted by senior officials, he went up to the upper deck. He carefully studied the railings installed around the deck and inquired whether the guests would have any inconvenience while enjoying the surrounding scenery. He then asked what kinds of building



Fly High, Our Party Flag

THE SONG *FLY HIGH, OUR PARTY FLAG* was put on the stage in chorus for the first time at the music and dance performance held in celebration of the 40th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) in 1985.

*On the red flag flied in Mt. Paektu
We imprinted a hammer, a sickle and a brush.
Associated with the destiny of the people,
The flag has advanced through the storm
of the revolution.*

The song gripped the heart of the people as soon as it came out. Because the song vividly carries the Korean people's trust and confidence in the WPK. The emblem of the WPK which bears a combination of a hammer, a sickle and a writing brush is imprinted in the red Party flag. They are symbolic of the workers, farmers and intellectuals respectively. The hammer, sickle and writing brush intersect at a point, meaning that the workers, farmers and intellectuals are firmly united. The emblem indicates that the Party has a large membership of farmers and intellectuals as well as workers and that it conducts all its activities to meet the desire and satisfy the interests of the working class and other broad sections of the working masses. Since the first day of its foundation the WPK has taken the responsibility for and care of the destiny and political integrity of the people.

In the mid-1990s Korea had to undergo the Arduous March and the forced march unprecedented in the history due to the imperialists' harsh political and military moves and economic blockade. Even in such a condition the WPK directed what little money left in the nation's treasure into development of the CNC technology. Having made the first CNC machine with their own technology and efforts the Korean technicians and workers rose up with confi-

dence and got the knack of the CNC technology. The CNC technology and the flexible manufacturing system were introduced into different sectors of the national economy, and modern bases of heavy and light industries went up across the country so far. As a result, the economy of the country has been revitalized as a whole.

Thanks to the leadership of the WPK they successfully surmounted the Arduous March and the forced march when everything was in short supply. In the course of this their trust in the Party got firmer. They got keenly aware in their life that they will be well off as long as they follow the Party.

In June last year there took place functions to celebrate the 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union (KCU), and in September that year a law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education was adopted at the sixth session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK. This year the 7th Congress of the KCU was held with due ceremony. These served as important occasions for the children, called kings of the country, to renew their resolution to grow up into fine pillars of the country under the WPK's leadership.

The lyric of the song is replete with the will of the Korean people to trust in and follow the WPK, the banner of all victory, thus leaving a deep impression.

*The flag is flying generation after generation
In the clear sky where the sun and
stars shine brightly.*

*We will hold up the Party flag of Juche for ever
Even if we have to lay down our lives.*

Singing the song the Korean people are working hard for the building of a thriving nation.

Rim Sang Jun

► materials were to be used to cover the deck. Hearing a reply, the leader said in an emphatic tone that as the *Taedonggang* is for the exclusive use as a restaurant, the final treatment of the deck should be done properly on the principle of ensuring sanitary arrangements in a thoroughgoing way. In addition, he said high-grade furniture that is convenient for

use by the guests and is pleasing to their eyes should be installed and that deep attention be paid to ventilation and air exhaustion in the dining rooms. Then he added in the following vein: When the ship goes online, it will be favourite with the people. From now on, you should make good arrangements for proper operation." □

My Choice



MAN HAS MANY choices to make in a lifetime, and some of them may decide his luck. Mine is also a life of choices. I made my first choice during the Fatherland Liberation War to repulse the US imperialists when they started the Korean war.

I was born in Puyo County, South Chungchong Province. As a child I was always hungry and eager to go to school, which I could hardly afford. This is my memory of sorrowful childhood. After the liberation of Korea (August 15, 1945), I entered the then Sosan Agriculture and Forestry School with the thirst of learning. But my dream ended in smoke due to the rule of the Military Government of the US imperialists who occupied south Korea

on September 8, 1945. I dropped out of the school because I couldn't earn school expenses as a day labourer.

At that time I longed for the northern half of Korea because I was told that there in the north schools were rising all over the land according to popular policies of the Workers'

Party of Korea while pupils and students were learning free of charge. I was always obsessed with the wish to learn to my heart's content—like those in the north. In August 1950 I joined the volunteers when the People's Army was passing Kwangchon while beating off enemies. Shortly afterwards, there began a strategic temporary retreat of the People's Army. One day a head of personnel department of my unit said to us, "All of you may go back home as you haven't taken a military oath yet. We will come back again. See you later."

But I didn't return home. Without knowing why, I felt an urge to be among the People's Army soldiers who were fighting at the cost of their lives to drive out the aggressors who were at-

tempting to disrupt their happy life they had led for five years after liberation. When I recall it, I feel it was a critical choice for me. The course of retreat was quite a difficulty but I was light-hearted all the way. Later I was admitted to an anti-aircraft artillery unit and made a military oath there. I took part in the battles to liberate Kaecheon, Suncheon and other areas. They were fierce ones but ended in our victory. On April 25, 1951 when I received a Distinguished Military Service Medal I became a member of the WPK.

To be a Party member was what I had been eager to be. In hard-fought battles the image of the Party members settled in my mind. Those who blocked the enemy's gun muzzles in pillboxes with their breast before anyone else were Party members and those who sang songs of victory in the shower of bullets and shells and sacrificed themselves for the sake of others were also Party members. My company commander, as a recommender of my Party membership, was as glad as me at my admission to the Party. Grasping my hands, he said "Comrade Hong! We believe you will fight valiantly till the last moment of your life as a soldier of General Kim Il Sung, true to your pledge you have made before the Party today." I kept his words and No. 451010, the number of my red Party membership card, in the bottom of my heart as coordi- ▶

► nates of my life.

They encouraged me even after I was arrested by the enemy while fighting for my country's reunification. So when I returned to the embrace of the motherland from south Korea I expressed my emotions of that time in my poem *The Number of My Party Membership Card* as follows:

The enemy didn't call me
 by name
Whenever they took me to
 a torture room.
They shout to me, "No. 3125,
 get out."
Then I face the enemy
Calling myself by No. 451010,
The number of my Party
 membership card.
It was the mainstay for me
For the 37 years of my service
Without yielding to
 conversion.
...
Though my body bled and
 fell down
The number wouldn't be torn,
 burnt, scattered or broken.
It is the most valuable index
 of life
That the Party gave me,
That no one can get with ease.

If I had been alive simply for
 the life given by my parents
The enemy could have
 taken it.
But as I had the life given
 by the Party
I became a victor and
I proudly won the enemy as
 a member
Of the Workers' Party of
 Korea.

This is the reason why I made the second choice in my life to remain unchanged in my ideology. Whenever the enemy forced me to sign a letter of conversion in the torture room, a memory flashed across my mind.

After the Korean war I did farming at an agricultural cooperative in the then Sangso-ri, Sunan County, South Phyongan Province. I was a stranger to the farming village, but I was soon attracted to the kind-hearted villagers who treated me as their flesh and blood. There I was paid my share for the year-end account settlement and income distribution, the socialist remuneration, for the first time in my life. What I can't forget is the day President Kim Il Sung visited the Jaegyong Agricultural Cooperative in 1960 I was working at. That day the President sat knee-to-knee with the officials of the cooperative without ceremony and acquainted himself with the year-end account settlement and income distribution, the next year's farming preparations and the living condition of the farm workers. From his image I could feel the affection of the benevolent father of the people rather than the leader of a country. I was filled with a resolution to work faithfully for the sake of the country, true to his intentions. The more keenly I felt the President's personality as the leader of the people who was administering state affairs from the point of the people's interest, the greater was my pride in being a member of the Party.

Therefore, when I was sentenced to death penalty in south Korea in November 1963 I was at ease with a pride in my worthwhile life as a member of the Workers' Party of Korea. Valuing former unconverted long-term prisoners who followed the WPK all their life with their destiny entrusted to it, Chairman Kim Jong Il brought about the historic event of bringing back 63 of the former unconverted long-term prisoners. He put all of us forward as men of strong faith and will.

I often find myself lost in thought of my native home in south Korea. However, the memory of my home village is sad for my tearful childhood. How can it be a happy memory of native home simply because it is a birthplace? To me the home of genuine life worthy of man is the DPRK where the building of a thriving socialist nation is dynamically going ahead under the wise leadership of the WPK. As I see the present reality where the top and absolute priority is given to the interest of the people I feel anew I made right choice in my life.

Now we are fortunate to have Kim Jong Un, another great man of our nation, as leader of the Workers' Party of Korea. His invariable politics of love for the people guarantees a happy life of the Korean people and a glorious life of us former unconverted long-term prisoners.

*Former unconverted
long-term prisoner
Hong Myong Gi*

Everything Depends upon Our Determination

THE WORKERS OF THE high-pressure polyethylene plastic workshop of the Namhung Youth Chemical Complex finished in June this year the construction project of a functional three-fold PVC film production base. The film is to be used to cover greenhouses. Recently I visited the complex and met Ri Chang Su, the workshop manager, who told the following story:

In the past, my workshop produced PVC film for agricultural use, but we knew we couldn't satisfy the demands of different sectors of the national economy. Moreover many greenhouses covered with PVC film are now under construction extensively across the country to supply fresh vegetables to the people in all seasons. These greenhouses need high-quality efficient film. Therefore, we decided to produce the functional three-fold PVC film of high insulation standard which cuts infiltration of ultraviolet rays, dew and dust.

We set a plan to finish the

construction of a film production base in a short time of 30 days, and buckled down to the project. We carried out the assembly of the equipment and construction jobs simultaneously. The technicians of my workshop including Ri Yun Chan, chief engineer of my workshop, deepened technical understanding and study of new equipment, and assembled them by themselves. In addition, the workers also accelerated the construction of production ground where new machines would be installed.

Thanks to the tireless efforts, the construction was almost finished in a little over 20 days. Following the completion of the film production base, we successfully carried out a test run of the equipment at one try. Now we took measures to begin normal operation, and made preparations to produce 60 million square metres of film a year.

By our own efforts and technology, we completed a project to further improve the high-pressure

polyethylene plastic production process in a short period while taking steps to obtain a full supply of materials. As a result, a good production base of functional three-fold PVC film was built, yielding a great profit.

During the construction, we learned again that everything depends upon our determination. In the future, we will develop some more kinds of additives of raw materials by our own technology and thus raise the efficiency of the functional PVC film.

The complex established a fertilizer production process based on anthracite gasification by their own scientific and technical staff two years ago, which is contributing a lot to the agricultural production of the country. The complex's successful erection of the production base of functional three-fold PVC film is another great achievement of the Korean people in the struggle to build a thriving socialist nation.





*Article by Jo Yong Il
Photos by Ri Chung Ryol*



Profit of Modernization



THE RANGNANG Disabled Soldiers' Essential Plastic Goods Factory, located in Jonggo-dong, Rangnang District, Pyongyang, has been successful in improving the quality of products and increasing the volume of production by steadily developing production processes along modern lines as required by the developing realities. Over the past years General Manager Kang Nam Ik and his managing staff have enlisted close cooperation among the technicians and workers of the factory to hasten modernization of production.

They began the modernization project with technical transformation of a compressor. As a facility used to produce PVC film for farming, the compressor had been operated manually for control of pressure, temperature and other properties. They knew that if they put the machine on an automation basis the rate of production would be far greater and the quality be much better. A number of fine ideas were presented for automatic control of the machine, of which the one presented by Ro Myong Chol, graduate from Pyongyang University of Mechanical Engineering, was appreciated as most rational. Ro tackled the task of manufacturing a device of automatic control assisted by the

factory's technicians and workers. Pooling their wisdom and efforts they solved scientific and technical problems that arose in the making of the device, and carried out a number of tests. Their successful completion of the task resulted in saving half of the manpower while boosting the production two times.

Building on the achievements and experience the factory management now formed a technical team by enlisting technicians and the workers who were on the roll of the study-while-working system to transform other equipment. The tapping of the collective wisdom and creativity led to successful designing and manufacture of a crane which is used to lift the moulding plate of a large injector and put a three-phase junction cutter, a binder and a printing machine and other facilities and production processes on the basis of computer control. In this way the factory promoted technical innovation aimed at making jobs easier and cutting the time of production and raising



the quality of products, which meant steadfast progress in modernization of production.

Meanwhile, the management worked hard to install new equipment like a large injector and an expansion compressor.

The vessels of carriage and PVC film produced with the new machines are much better in quality and gloss than those produced by old machines, and the forms and sizes are diverse, so the factory is profiting a lot. The plastic products from the factory are gaining more and more popularity among the users, and the demand for them is growing day after day.

Yun Mun Chol, a worker, says, "We are happy to see our efforts for modernization of production are quite effective. While working for technical transformation of production facilities, I learned a lot. I know the realities demand we learn more and more. I am determined to work harder at my academic studies at my factory college and play a big role in the effort to update the production as required by the realities."

The factory is going to make a pipe-moulding machine and other facilities up-to-date.

*Article by Kim Yong Sun
Photos by Ri Song Ik*



Labels are printed.

Famous Silk-producing Factory

THE NYONGBYON SILK Mill is a manufacturer of various silk fabrics such as damask silk, polychromatic silk, *Yaksan* silk (a kind of figured satin), *Kuryong* silk and silk satin without patterns, etc.

A Story about Silk

One day in June 1954, President Kim Il Sung, who was concerned about the problem of people's clothing, studied samples of silk fabrics produced by the factory. Looking at a kind of cloth with a smooth pattern of wave, the President named it *Kuryong* silk after the Kuryong River which flows skirting the scenic spot of Yaksandongdae. He named another sample—with a pattern of azalea—*Yaksan* silk as Yaksandongdae is located in Nyongbyon and there bloom lots of azaleas in Yaksan. As a result, there appeared *Yaksan* and *Kuryong* silks in the list of Korean silk fabrics.

The President visited the factory in April 1956. Looking around the factory, he said that the Nyongbyon Silk Mill was associated with a long history of silk and had a firm foundation for silk production, and gave an instruction that various beautiful silks be turned out in great volumes to satisfy the people's demands. Looking at the weavers who were doing a laborious job at handlooms, he advised to equip all the weaving machines with motors so as to free women from the hard labour.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, who was always deeply concerned about the problem of people's clothing in his lifetime, visited the factory in June 2000. Understanding the conditions of the factory—the production of cloth was far from sufficient due to the economic sanctions of the US imperialists—he initiated a state measure to provide preferential guarantee for the funds, materi-

als and equipment needed for the production, saying that the equipment should be updated in order to supply silk clothes to young people who were going to marry and to the old folks who were celebrating their 60th or 70th

birthdays.

Dropping in at the sample room, the Chairman appreciated the quality of the fabric produced at the factory and said that the people would be pleased to have their clothes made of such mate-





► rials. “We should rather make clothes with the fabric for our people than export them to other countries,” he said, and urged that the factory should be a popular one loved by the people.

Kinds of Goods on the Increase

The silk fabrics produced at the Nyongbyon Silk Mill have

been well known for its light, beautiful colour and soft feeling for a long time. Long ago, its polychromatic silk with a flower pattern won first place at a German international goods show.

Dozens of main varieties of goods—polychromatic silk, rainbow-striped silk, damask silk, silk satin without patterns and ramie cloth and so on—and a hundred

and dozens of expanded varieties of silk cloth are all of clean and beautiful colours, hence favourable comments from the people.

To satisfy the people’s cultural needs and demands the technicians of the factory have long been working hard at their research. They developed new kinds of fabrics such as CDP (cation-dyed polyester) Yaksan silk and CDP damask silk that are free from their old demerits and began to produce them. Then they developed lustrous ramie cloth which has much better ventilation and brilliance. The new kinds of cloth won gold medals at national scientific and technical festivals.

Greeting the 60th anniversary of the victorious Fatherland Liberation War, the war veterans put on the Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket) made of these fabrics. They say in a voice, “I like the clothes very much for its soft feeling in wearing and beautiful and soft colours. When I wear it, people I meet say I look ten years younger.”

Jang Yong Suk



The Class of Inventors

THE 6A CLASS OF THE mechanical electronics department of Mechanical Science and Technology College of Kim Chaek University of Technology is well known across the country as a class of inventors. In March this year all students of the class were awarded university student scientific research prizes. In the celebration meeting Pak Jong Su, teacher in charge of the class, met and had a talk with me. He said: In early January last year the class volunteered to go and work on a concrete tamping scene of the construction site of Changjon Street.

One day there, Kim Hyon Sok, dubbed "Thinker" by his mates, was seen gazing steadily at a vibrating tamping rod. While watching the rod, he thought that he could make a better instrument of higher efficiency than that if he applied his knowledge learned in class. So he conceived a new type of tamper. Night volunteers often saw him squatting on a floor slab, drawing figures and making calculations. After finishing the design of the apparatus he visited machine factories and called on their workers to make it and finally succeeded in translating his conception into reality. The new instrument is easy to handle with less consumption of electric power than the old one, and its work efficiency is three times higher. His success proved that whoever goes into reality and thinks deeply can become an inventor. He was followed by an increasing number of students inventing devices of practical use while helping the builders in their work at the construction site.



They made a portable tube bending tool, a portable bar processor and a small-sized vibrating tamper. The range and quality of their inventions and new devices went far beyond credibility as products of students. One day, during a recess of lectures at the university, So Jin, the youngest student in the class, presented his new idea and its crux for his classmates to discuss and solve its baffling points with the concerted efforts of the class. He wrote down the key point of the idea and some knotty problems on the blackboard and said, "I think what we need today is inventions which can be put into use and prove their worth in the construction work as early as possible, and it isn't important who are the inventors." His openhearted attitude and ardour won the sympathy of his classmates. Their efforts to leap forward with ceaseless creation began to bear fruit in two months. Their inventions include a monolithic construction method of reinforced-concrete beam which saves large amounts of materials and labour, a new

energy-saving automatic water supply equipment attached to the system of drinking water and industrial water supply, a measuring apparatus for increasing the accuracy of rail fixing for elevators installed in high-rise buildings, and what not.

For their inventions all the students of the class were awarded state certificates of invention and of contrivance in April 2012. In November the same year they submitted to the 4th national exhibition of university students' sci-tech achievements the devices they had developed jointly in the process of their cutting-edge technology research work, and won first place. Glowing with pride, they said, "When we recollect the bygone days our hearts swell with pride, not because we have the honour of inventors' class, but because we think we have contributed in a way to the motherland. However, our goal goes up higher. We will redouble our efforts to write good graduation theses in 2013."

Ri Kum Chol

The Turf Research Centre of the State Academy of Sciences



IN MAY THIS YEAR THE TURF RESEARCH CENTRE of the State Academy of Sciences has newly sprung up in suburban Pyongyang. It is comprised of the main building, a greenhouse for scientific research, experimental plots, etc. and all conditions are provided conveniently for conducting ▶



► research work. The outer walls of the two-storeyed main building are covered with green tiles. So the specific features of this establishment dedicated to the exclusive research into turf are shown well even when it is seen from afar. In the main building there is a room where are exhibited various achievements obtained in scientific research, a room for the study of scientific information, an electronic book reading room, a room for research into turf seed production, a room for research into turf cultivation, and some other experimental and analysis rooms.

To be seen in the greenhouse for scientific research is a research room and an experimental plot for making researches into turf cultured by bioengineering methods. The outdoor experimental plot is divided into sections for experiments of species, seed selection and vegetative propagation, cutting and the like.

In the past turfs full of vitality were bred and spread on a wide scale in Korea such as Kum (gold) Turf, Songchon Turf and *Sondulmil*—(*Roegneria amurensis Neuski*). Kum Turf grows well

even in the unfavourable environment such as high temperature, drought and cold, but its green period is short as a typical turf of summer style. *Sondulmil*, a winter turf, forms a fascinating greensward, is quite proof against the cold and is long in the green period. It displays the power of resistance whenever it is trodden upon and is strong in its capacity of recovering its own greensward. However, it recedes into the resting period when the weather is sultry and dry. Thanks to the establishment of the Turf Research Centre, the research work for surmounting these shortcomings and pushing ahead with land administration with a view to the future is now in a condition to go ahead on an extensive scale.

At present a series of research programmes are under way. They include the work for new species of turf that is green all the year round and displays the strong power of resistance whenever it is trodden upon, the work for completing the cultivation method of *Sondulmil*, a Korean species now in experimental cultivation, and a species growing well in the shade and cold. Selecting and introduc-

ing a turf species suited to the characteristics of specific zones is one of the research goals put forward by this research centre. This is because Korea is surrounded with seas on three sides and mountainous and soil ingredients and meteorological and weather conditions differ from region to region and the conditions of growth of turf are different according to various species.

Good results are also to be seen in research work for the prevention and extermination of harmful insects. Academician of biology Kim Song Gun is conducting research into a growth accelerant needed for the completion of the growth of turf roots, the long preservation of the green period and the extermination of harmful insects. He says that nano science is introduced in his research work.

Dr. Choe Yun Su, a senior official of the centre, says: “We will help make streets and villages greener and more beautiful and make the whole country covered with new species of turf by fulfilling our mission admirably.”

*Article by Rim Ok
Photos by Ri Song Chol*



Pyongyang Embroidery Research Institute

KOREAN EMBROIDERY DATES FROM A long time ago. Having particular interest in sentimental enjoyment, the Korean women liked to make embroideries patterning after flowers, birds, landscape and different kinds of animals. The handicrafts were widely distributed to neighbouring countries. The national custom, however, was held in check due to the Japanese imperialists' policy of stamping out the Korean national culture during their military occupation of the country.

It was only after national liberation that the Pyongyang Embroidery Research Institute (the Embroidery Production Company at the time) was established—in May 1947. At the time it was as small as a workshop making simple decorations on clothes. Yet Kim Jong Suk, anti-Japanese war heroine, often visited the place, showing them a handkerchief on which she had stitched flowers of the rose of Sharon in a pattern of Korean map in the years when she was fighting against the Japanese imperialists, and helping the women make embroideries representing the ecstatic realities of the country where energetic efforts were being made to achieve national prosperity. Many women improved their skills beyond recognition, and themes and patterns got quite diversified. The institute organized commentaries of the original embroideries and products on a regular basis. In the 1950s over 30 techniques of embroidery were invented and introduced while mechanical embroidery was created and put into practice.



Around the 2000s the Pyongyang Embroidery Research Institute developed into a company of authoritative women in enriching the national culture further, and changed from a production-oriented system to a professional scientific research centre. Now they put the history of origin and development of embroidery in a methodical and systematic order while creating new superior techniques and put them on a scientific footing. The academic establishment of 28 manual embroidery techniques implemented by more than 150 application techniques and 15 mechanical embroidery techniques performed by over 500 application techniques meant a landmark achievement in putting the embroidery on a higher scientific level.

The figure and landscape embroideries they presented to the 6th World Festival of Youth and Stu- ▶



Dance Notation Editing Program Developed

IN THE DPRK *PAEKHAK*, A PROGRAM OF editing dance notation, was recently developed, drawing public attention. Dance notation is a written presentation of dancing pieces showing all the move-



ments and formations with certain symbols and letters like musical score. The abovementioned program is used to compose, edit and print notations.

In the early 1980s an alphabetic system of dance notation was established for the first time in Korea, and the research began to develop a method of printing the dance notation. In the course of this scientists and researchers solved a large number of difficult scientific and theoretical problems. As a result, they succeed in developing *Paekhak* which can input and print any kind of dance notations easily and correctly. With the

achievement a firm foundation has been laid to make further development in the effort to put dance notation editing and printing on the IT basis while making a progress in standardization in the sector.

Registered as a state sci-tech success the development of the program is notable success in the field of information technology as it has opened a new field in the software industry. The program heralds the future research of creating information-based dance pieces in the IT field, an untrodden field in the world, and becomes a foundation to develop cutting-edge programs like a simulation program for creating dance pieces.

The program is practical proof that the alphabetic system of dance notation of Korea is an acceptable means of notation in developing a cutting-edge simulation system of physical movements.

Song Yong Sok

Researchers of the dance notation editing program.



► dents were highly appreciated, the manual embroidery *White Pheasant* they brought to an international handicraft show received gold medal, and many other things they presented were highly praised at a number of international festivals and exhibitions. Foreigners hoped to have Korean embroidery experts in their countries to learn from them who make beautiful embroideries with patterns of nature, plants and animals and activities of the people with their hands. In many countries

around the world Korean embroiderers were called "Gold Hands." Yazov, former Soviet marshal and Defence Minister, wrote in the visitors' book after looking round the institute: "I have visited the Pyongyang Embroidery Research Institute several times with great excitement. I think this is the place where human techniques turn into the highest level of arts. I hope the institute will achieve new creative results."

Kim Son Ae

On World Teachers' Day

NOT LONG AGO A Korea Today staff reporter had a talk with Ri Mun Chol, a bureau chief of the Education Commission of the DPRK Cabinet, on the occasion of the World Teachers' Day. Excerpts:

Education is a matter of vital significance that decides the future of the country and the people. In this respect, I think it is an important question how to train teachers who are directly responsible for education, and that in our country the foundation for solving the problem of teachers has long been consolidated.

Yes, you're right. In the complex situation of the country soon after liberation (August 1945), the great leader Kim Il Sung made sure that Kim Il Sung University was founded as the first institute of higher education in our country, and then sent letters of invitation to able scholars in south Korea asking them to work as its teachers. In October 1946 he saw to it that Pyongyang College of Teachers, the predecessor of the present Kim Hyong Jik University of Education, was established.

Recently, our supreme leader Kim Jong Un who faithfully carries forward Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's idea of cherishing the coming generations and the future, stressed the importance of teacher training and paid deep attention to it, showing clearly the ways and means to develop it. As a result, a teacher reserve training system has been neatly established.

I would like to know in detail

about the actual state of teacher training in the country.

Pyongyang has Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and Kim Chol Ju University of Education, and each province has two or three similar universities at different levels. They are attended by students selected by their school performance and manners. These universities send out thousands of graduates every year. In addition, each university has a teacher training course. Their graduates are assigned to different institutes of higher learning and schools at all levels.

Investments are unstintingly made in the work of teacher training. Students of the teacher training departments, for instance, obtain a greater scholarship than others.

I think improvement of the qualifications of teachers in service is also an important matter.

Yes. In order to improve the teachers' qualifications and raise their fidelity, every year, in October, model teachers are registered and officially commended. And on different occasions forums are held to debate new teaching methods to enable teachers to learn from one another's advanced experience and apply them in their practical work. Further, the refresher course system for teachers is improved to fit in with the developing reality.

Will you tell me about the benefits from the state for teachers?

First, the state is doing its best to afford convenience in teachers' everyday life. There are

weekly nurseries and kindergartens everywhere to take care of the children whose mothers are busy with their social duties, like schoolmistresses. Networks of public services such as tailor's and other shops exclusively for teachers are in operation, and higher salaries are paid to teachers than people in other professions in accordance with their merits and grades.

Next, it is a public trend to respect and treat teachers with distinction. All people, regardless of age and position, hold teachers in deference as career revolutionaries, not as persons who impart knowledge. TV and the press give wide publicity to the teachers who have made achievements in education and research work or trained bright students, and preference is given to teachers in all aspects of social life.

Special decorations have been instituted to be awarded on the teachers who have trained a great number of children and youths while working in their post for a long time.

In his lifetime the great leader Kim Jong Il took every opportunity to refer to veteran meritorious professors as his teachers and was mindful of creating a social atmosphere for respecting teachers and treating them favourably. As a result, all members of our society have come to fully recognize teaching not as a simple job but as a revolutionary activity accountable for the future of the country, and it has become a social climate to esteem teachers and treat them with courtesy. □

My Pride in Life



THOUGH OLD, I AM still busy giving lectures and writing teaching plans and books every day. But I never feel tired. People often ask me about the secret of my green old age, setting me looking back upon my past.

In 1946, after finishing the secondary school course with honours at the age of 16, I was matriculated in Kim Il Sung University, the first higher learning institute for the people in our country, as one of its first students. This marked a turning point in my life.

Before liberation (August 1945), I grew up under the care of my widowed mother in poverty and humiliation. I did well at secondary school, but was compelled to leave it halfway. Now, however, I became a university student by the grace of the country where the workers and peasants are prized most highly, and the villagers were deeply moved and wondered whether it was only

a dream that I was now a university student.

In 1950, just before I was to finish at the university after spending happy student days, the Korean war (1950–1953) broke out. Burning with hatred against the US intruders who unleashed the war, we all the students volunteered to go to the front. But after the graduation ceremony, I unexpectedly received a certificate of appointment as a teacher. As a student, I had dreamed of many things, but had never thought to become a teacher. Moreover, in time of a grim war when hot-blooded young people were all rushing to the fighting front, it was hardly acceptable to go not frontward but backward to the rear. Reading our minds, an official soothingly told us: Even in the early days of the armed struggle to crush the Japanese robbers, the great leader Kim Il Sung had schools set up first in all liberated areas of the guerrilla zone. As the anti-Japanese war became protracted and still fiercer, he took greater care of the operation of night schools and Children's Corps schools, deeply concerned about the future of the nation amidst the bloody battles. He did so because education is a crucial affair deciding the fate of the country and nation. It is precisely the great leader who has taken steps to have you appointed teachers and sent to the rear when even

one soldier counts on the front as he has tomorrow's victory in view. I hope that true to his intentions, you will discharge your duty faithfully as first-term graduates of the university.

The official's words brought me to understand something of the importance of teachers' mission.

After arriving at a power station on the Amnok riverside, I began to work as a teacher at an industrial cadre training school aimed at re-educating directors, managers and chief engineers of factories and mills. My first lecture was given in a classroom arranged in a stall of a mine. Incumbent officials attended my lectures. They were all in their forties or fifties. My life as a teacher that started in the grimmest days of the war was more difficult than I had anticipated. As water dripped from the ceiling of the classroom and voices dispersed in all directions, I had to shout in lectures to make myself understood. The class consisted of nearly 400, so I had to give five or six lectures a day. It was difficult at first, but as the father-like "students" with darkish side-whiskers politely called me teacher and enthusiastically followed and asked me questions, carrying notebooks in their hands, I felt a sense of honour and an urge to teach them one more thing. So, after lecture, I gave them supplementary lessons or organized forums on different subjects. And ►

► I wrote teaching plans and reference books till late at night. More than once, I sank down from exhaustion. Still, when I heard that the managers, chief engineers and engineers who had left after attending my course of lectures were making a good showing in wartime production at their factories and enterprises, I would feel proud of my work and resolve anew to redouble my efforts.

After the war, I was transferred to the economics faculty of Kim Il Sung University, and then, in late 1972, to Kim Chaek Polytechnical Institute (Kim Chaek University of Technology now).

When the whole country was going through the Arduous March and the forced march, I would leave home early in the morning to go to give lectures without fail. At the time, I was well over sixty, but I did not give up teaching. My resolve never changed when my daughters-in-law and grandchildren wanted me to retire and look

after them at home. Times were hard and tough for everybody, but people would defer to us and treat us with courtesy everywhere as revolutionaries fostering the future of the country. Sometimes when I should be absent from my work because of illness, many students would come to see me and say my absence made them restless and unable to study at ease, encouraging and bracing me up. I thought I could not live separate from them.

In those days I eagerly learned computer lest I should lag behind young teachers, created scores of multimedia teaching plans and projection charts and completed a scientific treatise of over 1 500 pages within six months which was required by the practices of economic management. This directly led to the improvement of the students' abilities. My disciples developed into prominent figures in the academic world or officials playing a big role in developing the national economy.

Their letters always struck me with deep emotions as if all their credit were coming to me. The great leader Kim Jong Il, when inspecting our university in the first year of the current century, spoke highly of those teachers and researchers who had unwaveringly kept to their posts even during the Arduous March and the forced march. Deeply impressed by his praise, I wrote a thesis for a doctorate and received the degree and the title of professor. Later I had the honour of participating in a national conference of intellectuals and other great meetings.

To me teaching is an honorable work that makes me recall my unforgettable past and a pride of life without which I cannot live even a single day. That is why I am still keeping on teaching.

*Sin Yong Ae,
Professor and Doctor,
Kim Chaek University
of Technology*

Popular Products of Sulfurous Mud

IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea they are developing different kinds of products by using sulfurous mud which is available in many places in the east coast of the country. Typical contents of the mud are 54–56% of water, pH 7.5–8.0, 2.5–2.6 J in calorie, 763–764 N/m² in viscosity, 30.7–31.0% of crystal matter, 18.3–20.1% of colloid matter (of which 0.6–0.8% is

sulfur and 4.6–5.6% is organic material) and 26.1–28.1 g/L of mineral matter. Using the sulfurous mud the Pyongyang Growth Technology Exchange Company has developed things of primary processing for medical treatment, and, by building on the primary processing, different kinds of products like medicines for oral and external uses, health products for beautiful skin and

similar cosmetics, effective nutrients for treatment of seeds of grains, vegetables, fruits and flowering plants, fertilizers and additives for foodstuffs. The area of their usages is increasing steadily. Now the company is working hard to develop diversified exchange and cooperation for production of sulfurous-mud products and expand the market for their products. □

Miracle of Revival

EARLY LAST MAY ARMY officer Ri Song Chol, 35, was rushed more dead than alive to the limb plastic surgery department of Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 2. He had got injured in an accident while discharging military duties.

The preliminary examination showed the case was in a critical condition—blood pressure nearly down to zero, apnoea, fracture from a general bruise, concussion of the brain, and rupture of bladder. Worse still, complications might set in. From the point of diagnosis he was as good as dead. The doctors of the department, however, set about his treatment in a body with a determination to bring him back to life without fail. They cleaned the wounds, removed the dirt from the broken parts and cut off necrosis. A large volume of blood was transfused along with administering scores of kinds of medicines and injec-

tions every day. Life indices were measured every hour and various checkups made several times a day. On the second day of preliminary treatment to recover the patient from the state of shock and improve his general conditions, the surgeons who were checking his conditions raised shouts of joy, "The blood pressure is rising!" "Breath and temperature are coming to normal!"

Then they began intensive treatment. The patient's left leg was 2 cm shorter and his pelvis was seriously injured. The doctors studied past experiences in the treatment of similar cases and latest documents and held conferences many times to find out the most effective way of operation. The operation was difficult, but it was successfully performed. However, recovery was very slow. The doctor in charge and all others in the department took care of the patient devotedly, keeping watch-

ful eyes on him all the time. Even cooks of the hospital were mindful of preparing a high-calorie diet for him. The nurses would sit up with him all night by turns, and also watched him against bedsores.

One day a letter came from his wife. It said, "All the members of the unit heard your news. We were all moved to tears when we read the letters from your doctors, who wrote there was no need to worry about you, asking me to bring up the children into fine soldiers like you." While in hospital he was visited by many people every day, including the hospital staff who would learn in detail about his conditions and take necessary measures to cure him. Besides, many citizens of Pyongyang, hearing about him, came to see him.

When the patient sat up in bed by himself, department head Ko Su Hun said with delight, "Good, young man! Now you seem to be coming back to normal. Soon, you'll be full of life as before." Thanks to the devoted treatment and care of the doctors and nurses he was completely recovered in over 70 days. Before leaving the hospital Ri slowly walked round its garden and said with deep emotion, "It is common knowledge that a dying man could be saved by virtue of medical science. But I would like to say that there is a kind of force which is far greater than medical science that has made me rise to my feet again."



Collective wisdom is tapped in medical treatment.

Chae Kwang Myong

Anti-smoking Campaign in DPRK

SMOKING IS ONE OF THE serious concerns of the world at present as it damages health, so all countries are coping with the matter in a positive manner. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is paying close attention to the campaign against smoking as an important part of public health management. A particular measure in this respect was the legislation of the law on smoking control which is intended to create a favourable social condition for anti-smoking activities and intensify the campaign against smoking in compliance with the framework agreement of the

eration with the WHO, thus achieving good results. The centre is a scientific and technical advisory agency associated with the DPRK Ministry of Public Health; its mission is to deal with essential matters of smoking control including the making of different sorts of materials of public information, consultative services, development and introduction of anti-smoking products, and to make necessary arrangements to the end. It annually sponsors and arranges national consultations and short courses regarding control of smoking on various occasions including the

support to those who want to quit smoking.

The anti-smoking centre developed a nutrient anti-smoking pill, a natural health food which helps you quit smoking without any difficulty and return to yourself before you began to smoke. It is encouraging those who wish to discontinue smoking to turn to the pill.



Scrupulous arrangements are made for study and dissemination of anti-smoking approaches.



World Health Organization. At present a relevant effort is going on briskly for the implementation of the law.

Earlier the country established a centre for study of anti-smoking management and expansion of the no-smoking environment and has steadily improved its function in good coop-

World No-tobacco Day. Also it conducts surveys of smoking rates and information activities by means of pamphlets and handouts and videos, explaining about the harmful effects of smoking on the human body and the bad effects of subsidiary smoking. Provinces have its branches which offer positive

Jang Chol Ho, an official working for the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, says, "It was a great difficulty for me to quit smoking. I made up my mind to do it, but all in vain. One day I learned on TV about the anti-smoking pill offered by the centre, and went for its service. I took the remedy several times and lost the desire to smoke for good."

The anti-smoking pill won a national patent and was registered by the WHO. Ri Yon Ok, director of the centre, says, "We have more things to do than what we have done. We are going to strengthen our activities against smoking and thus make tangible service for better health of the people."

Kim Ja Yong

Triumphant Paddlers

LAST MAY PARIS sponsored the 52nd ITTF World Championships (individual events), which attracted as many as 800 world-famous aces of both sexes from 130 countries and regions. The title of the mixed double event was snatched by Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This was the first gold medal the country won in mixed doubles of the world table tennis championships.

Salute to the Motherland

Kim Hyok Bong began to learn table tennis at Pyongyang Ponghak Primary School when he was seven years old. One day in 1994 Kim Chol Ung, a coach working for the April 25 Sports Team, stepped into the table tennis hall of the school to pick up his disciples. There were pupils in enthusiastic exercises. Scrutinizing them attentively, Kim was attracted to a particular boy, for he looked very skilful in handling the ball and unusually interested in exercise. Apparently he was of a mild, silent and yet persistent disposition. The coach decided to choose him. He was the very Kim Hyok Bong.

Learning the enrolment his father was happiest. It gave him infinite pleasure to see his son engrossed in table tennis drills. As a painter, he often made a picture of his son. When the boy found it difficult to stand the burden of exercise, his father helped him sincerely, assisting him with perspiration and giving him pep talk. Such being the case, Kim says the image of his dead father flashed across his mind when he became a national champion by winning the DPRK Championships in 2004, when he won the Asian Table Tennis Championships and most



recently the 52nd World Table Tennis Championships. He says, "To me, father meant both coach and instructor. He always told me that I should train myself hard to be a patriot who would honour my country. When I won the championship and stood on the platform recently I vividly recalled what my father used to say to me. I made a salute to my motherland with pride and honour."

Tears

Kim Jong comes from Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province. Born into an ordinary worker's family she was sensitive to things around from her early years. This unusual character was first noticed by Kim Chol, who was a table tennis instructor of the Songnam Primary School, Songchongang District, Hamhung City. Under his guidance she sealed her tie with table tennis when she was six years old. Her technique developed rapidly—to everybody's wonder.

She was enlisted in the April 25 Sports Team at the age of 11 and then participated in the East

Asian juvenile table tennis championships as a member of the national team when she was in her early teenage.

Since she and her partner, Kim Hyok Bong, were ranked in the top three places at the 18th Asian Table Tennis Championships, the couple have performed well in good cooperation at national and international competitions.

She is usually reticent and introspective, but never fails to do what she once makes up her mind to do. Cherishing the ambition to become a world-famous star, she made desperate and persistent efforts to complete her left-hand forte, which she displayed at the recent world championships.

As a British Internet site put it, "When the national anthem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was played and Kim Jong shed tears, the significance of her win felt more evident. Her tears touched the heartstrings of all the audience in the stadium."

She is now making strenuous efforts to crown her youth with victories at all international games she will attend in future.

Rim Ok



New Appearance of Rungna Islet





A roller rink.

THE LONG-STANDING name of Rungna Islet derived from its beautiful scenery in which weeping willows droop their branches and twigs over the crystal-clear water of Taedong River. Last year there went up the modern Rungna People's Pleasure Ground to the people's great joy, and in May this year the Rungna People's Sports Park was opened as a popular resort for physical training and recreation.

Viewed from Moran Hill, the islet has changed beyond recogni-

tion. Divided in several sections by the May Day Stadium looking like an open parachute and the Rungna and Chongnyu bridges across the islet, the area is a harmonious complex of amusement and sporting facilities and green belts.

Covering an area of over 200 000 m², the Rungna People's Sports Park is a comprehensive sports service centre, which is provided with grounds for football, volleyball, basketball and roller skating and various other sporting facilities, a public garden

and cafes.

Amidst the increasing public interest in football, many institutions and enterprises in Pyongyang come to the park on holidays and Sundays and have a pleasant time. (What is spectacular is their cheering groups.)

The most popular place for the young people in the park is the roller skating ground as well as the volleyball and basketball courts. As the roller skating ground has a course that demands performing high-level acts, it is quite popular with young people. The tennis and badminton courts are also filled to the capacity with enthusiastic lovers.

Kim Jong Un, first secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, visited the park in June this year and gave instructions that the sporting facilities and equipment be carefully maintained and that good service be offered to the public. Then he suggested that a restaurant should be built for the convenience of the people who come to the place so that they have a good time.

Kim Won Nam



A view of drilling in the field hockey ground.

Enthusiasm for Sports Running High

SPORTS ARE GREATLY instrumental in displaying national prestige and power. In the DPRK where the role of sports is considered very important for a civilized socialist nation, enthusiasm for sports is running higher than ever before bringing about good results on international scenes.

This year deserves special mention: in February Kim Kum Ok won at the 14th Asian Marathon Championships and Yang Kyong Il the 55kg category of men's free-style wrestling in the 51st Tankolov-Nikolai Petrov international wrestling tournament; in March Ri Se Gwang won men's vaulting horse at the 6th Challenge Cup tournament of the International Gymnastic Federation; in April Ri Su Yon carried off gold medal in women's 44kg category in total and Pak Jong Ju in men's 50kg category clean and jerk at the 2013 World Juvenile Weightlifting Championships; Hong Kuk Hyon won men's 73kg category at the 2013 Asian Judo Championships; and Pak Yong Mi and Hwang Ryong Hak respectively came off winner in women's 48kg category and men's 60kg category free-style wrestling at the 2013 Asian Wrestling Championships. In May Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong won mixed doubles at the 52nd ITTF World Championships in Paris, and so on. All these greatly delighted and encouraged the Korean people.

These successes didn't come by themselves. Great efforts had been exerted to put sports on a scientific basis by perfecting Korean-style techniques, tactical systems and methods of training, a social atmosphere had been incited to develop sports, and state

assistance had been strengthened. At the same time, the public interest had been fired to make sports mass-based and a part of everyday life so that enthusiasm for sports might sweep across the whole country. In November last year the state decided to establish the State Sports Guidance Commission to control and direct all sports affairs in the country. This marked a turning point in arousing zest for sports across the country and making it a leading sports nation as soon as possible.

The work is actively under way to develop the professional sports sectors further amidst state concern. Sports scientists are engaged in diversified undertakings to help develop sports techniques, sponsoring a national sports program exhibition, a national new sports apparatus and materials exhibition, an educational sector's sports sci-tech research achievements exhibition, a symposium on individual sports events, and international and domestic coaches' short courses. The work to put sports on a scientific basis has reached a high stage by employing cutting-edge measuring and analyzing instruments and other scientific apparatuses in studying tactical systems and making the study results available to coaches and athletes to improve their abilities, by carrying on efficiently the work of sports information, and by recruiting and training reserve athletes with scientific acumen. Good results have been gained in the endeavours to hold titles in the traditional fortes of Korean athletes such as marathon, boxing, weightlifting, table tennis and judo and develop the defence-sports and ball-game events. At present the athletes are training

hard emulous of one another with a determination to exalt the honour of their country. The Pyongyang International Football School and juvenile sports schools in many parts of the country play a great role in training reserve athletes.

Meanwhile, great progress is being made in the work to make sports mass-based and develop popular sports and games. Public interest in sports is rising, and the environment for sports and games is steadily improving. Broad masses of people across the country are hardening themselves body and mind by joining sports activities held on the days of sports and other occasions, with a great pride in taking part in the building of a strong sports nation. The People's Open-air Ice Rink, Roller Rink, Rungna People's Sports Park, Thongil Street Fitness Centre and Yanggakdo Sports Village have been built in Pyongyang, and similar up-to-date sports facilities have gone up in all parts of the country, and parks with various athletic and sporting equipments have been laid, stimulating public interest in sports. International and domestic sports games and news of sports activities are regularly televised and reported by the mass media.

Seeing the working people absorbed in sports at the sports facilities set up everywhere and the athletes devoted to training with a resolve to add lustre to the glory of their country by winning gold medals at international games, all of the Korean people are convinced that their country will soon be a leading nation in terms of sports.

Kim Chol Jun

Football Team of Scientists

THE SPORTS CONTEST OF THE UNJONG Science District took place from early April to early May last. In the contest the football team of the Mechanical Engineering Institute of the State Academy of Sciences won first place. This is the third win of the team—following their wins in 2008 and 2011. In the recent contest the team became all the more famous as it lost no goal in the games. All these successes are attributable to the efforts of the researchers of the institute.

A few years ago a dozen university graduates in their twenties were assigned to work at the institute. The institute let them know the successes and experience achieved in the past matches and incited their zeal for football by occasionally organizing matches at spare times or on holidays. The ever-growing enthusiasm for sports in the country and the unstinting help of the officials, seniors and workers made them high-spirited. In those days their skill was improved while the team's collective spirit was given a full play.

The people in the district pay deep attention to football as it shows the team's collectivism and organization. Thus, the contest attracted their interest from the beginning. Especially, the final match between the aforesaid institute and the Electricity Institute was fierce. However, the former won at last.

In the past the institute regarded the popular sporting activity as an important job in cultivating the spirit of collectivism and demonstrating the united force of the institute, and ceaselessly pushed ahead with the activities. So the spiritual preparedness and physical fitness of the players of the team were superior. In fact, the highest scorer of the team and the player who scored a decisive goal in the finals are researchers in their twenties whose talent in football had been developed and improved through popular sports activities. Most players of the team have academic degrees or titles. If the rest of the team get degrees for their theses presented, the team becomes the one of persons with academic degrees and titles.

The institute ranked among the top three in women's basketball and women's volleyball games, thus won first place in total at the contest. Such a success encourages good results in the research work. This year the institute was highly appreciated at the 9th national sci-tech exhibition in the field of machinery designing, and has rendered services to major construction projects of the national economy and the research projects for normal operation of factories and enterprises.

The football team of the institute is a pride of the science district.

Kim Chol Jun



Enjoyable Days of Camping

THE 11TH ROUND OF camping vacation took place in Mt. Myohyang arranged by the Camp for Pyongyang Schoolchildren in Mt. Myohyang from July 12 to 19 this year. Among the children from different junior middle schools in Pyongyang, there were students of 3 A Class of the Tongmun Junior Middle School, Taedonggang District, Pyongyang. They left many records of their life at the camp. Some of the records are introduced below.

The camping flag

July 12, 2013

When our class teacher told us days ago that our class would go camping, we were all beyond ourselves for joy, hugging one another. We had been looking forward to camping since we heard from our teacher that we would be qualified to go camping only when we were all good at academic performances, faithful to organizational life and exemplary in doing good jobs for the country and society. At last the day came.

We got on an exclusive train at Pyongyang Station and arrived at the camp. We found the mountain ridges and peaks and the buildings of the camp quite attractive. Soon we raised the camping flag in the sky, signalling the beginning of our camping life together with a large number of friends from different districts of Pyongyang. In response to the flag, our standard bearer, Man Song, put up the flag of our Children's Union branch organization high and called out to exalt the honour of our organization in the camping activities. Seeing the camping flag

soaring high, I closely embraced the thick book I had prepared to use in collecting plant samples. Song Ryong, who has a hope to become a painter, raised cheers loudly, jerking up his drawing board. The flag was fluttering high up in the sky, representing our dream, hope and happiness.

Staff member of the KCU
branch organization
Kim Un Yong

The first climbing

July 14, 2013

Today we had the first climbing up the Manphokdong area. As a weakling who had climbed nothing but Moran Hill in Pyongyang before, I was afraid that I should climb precipitous cliffs. But getting to the entrance to Manphokdong, I found myself free of the fear instantly. When there appeared a steep precipice, I found a staircase running up to the top between cliffs with safety railings on both sides as if descending from Heaven. When there appeared a dangerous valley with a waterfall, we found a suspension bridge hanging across as if it were a legendary bridge described in an old Korean folk tale. And there were enough resting places on our way. The higher I climbed, the more exhilarated and inspired I found myself. Now I became the first to reach the summit of the climbing route. I shouted hurrahs at the top of my

voice, looking down the mountain ridges below my feet. I felt my heart bigger and myself courageous enough to do anything formidable in the world.

Kim Jin U

The day of general climbing

July 16, 2013

Today we practiced various sorts of cooking, including the boiling of rice. The wood was all wet due to the downpour, but we all tackled preparation of boiled rice confidently because we had learned from the KCU instructors of the camp how to make rice in the open air without any pot, and that even when we have nothing but wet wood. Seeing us engrossed in making a fire, our class teacher advised us to make a correct decision of the amount of water in the pot, reviewing what





► we had learned at school. I was the first to make a fire, but my rice turned out to be half-boiled at last. When the teacher said that I should have put a proper amount of water in the pot taking into consideration that at alpine places water boils at temperatures lower than its proper boiling point—which was what we had learned at school—I flushed for shame. Those who had successfully made rice shouted cries of joy as if they had reached the climax of a high mountain. I felt happy though I had failed in cooking, because I knew I practiced what I had learned.

Monitor Ri Kye Sung

United, we can win Heaven

July 17, 2013

Today all of us students in the camp had an athletic meet di-



vided in two teams, Pirobong and Manphokdong, regardless of the difference of KCU branch organizations. I belonged to the Pirobong team, and participated in the football game. The captain of my football team was Kim Yong Myong from the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School. Towards the end of the game when all thought we lost it, Yong Myong fooled even the full back and dashed forward to the goal, but at the moment when he could make

a successful shot with ease, he passed the ball to me, and I scored a drawing goal. With this the second half of the game finished and in the concluding 11 m free kick we beat our opponents. So I became a “hero” who saved our team. When I yielded my wreath to Yong Myong, he said, “We owe you our win. You could make a shot because you made a dash on time.” Hearing him we all yelled in a voice and shoulder to shoulder, as if we had promised, “United, we can win Heaven.”

Choe Kang Song,
KCU cell chief

The camping flag enshrined in the heart

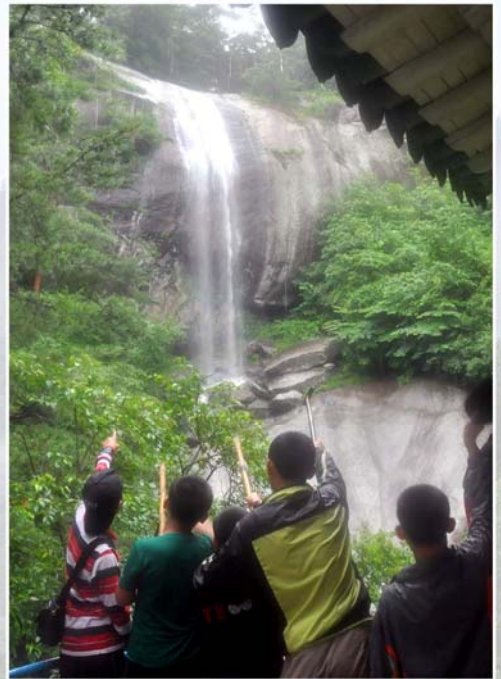
July 19, 2013

The enjoyable days passed like an arrow. Over the days we made a lot of friends from other schools. Yesterday evening we had the artistic performance and presentation of good things done by each KCU branch organization. They helped us broaden our

view and left an indelible impression. After the meeting we promised to compete in all respects even after we return to our schools. The camping flag pulled down, but all the experiences we got here at the camp will remain valuable memories for ever in our hearts.

Hong Kuk Song, chairman of the KCU branch organization

Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol



An Angler's Joy

PEOPLE CALL ME EXPERT ANGLER AND my home “angler’s home.” When I won first and second places respectively in the 10th national angling competitions in 2011 and 11th one the next year some of them dubbed me “doctor” of angling.

I have an extraordinary pride which they can’t imagine. On my birthday a year after retirement, my children presented me with a fishing rod. After that, I took to angling and would go out to the Taedong River with it. Gradually I was captivated by the charm of angling. As time went by, it became a part of my life, and I registered at the Amateur Anglers Association in 2003.

One day the association held a meeting to explain the importance of protecting fish. That was an occa-



sion for me to feel quite ashamed, because as a beginner, I had hurt many small fish by jerking the fishing rod as soon as the float bobbed. Taking part in the work of the association for fish preservation, I felt more keenly the need of protecting fish, for the joy of angling and life demanded it. Now I took it upon myself to explain the importance of protecting fish to the anglers in the morning and evening. Then I organized aged anglers into a team to make the rounds of fishing spots on the Taedong, Pothong and Sunhwa rivers to conduct explanatory work among anglers, inspect no-fishing sections and keep signs right. I offered wide-mesh nets of my own make to anglers out fishing in the early morning or at night to save small fish.

An aged man, I often felt fatigued and, when the weather was foul, I would think it would do me good to take a day’s rest. But the awareness that my voluntary work was not only for me but for the sake of the coming generations kept me going out on the inspection round of the fishing places every day. Our efforts and earnest work were not wasted. Time flowed and seven years passed, and the fishing places began to teem with big fish to the joy of anglers. The man who won first place in the 11th national angling competition said to me earnestly, “I have won the competition by catching many big fish thanks to you. Though you have taken second place, the first place must go to you.”

His words made me look back on the past ten years I have spent after retirement. They have been years when I lived with the pride of doing something worthy for the good of our society even though I had retired due to the advanced age. I really think I have spent memorable days in these years.

*Kim Tae Jip,
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Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang*

Efforts Into Greening Campaign

NOT LONG AGO A reporter of *Korea Today* met Director Jong Yong Guk of the Landscaping Administrative Bureau of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee. Excerpts from the talk follow.

Originally, Pyongyang is famous as a garden city and as a city in verdure, isn't it?

That's right. Immediately after the country's liberation (August 1945) our great leader Kim Il Sung planted trees himself on Munsu Hill. After that he gave meticulous guidance to the effort to build up the city of Pyongyang and all the regions of our country to be a people's paradise where green forests sway. Now cryptomerias can be found in large numbers on the streets in Pyongyang. This is also associated with the self-sacrificing and painstaking efforts he made so as to bring back to life the plant that had almost become extinct and hand the kind down to the younger generation.

Whenever opportunities presented themselves, our great leader Kim Jong Il, too, earnestly said that trees of good species should be planted and spread on an extensive scale and flower beds and green tracts of land suited to the ever-growing cultural and emotional demand of the citizens and the aesthetic sense of our age be created properly. Once he, looking at a zelkova tree that had been growing alone in a steep mountain for several hundred years, asked to take good care of it and spread it all over the country by gathering its seeds in large quantities.

Under the wise leadership of our great leaders tens of kinds of trees of good species, such as cryptomerias, willows, zelkovas and ginkgo trees have spread widely, particularly in Pyongyang, and the Podunamu (willow) Street came into being. Flower beds and green tracts of land have also increased systematically in

area. As a result, Pyongyang has turned into a garden city literally where the charm of scenery varies from season to season and where all sorts of birds chirp in clear and fresh air.

These days green tracts of land in Pyongyang have gained new appearances and the green area and the number of flower beds and flowerpot stands have also increased considerably.

That's right. In April last year our national leader Kim Jong Un worked out a far-reaching plan for building up Pyongyang to be a magnificent and beautiful city of worldwide fame in accord with the ever-growing demand of our age. In addition, he made the citizens aware of the importance of conducting tree planting and making flower beds in particular in the capital city over and over again. In recent months alone he gave particular instructions in detail on several occasions.

True to his lofty intention, the Pyongyang citizens have turned out as one in the work of replacing the already existing grass on the green tracts of land, such as public parks, stadiums, the roadside, public establishments, etc., with cover plants that are full of vitality and are long in the green period.

According to the statistical data now available, the grass on more than 150 hectares of green tracts of land was replaced with new species of turf.

Besides, green tracts of land, flower beds and flowerpot stands of individual yet multifarious forms have also been created in over 80 places including public parks, resting places and recreation grounds. Into the bargain, new species of turf have been planted on idle land as well in large quantities after spreading more than 700 000 cubic metres of scorched earth. When putting together the newly created greensward, their gross area amounts to nearly 60 hectares. I think we

can easily guess how much the air of Pyongyang has become clear when one hectare of greensward is considered to remove hundreds of kilograms of carbonic acid gas and give off 600 kilograms of oxygen a day.

Now every Pyongyang citizen is attached to the keeping of greensward that is a delight to look upon and is beneficial to environment and takes care of it with his or her utmost sincerity every morning and every evening. They spend a pleasant time of cultural rest to their heart's content in the cool shade of trees that are a match for surrounding environment.

I should like to know the future plan.

In May last Kim Jong Un paid a visit to the Turf Research Centre in the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences. During his visit there, he said that nowhere should be found a vacant lot or a place overgrown with weeds by planting trees in all lands but land under cultivation or creating grass fields and planting flowering and cover plants.

In compliance with his instructions my city drew up a prospective plan in detail with a view to replacing the grass on the green tracts of land with new species of turf. It is also planned to find out without exception all the vacant lots but the tilled land including those along railway lines, large and small banks and on both sides of narrow paths and to plant cover plants suited to soil and climatic conditions. On top of that, we are taking concrete measures in order to develop the greening campaign in Pyongyang City without letup in keeping with the worldwide trend by attaching great importance to the work of the Technical Interchange Agency under the Landscaping Administrative Bureau of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee and enhancing its role. □

Popular Sanatorium

ONE OF THE POPULAR resorts in Korea is a sanatorium in Unsan town. People, who have been diagnosed as having incurable diseases, go there with a forlorn hope. The Unsan Sanatorium treats various diseases by using the water from the Unsan Hot Spring. Located in a small mountain town of North Phyon-gan Province, the hot spring came into repute over 500 years ago for the water's pharmacological actions.

Before Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation in August 1945 the hot spring district served the rich and the bureaucrats as an amusement quarter and a money-making ground. In April 1947 the state saw to it that the Unsan Rest Home—the predecessor of the present sanatorium—based on social insurance was established in the place.

The rest home was utterly destroyed by the US imperialists' indiscriminate bombing during the Korean war (1950–1953). It was reconstructed in 1955 and transformed into the Unsan Women's Hospital and then into the Unsan Women's Sanatorium on an expansion basis in October 1966 and in March 1976 respectively because the hot spring water was specially efficacious in the treatment of women's sterility and other gynaecological diseases as well as good for the treatment of different diseases.

At the time the state sent a vast sum of money, building forces and a mineral water prospecting team to the place. After the pharmacological actions of the water were confirmed on a scientific basis a medical staff and a research group were formed and lots of hydropathic and relevant research facilities were installed in the sanatorium. From then on the sanatorium placed emphasis on the treatment of cervical inflammation and other women's chronic reproductive system disorders, post-partum diseases, uterine insufficiency and women's

sterility.

The sanatorium has now turned into a comprehensive centre capable of curing much more diseases. You can see lots of men as well as women staying in the sanatorium.

It happened when Ri Un Su, a 47-year-old miner, came to the sanatorium for the first time. Ri was paraplegic owing to slipped disc. Earlier he had had treatments of modern medicine, which were all of little effect in his case. When he was coming to the sanatorium he had a vague hope of alleviating his aggravating pain at best. Therefore, he didn't believe he would get well.

The physicians there, however, concluded that the patient could recover. It was their opinion that the main factor in obstructing the treatment of his disease was his contracting emotion and ensuing lack of endurance in treatment, rather than the shock he had gotten. They soon drew up a detailed programme and confirmed the period and order of the hydropathic treatment for the patient suited to his mental state. They believe that success in hydropathic treatment depends on how to apply the same hot-spring water to each patient to suit his or her personal condition. Now they supported the patient from his sickroom to the general hydropathic treatment centre instead of letting him use a wheelchair for the purpose of making him have a desire for movement and confidence in his recovery. His doctors' faces and overalls were always wet with sweat in and out of the centre.

During the first week's treatment there, Ri already came to have hope of the possibility of his recovery seeing the physicians observing him attentively and applying a hot compress to his body while sweating like him. Then he began to show his zeal for treatment.



One day, 40 days after the beginning of his treatment, Ri told his doctor in a gentle voice, "I feel strength in my legs now, doctor."

All those who get treatment in the sanatorium have dream-like recovery. Women, in particular, are unusually attracted by the remedial capacity of the sanatorium. Many of the women suffered unusual agonies for years or even more than a decade. Most of them, after returning home, send to the sanatorium letters of similar contents.

"... Soon after coming back home, I felt a sign of pregnancy. It was so much like a dream that I wished it had not been all a dream. I had had no sign of pregnancy for ten years since my marriage, and my husband had given up. At present he is so delighted that he dances attendance on me as if I were a princess while letting me do no domestic chores. I really have good luck. It was given by you doctors. So I surely want you to name my unborn baby..." This is part of a letter Pae Jae Sun, head of gynaecological department No. 2 of the sanatorium, received from Yo In Ok, a woman living in Waudo District, Nampho City, who had got treatment at the sanatorium.

Pae, who has been working at the sanatorium for over 30 years, has lots of similar letters and pictures of the babies taken on their first birthday. She says, "The deeper the source of the spring water is, the hotter the water is. So we have taken sincere care of the patients, thinking it is the same case with our sincerity."

Kim Chol Ung

Moran Hill

ONE OF THE GREATEST NATURAL attractions in Pyongyang is Moran Hill. Centring on the highest peak of Choesungdae, which is 95 metres above sea level, the hill consists of a number of mounds connected along the smooth ridges extending to the north, south and west. The name of Moran comes from the shape of the small hills which resemble peony flowers that have just come into full bloom. Typical are Ryongnam and Mansu hills which are comparatively low and Kyongsang and Hungbu valleys that are relatively shallow. The eastern side is of steep precipice, called Chongnyu Cliff, being skirted by the clear stream of Taedong River.

Characteristic of the hill is a unique harmony of fantastic and well-balanced rises and falls of the land, lush woods and decorations of all kinds of flowers. The open view from Ulmil Pavilion in spring and the sight of the rising moon enjoyed at Pubyok Pavilion have long been among the "Eight Scenic Wonders of Pyongyang." The name of Pubyok Pavilion originated from the fact that the pavilion seems to be

The Chilsong Gate.



The Ulmil Pavilion.

floating on the Taedong River.

There are a number of large and small waterfalls, including Moran Falls (man-made) and Chongnyu Falls. Moran Falls offers a magnificent view as the water pumped up from the Taedong cascades down between grotesque cliffs. Ubiquitous are pavilions like Sungni, Phyonghwa, Aeryon, Rogum, Songga, Sojak and Ondal, and sites of wrestling and swinging and seesawing where crowds of people throng to have folk games on folk holidays.

The scenery of the district is all the more beautiful with the rich stock of fauna and flora. A hundred and scores of kinds of trees are to be found there, including pines, nut pines and other needle-leaved trees, acacias, maples and other broad-leaved trees, peaches, apricots, pears, chestnuts and other fruit-bearing trees. The scenery becomes outstanding when there bloom azalea flowers around Choesung Pavilion and in the Hungbu Valley, peach flowers in the Kyongsang Valley, magnolia and lilac flowers at Ulmil Pavilion, and apricot flowers at the western fringes of the area. Different kinds of animals are also seen there, like pheasants, woodpeckers, orioles, owls, jays, hares, and squirrels. Meanwhile, it is a haunt of more than 70 species of birds on a yearly basis. A small zoo is there to show deer, guinea fowls, monkeys, squirrels, pheasants, peacocks, parrots and other animals. Natural monuments of educational and academic value like *Chongnyubyok Styphnolobium japonicum* No. 3 and *Moranbong Styphnolobium japonicum* fossil No. 465 are located in the place.

The scenic place has also many historical relics and sites which help to have knowledge of the time-honoured Korean history and culture. The remains of the Outer and Inner Walls of Pyongyang, Choesung



People have a pleasant time on Moran Hill.

- ▶ Pavilion, Ulmil Pavilion, Pubyok Pavilion, Chilsong Gate, Hyonmu Gate, Jongum Gate, Tongam Gate and some other things date back to the mid-sixth century. Ulmil and Choesung pavilions were war-time commanding posts. The embankment of Ulmil Pavilion is 11 metres high and the single-eaves gable roof is gorgeously painted, going well with the surrounding scenery. The pavilion is associated with a legend about General Ulmil who repulsed foreign invaders in defence of the country and with a legend about Ulmil and other fairies who are said to have descended from Heaven to enjoy the scenery of

Moran Hill. Chilsong and Hyonmu gates were northern gates of the Inner and Northern walls of Pyongyang. The name of Chilsong derived from the fact that it was located in the direction of the Great Bear. Walls from both ends stand with the last 10m-long parts overlapping each other, and the embankment is set between the two walls with an archway formed for the gate. The gate has a legendary tale about a “gate to blessing” which conveys the Korean people’s attachment to martial arts and their beautiful manners.

In the hill area stands the Friendship Tower that is a dedication to the memory of the fallen soldiers of the Chinese People’s Volunteers who fought courageously in the Korean War in the 1950s and to the determination to carry on with the DPRK-China friendship; there is also seen the Liberation Tower which stands for the exploits of the former Soviet soldiers who participated in the warfare against the Japanese imperialist aggressors for the liberation of Korea in the 1940s and for the friendship between the Korean and the Russian peoples. At the foot of the hill is the Kaeson Youth Park—modernized up to date recently—where the people enjoy themselves far into the night. In the Moranbong Theatre you see performances of the National Symphony Orchestra, having an enjoyable time of entertainment.

From Moran Hill you can have a bird’s eye view of the daily changing Pyongyang.

Jo Yong Il



Korean Central History Museum (5)

Koryo, First Unified State of the Korean Nation

“THE ASPIRATION OF Koguryo to bring several states together into a single unified state was taken over by Koryo that was set up at the beginning of the tenth century. The name of Koryo was derived from Koguryo,” said the lecturer, and went on with her explanation. As the despotic rule of King Kungye of the Thaebong State, one of the Later Three States, became serious with every passing day and the people’s voices of grievances became more clamorous, Kungye’s subject Wang Kon and his colleagues staged a coup in the year 918, and set up a new dynasty, naming it Koryo.

Koryo that appeared as the first unified state in the history of Korea existed in the period between 918 and 1392. Wang Kon moved the capital of Koryo to Kaegyong (Kaesong) in 919. He effectuated the amalgamation of the Later Three States by uniting his state with Silla in 935 and Later Paekje in 936. In addition, he embraced more than 100 000 Palhae people who had found their way into Koryo after the downfall of their state.

In 1994 King Wang Kon’s mausoleum was rebuilt as befits the mausoleum of the founder of the first unified state in Korea. At

that time the descendants of Wang’s clan living in Kaesong donated their genealogical record to the country.

Put on display in the room were the genealogical record of the clan as well as a gilt-bronze buckle, a bronze kettle and some other relics found in the course of reconstruction of King Wang Kon’s mausoleum.

Also on view in the room were data showing the level of agricultural development in the Koryo period. In Korea rice farming was done from long ago and cotton was grown as well since the 14th century. The most impressive of the relics of the Koryo period were porcelain, silk, paper, *insam* (ginseng), etc. They conducted trade briskly with many countries of the world in reliance upon these articles of commerce. “Joseon is now called ‘Korea’ in the international arena,” the lecturer said and added that this was derived from the name of Koryo widely known in that period. Before leaving there, we saw some of brass coins Koryo had minted and used by setting up a government office (*jujondogam*) for the striking of metallic currency in the year 1097.

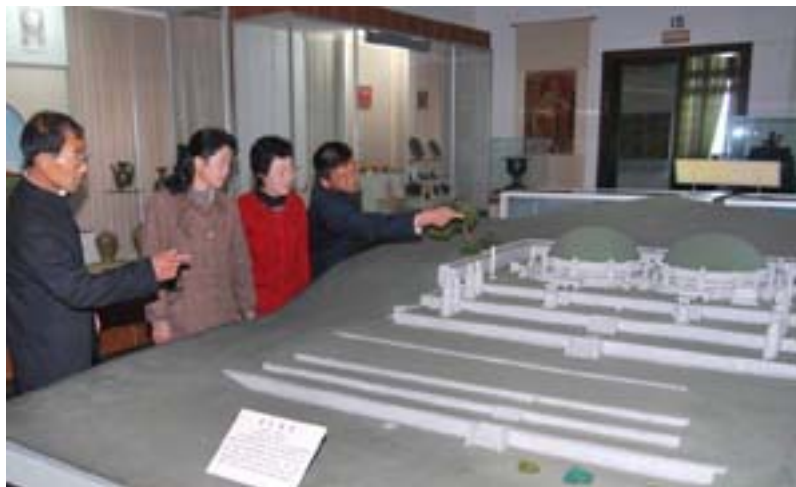
What made us stand still was the seated image of Buddhist Goddess of Mercy enshrined in the Kwanum Temple in Kaesong. This relic gives an exquisite rep-

resentation of the marble Buddha’s graceful crown, well-balanced figure, manner of dressing, etc. by making use of the openwork technique. It brought us a clear realization of the developed sculptural art of Koryo.

Then we studied building parts and elements including green tiles produced in the Koryo period before moving into the next room. “Exhibited in the room are data of struggle of the Koryo people who fought bravely against the feudal rulers and the foreign aggressors,” said the lecturer. Also put on display there were data related to illustrious generals Kang Kam Chan, So Hui, etc. who had distinguished themselves greatly in the struggle against the foreign invaders.

Patriotic-minded general Kang Kam Chan was a man of Herculean strength who beat off the foreign aggressors twice. He went to the battlefield of his own accord and drove away the enemy, using various pieces of brilliant tactics, including *chongyasung* tactics (a piece of defence tactics aimed at fighting on in defence of the fortress while making the enemy suffer from hunger and thirst by evacuating everything,

A seated figure of the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy.





Koryo silk.

▶ setting fire to the fields and filling up all the wells in the area where the enemy was likely to invade). The battle the Koryo troops had waged in and around Kusong (then known as Kuju) in North Phyongan Province under his command in February 1019 and had annihilated more than 100 000 enemy soldiers was recorded as a great victory at Kuju.

In the Koryo period powder weapons were manufactured and used in large quantities. The inventor of these weapons was Choe Mu Son. Powder weapons mainly played the role of making holes in ramparts and ships. Choe not only manufactured highly efficient powder weapons but also altered the structure of ships so that these weapons could be used even in ships. Upon receiving a report that the Japanese raiders slipped into Jinpho aboard more than 500 ships in August 1380, Choe Mu Son went out to the sea, leading upwards of over one hundred ships of our side and totally annihilated the Japanese raiders. The lecturer told us that this battle on the sea off Jinpho was of significance in the world history of sea battles as the one in which firearms were used for the first time in the world.

Then we stepped into the next room. Put on display there were relics showing the culture of the Koryo period. To be enumerated first in the culture of the Koryo period were ceramic workmanship and the art of printing and publication.

Also exhibited there were famous Koryo ceramics including those of jade-green colour. In the first half of the tenth century no pattern was carved on porcelain, but since the closing days of the

same century pattern-inlaid celadon porcelain began to be produced. Among inlaid ceramics of celadon green were those that reached their zenith in the 11th to 12th century. Koryo people developed various patterning techniques including embossed carving, intaglio, and openwork along with the inlaying method. Patterns of ceramics were multifarious in shape and were dedicated to the artificial depiction of natural scenery and animals and plants of varied forms. Variety of ceramics such as white and black ones had their own specific features. Koryo's white ceramics were engraved with patterns of lotus flowers, crucian carps, etc. on a creamy white ground. Characteristic was that

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consists of 1 539 books in 6 793 volumes printed with 80 000 wooden blocks on which characters were carved. The 80 000 Blocks of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures go down through generations as the oldest and completed one in the world and a copy of books printed from wooden blocks is now preserved in the Pohyon Temple in Mt. Myohyang, said the lecturer.

Presently we came to a halt in front of a model of the mausoleum of Koryo's thirty-first king Kongmin in Kaesong. The mausoleum was shaped in the form of large, finely-built double mounds for the dead bodies of the king and the queen. It was built in the period between 1365 and 1372. Set up on both sides of the stairs to the tombs were stone-sculptured images representing civil and mili-



Brass vessels of the Koryo dynasty.

these ceramics were very thin in thickness.

When we went past the exhibition stand of Koryo porcelain, there appeared materials related to the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures printed with 80 000 wooden blocks. In the period when our country was in the reign of the Koryo dynasty the publishing work of the Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures was conducted on three occasions since 1011 and in 1251 the third publishing work of this Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures came to an end. The Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures

tary officials. The mausoleum of King Kongmin shows the stone architecture in the closing years of Koryo.

Also exhibited there were ornamental hairpins used by women and men and some other relics showing the metal workmanship of Koryo.

Also visible there was copper type unearthed at the site of Manwoldae. Looking at relics we learned that Koryo had taken strides in the spheres of the economy, military affairs and culture as the first unified state.

Rim Ok

Patriotic Cultural Activist Sin Chae Ho

SIN CHAE HO (1880–1936) was a well-known historian, writer and political journalist who helped enlighten the Koreans in terms of politics and culture through his patriotic cultural activities.

Sin was born into a feudal Confucian's family in Chongju, North Chungchong Province. He grew up in the period when the Japanese imperialists were politically and militarily manoeuvring to seize Korea. With the beginning of the 20th century their moves to occupy Korea got more outrageous. They concocted the Ulsa Five-Point Treaty by force in 1905 to deprive Korea of its diplomatic right and then in 1910 fabricated the Korea-Japan Annexation Treaty to occupy Korea militarily. This reduced the Korean people to the status of slavery. Sin Chae Ho and other patriotic intellectuals launched patriotic cultural activities for the purpose of restoring their country's sovereignty by enlightening the masses of people. He took up literary work with a view to exposing the illegitimacy of the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea and awakening the Koreans politically and culturally and inspiring them with a patriotic spirit. He published articles in progressive newspapers including the *Hwangsong Sinmun* and the *Taehan Maeil Sinbo* and in monthly magazines such as the *Taehan Jaganghoe Wolbo*, the *Sou* and the *Sobuk Hakhoe Wolbo* for the purpose of inspiring the Koreans with the anti-Japanese patriotic sentiment.

In a political article Sin called upon the Koreans to fight against the Japanese military rule instead of obeying it. He wrote, "Now the country is lost, and the nation is dead. If you want to revive, you should brace yourself up. What is called law is not established by the stateless to take back their country but established by men with sovereignty to restrain the stateless, by men of

power to oppress the powerless people. If we stateless and powerless people submit to the law, it will be as good as suicide."

Sin wrote history books and literary works to publicize the time-honoured patriotic tradition and culture of the Korean nation and implant an anti-Japanese patriotic spirit in the Koreans.

In the introduction to his history book *History of Korea Vol. 1* he said, "History is a record of the struggle between 'I' and 'he' in human society." He said "I" meant "mental self," that is to say, national spirit. In other words, regarding history as history of struggle between national spirit and its opposite, he tried to awaken the Koreans to national consciousness. His other writings on history including *The Draft of Study of Korean History* (collection), *The Tale of Ulji Mundok*, and the treatise *Relationship Between History and Patriotism* introduced the history, culture and patriotic tradition of the Korean nation to infuse the Koreans with love for their country.

He wrote many literary works impregnated with ardent love for the country and people and longing for national independence. Typical of them are the novel *The Dreamy Sky* and the lyric *Yours*. In the novel he expressed his pride in his nation's history and cultural tradition, his lamentation over and indignation at his country being trampled upon by the Japanese imperialists and his ardent wish for the advent of a patriotic hero who would save the ruined country and people, and called upon the Koreans to turn out in the anti-Japanese independence movement while negating the then social reality point-blank and setting his patriotic idea against it. The lyric reflects his determination to do all he could to revive the dark, withering country making it bright, beautiful, clean and warm again, and his wish for his flesh to decay into soil and his bones to turn into



stones to add to the enrichment of the land of his country after his death. All his works were a scathing condemnation of the Japanese imperialists' military seizure of Korea and an unsparing exposure of its absurdity and lawlessness, and also an expression of boundless patriotic passion and an earnest appeal to all the Korean people to turn out in the national liberation movement.

Meanwhile, together with patriotic intellectuals, he conducted political activities, forming anti-Japanese secret political organizations such as the New People's Association and the Independence Association. As the Japanese villains intensified suppression, he went abroad and carried on political operations in Vladivostok, Beijing and other places. He was arrested by the Japanese military police in 1928. He died in Lushun prison in 1936 while serving a term of ten years.

President Kim Il Sung wrote in his reminiscences *With the Century*, "With a view to making our nation's long patriotic tradition and brilliant culture known to the younger generation and inspiring them with patriotism, Sin Chae Ho had devoted enormous time and effort to describing the history of Korea." □

First Metal Type in the World

METAL TYPE WAS developed in Korea based on the printing techniques of using wooden type and the casting and processing techniques of metal. The book *Sokwonsarim* printed with wooden type in 1101–1122 and clear-cut characters on the copper coin called *Haedongthongbo* minted in 1102 are the showcase of the high level of printing technology and metal casting of Korea at the time.

The oldest record regarding the use of metal type in Korea is *Tonggukrisanggukjip* published in 1241. The book says that 28 copies of a tremendous book titled *Kogumsangjongrye* (consisting of 50 volumes) were printed with metal type in Kanghwa Island. Some other books printed with metal type are *Nammyongjungdoga* (1239), *Kongjagao* (1317–1324) and *Paegunhwasangchorokbuljojikjisimcheyojol* (or *Jikjisimgyong*) (1377). And the copper type (*pok*), 11 mm by 10 mm, unearthed in Kaesong, is

based on the same technique of metal casting as the one of *Haedongthongbo*. These materials indicate that metal type-based printing was in wide use on a high level around the early 13th century in Korea and that the metal type was probably developed in the first half of the 12th century.

It was around the 1450s that Gutenberg, a German, developed metal type and introduced it into printing of books. And it was in 1423 that Coster, a Dutch, invented metal type and began to use it in printing.

The bronze type on display in



the Korean Central History Museum is 8 mm high and the face with characters incised is 12 mm in length and 10 mm in width, and the back side is flat. The main contents of the type are copper, tin and lead, and additional contents are silicon, iron, aluminum and other materials.

In 1392 Korea restored the central office, which had been in charge of storage and management of books, with a new name of Publications Office, and promoted metal type-based printing as a national concern. So the printing technology made a great progress in 1436 when lead type was made.

The History of Book expo held in Paris in 1972 under the sponsorship of UNESCO confirmed that the Korean book *Jikjisimgyong* is the oldest of the books printed with metal type in the world. Recently the book was registered on a UNESCO list as a heritage of the human culture.

Jo Yong Il



Struggling to Achieve Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea (1)

IT IS NEARLY 70 YEARS SINCE KOREA WAS divided with the US imperialists' illegal occupation of the southern half on September 8, 1945. The Korean people have conducted a strenuous struggle for independent and peaceful reunification of the nation generation after generation.

Establishment of Unified Central Government

On August 15, 1945 the Korean people accomplished their historic cause of national liberation through their 20-odd-year-long revolutionary warfare against Japan. Yet their ecstasy of joy over the liberation was short-lived, for the US imperialists occupied the southern half of their country, replacing the Japanese. While enforcing military government in south Korea, the Americans put all fields—political, economic, military, foreign affairs, etc.—under their strict control. As they were seeking to set up a separate government in the south in their attempt to maintain their occupation of south Korea permanently and turn it into their colony, the nation fell into the dangerous plight in which it might be permanently divided.

The December 1945 Moscow conference of foreign ministers of the former Soviet Union, the United States and Britain decided that, in expectation of Korea's development into an independent state, a democratic provisional government would be established through negotiation with Korean political parties and social organizations and that the former Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and China would establish a guardianship of less than five years so as to help the country go along the democratic and independent road as a sovereign state. A strong campaign swept Korea as a whole to support the decision. Two rounds of the Soviet-American joint committee meeting took place addressing the matter of establishing a provisional government of Korea, but all in vain due to the Americans' scheme to set up a separate pro-American government in the southern half of Korea.

When things came to this pass, Kim Il Sung, founder and leader of the Workers' Party of Korea, directed primary efforts into the endeavour to attain unity of the entire nation for the purpose of establishing a pan-national unified central government on the democratic principle.

Upon his initiative a joint conference of political parties and social organizations in the north and the south of Korea took place in Pyongyang in April 1948, drawing 695 representatives from 56 parties

and social organizations whose total membership was as large as ten million in the north and the south. At the meeting Kim Il Sung suggested it as the immediate task of supreme national importance to make one Korea by frustrating the separate election in the south and establishing a unified central government on the democratic principle. Also, he put forward special and substantial policies of national salvation. Rising above the differences in political views, the representatives of the parties and social organizations unanimously demanded the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Korea so as to avoid the danger of national split, and declared that they were opposed to and rejected the so-called UN Temporary Commission on Korea which was a tool of the US imperialists in the scheme to put Korea under their colonial subordination, that they labelled the separate election—slated for May 10 that year under the manipulation of the Americans—as an anti-national act ruinous to their country and rejected it flatly, and that they would not recognize any “government” that would be the result of the election. The April north-south joint conference was the first national meeting of the kind which dealt with the matter of national reunification with the participation of the delegates from both sides of Korea. In hearty response to the call of the conference all the Korean people in the north and the south turned out in the struggle to establish a unified government while rejecting the separate election in the south on May 10 as a traitorous action against the nation.

Following the north-south joint conference, a consultative meeting of leaders of political parties and social organizations in the north and the south took place in late April that year. The meeting adopted a decision on calling a pan-Korean political conference in the name of political parties and social organizations in the north and the south after the former Soviet and American forces withdrew from Korea and setting up a democratic provisional government of Korea, and then electing the supreme legislature of Korea through secret balloting on the principle of general, direct and equal elections which would institute a Constitution and establish a unified, democratic government of Korea. Antagonizing all those efforts, the US imperialists made sure that a separate election was carried out in south Korea to make up the so-called “national assembly” represented by pro-Japanese elements and traitors to the nation and cook up a reactionary puppet regime.

Considering the situation in which a separate regime came into existence in south Korea, the ►

Foolish Attempt to Rob an Islet

RECENTLY AN OLD JAPANESE TEXTBOOK which clearly shows Tok Islet belonging to Korea has been discovered, drawing the attention of the world public. In the textbook issued by a publishing house of Japan in October 1, 1924, there is a map of battles in the Russo-Japanese war. It has an explanation that warship No. 4 of Japan was the flagship in the naval battle at ten o'clock in the morning of May 28, 1905 and a geographical index expressly stating: "Tok Islet belongs to Korea." This points to the obvious fact that in 1924 the Japanese schools taught their children that the islet was indisputably a territory of Korea. The Japanese maps discovered in recent years ascertain that the islet is in Korean possession from olden times. The maps drawn in Japan before 1905 which show Tok Islet is a territory of Korea include those made during the 1592-1598 Japanese invasion of Korea and Japan's Edo feudal regime, the map of Korea's east coast drawn by the Japanese Naval Ministry in 1876, the hydrographic map of Korea and another map prepared by the Japanese Hydrographic Bureau. The Complete Map of Japan drawn by the general staff of the Japanese War Ministry in 1877 gives a detailed delineation of the whole territory of Japan, but Tok Islet is not shown in it. In 1899 the Land Survey Department of Japan drew a map containing a list of Japanese territorial divisions, and Tok Islet does not appear in it.

As everybody sees, historical data irrefutably proving Korea's legitimate ownership of Tok Islet are emerging in succession, but the ultraright conservative forces of Japan are obstinately denying them to seize the islet. This year, too, they are insisting on "incorporation of Tok Islet into Shimane Prefecture," and making a fuss trying to set up an office exclusively dealing with the Tok Islet issue within the government. Last February the Japanese government sent its Cabinet member to take part in the event of the "Day of Takeshima" in disregard of the Korean people's protest and condemnation. Shortly

afterwards, the Japanese foreign minister claimed a "dominium over Tok Islet," saying that Japan would consistently tackle the issue as it would not be solved overnight.

The world public has expressed serious apprehension over Japan's claim for "possession of Tok Islet," sounding the alarm that Japan is putting spurs to its drive for reinvasion. Similar concern is expressed in Japan itself. In an article entitled "We Oppose Japan's Reoccupation of Tok Islet," the chairman of the Society for Study of Modern and Contemporary History of Japan wrote that the issue of Tok Islet is not a matter of territorial possession but a matter of colonial seizure. The chairman accused the present Japanese government of calling Tok Islet still by Japanese name Takeshima while arguing that it is "a territory of Japan" in view of the historical facts and international laws, and denounced its attempts to grab the islet again. The reason why Japan repeatedly gets its Cabinet members to lay claim to Tok Islet in defiance of the protest and condemnation of people within and without is obviously to make the issue of Tok Islet an international dispute and imbue its people with a wild design on the islet. In this way Japan is going to pave the road for overseas reinvasion. Japan is now keen on an attempt to launch on its militarist overseas expansion to repeat its past history in which it inflicted immeasurable distress and miseries on the peoples of Korea and Asia. In this regard the Chinese *Sinhua* News Agency commented that it is really disgraceful that Japan should be trying to justify in every way, and refusing to admit its past misdeeds instead of repenting and amending them. It warned that if Japan goes on with such an attitude, the ultimate result will be to repeat its old errors and evils.

It is advisable for Japan to correctly grasp the general drift of opinions and behave itself with discretion.

Choe Kwang Guk

► Workers' Party of Korea took a decisive measure to carry out a pan-Korean election for the establishment of the supreme national legislature that would represent all the Korean people. The consultative meeting of leaders of political parties and social organizations, convened again in Pyongyang from late June to early July 1948, decided to form the Supreme People's Assembly of Korea, which would be a pan-national democratic legislature of the country, by carrying out a nationwide free election, and establish the central government of Korea represented by the north and south Korean delegates. The meeting was followed by

a successful general election all around the north and south of Korea with the turnout of 99.97 percent in the north and 77.52 percent in the south, sending deputies to form the Supreme People's Assembly.

Representing the unanimous desire of the people in the north and south, the Supreme People's Assembly of Korea, the supreme power organ, was thus elected and then the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was declared to the whole world on September 9, 1948.

An Nam Hui

What Do the Kidnappings Show?

SHOCKING INCIDENTS happened recently: the south Korean puppet regime committed astonishing acts of kidnapping and abducting citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Months ago the south Korean authorities mobilized agents of their National Intelligence Service and human traffic dealers for an abortive scheme to abduct a dozen DPRK citizens to south Korea. They concealed the abductees in a secret place in a foreign country, but when the local authorities began raids against human traffic they attempted to move them to their local embassy before transferring them to south Korea. What is more surprising is that the scheme was masterminded by the south Korean Blue House. The south Korean ruler, sorry for the failures of earlier kidnapping schemes, gave a personal instruction that all the abductees be sent to the local embassy so that there would be no repetition of any miss this time. Then she reportedly supervised the whole process of activities in the contingency control room of the underground shelter under the Blue House. According to the instruction of the Blue House, the staff of the local embassy and agents concerned, fearing the abductees might be noticed if they moved all at once, divided them in several groups and took them to the embassy in secrecy. South Korean mass media likened it to an intelligent operation, noting that "it is unusual that the president came out for personal supervision and command."

Such happenings were frequent in earlier days, too. The south Korean authorities dispatched secret agents of the National Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Unification to neighbouring countries in the

guise of public servants, missionaries and businessmen for systematic operations of abducting and kidnapping inhabitants of the DPRK. A typical story is the kidnapping of DPRK children which was exposed to the public in late April-early May this year.

Slave traders of south Korea, disguising themselves as religionists, abducted and kidnapped nine children from the DPRK and detained them secretly in a hideout, where they gave them brainwashing, cramming illusion about south Korea and religionist ideas while defiling the DPRK's supreme dignity and vilifying its socialist system. When the children failed to absorb the content properly they were beaten with iron clubs or put to other cruel punishments. According to their testimony three and four children were forcibly taken to south Korea and America in 2011 and 2012 respectively. The anti-humanitarian crime regarding innocent children belongs to modern-day slave trade and barbarity in the 21st century.

Other victims of similar cruelties who returned home to the north from south Korea after experiencing the trickery of the south Korean plotters and human traffic dealers are exposing and denouncing their barbarous acts of human rights violation.

The DPRK strongly demanded that the south Korean authorities let up such acts of abduction and kidnapping and apologize for the criminal acts. Nevertheless, the south Korean regime committed another kidnap, this time even at the command of the south Korean ruler, which is a grave provocation against the DPRK.

Things are far more serious with the case. The south Korean conservative authorities make

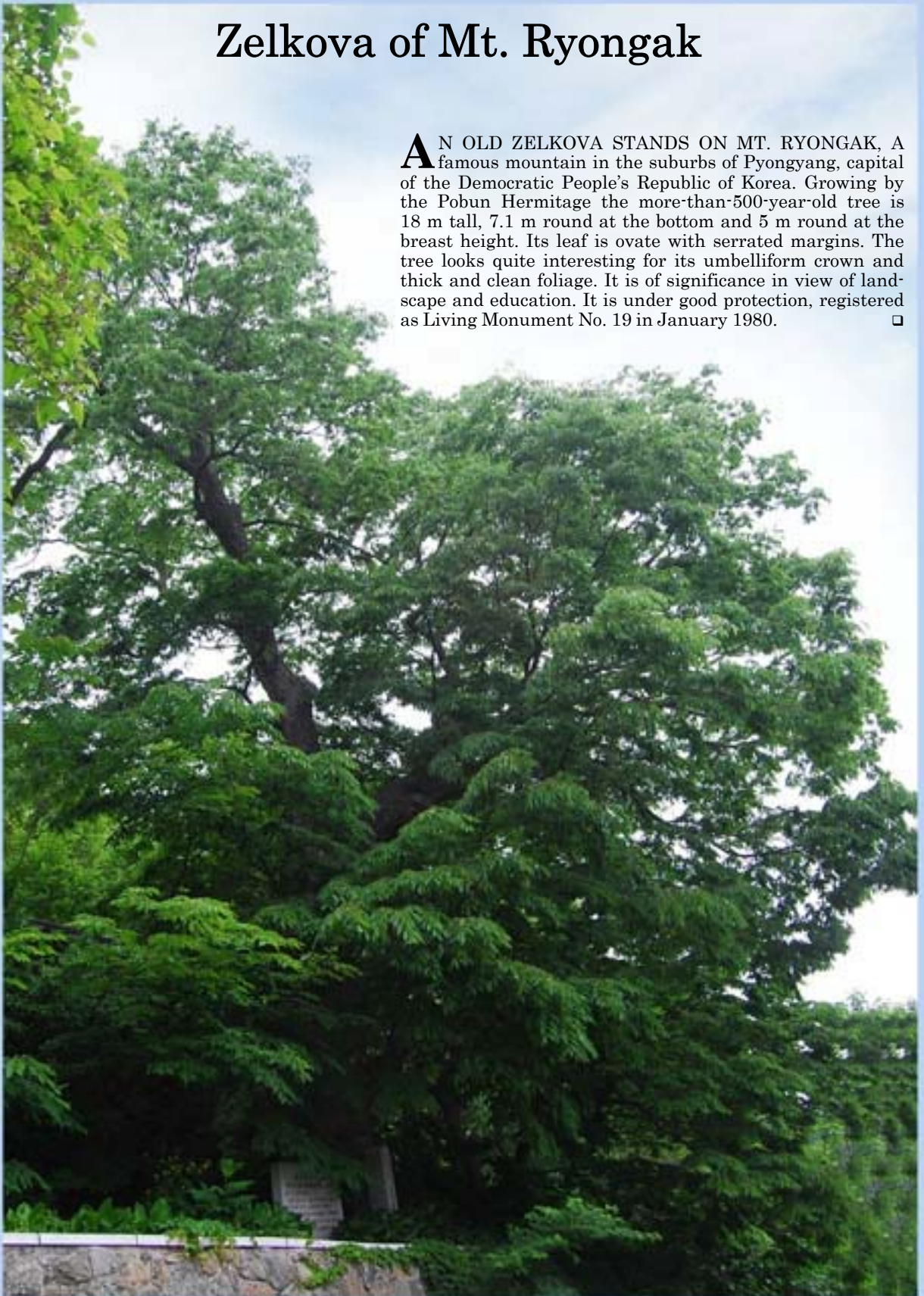
use of the abducted and kidnapped in their sinister plots against the DPRK and even mobilize them to perpetrate acts of destruction and sabotage in the north. The south Korean plot-making agencies have organized anti-DPRK terrorist groups of all hues, such as the so-called Liberation Front for the Northerners and Alliance for Destruction of Statues, and provided them with a huge sum of funds and means of destruction and sabotage before sending them to neighbouring countries and the northern border areas of the DPRK to enlist them in dirty schemes against the DPRK. A substantial proof of such schemes came to light in July last year when an unprecedented terrorist plan was thwarted beforehand which was intended to destroy statues and historical monuments in a northern borderline area of the DPRK. Moves inciting antipathy against the DPRK are going on more desperately, including defaming the supreme dignity of the DPRK, distributing leaflets and conducting vile broadcast against the north.

All these facts show that the south Korean authorities' moves of confrontation against their fellow countrymen have reached a critical level. The whole nation is angry about their refusal to accept DPRK-suggested dialogue while continuing attempts to abduct and kidnap inhabitants of the DPRK. The on-going vicious scheme of abduction and kidnapping shows that the south Korean authorities' allegation about the north's human rights situation is a shameless, deceptive argument and that the true criminal of human rights violation is the very south Korean regime.

Jang Myong Suk

Zelkova of Mt. Ryongak

AN OLD ZELKOVA STANDS ON MT. RYONGAK, A famous mountain in the suburbs of Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Growing by the Pobun Hermitage the more-than-500-year-old tree is 18 m tall, 7.1 m round at the bottom and 5 m round at the breast height. Its leaf is ovate with serrated margins. The tree looks quite interesting for its umbelliform crown and thick and clean foliage. It is of significance in view of landscape and education. It is under good protection, registered as Living Monument No. 19 in January 1980. □





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