



# KOREA TODAY

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## **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USSR Academy of Sciences Commemorative Medal**



**Chairman Kim Jong Il received the commemorative medal from a USSR Academy of Sciences delegation on May 22, 1989.**



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The workers of Korea are making collective innovations in the Mallima speed movement by exerting indomitable mental strength.



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**Front Cover:** Jon Kum Sil-led workteam of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill have fulfilled their two-year assignment of the national economic plan ahead of schedule.

*Photo by Ra Phyoung Ryol*



**Back Cover:** A pavilion in the Sangwon Ravine in Mt. Myohyang

*Photo by An Kang Rim*

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# Taking the Lead in Building Socialist Power

**S**UPREME LEADER Kim Jong Un said in his New Year address this year as follows:

**“All officials, Party members and other working people should launch an all-people general offensive to frustrate the challenges of the hostile forces who are making last-ditch efforts and raise the overall strength of our Republic to a new stage of development as they brought about a great upsurge in socialist construction overcoming all difficulties through the great Chollima upswing after the war.”**

In response to his appeal, all the working class of Korea turned out as one. The course of development of the Korean revolution is deeply associated with the fighting spirit and way displayed by the working class of former generations who brought about epochal changes through the grand

Chollima march. After the war (June 1950–July 1953), workers of the Kangson Steelworks produced 120 000 tons of rolled steel in a year using a blooming mill with a rated annual capacity of 60 000 tons, and in the flames of Chollima movement the workers in the machine industry made the first Chollima tractor and Sungni-58 truck and an electric locomotive.

The Supreme Leader intends to have the working class of the country today follow their predecessors’ fighting spirit so as to build a socialist power by their own effort and technology.

So, when he visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill two years ago, the Supreme Leader said that the Party members and other working people should emulate the fighting spirit and mettle of their predecessors who had performed miraculous merits answering to the question *Are You on Chollima?* He advised

that they should live and struggle so proudly as to answer the question *Are You on Mallima?*

Bearing it deep in mind that the real *Mallima* riders at present are those who follow the fighting spirit of their predecessors, the working class of Korea are making a breakthrough in reenergizing the overall fronts for the building of an economic power by their own efforts, technology and resources. All the factories and enterprises are bringing about collective innovations helping one another.

While conducting the vigorous campaign for overtaking and learning from others and exchanging experience, the officials, technicians and producers are creating a great amount of material wealth with the existing equipment, labour and materials and by dint of their collective wisdom.

They are concentrating all efforts on consolidating the independence and Juche charac-

**In high response to the call of the Workers’ Party of Korea.**



► ter of the national economy. The vanguard sectors of the national economy, the basic industries, are tapping and mobilizing all production potentials and waging a dynamic struggle to increase production and practise economy so as to enlist the economic potential of the country to the maximum.

The electric-power industry is putting great efforts in maintaining and reinforcing the self-supporting power generation bases and developing new power sources.

The metallurgical industry is further improving the Juche-oriented iron- and steel-making technologies, increasing the production capability and drastically raising the quality of metallic materials in order to satisfy the needs of the national economy for iron and steel. The chemical industry is increasing the production of various chemical goods with their own raw and other materials.

The machine-building industry is striving to produce much

more products of Korean style by modernizing production processes.

The work is under way to bring about a turn in improving the people's standard of living. Light industry is directing efforts to transforming equipment and production processes of light industrial factories into labour- and electricity-saving ones and producing and supplying much more diversified and quality consumer goods with their own raw and other materials, and all provinces, cities and counties are striving to develop the local economy by relying on their own raw material resources.

The construction of the Wonsan-Kalma coastal tourist area and other major construction projects, including the renovation of Samjiyon County, the construction of the Tanchon Power Station and the second-stage waterway project of South Hwanghae Province, are being accelerated and the construction of houses is continuing.

**Innovative achievements are coming at every workplace.**



► Meanwhile, concerted efforts are being concentrated on solving scientific and technical problems arising in consolidating the independence and Juche character of the national economy. The scientific research sector is solving on a preferential basis the scientific and technical problems arising in establishing Juche-oriented production processes, ensuring domestic production of raw and other materials and equipment and perfecting the structure of the self-supporting economy.

Every sector and every unit of the national economy are making a positive contribution to growth of production by intensifying the dissemination of science and technology and waging a brisk technological innovation drive.

This year, in which the Korean people will greet the 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Korean working class are advancing vigorously to raise the overall strength of their country to a new stage of development.

*Yom Song Hui*



# Together with Working Class

## Regarding Workers as More Precious Than Gold

ONE EARLY MORNING IN FEBRUARY 1953 when the Fatherland Liberation War was at its height, President Kim Il Sung visited a factory. It took a long time for him to look round all the workshops of the factory. Now officials asked him to have breakfast. He, however, said that he had not yet looked round the workers' dormitory and dining hall. Mentioning that people working in the places would be disappointed if he left without going to see them, he told the officials that he would have breakfast after looking round them. Then he headed for the dining hall.

Observing foods on the table, he asked a worker for a ticket. Without knowing the reason the worker gave him one. He took it to the pass-through and asked for a meal. A cook in the kitchen was at a loss to know what to do. With a smile the President told the cook not to prepare a special meal for him but give him the same one as the workers ate. After finishing the meal at the same table with the workers he went into the kitchen where he took the lids off the soup pot and rice-cooking pot to look into them. And seeing soybeans soaked in a wooden basin, he recalled that during the anti-Japanese armed struggle they had been quite pleased to eat boiled ground bean after having a victorious battle with the Japanese imperialist aggressors. Then he told cooks in the kitchen to make boiled ground bean and bean curd and raise bean sprouts so as to supply the workers with highly nutritious non-staple foodstuffs using even a kind of material. Calling the cooks to his side, he said that the workers were more precious than gold and repeatedly stressed the need to pay greater attention to the work of equipping the dining hall in a sanitary and cultured way and improving the quality of the foods despite the difficult wartime conditions.

Later he had scores of tons of soybeans supplied to the factory so that they could raise bean sprouts.

## World of Working Class

One July day in 1975 Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the Ryongyang Mine. After exchanging greetings with a senior manager of the mine, the Chairman made for the place where a hero workteam was working. At the moment the manager pointed to a hillside bearing an inscription that read, "This rocky mountain is a 'mountain of gold' and a 'mountain of money'." The official then explained that it was a remark President Kim Il Sung had made while inspecting the mine in April 1961. After looking at the inscription for a while, the Chairman said that he found the inscription meaningful as he read it carefully and that at the time the President had likened the stones in the mountain to gold and

instructed that even dust ores should be all dressed.

The official then told the Chairman that they had built a dressing plant to deal with dust ores and that they planned to keep expanding the capacity of the plant so as not to leave even a bit of dust ores unprocessed. The Chairman told that they should do so without fail, and headed for the spot where model workers of the mine were working. Standing face to face with the hero leader of the 7<sup>th</sup> excavator workteam, the Chairman asked how much they could overfulfil their plan for that year. The workteam leader clearly replied that they would overfulfil the plan five times. Then, looking round at the accompanying officials, the Chairman said, "You look, our working class are faithful like this. We should spare nothing for the working class. Ours is the world of the working class. So the Party and the State should give preference to the working class."

That day the Chairman took all measures to solve problems arising in the management of the mine.

## Reason for Preparation of Banquet for Workers

In April 2014 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the newly built dormitory of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. Mentioning that workers of the factory were provided with a fine home, he told the accompanying officials to look round the dormitory together with him and stepped into Block No. 1.

When he was looking round Dining Hall No. 2, an official of the dormitory told him that the place had two halls capable of seating 600 and 200 respectively so that 800 people could have meals at the same time. Then, the Supreme Leader said that the dining halls were really wonderful, that they were better than a banquet hall or wedding hall, that a banquet could be given there, and that a large banquet should be given there on the occasion of the coming May Day. He added that the factory might have workers whose birthday was May 1, and that all of them should be invited to the banquet so that they would celebrate their birthday.

After a while, he reiterated that a grand banquet for workers should be given there on May Day in such a way as to make the whole country become enlivened, and said that he would arrange the banquet himself.

When a senior manager of the factory thanked him, the Supreme Leader warmly said that they should further increase the production of cloth thinking of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who had always worked hard to provide the people with quality fabrics.

This is how the banquet for the workers took place to celebrate May Day.

*Sim Chol Yong*

# Like Their Predecessors

IN DECEMBER LAST year there took place in Kim Il Sung Square, Pyongyang a ceremony of launching new-type tractors and trucks manufactured on the strength of self-reliance and self-development.

While seeing the new-type tractors and trucks, many people could not keep back their tears of joy and excitement. They also shed the tears out of pride and pleasure in that they had manufactured those tractors and trucks by their own efforts and technique despite the US's heinous economic sanctions and blockade against their country.

Then what is the source of the Korean people's might of self-reliance and self-development? We can find the answer in the workers of the Sungni Motor Complex.

It was in 1958 that the complex's predecessor manufactured the first truck in Korea. Workers

and technicians of the small factory manufactured the first 2.5-ton truck *Sungni 58* in a short period of only 40 days while frustrating desperate manoeuvres of all sorts of class enemies and smashing conservatism, passivism and mysticism about technology. Later the factory rapidly increased production of various trucks, including *Jaju 64*, *Konsol* and *Kumsusan* of 10, 25 and 40 tons respectively.

In May 2016, in the run-up to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the workers of the complex succeeded in manufacturing a sample of new-style five-ton truck by their own efforts and technology.

After establishing serial production lines in a short period, they set a goal of mass-producing such trucks.

In January last year the complex held a conference of its managerial staff on producing five-ton

trucks. The senior manager of the complex said earnestly, "We have the fighting tradition of our predecessors. During the period of the great Chollima advance they manufactured in 40 days the first truck from scratch overcoming manifold difficulties. Under the banner of self-reliance let's work in the spirit of creating from nothing and attain the goal at any cost in the period fixed by the Party."

Afterwards all officers and workers of the complex turned out as one. Thanks to organic combination between heavy-duty truck workshop No. 1 and the precision processing workshop, the speed of processing the products gradually quickened. The precision processing workshop completed the products roughly processed by the heavy-duty truck workshop. A great advance was brought about in the processing of the main bodies and speed reducers, and thus

## A new type of trucks.





Production of trucks is accelerated.

▶ the speed of processing increased twice.

The units in charge of the preceding part of the production were no exception. Workers of the foundry steadily collected scrap iron and cast iron and produced scores of castings of over 40 sorts ahead of schedule. The engine workshop in charge of the general assembly advanced the

period of assembly from four days at first to two and then one. And they finished the assembly of the last truck's engine in half a day. They thus completed the general assembly by late September last year.

The officers and workers say, "The respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un saw the sample truck, our gift of loyalty

for the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. And he said that it was made very well and that it was a laudable result of self-reliance. His admiration inspired us to produce such trucks in the shortest time."

The Supreme Leader visited the complex in November last year and said with deep emotion that the workers of the complex manu-

▶ factured the new-type trucks very well in the period fixed by the Party in the same spirit their predecessors displayed in making the first truck *Sungni 58* with their own hands in only 40 days overcoming manifold difficulties after the war (June 1950–July 1953).

His words reflected his greatest trust in and high estimation of the workers of the complex.

*Sim Hyon Jin*



## Korean Silk

**S**ILK IS A NATURAL fibre made of silk thread from cocoons.

Korean silk has a long history and is well known across the world for its light weight, durability, beautiful patterns and softness.

Ancient Koreans already produced silk as well as cotton cloth and ramie cloth. It is said that in Ancient Joseon (early 30<sup>th</sup> century BC–108 BC) silk farming was developed very much and that people of Puyo used to put on clothes made of fine silk.

Later, silk was produced in various kinds with different textures, patterns and colours by different processing methods, and was used as high-grade material for clothes because it was finer and more beautiful than other materials.

In the period of Three Kingdoms (a general term of Korea's feudal states Koguryo, Paekje and Silla), silk farming was more briskly conducted across the countries, and the sorts of silk increased to a dozen, their colours and patterns becoming diversified.

Silk fabrics produced in those days were well known to China and Japan for their high quality and beauty.

In the period of Koryo dynasty (918–1392) the silk production technique further developed and its sorts further increased. And the materials were so excellent in quality as to be exported to not only

neighbouring countries but also the Middle and Near East, becoming widely known as *Koryo Silk*.

In the period of feudal Joseon dynasty, silk production bases appeared wherever lots of mulberry leaves and good water were available in the country. In particular, silk fabrics from Nyongbyon and Songchon in Phyongan Province, Cholwon in Kangwon Province and Suan in Hwanghae Province were very famous.

Korean silk fabrics were very beautiful in appearance and felt cool in summer and warm in winter. They hardly creased because of their high elasticity and were smooth to the touch. In particular, *kum*, a sort of silk with patterns weaved exquisitely with silk threads of different colours, has long been regarded as precious as gold. *Kum* disappeared with the appearance of *dan*, a new sort of silk, in the period of feudal Joseon dynasty.

According to the pages of history there are over 30 kinds of *dan* including *yangdan* (damask silk), *kongdan* (silk satin), *hobakdan* (taffeta) and *saek-tongdan* (rainbow-striped silk).

And other kinds of silk fabrics are widely known at home and abroad.

Korea is steadily increasing silk production to make an active contribution to the improvement of the people's life.

*Kim Un Jong*



# General Manager I Met on the Bus

ONE DAY WHEN THERE WAS A SURE SIGN of the advent of spring, we left for the Ryongsong Disabled Soldiers' Injection-moulded Boots Factory. When we got aboard a trolley bus from Pyongyang Station to Ryonmot-dong we saw a man of around 50 in the disabled soldier's seat take some high-quality boots of beautiful colours out of his bag and have a careful look at them. We came up to him with occupational curiosity. We said they were lovely boots, when the man said, "They were highly rated in the National Exhibition of Consumer Goods. My factory wants to produce varieties of high-quality boots like these." While having a talk with him we knew that he was Kim Yun Hwan, general manager of the factory we were just going to. When we informed him that we were on our way to his factory, he was quite glad and told us a story.

One day in 2003 Kim was appointed as general manager after working as a worker, materials supply officer and then senior engineer. Now he began to study the condition of his factory from a new angle. He came to know that it was behind the times. He embarked on refurbishing the process of injection-

moulded boots production to meet the requirement of the new century. Whenever he faced troubles he, believing in the strength of workers, appealed to them, saying, "It's not desirable to ask the country for help. We must repay the country for the deep care for us disabled soldiers. Let's run the factory by ourselves. There is nothing impossible when we rise up as one." Considering the factory problems as their own, the workers rose up to solve them. Soon the factory was equipped with boots production facilities, and put them on line.

Still, Yun Hwan was not content. He knew it was important to improve technical knowledge and skills of the workers so as to produce varieties of injection-moulded boots to people's liking. He put primary efforts into setting up a sci-tech learning space. He made a scrupulous plan for running the learning space, and helped the workers set a target of science and technology on the basis of the plan. He made it a rule to check and review their studying every month. Thus, they came to be good at computers, and a lot of technical and innovative ideas were introduced. Last year alone a PLC injection program and a stretch testing machine were upgraded for easier operation. ▶



▶ By putting great efforts into producing new kinds of products, the factory turned out diversified varieties of footwear of different types and colours, and launched the production of plastic building materials. Now the factory annually produces over 200 000 pairs of quality injection-moulded boots of different kinds including those for children, using domestic materials, and they are highly appreciated by consumers.

Finishing his story, Kim said, "The times are developing, and so is the people's living standard. To satisfy their high demand I as general manager should be well aware of the developing times while working hard."

When we got off the bus he guided us directly to his factory.

*Pak Yong Il*

**Different styles of boots are produced to the people's liking.**





## Devoted Efforts for Production

**WORKTEAM NO. 2** OF Workshop No. 2 of the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill has carried out its annual quota for the national economic plan ahead of schedule in recent several years. When I visited the mill to know the secret of it, Jon Kum Sil, leader of the aforesaid workteam, showed me her work-

team's production diary. At first I guessed that it only had names and figures, but what I saw to my surprise was lines filling its pages without margins. To my inquiring look Jon said they were what she used to put down in her spare moments.

...  
July 29, 2016

It seems that one who is aware of one's own strength can do anything. Today the young silk reeler Ri Yun Hui broke the record. The girl began to strive in December last year, and she has set a new record by operating 20 more spindles than Im Song Hwa. The moment she took a completed reel of thread off the last spindle, my

Silk thread production is on the increase.



▶ workteam fulfilled the day's production plan ahead of schedule.

Well, it can be said that the workteam's production increase is largely attributable to the effort of the innovators who have waged a dynamic campaign to overtake others. But it is also partly attributable to the support of assistant reeler: They were the first to put the machines in good working conditions soon after a shift of production, removed by-products from cocoons in time and often tied broken thread when it was out of silk reeler's reach. They think that they are contributing to the honour of the innovator workteam. Impressive was what Yun Hui said when she had the aged mechanic Ko Hyon A stand before a photographer who had come to take photos to be pasted on the billboard for the honoured. "She's the mother of innovators," said the young woman.

There is the "mother" of the innovator workteam—it is the spirit of valuing and helping each other.

...  
May 3, 2017

Today my workteam had a new member, Ri Ok Sim by name. Amusingly, all members of my workteam were overzealous as if they intended to make a high-skilled worker of the "newcomer" at once. However, Ri only followed Hyon Chung Sim, head of the first shift. Actually, Hyon's skill of tying thread strikes everybody with wonder, and she explains things plainly. So it is natural that Ri, who hopes to become a hero silk reeler, chooses Hyon to follow. The other aged workers, who had once taught Hyon the knack of working, are now learning her simpler method of tying thread quickly.

The spirit of my workteam members teaching and learning from one another reminds me of the following formula:

Learning from others + swapping experience=high skill=actual results

...

February 1, 2018

Today another member of my workteam has joined the ranks of students of the online college. My workteam is full of new enthusiasm for learning hard to become scientific and technical personnel. Most of them are distinguishing themselves as masters of invention. On the basis of the knowledge she had acquired at the online college Kim Un Sim, graduate of the college, proposed a technical innovation plan conducive to increasing the quality of silk thread by equalizing the thickness of thread. It was fruit of her repeated study at the sci-tech learning space and continuous application of the result to production activity.

Thanks to the innovation plan the quantity of products and the rate of passed goods rose remarkably. Indeed, an innovator today does not mean the one who sweats more than others.

Ri Kum Chol



## Small But Admirable Factory

THE PYONGYANG ELECTRICAL Appliances Factory is famous for producing any electric power system equipment as it wishes. When we visited the factory our first impression was that it was a small neat factory. When we said that the factory was small beyond imagination the general manager said, "Then let's have a look at a small one," and guided us to a machine. It was for producing electrostatic condensers which help electric power systems save electricity by means of power factor compensation of load. The small one the general manager had just mentioned was an aluminium foil folding device newly installed on the machine. The device was designed to make the rough cut surface of aluminium foil used as a plate become a folding surface. It can remarkably reduce failure rate of electrostatic condenser by preventing corona discharge on the rough surface.

The previous machine did not have the device. The factory had a lot of difficulties trying to import a new machine equipped with such a device.

Our predecessors already put an end to the history of electrostatic condenser import in the 1960s. To-

day such a manner of work should be displayed on a new high level—this was the viewpoint of the factory workers facing difficulties.

But the renovation of the machine was not an easy job. They had to repeat the interlocking experiment many times to solve problems arising in combining the old machine with the above-mentioned device. Whenever the experiment failed some people complained that the trifling thing took too much labour. Then the workers of the factory said, "Patriotism does not only mean something great."

The space for aluminium foil decreased by only 5 millimetres per machine, but the quantity of the foil saved increased tremendously as the time went by. It was by no means a small success in terms of the money saved without importing new machines and the condenser's increased life as well. And the success became the first step towards making all machines of the factory Juche-oriented and modern.

The workers of the factory kept setting a higher goal. It was when the matter was discussed to introduce automatic power factor compensation boards in all fac-

tories and enterprises across the country as required by the global trend. Previously factories and enterprises had ensured power factor compensation by installing an electrostatic condenser on the motor of each machine. The aforesaid board was aimed at managing and controlling such compensation in an integrated way.

When the factory decided to develop the board by itself, some doubted that such a small factory could develop the device of world standard. At the time the general manager said, "Of course our factory is not a professional institute. But we have a long experience of producing electric power system equipment. And it's not impossible to master science and technology. Why can't we do what others do?"

His words also reflected the spirit of his workers. So, when some suggested that they import only the control apparatuses, the cores of the boards, or get help from the relevant institute to make them even if they would make all other parts of the boards by themselves, the workers rejected it and managed to succeed in manufacturing the boards by relying on their own sci-tech force.

The general manager, with a



## Couple of Innovators

RI HO CHOL AND HIS WIFE Rim In Sun are model workers at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex.

Helping and leading each other full of happiness, the couple is held in respect and affection as treasure of the complex.

### Indispensable Man

Ri Ho Chol is the head of the turbine workshop. He has displayed all his wisdom and enthusiasm in the van of the workshop for over 30 years. He has also helped scores of workers become students of the online college.

Ri is well known as a master inventor as well in the complex. His inventions and new ideas were always highly appreciated in several festivals and exhibitions including the national sci-tech festival, and his workshop never concedes the first place in production competition every year.

So all the workers of the complex respectfully call him indispensable man for not only his family but also the workshop.

The State invited him to participate as a representative in the National Conference of Light Industry, and had a modern flat of 140 square metres in downtown Pyongyang allotted to his family.



### True Assistant

Rim In Sun's is called *power plant family* because all her family members had worked there for life, her father as a driver from its inauguration, her mother a cook in its mess hall and her elder sister a researcher in its laboratory.

In Sun regarded the power plant as the place of her life. So, after graduating from university, she volunteered to work as a designer at the turbine workshop and agreed to marry Ho Chol, the then operator of Turbine No. 1.

Their mutual affection derived from their unusual feeling of attachment to their jobs and workplaces is still invariable.

In Sun's devoted assistance helped Ri's workshop become a

model unit in the complex.

In Sun says, "The worthwhile work made us become the closest."

### With a Dream of Being a Worker Calligrapher

Their son Ri Kwang Myong is a member of the fine arts circle of Ponghak Senior Middle School in Phyongchon District. His dream and ideal is to become a worker calligrapher while working in the complex following in his parents' footsteps.

He spends most of time improving his handwriting by a brush. His aim is to create a masterpiece in the pulsating realities. He is always longing for the time for himself to start a worthwhile working life like his parents did.

Kim Son Myong

smiling face, said, "All workers of my factory have since taken to reading latest scientific and technological books. I'm more glad to

see them reading than the factory fully equipped with modern machines." We left the factory feeling that the small compound of

the factory was vibrating with the spirit, enthusiasm and patriotism of its workers.

Chae Kwang Myong

# Juche Idea, Revolutionary Doctrine of Independence (5)

## Popular Masses Are Subject of History

WHO IS THE MASTER OF HISTORY? WHAT are the cause and motive force of all social phenomena in human history? Where does history flow?

Humankind thought a lot and strove hard to learn the secret of the socio-historical movement for thousands of years. However, thousands of years of studies to make clear the big secret behind the history of human society and humankind failed to reach the relevant truth.

President Kim Il Sung created the Juche idea making it clear that the popular masses are the subject of history. He said, **“The popular masses are the subject of history. This means that they are the central figure in history and that social movement is realized by them.”**

He clarified that no social movement can happen apart from the popular masses, and that social movement happens and develops only by the masses’ positive action and role. His philosophical idea that the popular masses are the subject of history is rooted in the most scientific and perfect understanding of them.

The popular masses mean the social group in which people unite for commonness in their independent requirement and creative activity, with the working people as the core. In other words, the group of people with the genuine social nature of man just means the popular masses. For his social nature man becomes the master of his own destiny, and from this nature the popular masses become the subject of history to pioneer and lead social history—this was a firm standpoint of Kim Il Sung. On the basis of a new viewpoint of and attitude to the masses he made clear the reason why they become the subject of history. He proved that they are the most powerful being with independent requirement and creative ability and thus become the subject of history.

All social movements are started by the popular masses’ aspiration and desire for an independent life. All the enormous social and historic changes achieved by humankind so far were caused by the

popular masses’ desire to live happily as the master of nature and society free from all sorts of fetters. Absolutely inconceivable apart from the independent demand of the popular masses are the struggle of slaves that shook slavery to its very foundation, the revolutionary democratic movement that put an end to the feudal society, colonial countries’ national liberation struggle that put an end to the imperialist colonial rule, the socialist revolution that liquidated exploitation and oppression by capital, and the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—for eliminating all the legacy of the old society after establishment of the socialist system.

All socio-historical movements are caused and propelled by the popular masses. Looking back upon the history of human civilization, you can easily understand that history of human development spanning thousands of years was that of creation for independence of the popular masses. They always did everything by their creative ability out of their desire for independence, ranging from creation of material wealth for maintaining and developing human society to change of society and creation of valuable spiritual and cultural wealth whatever their level was.

Kim Il Sung declared that the popular masses are just the makers of history who have continuously advanced the human history while demonstrating tremendous spiritual strength and creative ability in the struggle against the ruling classes and for transformation and change of nature and society throughout the human history and that only the popular masses thus can become the subject of history.

He also clarified the decisive condition in which the popular masses take the position as the genuine subject of the social history and play the role as such.

That the popular masses are the subject of history means that they are the masters of history. This, however, does not mean that they take the position as masters and play the role as such of their own accord. History and reality clearly show that the people who are not awakened ideologically or united under right guidance cannot become the independent sub-

# Debate on Truth

TODAY THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE FULLY enjoying genuine human rights in all fields of social life including politics, the economy and culture. But the US and other hostile forces have fabricated an absurd “north Korean human rights issue,” and are further intensifying it day after day, distorting seriously the human rights situation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Then what is the falsity and truth?

## View of and Standpoint on Human Rights

The DPRK regards human rights as independent rights. Human rights, in the true sense of the word, are the rights of man, so the essence of human rights should be explained on the basis of man’s nature indisputably. Man regards independence as his nature, and the right to realize it is none other than the independent right, that is, human rights.

The DPRK also regards human rights as sovereign rights. That human rights are sovereign rights means national sovereignty. The peoples of all countries in the world are entitled to exercise human rights, the rights to realize their independent requirement, under the institutional and legal guarantee of the countries they are living in. This means that human rights are provided and guaranteed by the sovereignty of each country and nation, not by interference and instruction of any foreign country or international organization.

The DPRK regards human rights as the rights of the popular masses. They require the genuine right

to live and develop independently and creatively free from the fetters of nature and society, that is, independent right, and they are the possessor of the most powerful creative ability to achieve it. The requirement of the masses represents that of the social community, and coincides with that of each member of the social group. Thus, human rights put forth and realized by the masses are those in the true meaning that both the requirements of a certain group and those of its individual members are realized at the same time. To safeguard and give full play to the independent right of the popular masses, and frustrate resolutely the manoeuvres of the hostile forces to violate and take away that right—this is the DPRK’s view of genuine human rights.

The DPRK recognizes what the people like as a fair standard of human rights. It is the people who not only require and realize genuine human rights but also judge and assess whether the human rights situation is good or bad. The standard that reflects and helps realize the people’s independent requirement and aspiration is the genuine standard of human rights, and what the people like becomes a fair and genuine standard of human rights.

## System of Providing Human Rights—Legal Guarantee

In Korea vigorous efforts have been made to enact laws to establish a system for providing socialist human rights in reflection of the establishment of the socialist system and the dynamic acceleration of the socialist construction. On December 27, 1972 there

▶ subject of history leading the human society even though they are great in population and excellent in wisdom.

Kim Il Sung also elucidated the essence, character and motive force of human history, and the direction of its development. He said: **“The history of mankind is the history of the struggle of the working masses for independence; the creative activities of the popular masses underlie the development of history and social movement.”**

Proceeding from the socio-historical principle

that the popular masses are the subject of history Kim Il Sung made it clear that the essence of the socio-historical movement lies in that it is the popular masses’ struggle for independence and that the character of the movement lies in that it is their creative activity. And he added that the masses’ independent ideological consciousness plays a decisive role in the socio-historical movement and that the direction of development of human history is that in which their position and role are further enhanced. ◻

► was adopted the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which stipulates the basic rights that citizens should have and enjoy in politics, the economy, culture and all other fields of social life.

On the basis of the constitution, there was established a socialist system for providing human rights in all fields. As a result there were enacted and enforced the Law on Enforcement of the Universal 11-year Compulsory Education, the Law on Abolishing the Tax System, the Law on Nursing and Upbringing of Children, the law on land, the Socialist Labour Law and the Public Health Law. The Sixth Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK held in 2012 published the SPA ordinance on enforcing the universal 12-year compulsory education.

The system for providing human rights in Korea was formed and developed through embodiment of the Juche character and national character and reflection of the people's independent aspiration and requirement. And it was developed in the direction in which its composition and overall contents became strong in popular character and subdivided in detail as social life developed in depth and the guarantee for realizing the aspiration and requirement was further strengthened.

Korea also has a regular organization system for providing human rights. It has several organizations, including the National Committee for Implementation of the International Human Rights Convention, for providing international cooperation in the field of human rights and other organizations relating to human rights such as the Law Institute and the Population Institute. Typical of Korean human rights organizations according to their activities are the Korea Association for Human Rights Studies, the Korea Education Fund, the Committee on Measures for the Korean Sexual Slaves for Japanese Army and Drafting Victims, the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, the Lawyers Society of Korea, the Democratic Lawyers Association of Korea and the Korean Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Association.

### Benefits They Are Not Aware of

Sometimes the Korean people ask themselves, putting their hand on the heart—*Do we know all the benevolent policies and social benefits from the State?*

Actually, the Korean people enjoy much more

benefits that they do not know than those they know. Among the popular policies enforced by the State there are the universal free education system, the universal free medical care system, social insurance and security systems and recuperation and relaxation systems, all intensively expressive of the advantage of their socialist system. Besides, there are many social benefits like construction of dwelling houses and nursing and upbringing of children at the State expense and abolition of the tax system.

The Korean people are legally provided with such social benefits. In regard to free education alone in Korea those who have a wish and ability can go to university or learn to the full free of charge while working. Recently the country has increased the period of compulsory education from 11 years to 12 years, which is also provided at the State expense in total. The investment in education is further growing intensive day after day, and a dynamic social campaign is in full swing to train able personnel for different sectors.

Today in Korea holiday camps are built in celebrated mountains like Mts. Kumgang and Myohyang and other scenic spots so as to provide the people with pleasant holidays. The holiday-makers are enjoying themselves through colourful activities such as mountaineering, amusement and sports games. And many cultural and emotional life facilities appeared including the Masikryong Ski Resort, the Mirim Riding Club and the Rungna People's Pleasure Ground. All the enjoyers of this socialist civilization are the working people.

The State builds dwelling houses for industrial, agricultural and office workers at its expense. In recent years lots of dwelling houses have sprung up across the country. In the capital city of Pyongyang, for example, there appeared Changjon Street, Unha Scientists Street and Ryomyong Street, all built for and allotted to ordinary workers, teachers and scientists free of charge. The State also provides necessary furniture for those houses.

It is the consistent stand and will of the DPRK that it should pluck stars from the sky if the people wish it, and that it should not think of income and expenditure calculation first in the work for the sake of the people. Thus the Korean people are keenly feeling the pride and happiness of living under the people-centred socialist system at every moment of their life.

An Chol Ho

## Scientist's Attitude



Researchers who have developed an intelligent fire monitoring system and the certificate of registered product of latest technology.

RESEARCHERS OF THE power electronics laboratory of the dynamics faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology developed an intelligent double-wire fire monitoring system. The system is favourably commented upon by the users for high precision of its information analysis, its simple operation and management and its economic effectiveness.

Previously in Korea they developed and used fire warning systems dealing with individual sensors. The systems were very bulky and complicated in wiring, so it was not easy to operate and manage them.

The abovementioned researchers then set a high goal of developing an intelligent fire monitoring system as required by the era of

knowledge-based economy, and buckled down to the research. What was important was to make sensors suitable for different circumstances. But things did not go well as the researchers thought. Some of them doubted whether they could develop such latest technology-based devices by themselves. Then Ri Song Chol, head of the laboratory, said, "We're going to develop them without fail not because we want to show them to anyone else. We aim to make it possible to detect fires in their early stages and take necessary measures so as to ensure social stability and securely protect the lives and properties of the people and the property of our country. It is the duty of scientists in our era and the attitude we should keep, I think. We must make the

advanced product with our own technology and resources."

His words touched the other scientists' hearts. From then on they solved knotty problems in the research one by one through brainstorming. At last they succeeded in developing an ionizing smoke sensor, a photoelectric smoke sensor and a temperature sensor. On the basis of the success they scientifically established for various sensors the modes of receiving transmitted signals and those of power supply and voltage stabilization. They thus completed the high-performance intelligent fire monitor and equipped it with a double power supply system for the purpose of putting it in normal operation in any conditions.

The intelligent fire monitoring system is highly reliable as it

## Sambyolcho and Pae Jung Son

**P**AE JUNG SON (?–1271) was a general who commanded Sambyolcho (a special capital defence unit) resistance force during the period of the Koryo dynasty (918–1392). Sambyolcho was the term indicating Jwabyolcho, Ubyolcho and Sinuigun.

When a nationwide revolt broke out in the latter half of the dynasty, the bewildered military rulers organized a Byolcho unit with strong and nimble men to be on patrol every night, hence the name Yabyolcho (a unit on patrol at night). Later, when the number of its soldiers increased, Yabyolcho was divided into Jwabyolcho and Ubyolcho. And Sinuigun was formed with young and middle-aged men who had escaped from foreign aggression troops' capture. Combination of those three units was called Sambyolcho.

In 1231 the foreign invaders, who had emerged as a large force north of Koryo, intruded into the country six times to conquer it. At that time Pae Jung Son, together with his colleagues sharing the same idea

with him, inspired the soldiers and the people to the struggle against the aggressors. Responding to his call many people gathered around him at once, and Pae broke the arsenal to arm them. After making full preparations for resistance he led them to Jin Islet in the West Sea of Korea which was very good for checking the enemy's attack.

The resistance force built a new base on the islet under the command of Pae on the one hand, and waged a vigorous struggle to control the area of Jolla Province, seizing Janghung, Raju and Jonju on the other. Having a complete command of many villages of the province and the West and South seas the resistance force successfully repulsed the attacks of over 1 000-strong aggression force several times. This caused vacillation and confusion inside the enemy, so they dared not attack the islet in haste. When the resistance expanded, the foreign aggressors schemed to appease and deceive the resistance force but the latter launched greater retaliation and made further

achievements in battles. Then, owing to the cowardly conduct of its some commanding officers and a renegade within the ranks, the resistance force was defeated in a battle with the enemy who had suddenly attacked it from three directions with thousands of troops and more than 100 warships in 1271. In the battle Commander Pae died, hit by countless arrows.

Afterwards, Sambyolcho moved its centre of activity to Jeju Island and continued to struggle until 1273. Though their struggle failed, it encouraged the people across the country to wage continuous struggles. Eventually, the foreign aggressors acknowledged the sovereignty of Koryo, and had no other choice but to enter into peaceful diplomatic relations with its government.

The resistance of Sambyolcho demonstrated the resourcefulness and patriotic spirit of the Korean people who fought to defend the independence of the nation, and later helped keep maintaining the sovereignty of the country.

*Pak Thae Ho*

## Pyongyang Teachers Training College

**S**OME TIME AGO I VISITED THE NEWLY reconstructed Pyongyang Teachers Training College situated in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang. What caught my eye first in the compound of the college was its new buildings and a wide playground covered with artificial turf.

Rector Pak Kum Hui of the college told me that her college had developed education-support programs and e-edification data and compiled lots of teaching materials to implement the programme of the universal 12-year compulsory education. Now she led me to an education and science exhibition hall. On display in the hall were an education program and syllabuses of lectures for teachers training colleges, reference books, newly developed education materials and teaching plans including *Primary School Education Psychology*, *Kindergarten Education Psychology* and *Mother Tongue Teaching Method*. Spectacular especially was a large electronic board whose screen under the headline "Compete with the World, Challenge to the World, Lead the World!" was showing in

succession sci-tech achievements, including scores of new programs and systems such as virtual teaching experience system *Honsin 1.0*, family education program *Sarang 1.0*, primary schoolchildren's program *Aeguk 1.0* and multifunctional distance learning-support system *Injaeganguk 1.0*.

Pak also told me that they developed a system capable of controlling and guiding comprehensively the college's educational and scientific work as a whole and that unlike in the past the newly reconstructed college had multifunctional special education classrooms such as primary school education practice rooms, nature experiment and education practice rooms and a children's intelligence development method learning space.

A primary school education practice room was the first she guided me to. The students were practising in the skill of controlling the psychology of primary schoolchildren in both virtual and real circumstances. I saw one of the students practising in teaching while having a dialogue with pupils displayed on the



► can quickly and accurately detect varieties of fires occurring in any place. The test operation in over 40 units turned out successful.

The success is drawing great

attention as it makes it possible to reduce the manufacturing cost drastically and save lots of materials and labour.

In June 2017 the fire monitor-

ing system won a DPRK certificate of registered advanced technology-based product.

*Sim Chol Yong*



**Future teachers with high qualities and qualifications are trained.**

▶ electronic board, and the student looked just like a primary school teacher. The pupils displayed on the screen, I was told, were those of Kwangbok Primary School in Mangyongdae District. As an affiliated school of the college it is linked with the college through the State computer network, making it possible for the students to practise in teaching without having the trouble to go to the school.

Next I dropped in at the education evaluation room where students were learning how to assess attainments of pupils, teacher's work, intelligence of children through animations, 4D simulation films and amusements, and child's ability by means of a 3D image input device.

Then I looked round a "mother classroom" where students were practising in the skill of combining school education and family education and a teaching aids making practice room where students were practising in making various teaching aids by themselves.

The next leg of my visit was a virtual classroom. Mentioning that it was impossible to show all ▶

▶ things of nature only with teaching aids and models during a primary school's lesson for the nature subject, Pak said that what made it possible to use virtual teaching aids of all realms for lessons was an advanced spherical display and that the display was equipped with hundreds of kinds of programs to teach knowledge of the earth, the sun and all other things of nature.

All places of the college enabled me to realize that the college made its education work scientific, IT-based and modern on the basis of educational and scientific achievements.

And I looked round a multifunctional gymnasium, a well-stocked library, an indoor swimming pool and the dormitory, all fully provided with necessary conditions and environments. This reminded me of the Workers' Party of Korea's idea of attaching importance to posterity whereby the Party spares nothing for education of posterity for the purpose of training the students into future able teachers of noble personality.

I left the college with confidence that graduates of the college would train children into fine reliable pillars of future Korea.

*Sim Chol Yong*



# Online Education in Korea

**N**OW IN KOREA LOTS OF workers are enrolled at the study-while-working online college. Some time ago a Korea Today reporter had an interview with Kim Il Nam, rector of the online college of Kim Chaek University of Technology.

**I'd like to know who enrolls at the online college.**

Anybody who desires to study at the college can be admitted to it. When my college started the online education in October 2010, all the students were industrial workers. But as science and technology have been further integrated with production and the leading role of science and technology has strengthened in the economic sector, more and more people want to learn science and technology. As a result, public interest in the online education grows day after day.

At present not only industrial workers but also university graduates are enrolling at the college out of their desire to be familiar with the trends in the development of modern science and technology. And leading officers of industrial establishments attend my college. But most of the students are industrial workers. At first the online education was given to over 40 workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, and now over 20 000 working people of over 4 000 factories and enterprises across the country are receiving the education. The workers can attend online lectures at sci-tech learning spaces of their workplaces or via the State computer network. And those who want to get the online



Distance education serves as an effective means

education can receive it anywhere else.

**I'd like to know whether the subjects are fixed, or the students choose the relevant subjects as they wish.**

At the outset we selected the subjects in relation to the education of the university and gave the relevant lectures alone. But it could not satisfy the requirement of the developing times and aspiration of the people. So we boldly broke with the stereotyped and uniform lecture mode and innovated the form and contents of the education. Now 500 to 600 subjects on 40-odd indexes have been put into a database to give lectures, and the workers are very glad to be able to receive lectures on subjects they choose.

Moreover, we have arranged a non-real-time question-and-answer system that makes it possible to question and answer at any time besides a similar

real-time system operated at a fixed time, and thus the worker students can learn to their heart's content at their convenient time. And previously a teacher dealt with only one student at a question-and-answer time, but now many students can discuss their views with the teacher at a time by means of question and answer. Those students with high scholarship graduate from the college ahead of schedule.

**What roles do the graduates play in practice?**

My college produced its first graduates in 2015. And many students graduate from the college with high marks every year, and some of them were awarded degrees as well as certificates of graduation. Generally, the graduates present their graduation papers on solving problems in production, so they are of high value. Those papers are immediately translated into reality, greatly contributing to

▶ the technical development of the industrial establishments concerned, and their publication enjoyed high appreciation at



to train able people for sci-tech development.

the national sci-tech festivals and the sci-tech paper readings. Now my college graduates are favourably commented upon at their workplaces across the

country including the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Osoksan Granite Mine. They are distinguishing themselves as

inventors, technical innovators and masters of sci-tech development.

**I'd like to know your future programme.**

Our country is striving to turn itself into a talent power and make all the people well-versed in science and technology. So it can be said that the duty of my college is growing greater in training in a planned way able managerial personnel capable of running technically intensive industry and modernized economy at factories and enterprises, and building up the sci-tech development forces.

In keeping with the reality we are now arranging many places for real-time lectures, further improving the system in operation at present and developing the one accessible to more and more students. Together with this, we are also developing various systems conducive to the study of the students. I think this will make it possible to train lots of workers across the country into those with the knowledge of university graduate's level and masters of sci-tech development. □

## Kumdanghwa

**K**UMDANGHWA HAS long been known as a valuable plant which has nothing to discard from flowers to fruits, leaves, stems and roots. The flower contains medicinal materials such as flavone, natural vegetable estrogen and vitamins C and E, many microelements like calcium, magnesium and selenium, and different essential amino acids. So it strongly acts as a febrifuge,

an antidote and anticancer and anti-inflammatory agents, an antioxidant, an adjuvant, an accelerator of blood circulation in the brain and heart and an anti-aging agent. And it helps remove or reduce climacteric disorders of middle-aged and old women.

The fruit helps strengthen the spleen and the stomach and intestines and promotes granulation.

The flower, leaf, stem and

root of *Kumdanghwa* are good additives in making noodles, wheat vermicelli and bread. The oil extracted from the fruits is edible and can be used as an additive for high-quality lubricant and cosmetics.

With big flowers of beautiful colour *Kumdanghwa* can be planted along streets and in villages and the compounds of institutions and industrial establishments for ornament.

The plant is cultivated in several regions of Korea including Hyangsan County of North Phyongan Province and South Phyongan Province. □



# Story about a Nurse

**R**YU SU OK, A NURSE OF Baby-care Department No. 1 of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, derives pleasure and pride of life from taking devoted care of babies. Ryu never thinks of her life apart from looking after babies.

## First Nurse

On February 4, 1963 a matter for congratulation happened to the family of woman war veteran Pak Yun Ryop: she had a lovely daughter. Previously Pak had given birth to three boys, so the daughter soon became a beloved child of the whole family. After discussion her parents named her Su Ok in the meaning of a beautiful jewel.

Su Ok grew well with envy at nothing under the care of her parents. As she attained her years of discretion she heard from her mother what had happened in her life. And her story of her beginning to work as a nurse from the period of the Fatherland Liberation War (1950–1953) inspired the daughter to determine to dedicate herself to the sake of people like her mother had done.

One January day in 1980, before graduating from middle school, Su Ok heard the news that a maternity hospital equipped

with modern incubators would be built in Pyongyang. So she unhesitatingly wrote in bold letters “Nurse of Pyongyang Maternity Hospital” in the blank for hope of her diploma of graduation.

On July 30 of that year the ceremony took place for the completion of the hospital with the attendance of its doctors and nurses including Su Ok at the young age of 17.

## Like Their Own Mothers

After Su Ok began to work as a nurse, anxiety got the better of her rather than self-confidence. *Can I take good care of babies?* She worried inwardly, for she knew she had poor experience and skill. Moreover, she had to look after abnormal babies, victims of premature delivery or undergrowth. Her face often showed feelings of disappointment and apprehension.

Then chief nurse Ri Hye Gyong with rich experience in clinical practice seemed to read her mind and told her, “Determination is the first in doing everything. What is most important is to take care of the babies as well as their parents should do them. Try to look after them like their own mothers should do. Then the babies will be

all right.”

From then on Su Ok strove to do as the chief nurse had advised: She read many books without wasting time, and in her spare time she learned from other nurses’ good experience. She also studied foreign languages and read foreign medical books avidly. Back home after work she even conducted simulated clinical training with the help of her mother cutting hours of sleeps. In the course of this she grew in experience and improved her skill. At last she became the best nurse in the hospital.

The chief nurse’s advice served as a mental support for Su Ok to dedicate herself to the care of babies for 38 years.

## Noble Title

At 11 pm on January 2, 1990 a pregnant woman in a critical state owing to an accident was rushed to the hospital. The woman gave birth to a child in a delivery room prematurely, about 200 days after pregnancy. The condition of the baby was very bad at the moment. It weighed two kilograms or less, and its pulse and blood pressure were abnormal. Its respiration was not good. So the baby was immediately put in an incubator followed by intensive care for it.

The doctors held consultations about the condition of the woman and her baby several times a day, and lots of tonics and medicines for promoting nutrition were administered to them every day.

Just 100 days after the beginning of the intensive care the woman and the baby left the hospital in good health. The nurse who had taken care of the baby was Su Ok. This led to her friendly relations with the family of the baby whose father is Ri Song Chol, who was working at the Pyongyang Textile Machine Factory. The baby’s parents named it Ha Na (oneness) in the meaning that its life and Su Ok’s are just one. From then on Ha Na

# Breakers of New Ground



**R**ECENTLY THE KONGANG Joint Venture Company of the Ministry of Public Health produced a new Koryo medicine for diabetes, one of obstinate diseases at the moment. Generally, medicines for diabetes have disadvantages of developing symptoms of hypoglycaemia, digestive troubles and dysfunction of liver when they are taken for a long time.

There was a motive for researchers of the company to pay attention to the problem. One day researcher Kim Tong Suk visited a hospital which deals with troubles of metabolism. A patient she met said that he had been harassed by his constitutionally bad liver and that his problem was coupled with diabetes. He was at a loss because when he took a medicine good for diabetes his liver became worse, and when he took a medicine good for liver his blood-sugar level increased.

Hearing Tong Suk’s story, the researchers felt that anti-diabetic

should have multi-functions of controlling the blood-sugar level while protecting other organs. There were already some Koryo medicines of multi-functions, but they could not satisfy the demand as they cost a lot. The researchers bravely expanded the scope of their research to hundreds of kinds of materials of Koryo medicines including pumpkin leaf. Once they paid attention to *Sophora angustifolia* which is richly found in mountains and fields of Korea. Repeated experiments proved that *Sophora angustifolia* has a large amount of effective elements for accelerating the function of pancreas cells’ secretion of insulin. Then they established a new method of extracting and separating physiological activators from *Sophora angustifolia* by employing Koryo pharmacy. Finally they made an effective medicine with the substances as the main materials.

Pharmacological elements of the medicine bring the diseased

metabolism due to shortage of insulin back to normal values while terminating the subjective symptoms of complications including nephrosis, retinosis and neurosis caused by diabetes. Especially, it has no side-effects like hypoglycaemia, digestive disorders and hepatosis. According to some curative and preventive organizations, it is effective for not only non-insulin-dependent diabetes but also insulin-dependent diabetes. Ri Man Sop, resident in Haeun-dong No. 1, Phyongchon District, says, “Until recently I couldn’t go out at all because I fell into a coma due to diabetes several times a day. Now I can walk around by myself thanks to anti-diabetic made from *Sophora angustifolia*. I am confident of my future.”

The technology of the anti-diabetic production was registered as patent of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Chae Kwang Myong



Ryu Su Ok (first right) is engrossed in the training of nurses.

► was more attached to the nurse than her own relatives, and when she reached the age of discretion she began to call the nurse *mum*.

Part of Su Ok’s diary reads, “Mum! The most beautiful and noblest word in the world would

be *mother*. This is why people feel the greatest joy and happiness of life before the word *mum*. How happy I am to be able to mirror myself in this friendly and affectionate, noble word without hesitation!”

Ha Na is working as a doctor at the maternity hospital following in the footsteps of the “mum” who is just to turn sixty.

The “mum” has lots of children like Ha Na.

Choe Sol Mi

# Enthusiasm for Sports Leads to That for Miracle and Creation



Some time ago, a Korea Today reporter had an interview with Kim Yong Il, chief secretary of the Taesong District Sports Guidance Committee, Pyongyang.

**Recently Taesong District has achieved good results in sports field, I think.**

Everywhere in the country people's interest in sports is very high. The same is the case with our district. The women football players of the Taesong District Juvenile Sports School won the relevant event of six rounds at the national sports contest of juvenile sports schools. Other pupils of the district achieved the nine and five consecutive victories at the men's table tennis and badminton events of the National School-children's Sports Contest for Jongilbong Prize. In addition, they won consecutive victories at boxing, basketball, field-and-track

and volleyball events of other contests.

That's not all. Our district won the table tennis event at the municipal district (county) guidance organ officials' sports contest held in 2015 and the basketball event at the district (county) guidance organ officials' match held in celebration of the Day of the Shining Star in 2016. Workers in the district also distinguished themselves as good players in various sports games.

**That's great. What's the secret of all the success?**

It is the result of the effort to make sports mass-based and part of everyday life. Our district has many factories, enterprises, cooperative farms, hospitals, schools and neighbourhood units.

The district sports guidance committee saw to it that football, volleyball, table tennis, basketball and other matches were often organized between factories, cooperative farms, schools and neighbourhood units so as to create an atmosphere of sports activities in workplaces and villages.

Leading officials including the chairman of the District People's Committee themselves took part in the games. Emulating them, all officials and workers of lower units volunteered to join the mass-based sports activities. Housewives in the district are no

exception. Spectacular are their performance of health-promoting Taekwon-Do, mass rhythmic exercise and public health exercise done every sports day. And every school sees to it that all its pupils conduct various sports activities in after-school sports hours. Thus our district is all afire with enthusiasm for sports all the year round.

Our committee had a new sports sci-tech learning space built so as to provide factories and enterprises with news of international and national games and information on changed rules of sports games and common knowledge of sports in time so that they can conduct all sports activities scientifically.

As a result, all the working people in the district reached the standard of judgment for the examination of people's physical strength at over 96 percent. In this course, we discovered and trained many promising reserve athletes, who have distinguished themselves in international games.

**I'd like to know about it.**

The women footballers Jong Pok Sim, Kim Ok Sim, Jon Myong Hui and Ri Jin Ok—graduates of the juvenile sports school—won international football games and were awarded the titles of Labour Hero and People's Athlete on the same day, and their instructor

# Dream after Dream

IN JUNE 2015 WORLD junior weightlifting championships took place in Poland. In the men's 62kg category Pak Jong Ju from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea won three gold medals by taking first place in the jerk, the snatch and in total. Standing on the honour platform Pak said, "I want to present these medals to my coach who has led me to victory."

His coach is Ri Chol Nam at the April 25 Sports Club. In his childhood Ri was unusually strong and liked weightlifting exercises in particular. The weightlifting stars he saw on TV impressed the young boy as strong men, and inspired him to join in the event.

In the year when he was 14 the boy was admitted into a weightlifting circle as he wished, and later was summoned to Pyongyang.

*I will win gold medals to honour you, my hometown where I frolicked with my friends on the beach—this is the decision and dream he kept leaving his hometown. He, however, failed to do and had to give up weightlifting because he was seriously injured while training in April 2000. But he did not give up his dream, and he made up his mind to become a weightlifting coach.*

When people congratulated him on his charge's win after the end of the championships, Ri said with confidence, "Today my first dream has come true. In the fu-

ture you will see more and more Pak Jong Ju."

It was not an empty talk.

His charges proved his words credible. Pak Jong Ju took first place in the junior men's 69kg category at the 2017 Asian Junior and Juvenile Weightlifting Championships, Sin Chol Bom and O Kang Chol finished first and second respectively in the men's 62kg category at the 2017 Asian Weightlifting Championships and Sin Chol Bom came first in the men's 62kg category at the 29th Summer Universiad. For the achievement the coach was selected as one of the ten best coaches of the DPRK in 2017.

Ri is not so tall, and his eyes carry intelligence and his lips are usually closed tightly. At a glance he looks like not an athlete but a strict and yet generous teacher. What he regards as most important in his job is to be strict with his charges. He has never changed training tasks and plans for the charges however excessive and sweaty they might be. His theory is that only painstaking training can lead to success as efforts bear fruit.

His routine consists of selection of reserves with main emphasis on suitable physical constitutions and fortes, analysis of the trend of weightlifting development and renowned weightlifters' movements in competitions and studying of tactics. Even in his spare time the coach works



hard to provide his trainees with proper meals and nutrients suited to their constitution and proper conditions for their relaxation. He even prepares special foods for them lest they should lose their appetite, and gives feasts to those who celebrate their birthday. This makes the charges attached to the coach and encourages them to redouble their efforts.

Ri says, "They are just my dream and future. Every medal they win at international competitions means the honour of the people in my hometown and my motherland at large. This makes me take pride in my life."

As they did yesterday and do today, his charges will continue to translate his dream of gold medals into reality.

Kim Son Myong

Sports activities are further getting on a mass basis.



► Kang Chol Nam became Merited Teacher. In addition, the district has produced dozens of excellent athletes, including People's Athletes Yun Song Mi and Choe Kyong Im who made a contribution to their team's victory at EAFF Women's East Asian Cup 2015, Merited Athletes and the best players of the Republic.

**I've noticed that the district has developed sporting techniques rapidly by making sports mass-based and part of**

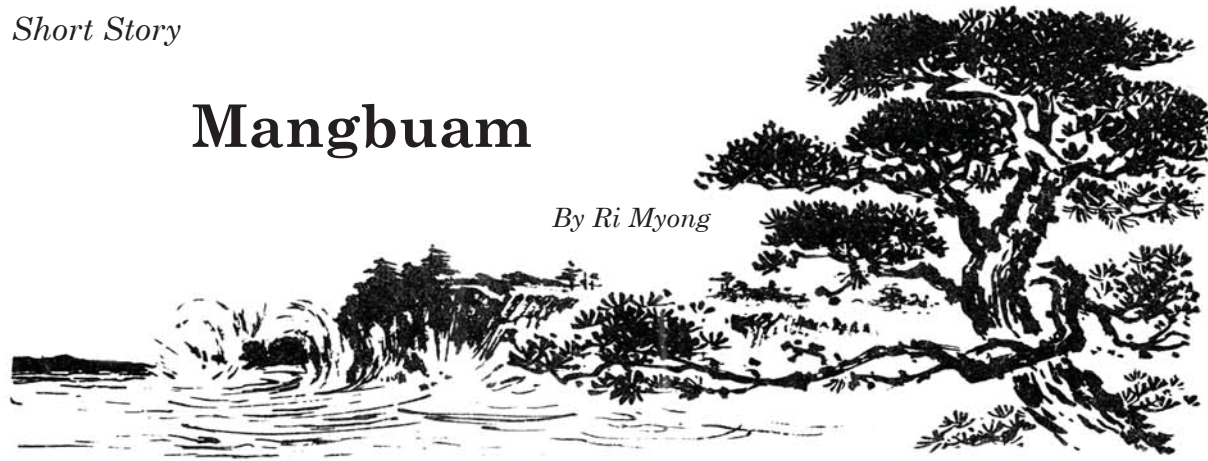
**everyday life, and I think the district has changed in appearance.**

You're right. The district indoor stadium was reconstructed in a modern style, four sporting parks were built and every unit was furnished with sports facilities. That's not all. Through the mass sports activities, the district has become full of optimism and delight and the noble spirit of helping one another and the united force of every collective has

strengthened. This is leading to success in production. Many factories in the district are overfulfilling their quotas for the national economic plan every year, and hospitals, schools and other units are bringing about innovations. This reality enabled us to realize that enthusiasm for sports leads to that for miracle and creation. In the future, too, we'll develop ours into a more civilized and lively district by dint of mass sports activities. □

# Mangbuam

By Ri Myong



(Continued from the last issue)

A DAMP NIGHT WIND BLEW from down the Taedong River. Ye Rim could not open her mouth yet, thinking of the sorrow she had undergone a year before and the fact that Ri had recently replaced the trees with others once again. The bothersome silence was broken by Choe Il.

“Recently I’ve been assigned the task of collecting skilled artistes as well as training artistes before creation of a new opera,” he said. “In fact the vocal solo contest this time was organized as part of the endeavour. I decided to recommend you to my seniors.”

“I’m not yet ready... It’s rather difficult to answer,” Ye Rim said.

“Why? Is it because of U Jin?” Choe Il asked.

“He still has a lot of things to do there,” Ye Rim replied.

“I don’t know all, but I don’t think there is any reason for him, a member of the botanical institute of the Academy of Sciences, to remain there. He’s not an expert on cultivation, and the condition of the academy is much more favourable for breeding of trees, I think,” Choe Il insisted.

“You may be right. But perhaps I’ve also become attached to my theatre. Sorry, but thank you for your concern,” Ye Rim said excusing herself.

She knew Choe Il’s advice was sincere, but she did not know what decision U Jin had made. And she did not want to solve her problem disgracefully by dint of acquaint-

ance.

The next day, however, her heart began to throb, like a forest swaying in a wind, when she was highly appreciated as the best soprano at the review of the contest. Famous artistes and artistic creation instructors in the city of Pyongyang warmly embraced her and shook her hands, each expressing their hope of singing together with her on the central stage. Then for the first time Ye Rim became convinced that she had a wide stage opened for her. It seemed to be a gate to a new life that could not be easily provided for all.

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*Ye Rim, look at my wax pink. It’s really beautiful, isn’t it? What a cute thing it is! In the morning I found the buds opened furtively at night. Oh, my, why is yours like that? It’s a pity it has not got buds yet. What’s the matter with it? We planted the same seeds on the same day, didn’t we?—this memory of Ye Rim’s girlhood, which had slipped past like a forgotten dream, was brought back by the monotonic rumbles from the wheels of the train.*

*I did not know at the time why my flowers bloomed later than others’ although we planted them on the same day. I did not know it was because I sowed my seeds on barren soil unlike others. The same may be the case with man’s life. Choe Il referred to the central stage as fertile soil. Can I really*

*develop there into an artiste to be held in affection by the people? And what would become of him? In the laboratory of the institute he might succeed in breeding the saplings for the windbreak of the Mangbuam area. By the way, what’s the matter with him? What made him think of taking a rest on Lake Samji? Was I wrong when I thought that he now might be writhing in agony? Wondering like this Ye Rim remembered what had happened the previous day. For several days she performed successfully in theatres in Pyongyang at their invitation, and that day, before leaving for home, she heard unexpected news from Choe Il who had taken the trouble to come to inform her of it.*

“U Jin phoned me at my office from the Samjiyon Holiday Camp. He said he is on holiday there. And he asked me to tell you to perform well as he had left your son in the neighbour’s care,” Choe Il explained.

Ye Rim could not quite believe the news.

“I can’t believe. He now does not seem to have a mind for a rest. How could he afford to indulge in such an idle thought? The other day he refused to go on holiday in Mt. Kumgang,” she said full of doubt.

“He must be that much tired with the unpromising work, so he couldn’t help seeking to enjoy a life that warms his body,” Choe Il reasoned. “Anyhow, when he’s back from the holiday, you should discuss well with him about your

► move to a national art troupe. His shifting also may not be rejected by the institute as it has had him try so hard for a long time, and he may know the institute’s condition for experiment of breeding with modern equipment is incomparably better than that in the Mangbuam area.”

The fast train must have entered the mountainous area as fragrance of a forest flew in through the window, carried on the cool air. And it was dark outside the window. Unable to go to sleep in the fragrant wind, Ye Rim was burning with longing for a new life.

*Right. There cannot be a reason for him to do the work in the Mangbuam area instead of doing so at the institute.* As Ye Rim confirmed such a belief, another thought flashed across her mind that U Jin might not leave the place readily.

In the Mangbuam area U Jin had put his heart into the work through half his life, and somehow the place had something to do with Ye Rim’s fate. Occasionally the shore appeared in her dream with vivid scenes of their happy and pleasant moments. So, after awaking from the dream, she was quite sorry, and tried to keep the past atmosphere of her girlhood for long in her head.

At the secluded seashore, the fire-red sun of May rose above the distant horizon, the blue sea waved glittering in the sunlight, shiny clouds of spring floated like balls of new cotton in the boundless blue sky, a chilly wind blew about as it liked on a vast stretch of reed marsh and crooked pines got asleep infinitely in the primeval stillness. At the very shore Ye Rim’s dream of love developed. By and by her countlessly alternating meditation reversed to the unforgettable shore where she happened to know U Jin for the first time.

The coach was running along a zigzag road in the ravine. The road became muddy by the rain that had fallen overnight. Seated in the rear Ye Rim was exercising

the voice to the accompaniment of Choe Il’s accordion, but she could hardly maintain her tone because the vehicle kept bumping. Choe Il’s fingers, which had been glidingly going up and down the keyboard, often pressed wrong buttons. Whenever he bumped his head against the back of the seat before him, his accordion produced strange sharp sounds, and Ye Rim bubbled with laughter.

“Oh, no, no,” Ye Rim exclaimed.

“Damn it! It’s just like a wild colt,” Choe Il complained.

For several days they had been travelling on the vehicle conducting artistic promotion activities on farm fields of the northern region where spring sowing was in full swing. Their conservatory had organized and dispatched contingents of graduates-to-be to every part of the country, and Ye Rim belonged to Choe Il’s group. Ye Rim tirelessly sang songs like a lark in spring, cheering the farm workers and their supporters in work. Now they were on the way to a mountain village far away from the town, so the road was that rough.

By the time the coach came to an uneven road along the shoulder of a mountain, a man with a straw hat on stepped aside from the road, raising his hand. He was the first traveller they came across on the empty road, and Ye Rim glanced at him as the coach was passing by him. He bent forward a little under the burden of his knapsack, and from the straw hat he was looking eagerly at the vehicle, his face dripping wet with sweat. Ye Rim repented of seeing his eyes at a glance. She thought she would be ill at ease if she ignored such expression of the eyes. Then she walked forward to the driver and whispered in his ear, “Why don’t we pick him up?”

“Oh dear! The conductress is being very sympathetic today,” said the elderly driver in the local intonation, and he stopped the coach. The traveller, who had been standing over there in disappointment, was now coming at a run with his lips compressed. Perhaps

because of his heavy knapsack he staggered not a little though he was in a hurry. Getting on gaspingly, he lifted up and down the front brim of his hat towards the driver.

“You give thanks to this girl,” said the driver, pointing to Ye Rim. The man turned round to her, raising his hand to his hat again.

“Oh, my!” Ye Rim exclaimed hurrying back to her seat. Then there was a burst of laughter. The traveller looked quite simple and honest. And Ye Rim was surprised to find him very young. She had been unable to estimate his age because his face was stained with sweat and covered by the hat. A little short in stature, the young man had broad shoulders, and his forearms with the sleeves turned up were sinewy. The skin covering his good-looking face was glistening tanned by the breath of the earth and the sun. Choe Il tried to pull him by the arm onto an empty seat.

“No, thanks,” the young man politely declined. Maybe because he thought he was lucky to get on the coach or felt awkward to be between the tidy artistes with musical instruments, he was not going to get up on the deck. His shoes were smeared with mud.

“Young man, what do you shoulder so heavily?” the driver asked, changing speed.

“They are Korean poplar saplings. I have to go before sunset lest their roots should become dry,” replied the young man.

“Where are you going?”

“To the Mangbuam area.”

“Dear me! You’ve taken the wrong coach. This bus turns to Muchang-ri when it passes this upward slope,” the driver said with sympathy.

“Really?” asked the young man with a puzzled look on his face. Bending his knees on the step he tightened up the drawstring of his knapsack. Ye Rim was anxiously watching his movements, and then she abruptly stepped forward the way she herself thought unbelievable.

(To be continued)

# New Path



**K**OREA APRIL 26 ANIMATION Studio is a distinguished animation production unit.

## Friendly Companion

Viewers of 3D animations from the studio are unaware of the passage of time while seeing the films. Since its foundation the studio has produced not bizarre and low-brow animations but those of various subjects and forms suited to thoughts and feelings of the Korean people. Especially popular were the ones suited to psychological peculiarities of children of different ages. The films served as a companion of children that helped understand the essence of things and phenomena and acquire ample knowledge, noble morality and a strong physique. The multi-part animation *Clever Raccoon Dog* in particular was highly appreciated

**Seriously engaged in creation of animations.**

► in France and many other countries across the world.

In the late 1990s, as required by the rapid development of animation production technique, the studio began to produce those not merely for children but also those that give a lot of knowledge and lessons to people of all ages. It introduced two-dimensional and 3D technologies while keeping producing those based on original drawings or dolls. Its first 3D animation was *Three Friends in Vision* followed by *Three Friends* and *Day in the Camp*.

On this basis the creators of the studio began to produce continued serials of the multi-part animation *The Boy General*. Originally the animation was intended to be finished by the 50<sup>th</sup> part. But at the request of children and adults attached to the film, the creators planned to increase the parts up to 100. The continued serials portray extensively and in depth high patriotism, martial spirit and beautiful manners and customs of Koguryo people, and vividly depict the foreign enemy who invaded Koguryo as not merely ignorant rogues

fond of only wielding swords but also sinister and cunning invaders who intended to enslave other countries and nations.

Such animations now serve as a friendly companion of not only children but also adults and are widely televised.

## Pioneers of Historical Animation

Recently the studio has produced the first multi-part historical animation *Ko Ju Mong*. Ko Ju Mong (298 BC–259 BC) was a real character who founded Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the first feudal state of Korea. It was not an easy job to incorporate historical characters and facts in a 30 to 40 minutes-long part of the animation. Writer O Yong Rim recalls, “At the time we creators made strenuous efforts as it was the first time for us to create the animation about a real historical character.”

There were failures in the course of creation. It was because they followed traditional methods

of portrayal like fantasy and exaggeration in depicting characters. Then they paid deep attention to portraying Ko Ju Mong as an ordinary person in his lifetime who exerted himself to realize unity of his fellow countrymen despite harsh trials and difficulties. In this course they studied and used as a foundation of production the relevant myths and legends and data telling that Ko Ju Mong was a good archer and that his mother sent him barley seeds on a journey.

Thus they managed to complete scripts one after another and translated them into films using 3D technology. The films became popular as soon as they were televised.

Pak Hak Mun, head of the studio’s literary production unit, says, “We took the first step in creating historical animations through production of the animation. On the basis of this, we’ll make each historical animation a history textbook.”

*Kim Ye Ryong*





## Worker Basketball Players

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR there took place a national basketball tournament of power industrial workers in Pyongyang.

The following is about a team from the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station who took first place in the production section.

### Secret of Their Win

Experimenter Ri Yong Gwan has been long working in the metal laboratory of the plant. Ri is also the chief secretary of its non-permanent mass sports association.

He was allowed to act as coach of the plant's team in the basketball tournament. Having heard the news of the oncoming tournament, many people doubted if the team was able to win because there remained only two months for training before the tournament.

Busy as he was guiding the team in training, he read and studied a number of sports magazines and books so as to map out his own unique tactics for the team. And he saw to it that all members of the team correctly carried out their training tasks to master movements required

by his tactics. In addition, he inspired them to bear it in mind that they were the workers in charge of power production of the country.

At last the team came back with a rotating trophy. When asked about the secret of their win, he replied: One surely wins if one believes in one's strength.

### Organizer Jong Pom

Jong Pom, who works in the turbine workshop, is a student of a study-while-working online college. Last year Jong played an important role in the endeavour

▶ to raise efficiency of the turbines. As the captain of the basketball team of the plant, he acted as the team's organizer during the tournament. He led the team just as the coach intended, organizing passes between backs and forwards so as to shift from district defence to prompt attack for a shot from beneath the basket or middle- or long-distance throws.

In the final match with the team from the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, he scored another goal in cooperation with his forward No. 9 in only a few seconds before the end of the game, thus making a decisive contribution to the team's victory.

As soon as the game was over, the spectators, who had watched the game breathlessly, said in admiration, "The organizer is really extraordinary."

### Master Shooter No. 9

Kim Kwang Hyok is a filter operator of the plant's chemical workshop. It is only seven years since Kim began to work at the plant. He, however, played as an active forward in the tournament. With a keen sense of the ball, he looks like a professional player just when he runs dribbling the ball and throws in from beneath the basket or shoots the basket from middle- or long-distance.

He succeeded in 60 or 70% of his shooting for three points during the tournament. He said he would take a large share in the endeavour to introduce a new automatic filtration measuring system this year without slackening his high spirit displayed in the game.

Kim Won Bok, Kim Yong Il, An Kyong Chan, Rim Phyong Il, Cha Song Hwan and other members of the team are also workers of chemical, heat production, coal delivery and transportation workshops. Though young, all of them are innovators.

They are still full of enthusiasm for making an active contribution to the production of electricity for the country by keeping themselves physically fit through steady mass sports activities.

*Sim Hyon Jin*



The workers are striving to boost power production.





## Home of Happiness

AT THE FOOT OF MT. Munsu, the highest mountain in Tongnim County, North Phyongan Province, there is the Tongnim County Farm Workers' Holiday Camp. It is nicely arranged to go well with the surrounding landscape. At its front gate Hong Song Hui, director of the camp, welcomed us and proudly said that though it was not long since the camp was built, it was already used by lots of people. She went on to say that farm workers go on holiday there in winter and summer, the leisure seasons for them, and that there was the last batch of the holiday-makers for the winter.

Hong then showed us round

different places. A two-storeyed building, the camp consists of rooms, each for two or four persons, an amusement hall and a dining hall.

We dropped in at Room No. 205 where a holiday-maker sat on a chair reading a book. Introducing himself as a tractor driver from Ryongsan-ri, he said, "Until the day before yesterday I drove the tractor on the fields, and I never thought that I would enjoy myself like this. All of us holiday-makers here were strangers to one another. Now we have made friends just as close as family members while enjoying wrestling and climbing."

In another room we met a holiday-maker from Sansong-ri. He

said, "We are just farm workers. We are far from heroes, and we have not rendered distinguished services for the country, either. But we are enjoying ourselves to our heart's content here in this home as good as a palace, so I seem to be in a dream, and feel embarrassed. I will work hard to become a hero, and I know I will be a patriotic farm worker without fail."

In the spacious hall on the first floor holiday-makers were in sports and amusement games. Some were in table tennis matches and others in Korean chess or *yut* (four-stick game). We then saw a chess board occupied by new players. The weak made the first

► move, and the other rival made a move, saying, "You cannot change any move once you have made it." The match gradually became fierce amid cheers of onlookers. Then one of the rivals shouted, "A check!" and the other rival from Chonggang-ri asked him to allow him to reverse the move while recalling that he had also allowed him to do so the other day. Now his opponent seemed to remember it and agreed to let him withdraw from the wrong move, making the spectators burst into laughter.

A balcony of the first floor overlooked a wading pool equipped with a water slide and a cascade. Hong said that the places are more spectacular in summer. And she recited some part of an impromptu poem composed by a holiday-maker who had enjoyed himself there in summer.

*I'm so glad  
Sliding down the water slide,  
I reach the cascade.  
And after I sunbathe on  
an armchair  
The boating ground and  
volleyball court  
seem to invite me.*

*The swinging site and  
wrestling site add to interest,  
And when going up the  
mountain-climbing route  
to the pavilion  
I face the grandeur of  
Mt. Munsu and the reservoir.  
Then I find myself singing We  
Are the Happiest in the World  
And dancing to the tune of the  
song in spite of myself.*

We also went up to the pavilion which overlooked Ryonggan Rock on a slope of the mountain covered with pine, oak, evergreen oak and maple trees. Legend has it that a dragon went up to the sky leaving its tracks on the rock. On the pavilion we could hear the sound from an exciting volleyball

match and pleasant laughter of women who were on swings.

While we were looking at the scenic spots Hong told us, "Previously the mountain was thick only with shrubs, and had no proper path. But now it has been greatly changed. Sometimes I climb up the mountain when I feel like reciting a poem."

We also joined a recreation party of the holiday-makers. Neatly dressed young maids played the guitar and sang songs, and the holiday-makers danced spirited dances, hand in hand, and they included married couples, the farm worker from Sansong-ri who we were told had celebrated his birthday together with all other holiday-makers like brothers and sisters of a family, and an ex-serviceman discharged

from the military only a year before. Smiles never faded from all their faces.

Observing such a sight a woman holiday-maker said that she did not know the passage of time enjoying herself there and that all the maids seemed to be her own daughters.

Indeed, all of the holiday-makers seemed attached to the camp and reluctant to leave it.

Though the night went on under the stars glittering in the moonlight laughter kept coming from the windows of the camp which the holiday-makers referred to as *our home of happiness*, adding to the attraction of the mountain village along with the murmuring sound of a brook.

*Kim Hyok Myong*

## Medicinal Properties of Chestnut

CHESTNUT, A SPECIALITY of Korea, is good for health as it contains lots of nutritive elements like starch, sugar, protein, oil and vitamins. You can eat chestnuts raw, roast or boiled, and make various foods with them.

First, there is a chestnut porridge. To make the porridge, prepare 100 grams of chestnuts, polished rice and hulled millet respectively and then make the porridge with them. When you often eat the porridge it helps treat lumbago and strengthen weak limbs.

Next, you can make chestnut pork soup. Prepare 500 grams of lean pork and 250 grams of chestnuts, and then make the soup with them. The soup is good for the treatment of

chronic bronchitis.

And you can make chestnut and jujube pork soup. It needs 10 grams of fresh chestnuts, four red jujubes and a proper quantity of lean pork. The soup is effective in treating coughing caused by poor vitality and asthma.

Besides, if you eat 30 or 60 grams of chestnuts raw three times a day, it helps treat chronic laryngitis. In particular, chestnuts are good for the elderly, who usually have pains in the waist and legs, and are often afflicted with coronary artery diseases. Eating chestnuts can prevent the diseases. If the elderly eat 30 grams of roast chestnuts in the morning and evening, they can treat their bed-wetting. □

Holiday-makers are enjoying themselves.



## Doctors as Workshop Managers

SOME TIME AGO IT WAS reported that two officials of the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory obtained their doctorates at the same time.

### Doctor of Machine

Over twenty years ago, Pak Kwang Hyon in his youth (the vice-manager of the soya milk powder workshop at present) was assigned to the Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory. What caught his eye for the first time was foam of soya milk formed in all production processes. The foam caused interruptions between the processes, decreasing the actual production rate. And in the course of fixing the lids of milk containers, he often saw them only half filled. But others considered it a likely matter.

In 2001 he solved the problem by dint of his simple and yet novel ideas of adjusting the head of water and varying the temperature in the flow-line production processes.

From his childhood, Pak was



unusually curious about various mechanical devices and was so clever and dexterous that his friends called him doctor of machine. His dream at the time was to work in a large machine-building factory. For the reason, he was not attached to his job at all in his early days at the foodstuff factory.

But his mind changed as he witnessed the fact that his foodstuff factory never stopped opera-

tion for children while other factories and enterprises went out of operation owing to the Arduous March. With the passage of time he became confident that he was working in an important factory incomparable with any other large machine-building factories. This enabled him to obtain lots of research findings. In those days, he was nicknamed "worker doctor."

Last year he designed and put into reality a project for modernization of all processes in his workshop, thus putting an end to manual work between processes. Early this year he was awarded a doctor's degree for the success.

When asked about his thoughts as a real doctor of machine, he said, "I want to thank my factory and the motherland that imbued me with pride of my life."

### Mother Doctor

Kim Ok Son, manager of the baby milk powder workshop, was also awarded a doctor's degree early this year. As the leader of a production unit with dozens of employees, she managed to realize a modernization program to greatly improve the quality of the product after repeated failures and despite objection. This gives the impression that she is a stubborn woman official with a strong grip on the workshop. But she is so simple and quiet a woman. The employees say in unison that she always speaks so mildly not only in ordinary times but also when organizing work that she looks like a benevolent mother.

But she once raised her voice. It was after their 9<sup>th</sup> failure in the test operation of a spray drying furnace which they had newly transformed for the final granulation of the milk powder.

Shaking their clothes daubed with milk sprayed from the furnace, even those who had supported the project said that they had better use the previous furnace to ensure the connection between processes by the date when their

factory modernization plan was expected to be carried out.

Then the woman manager said sharply, "What is the purpose of modernization? Wasn't it to provide our children with tastier and more nutritious foodstuffs by im-



proving the quality of the products? You are without conviction, so get out of the way."

Recollecting that time, the chief engineer of the factory said, "She was right. She regarded modernization not merely as a matter of technical progress but as that of attitude and stand relating to our children, the future of the country. After completing the project many people said that she deserved a doctor's degree, but she said that she didn't work for a doctor's degree and that she would feel satisfied when tasty milk was supplied to babies whose mothers' breasts gave less or no milk."

When I told her that I had heard lots of good things about her, she said with an awkward smile in her face, "You know mothers are wont to be satisfied when they see their children pleased by something although they did it with difficulty. Frankly speaking, I'm happy to get the doctor's degree, and I also feel great pride in that I have done something at last as a mother who has brought up two daughters without any worries by the favour of the State while being busy with work."

So people affectionately call her "mother doctor."

Ri Song Chol

## National Cuisine Improves

tensifying the effort to find out and develop local special dishes. Recently all provincial branches of my association have put much effort in finding out inherent dishes of their respective localities carrying regional characteristics—for example, seaside, mountain and flat areas—and the inhabitants' life custom, and made lots of achievements. In the course of this scores of new special dishes have been identified, and their cooking methods registered as national intangible cultural heritage. Some of the dishes are those that were used on special occasions such as entertainment of guests or holidays, and many others are those that attained specific features of their own over their long, popular use for meals and that are easy for anyone to cook.

We are also endeavouring to develop and introduce new dishes suited to the people's meals. We have created hundreds of kinds of excellent dishes including corn pasty, which is quite popular at the moment.

We give wide publicity to cooking methods for the purpose of improving the people's eating habit.

Korean dishes have thus become further diversified in kind, and all cooking processes such as selection of materials and forms and methods of processing have been put on a new scientific basis. The dishes presented to the 8<sup>th</sup> Cooking Competition to Celebrate the Day of the Shining Star held this year showed well the extent to which the scientific and artistic standard of Korean dishes have developed.

### What about your association's future work?

In the future we're going to hold cooking contests in a more diversified way with emphasis on national dishes. And we intend to compile and make much more cookery books, like *Knack of Cooking* and *National Dishes for Four Seasons*, and popular multimedia programs, like *Everyday Home Foods* so as to help develop everyday and popular foodstuffs. We will also actively introduce good experience to the public through cooking sci-tech achievements shows, cooks and waitresses' technique and skill contests, and cooking demonstrations. □

### A cooking festival is an annual event.



NOT LONG AGO A KOREA Today staff reporter had a talk with Jo Hi Guk, chief secretary of the Cooks Association of Korea. Excerpts:

### What is important in your association's work is to carry forward traditional Korean dishes in the right course, I think.

You're right. For that purpose my association regularly organizes varieties of cuisine contests, cuisine shows, short training courses and practices. Every year lots of contests take place such as a noodle contest, a contest of wild vegetables dishes, a *tongjijuk* (adzuki-bean gruel taken on the winter solstice) contest, a *makkolli* (raw rice wine) contest and a *ssukttok* (a cake made of rice flour and wormwood paste) contest. We put emphasis on ensuring that each contest is intended not merely for better taste for the contest's sake but for encouraging the effort to develop our national dishes as world-famous ones.

### What is your association's role and achievements in recent efforts to develop Korean cuisine?

First of all, we are further in-

# Creators of Korean Costume



Kim Mi Ran

**T**HE NATIONAL COSTUME WORKSHOP of the Korean Joint Folk Art Company is well known across the country for making Korean costumes well.

Some time ago I had a chance to talk with members of the workshop.

## Pride of Korean Costume Designer

Technical officer Kim Mi Ran is a designer in her thirties. She, however, is recognized as an expert on Korean clothes at home.

Her family background had an influence on the development of her interest in Korean clothes. Her maternal grandfather was an artist, her maternal grandmother a fan of folkcraft and her mother, too, an artist.

Mi Ran specialized in the Korean costume art at Pyongyang University of Fine Arts. After graduating from the university she volunteered to work with the aforesaid workshop.

She made tireless efforts to master costume designs for different features, complexions and figures. Whenever she came across a woman wearing Korean *chima* (skirt) and *jogori* (jacket), she followed her to observe the costume carefully.

Quick in visual learning and clever at designing, she soon began to distinguish herself. Korean *chima* and *jogori* she designed always took first or second places at every Korean costume show.

Wedding dresses presented by her was highly appreciated at the 15<sup>th</sup> Korean costume show held last year. The judges unstintingly admired green *chima* and crimson *jogori* and white *chima* and *jogori* she had designed for retaining the tradition and characteristics of Korean costume while showing modern beauty.

She also designs stage costume for famous nation-

al artistes, and even overseas Koreans and foreigners visit her to order Korean *chima* and *jogori*.

"I'll devote all my life to the development of the Korean costume," she said.

## Skilful Hands

Pak Song Rim is the head of a processing section. Mi Ran's designs were put into practice successfully by Pak's hands.

She, who has been working at the workshop for over ten years, said that processing of Korean costume can be said to be an art as it requires delicate workmanship. In her middle school days she had a dream of making beautiful clothes. After learning dressmaking at a college, she became a cutter at a tailor's shop.

One year, when she happened to see elegant national costumes at a Korean costume show, she got very interested in them. So, when she began to work at the aforesaid workshop, she strove to improve her skill of processing national costume.

She often spent time practising in drawing pictures and calligraphy in order to improve her aesthetic perspective and the way of using her hands.

She is not only a processor but also a designer. Some kinds of *paji* (trousers) and *jogori* (jacket) she designed and processed were highly appreciated in several rounds of the Korean costume show, and she was awarded technical prize.

Song Rim says, "I think I've achieved my hope of making beautiful Korean costume. I feel proud of myself whenever I see people pleased to wear traditional dresses of my own make."

As her matchless delicate way of sewing adds to the beauty of Korean costume, her colleagues say that she has skilful hands.

Rim Ok

## Pak Song Rim



## National Intangible Cultural Heritage (18)

# Bee Keeping

**F**ROM OLDEN TIMES KOREA created and developed the custom of bee keeping. In primitive and ancient times Korean ancestors developed the custom—they brought honeycombs to their neighbourhood and observed the bees' way of life to learn how to control them.

There is a story. One day when Pak So, commander of the Northwest Military Corps of Koryo (918-1392), was engaged in a war against foreign invaders, he appealed to people in his castle to gather beehives kept in houses. Then at midnight he ordered his soldiers to put them in the bushes on the route of the enemy's attack. The next day the enemy troops kicked and trampled the beehives in their rush for attack. Suddenly they were seriously stung by the bees that flushed out of the hives, and, screaming in pain, they took flight. Taking advantage of the turmoil, the Koryo soldiers in the castle mowed down the enemy by showering arrows.

Some days later Pak ordered his soldiers to fill hives with gunpowder and put them in the bushes. The next day the enemy gathered all the hives and piled them in one place thinking that they kept bees. The moment they set fire to the hives, the gunpowder exploded, felling numbers of troops. Roars of laughter burst among the Koryo soldiers in the castle, and the enemy gave up and retreated.

According to *Sinjungdongguk-yojisungram* published in 1530, 26 counties in Kangwon Province and 13 of 22 counties in Hamgyong Province produced honey and 21 counties in the Kwandong region were special honey produc-

ers. This shows that the bee keeping was widely introduced from long ago.

In modern times the bee keeping has been undertaken actively since an improved variety of bee keeping was introduced. The bee keeping custom consists of the following things: Experience and traditional knowledge about types and way of life of bees, knowledge and usages to choose suitable time and place for bee keeping, production of bee keeping tools and techniques for their use, methods of setting up separate homes of bees and merging them, harvesting and processing honey. The time of harvesting is different from region to region, and southern areas have longer periods.

The bee-keeping custom remains almost intact. Heads of families engaged in bee-farming teach their children and relatives all contents of bee keeping custom since their childhood so as to convey the custom. Now bee keeping is widely undertaken at bee yards of cooperative farms and agrostock farms. Bee yards employ ancestors' experience in and custom of bee-keeping while introducing

modern scientific technology and methods of management, thus producing a large quantity of honey and honey products.

There came into being proverbs connected with bee-keeping like *It was just a hive of excitement* and *Bees have honey in their mouths and stings in their tails*. People do not get honey alone from bee keeping. It is a working life to develop character of diligence and delicacy, and it is also a pleasant life to understand the freshness of nature from the bees' way of life.

Rim Sang Jun







## Mt. Paektu (1)

**M**T. PAEKTU STANDS in the northern part of Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, Korea. Formed in a volcanic eruption, the mountain boasts peculiar geological features and terrain, ever-changing weather and varieties of fauna and flora. So it has long been regarded as one of the eight scenic wonders of Korea.

### Peculiar Terrain

All the mountain ranges of Korea rise from Mt. Paektu, and the Korean nation has referred to it as the ancestral mountain of the country.

Historical data defined the

Great Paektu Range as the backbone of the Korean land and all the mountains as offshoots. Mt. Paektu has been regarded as symbol of the dignity and spirit

of the Korean nation, who found their resourceful, brave and pure-blooded qualities in the mountain.

About one million years ago a ►

### Janggun Peak.



► volcano began to erupt in the area owing to movements of the earth's crust. Later there were several rounds of volcanic eruption, and through its evolution the mountain had a peculiar terrain. This can be proved by the fact that Lake Chon on the top of the mountain is surrounded by over 2 000-metre-high peaks that consist of sharp-cut cliffs with a gradient of up to 60 degrees. The difference of their heights is 150 metres or so, thus they look like a folding screen around the lake. From a distance, it seems that you can come and go with ease between the peaks. But at close range you can find the physical features of the peaks rough and steep.

The mountain has not only high and large peaks but also low and pointed ones and those whose tops look like a pot lid. Over 20 of the many peaks of the mountain are more than 2 500 metres above sea level. Typical of them are Janggun Peak (2 750m), Hyangdo Peak

(2 712m) and Ssangmujigae Peak (2 626m).

The mountain also has wonderful peaks including Paegun Peak always enveloped in clouds and Paegam Peak consisting of layers of rocks of all shapes. There is Piru Peak of rocky cliffs whose area is representative of the mountain's beauty. With distinct features the peak has a relatively obvious range. The ridge of the peak is about 1 kilometre long, and its top resembles the sharp blade of a sword. The peak is also characterized by rocks of all shapes and forms including Kom Rock that looks like a bear sitting on his forefeet as if it were guarding Lake Chon, Saja (lion) Rock and Mujigae (rainbow) Rock. So people referred to the area of the peak as Manmulsang of Mt. Paektu, and the area is fascinating enough to be referred to as mirror of mountain beauty.

As seen above Mt. Paektu consists in a unique and miraculous terrain that cannot be seen in other areas.

*Yun Sin Yong*

Mt. Paektu seen from Saja Peak.



# Kim Jong Hui, Pioneer of Archaeology

**K**IM JONG HUI WAS AN archaeologist of the feudal Joseon dynasty who explored, excavated and made systematic studies of historical sites and remains of Korea.

Kim was born in Ryesan, Chungchong Province, in 1786. As a child he trained himself physically and spiritually while reading and writing poetry. Finding his qualities unusual, his father asked Pak Je Ga, a successor to the scholarly attainments of Pak Ji Won, a famous realist scholar at the time, to tutor him.

Kim passed the civil service examination at the age of 33, and was promoted through different government posts to the post of vice minister of war. It was his greatest exploit to pioneer Korean archaeology as a new branch of knowledge.

In July 1816 Kim climbed Pi Peak of Mt. Pukhan in Seoul. The peak had been named so in the meaning that a monument stood on its top. So he wanted to study the monument.

The weather was sweltering, and Kim wriggled up along the mountain path, perspiring heavily.

On his arrival at the Sungga Temple, he was welcomed by its monks. The temple, he saw, bore the marks of several rounds of repairing, and there stood a monument to the temple. But the monument was left cleaved, and the temple was shabby. This wrenched his heart.

Then one of the monks led Kim up to the top of the peak. It commanded extensive views of all directions, and there stood the monument he intended to see. The monument was covered over with moss, making it hardly possible to read characters inscribed on it. Peeling moss off the monument, he read revealed characters one by one. The characters meant that Jinhung the Great and important

government officials toured the locality.

“Do you know when this monument was set up?” Kim asked the monk.

“I don’t know the full account of it,” the monk said. “But it is said that Ri Ja Gyom of Koryo, when he was gaining power, accompanied the king to the temple to make an offering to it and had the monument reared in memory of their visit. Another story is that it is the monument to Saint Muhak in the early period of the feudal Joseon dynasty.”

“No. It is from the earlier time,” Kim disagreed.

Now the monk confessed that he had mistaken.

“This is the very monument King Jinhung, in the period of Silla, had set up after touring the border,” Kim explained. Then, keenly realizing how much people were neglecting ancient relics, he firmly made up his mind to elucidate the history of the country. He descended from the peak only after reading the inscription of the monument several more times.

Like this, Kim, at the age of 30, climbed up the peak of the rough mountain to discover the monument that had long been neglected and mistaken, and ascertained correctly the history of Silla that had existed a thousand and several hundred years before. And he made it clear that the title *Jinhung* inscribed on the monument was not a posthumous but lifetime one.

Besides, he discovered a carved stone among the stones of an ancient castle wall in Pyongyang, explained the meaning of the two characters *So Hyong* inscribed on the stone as an official rank of Koguryo and identified the castle as the one from the period of Koguryo.

Kim’s study into tangible relics was not confined to metal

and stone relics with characters inscribed on them but extended to household goods and weapons used by the ancients. During his exploration of an ancient mud castle in the vicinity of Pukchong, he explained that a stone axe and a stone arrowhead found there and regarded as those created by a “thunderbolt demon” were those belonging to household goods and weapons used by the ancients.

And he recognized all the so-called artificial mountains in Kyongju, North Kyongsang Province, as the tombs of the kings of Silla and ascertained the buried in four of the big tombs. He studied into the locations of the four tombs recorded in the national classic *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) and other old documents and their actual locations through comparison of them. On the basis of the result, he clarified that the tombs belonged to the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup> and 47<sup>th</sup> kings of Silla.

Meanwhile, he wrote the *Catalogue of Haedong Metal and Stone Relics* by collecting the data on major metal and stone relics across the country.

He also paid deep attention to preservation of archaeological sites and remains. In August 1852 he made sure that the then Hamgyong provincial governor solved the problem of preserving a monument on Hwangcho Pass, the one that had been unattended for a long time. The monument is still in good condition.

At the time Kim felt more keenly than anyone else the need to have a new understanding of all such sites and remains that were neglected and associated with nonsensical legends. So he collected, studied and analysed anew the relevant data, making a great contribution to archeological researches.

*Sim Hyon Jin*

# Loyal Commander Pu Punno

**P**U PUNNO WAS A military commander of the Koguryo dynasty (277 BC–AD 668). A strategist versed in military arts, he played a great role in expanding the territory of the country. Koguryo faced a great difficulty some time after its foundation. The Xianbei tribe inhabiting the area north of Koguryo grew stronger rapidly and threatened the newly emerging Koguryo. As they invaded its territory often and committed outrages, capturing, plundering and killing its inhabitants, Koguryo’s court ministers debated how to defend the country.

“Who is fit for the task of straightening up the situation?” asked the King.

“It would be hard to fight the invaders with force, but it’s easy to subdue them with wits,” answered Pu Punno.

“If you have a good idea, tell it to us,” said the pleased King.

“I beg you to send people into the enemy’s land to spread a false rumour that our country has a small territory and a weak military force that is afraid of fighting. Then they will make little of us and neglect the defense of their castle. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I’ll lead elite troops

close to their citadel by a shortcut and lie there waiting and watching. If Your Majesty avail yourself of this chance and go round to the south of the enemy’s land with some forces, they will surely come in chase of you leaving their castle empty. At this juncture, I’ll rush into the empty castle while you launch a counterattack with brave horsemen, so that we’ll win without fail.” Struck with admiration at the ruse of Pu, the King said, slapping his knee, “I’m sure we’ll win if I follow you, a veteran commandant.”

Finally Koguryo started action. To begin with, Koguryo sent its agents into the enemy’s land across the border and spread a false rumour when Pu and his swift and brave soldiers set off on the assault covertly. Everything went well according to his plan. The Xianbei people were completely indifferent to Koguryo while Pu’s elite corps were lying in ambush on the north of the Xianbei castle, waiting for the time. When the King of Koguryo attacked the castle with weak troops in the van, Xianbei forces dashed out of the castle as Pu had foreseen.

“Now is the time. Rush into the castle,” Pu ordered his men. The castle was taken at a breath.

On the other hand, the Xianbei soldiers who were chasing Koguryo troops realized that they were caught in a trap and tried to turn back, but it was too late. The Xianbei tribesmen were defeated desperately and driven close to their end by pincer movement of Koguryo King’s counterattack and Pu’s resistance. They surrendered and became a tributary to Koguryo. The King praised Pu’s exploits and granted the new land to him as his fief, but he declined it. So, he was awarded 18 kilogrammes of gold and some good horses instead.

Pu’s activities accelerated the process of merger of small countries into Koguryo.

When the tomb of King Tongmyong was moved to Pyongyang, it is said, his grave was brought to a spot beside the tomb. One of the stone statues of military officers in front of the royal tomb is his image.

Pu Punno was a loyal subject who contributed to laying the foundation of the Koguryo state, a great power which lasted a thousand years, and a patriotic military commander who devoted himself to realizing the dream of the nation.

*Pak Thae Ho*

# Good Feelings Last Long Invariably



**T**HIS IS THE SECOND TIME for me to work here in Korea. The first time was from August 2014 to September 2015. Now I have been working here since August 2017.

My delegation is working closely with the DPRK Red Cross Society in disaster management, health care, water sanitation and livelihoods.

My visit to any unit concerned enabled me to feel that they had good feelings for the work of the RCS. Assistance from residents in other countries is rare, and I think the relationship between the DPRK RCS and residents is a

model to follow.

An example is the North Hamgyong Provincial flood that was in 2016. IFRC and DPRK RCS quickly mobilized resources to support the operations. The DPRK government was putting primary efforts in building dwelling houses. We, too, made an active contribution to the humanitarian aid to the victims of the flood.

The DPRK RCS is conducting humanitarian activities under its plain plan. In the aspect of health care, for example, it puts emphasis on promoting the health of the people, and supplies medicines to them and gives publicity to health care among them. Recently H1N1 influenza has been spreading in the country, and relevant measures were taken.

Many RC volunteers can be seen in communities of the country. They are working closely with household doctors. And solar heating systems are supplied to



(village) hospitals so as to provide better conditions for medical care. This is favourably commented upon by the residents.

The DPRK RCS is playing a proper role in water sanitation, livelihoods and other humanitarian activities. As to water sanitation programme alone, for example, the society is putting main efforts in establishing water supply and drainage systems for the sake of every remote household. Emphasis is put on building water supply systems and rehabilitating old ones. Gravity-fed water supply systems established in some parts of Kumya County, South Hamgyong Province, are working well, helping promote the health of their residents.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to supply clean water to

▶ people in case of emergency, for example, supply of water purification tablets and mobile water purification equipment, and raise the awareness of sanitation.

The DPRK RCS also helps communities sustainably develop themselves by training and instructing the residents in relevant techniques.

The DPRK RCS is characterized by well-organized composition and clear mobilization system. On the basis of this the society is carrying forward the Integrated Programme. Unlike in the past all programmes have been focused on an area, making it possible to enhance the efficacy of the programmes.

It is difficult for the RCS to implement the Integrated Programme all alone. The DPRK has

community project management committees, and these committees are working in close connection with relevant central and provincial organs.

Looking round many provincial areas together with officials of the DPRK RCS I often saw residents there welcoming and treating us hospitably. It reminded me of a harmonious family.

I take pleasure in working for the good of the plain and industrious Korean people.

These good feelings last long invariably.

*Joseph Muyambo,  
National Society Development  
and Programme Coordinator,  
IFRC Office in the DPRK*

*Joseph Muyambo*



## Abe Follows in Tojo's Footsteps

**T**OJO (1884–1948) WAS a hardliner in the military while acting as minister of war in the second and third reactionary Konoé governments (1940–41). In October 1941, he had a monopoly of the posts of prime minister, minister of war, home minister and minister of munitions, and formed a dictatorial military Cabinet. In December of that year he started the Pacific war. While expanding the Sino-Japanese war, he committed an extra villainous anti-ethical crime of making the Japanese troops occupy wide regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific and unprecedentedly intensify colonial oppression, plunder and murder of Korean and other Asian peoples. In early 1944, he held the post of the chief of the general staff concurrently and made frantic efforts to realize the wild dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere.” In July of that year, however, his Cabinet had to resign in a body with their defeat on the front. After the Japanese imperialists’ defeat on August 15, 1945, he was tried as a top war criminal at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, and was hanged in December 1948.

Though born after the war Abe exactly is following in Tojo’s footsteps in every manner. Completely infected with the virus of militarism under the influence of his grandfather, a top war criminal, Abe is desperately trying to

amend the present constitution one way or another so as to make his country “qualified to wage a war” and further resurrect militarism he inherited from his forebears.

He abused the unstable situation and aggravated military tension in the Korean peninsula to justify his desperate attempt. Last year can be taken as an example. Shunned by people owing to a scandal and plunged into a power crisis thanks to his absurd economic policy of “Abenomics,” he boisterously labelled Korea’s self-defence measures as “threat” to the Japanese Islands. Through the tricks he gathered votes for him in arguing for amendment of the constitution and Japan’s conversion into a military power. And by abruptly dissolving the House of Representatives and enforcing an early election he laid foundations for his return to power and his long tenure of office. This is just like what Tojo did in all aspects.

Tojo met with destruction trying to use Korea as stepping stone to gain control of the world while arguing for the “theory of the conquest of Korea.” And Abe is deep in the wild dream of realizing the old dream of the “Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” even by becoming the US’s tool.

The Japanese Islands are now seized with apprehension and horror owing to hysterics Abe is whipping up. For the first time in the nation’s history a large-scale evac-

uation exercise took place in the centre of Tokyo under the pretext of coping with Korea’s launch of a ballistic missile. At the hour of returning home from work when traffic was heavy a warning was issued that “north Korea probably launched a missile.” (The warning was soon rectified.) All this was done for the purpose of creating a terror-charged atmosphere with the government’s connivance.

Abe earmarked about a record ¥ 5 190 billion of the budget of the fiscal year 2018 for the military expenditure to arm the Japanese Self-Defense Forces with advanced lethal weapons, and the SDF was given the right to carry out a mission of military operations in any place in the world under the cloak of exercise of the “right to collective defence.”

Abe had better ponder on what sort of consequence his stupidity will cause. A Japanese saying goes, “The thing he does comes to him after all.” Having occupied Korea Tojo calculated that he would be able to realize his wild ambition, but he ended up in making his country a war criminal and defeated nation before meeting his end on the gallows. Abe should be well aware that if he behaves flippantly together with the US while pursuing the anachronistic attempt to hurt Korea, a strategic state, it will make not only himself but also his insular country no longer exist on earth.

*Kim Il Bong*

## Monuments to Saint Sosan

**S**AINST SOSAN WAS A PATRIOTIC BUDDHIST monk who won fame in the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), which the Korean people waged to repulse the Japanese aggressors. Bereft of his parents when he was 9, he wandered about witnessing social inequalities. So he gave up the idea of going in for politics and became a monk at the age of 18.

He made a profound study of the Buddhist doctrine, and passed the examination of the subject of Buddhism in 1549. In his thirties he was a renowned scholar of Buddhism with a lot of disciples. In 1592, when the aforesaid war broke out, he, in Mt. Myohyang where he lived, called on all Buddhist monks across the country to turn out in a volunteers’ struggle. Many of the priests responded to his call. So he formed an about 1 500-strong volunteers’ army in Pophung Temple in Sunan, and was appointed general commander of monks of 16 factions in 8 provinces by the king’s order.

Though past 70, he led the army to Pyongyang and participated in the battle to liberate the Walled City of Pyongyang. The monk soldiers attacked the enemy’s position on Moran Hill and occupied part of the position creating a favourable condition for their friends’ fighting operations.

Books of his authorship include *Chonghodangjib*.

He died in 1604 while living in Pohyon Temple in Mt. Myohyang.

Monuments dedicated to his stupa and exploits were built in Pohyon Temple and Paekhwa Hermitage in Mt. Kumgang respectively. The monuments are different in shape, but the inscriptions of the monuments were both written by Ri Jong Gu, a famous writer at the time, hence the same content.

The first monument was set up among a group of stupas in Ansim Temple in Mt. Myohyang in 1630, 26 years after the saint died. When it began to break gradually, a new monument was erected behind the Jogyé Gate of Pohyon Temple in 1711. The main content of the inscription reads: The saint moved to Mt. Myohyang at the age of 45 and lived there to be 85; and when the war broke out he appealed to all monks across the country, organized a monks’ army and participated in the battle to liberate the Walled City of Pyongyang rendering distinguished services.

The monument consists of a rectangular pedestal stone and the main body with a gabled roof, the style of which was common in Korea around the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The monument is 2.64 metres in height, and the main body 0.29 metres thick.

The monument and the stupa in Pohyon Temple

in Mt. Myohyang were destroyed by the US imperialists’ bombing during the Korean war (1950–1953).

The Monument to Buddhist Priest Hyujong, Sosan Chonghodang in Kumgang County, Kangwon Province was built in 1632. It consists of a pedestal stone in the shape of turtle, the main body and the head, similar to the structures of the previous period.

The monument is a large one—over 5 metres in total height. A turtle shape is set on a square pedestal stone, and the head of the turtle is awe-inspiring. Hexagonal patterns on its back are delicate, well-balanced and relatively vivid. The head of the monument is in the shape of two dragons twined, their heads facing each other with a magic stone between them, in clouds. The main inscription is on the front side.

The monument is one of the masterpieces representative of the feudal Joson dynasty in scale and formative artistic representation.

*Kim Un Jong*

