



# KOREA TODAY

2

Juche 109  
(2020)

# Medallion of Alcochete



**Medallion of Alcochete, Setubal, Portugal, presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il in February 1990 on the occasion of his 48<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**



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*Photo by So Yon*



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*Photo by Kim Ji Ye*

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# Revolutionary Line of Breaking through Formidable Barriers Head-on

AT THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held from December 28 to 31, Juche 108 (2019) Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, advanced the revolutionary line on launching an offensive for making a breakthrough head-on as required by the present situation and the developing revolution.

Noting that our own internal might with self-sufficiency and self-reliance as the motive power has been further strengthened in the tense struggle for carrying out the decisions of the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK, he referred to the fact that our state and people have greatly demonstrated their indefatigable valour and tremendous potentiality while proudly advancing and leaping in the difficult situation true to the appeal of the Party to open up a great period of upsurge in socialist construction holding higher the unfurled banner of self-reliance.

He said that the challenges that have faced us in the past several months have been so harsh and dangerous that others would not withstand even a single day but yield to them, but no difficulties could ever stop or delay the rush of our people advancing undauntedly as a solid integral whole, and they have achieved great successes ceaselessly in bolstering up the strength of the state and in increasing its defence capabilities, and continued:

The colossal and complicated work of developing the state-of-the-art weapons system possessed only by advanced countries in defence science and technology presupposed our own finding of innovative solutions in terms of the scientific and technological aspects without anyone's help, and all the research tasks were perfectly carried out by our own driving force, i.e. our reliable scientists, designers and workers in the munitions industry. This means a great victory, and our possession of promising strategic weapons system planned by the Party one after another constitutes a great event in developing the armed forces of the Republic and in defending and guaranteeing our sovereignty and right to existence. Such a leap forward in developing the state-of-the-art national defence science would make our great military and technical strength irreversible, greatly promote the increase of our

national strength, improve our power of putting the political situation around us under control and give the enemies the blow of serious uneasiness and horror. In the future, the more the US stalls for time and hesitates in the settlement of the DPRK-US relations, the more helpless it will find itself before the might of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which is growing stronger beyond prediction, and the deeper it will fall into an impasse.

Kim Jong Un referred to a series of successes achieved in economic construction.

He said: This year we reaped an unprecedented bumper harvest that exceeded the peak-year level even under many restrictions created by the heinous sanctions imposed by the hostile forces and continued unfavourable weather conditions. We implemented the second-stage project for sprucing up the city of Samjiyon, building it into an excellent model of mountainous cultured town, an ideal archetype of local town, in the centre of education in revolutionary traditions, and completed the construction of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm, tree nursery and Yangdok Hot Spring Resort true to the Party's intention, thus presenting the creations of advanced civilization to our people. And construction of the Wonsan Kalma coast resort, Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory, Orangchon Power Station, Tanchon Power Station and other projects, which are simultaneously under construction in several parts of the country, is being pushed ahead under meticulous planning, and almost all the sectors of the national economy, including metal, coal-mining, building materials and light industries, are showing a trend of remarkable growth.

Praising that Kangwon Province, having appealed an emulation drive of self-reliance to the whole country, created one model experience after another in carrying out Party policy and that North Phyongan and other provinces are competitively achieving marked results in developing agriculture, stockbreeding, education, public health and local industry, Kim Jong Un stressed that this is an inevitable result born of the great struggle of all the people who turned out as one in hearty response to the Party's call and conducted an indefatigable ►

► campaign for increased production and for creation in a daring way.

Analysing the trend of the prevailing situation, he said that the real intention of the US is to seek its own political and diplomatic interests while wasting time away under the signboard of dialogue and negotiations and at the same time keep sanctions so as to gradually reduce our strength.

He stressed that we further hardened our determination never to barter the security and dignity of our state and the safety of its future for anything else.

Noting that the stalemate between the DPRK and the US cannot but assume a protracted nature as the US is raising demands contrary to the fundamental interests of our state and maintaining a brigandish attitude, he said that recently the US has been talking about continued dialogue while peddling the issue of the resumption of dialogue here and there, which is just aimed at passing easily the year-end time-limit set by us and gaining time for evading a lethal attack as it now has found itself in a tight corner, without intention from the beginning to withdraw its policy hostile toward the DPRK, improve relations and resolve the problems. On the other hand, the US has openly revealed its provocative political, military and economic manoeuvres to completely stifle and crush our Republic, and this is the double-dealing behaviour of the brigandish US, he added.

He said that we will never allow the impudent US to abuse the DPRK-US dialogue for meeting its dishonest aims but will shift to practical shocking actions to make it fully pay for the pains sustained by our people so far and for the development so far restrained, and continued: It is true that we urgently need external environment favourable for our economic construction, but we can never sell our dignity which we have so far defended as valuable as our own life, in the hope of gorgeous transformation. The DPRK-US stand-off which has lasted from one century into the next has now boiled down to a clear stand-off between self-reliance and sanctions. If there were not the nuclear issue, the US would find fault with another thing we do, and its military and political threat would not cease. The present situation that warns a protracted confrontation with the US urgently requires us to make it a fait accompli that we have to live under the sanctions by the hostile forces in the future, too, and to strengthen our internal strength in all aspects.

Stressing that the fierce confrontation with the enemy is always accompanied by the work

of strengthening our own forces and only when priority is given to self-strengthening can we take the initiative and achieve victory, he pointed out that there are not a few problems that need to be put to rights in state management, the economic work and other fields from the viewpoint of building up our strength, and analysed the present situation including state management and economic work.

Noting that our cause can be pushed ahead successfully only by a high sense of responsibility for carrying out the revolutionary tasks by our own efforts and wisdom and courage of correctly shaping our course of both today and tomorrow, he emphasized that there are no problems as the leadership system of the WPK is solidly established, the whole Party is unified ideologically and spiritually and our people urgently demand the cause.

A great victory is accompanied by trials and struggle, and the victory of the revolution is inevitable but cannot be achieved without any difficulties and hardships, he said and continued: We should launch an offensive for making a breakthrough head-on aimed at neutralizing the sanctions and pressure by the hostile forces and opening a new avenue for socialist construction. This offensive is a task of the times, which should be carried out without fail when viewed from both the immediate tasks and prospective demand of our revolution. If we fail to put spurs to the struggle for bolstering our strength for self-development while waiting for the lift of sanctions, the enemies' reactionary offensive will get fiercer and they will dare to check our advance. The more we bolster up our own strength and create valuable wealth on the strength of self-reliance and self-sufficiency, the greater agony the enemies will suffer and the earlier the day of victory of socialism will come. All the Party organizations and officials have to take upon themselves without hesitation the important duties entrusted to them by the times and turn out in the offensive for making a breakthrough head-on to foil the enemies' sanctions and blockade by dint of self-reliance.

Kim Jong Un put forward "Let Us Break Through Head-on All the Barriers to Our Advance!" as the fighting slogan the entire Party and all the people should uphold today.

The key front in today's offensive for making a breakthrough head-on is the economic front, he said, setting it forth as an immediate task for the economic field at present to rearrange the economic foundations of the country and tap all the possible production potentials so as to fully meet the demand ►

► for economic development and people's life.

Setting forth the tasks to be tackled in putting on the right track the economic work system and order, he said: The problem that should be solved before anything else is to put the economic work system and order on a reasonable track. Today, when our Republic has gained great strength and is aspiring after normal development in all spheres, there is no need to still cling to the transitional and provisional work methods of the past. In order to restructure the country's economy, strong measures should be taken to ensure the state's unified guidance over and strategic management of the economic work.

Pointing out the present serious situation in which the Cabinet is failing to fulfil its duty as the economic headquarters, he illuminated the fundamental principles for improving the Cabinet-responsibility system and Cabinet-centred system, the core of the economic work system of the state, and continued: The Cabinet should strengthen the state's finances by making effective use of the existing economic foundations and undertake economic planning properly and scrupulously command the economic activities so that the production units could be revitalized as well. For the present, the Cabinet's unified leadership and command should be ensured, first of all, in the work of safeguarding the lifeline and integrity of the country's economy.

Saying that a revolutionary ideology and spirit should lead the times, but the economic work should be conducted firmly in conformity with the practical conditions, he advanced crucial tasks for finding out a clear-cut way of improving planning to meet the actual requirements, keeping the overall balance between production and supply and decisively raising the confidence in the national economic plan.

Emphasizing that the work of the Cabinet is just the work of the Party Central Committee and the execution of the decisions of the Party Central Committee is just the work of the Cabinet, he made an anatomical analysis of the serious problems that need urgent solution in strengthening the state's unified guidance over and management of the economic work after the Plenary Meeting is over.

After setting forth the innovative measures and detailed plans for adjusting the overall state machinery to spur economic development and enhance the role of officials, he specified realistic ways for vigorously pushing forward with the improvement of economic management based on them.

He specified the orientation of solving key issues

for the economic growth to be pushed forward by the whole Party and state. They included the issue of finding out a methodology and taking measures for improving the commercial service so as to ensure both the interests of the state and the convenience of the people while maintaining the original features of the socialist commerce by restoring the commercial system of the state, the socialist commerce, without delay, the issue of abolishing unnecessary procedures and systems in improving the economic management as required by the times when all the countries around the world are vying with each other to develop new technologies and new products by racing against time, the issue of putting on the right track all the elements that hamper production activities and decrease working efficiency in state management and the economic work, the issue of expanding and strengthening the national specialized construction forces and modernizing their building equipment so as to make them take charge of major projects and the issue of conducting the work of enforcing the socialist system of responsible business operation in a realistic way.

He set forth the tasks to be tackled by the major industrial sectors of the national economy.

Stressing the need to break through head-on the manifold difficulties and bring about a substantial upsurge in production first in the key industrial sectors, the buttresses of the independent economy, he made an overall analysis of the evil practices and the state of stagnation revealed in the fields of the metal, chemical, electric-power, coal-mining, machine-building, building-materials and light industries and rail transport, and specified scientific and substantial measures for bringing about a stride forward in the economic work.

He underscored the need to correctly set up index-wise plans of ten long-term objectives through scientific calculation to develop the country's economy on a stable and long-term basis and build up the economic foundations of the country one by one through the struggle for carrying out the plans. Once the long-term objectives are decided, we should attain them without fail through scrupulous organization and command of the economic work by the state and launch of an all-people struggle for production and creation, he said.

He stressed that agricultural production should be radically increased.

Noting that the agricultural front is the major thrust area in the offensive for making a breakthrough head-on, he said that the strong wind of increasing crop yields should be raised more ►

► fiercely by actively introducing scientific farming methods in the agricultural sector, and advanced important tasks for bringing about a fresh turn in animal husbandry, fruit farming and other sectors of agriculture, including those of building up the sci-tech forces and scientific research institutions in the agricultural sector, directing efforts to training the talents of agricultural science and technology, creating the foundations for agricultural production free from crop failure by perfecting the irrigation system of the rural economy and raising the level of mechanization in farm work and managing the cropland of the country in a unified way.

He stressed the need to improve science, education and public health.

The inexhaustible strategic assets on which we should rely today are science and technology, he said, adding that science and technology should be a beacon light that illuminates the path ahead and take the lead in development at present when the economic work is faced with many difficulties.

He underscored the need for Party organizations to imbue scientists and technicians with the consciousness that all fronts of socialist construction could emerge victorious only when they made a breakthrough on the science front, and that the ideals and goals of building a powerful country would be achieved only by their painstaking efforts and devotion for scaling the high peak of cutting-edge science.

Effective policy-oriented guidance should be provided to scientific research, he noted, adding that the scientific research and educational institutions, including the State Commission of Science and Technology and the State Academy of Sciences, and ministries and national agencies should scrupulously organize the work of implementing without fail and in time the research projects included in the ten long-term objectives in the sector of science and technology so as to contribute to transforming our country into a cutting-edge science and technology developer and an advanced civilization creator.

He said that if science can be called an engine leading the economic development, education can be called the mother of science, specifying the tasks and ways for fundamentally improving the country's education as appropriate to the era of bringing about a radical improvement in education. They included the tasks for steadily improving the structures and teaching programmes of all universities, including Kim Il Sung University, in keeping with the developing reality and the world trend, for producing larger numbers of talented personnel and valuable sci-tech findings by making the contents of

education practical, comprehensive and up-to-date, bringing education closer to scientific research and production, updating the educational conditions and environment and promoting in a substantial way the work of narrowing the differences in the level of education between the central and local areas, for building up the ranks of teachers in terms of quality, and for improving the conditions and environment of education substantially with strenuous efforts, etc.

Noting that our public health is a major criterion of the image of socialism through which the people directly enjoy the advantages of our system, he set forth important tasks arising for our socialist public health service, which was provided by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and which is the best in the world, in sustaining its original features, building up its material and technological foundations and training all the medical workers to be true health workers of the Workers' Party possessed of warm human love and high level of medical qualifications.

He underscored the need to launch a dynamic struggle to increase production, practise economy and improve the quality of products, conserve ecological environment and take strict measures to prevent natural disasters.

The current offensive for making a breakthrough head-on is a gigantic, patriotic struggle to be waged by the high-pitched enthusiasm and creative efforts of millions of the working people, he said, adding that if all sectors, units and citizens make efforts to increase production and practise economy to the maximum so as to create more of their own things and save them as many as possible, our economy will remain unperturbed and our living standards will be improved no matter how hell-bent the hostile forces are on imposing sanctions.

Noting that the models to be copied in the present era are the patriotic working people who regard the spirit of economy as part of their mental qualities, as well as the labour-, energy-, cost-, and land-saving enterprises, he advanced the tasks for launching a vigorous campaign for economical use of electricity throughout society, raising a wind of emulation drive for tapping reserves and further increasing production and practising economy in keeping with actual conditions of one's own sectors and units, making all sectors and all units give precedence to the improvement of the quality of their products and creations on the principle of giving priority to quality over quantity, taking decisive measures for protecting the ecological environment in a thoroughgoing way, and establishing a well-knit nationwide crisis management system to cope ►

► with natural disasters.

Kim Jong Un stressed the need to provide a political, diplomatic and military guarantee for our grand offensive for making a breakthrough head-on.

There has to be a powerful political, diplomatic and military guarantee to win a sure victory in this offensive of overcoming unprecedentedly harsh challenges and difficulties, he said, and proposed measures for further strengthening the diplomatic front to cope with the prevailing situation.

Based on a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula and the current structure of complicated international relations, he set forth important tasks for taking offensive measures to reliably ensure the sovereignty and security of our state.

He said that the US has applied the most brutal and inhuman sanctions against our state and posed a persistent nuclear threat to it over the past seven decades by labelling it as their enemy, part of the "axis of evil" and a "target of preemptive nuclear strike," and that the current situation on the Korean peninsula has reached a more dangerous and serious phase owing to the US policy of hostility to the DPRK.

In the past two years alone when the DPRK took crucial measures first to stop nuclear test and ICBM test fire and shut down the nuclear testing ground in order to build confidence with the US, he said, the latter, far from responding to the former with appropriate measures, threatened it militarily by conducting dozens of big and small joint military drills which its president personally promised to discontinue and by shipping latest war equipment into south Korea and adopted over a dozen independent sanctions measures, only to show once again before the world that it remains unchanged in its wild ambition to stifle our system.

Under such circumstances, the DPRK has found no grounds to be unilaterally bound any longer by the commitment with no other party to honour, and this has put a damper on its efforts for disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons across the world, he said.

As we already made clear, the prevailing situation proves that the road of defending ourselves by building up our strength sufficiently enough to keep the hostile forces at bay so that they would not dare to threaten our sovereignty and security is the only path we should follow without suspension and hesitation, even if difficult, he said, clarifying the WPK's policy towards the US.

Saying it is our Party's steady goal in defence

upbuilding to possess a matchless military capability no one dares to challenge and bolster it on, he stressed that it is the core idea and firm will of the WPK in defence upbuilding to make no forces, whoever they are, dare use their armed force against the country.

He said that we should push ahead with the development of strategic weapons more vigorously, and declared that we cannot give up our future security just for visible economic results and happiness and comfort, given that there has been no change in our external environment owing to the US gangster-like acts both in the days when we went along the road of pushing economic construction and nuclear arms buildup in parallel and at present when we are working to concentrate all our efforts on economic construction and that hostile acts and nuclear threat and blackmail are still being intensified, and confirmed that the world will witness a new strategic weapon to be possessed by the DPRK in the near future.

He resolutely declared that we need not hesitate while holding any expectation of the lift of sanctions by the US even now when we thoroughly know its real intention, that if the US persists in its policy hostile towards the DPRK, there will never be the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and that the DPRK will steadily develop indispensable and prerequisite strategic weapons for national security until the US rolls back its hostile policy and a lasting and durable peace mechanism is in place.

He said that we will reliably maintain the constant readiness for action of the powerful nuclear deterrent capable of containing the US nuclear threat and guaranteeing our long-term security, and that the scope and depth of the buildup of the deterrent will properly be coordinated depending on the future approach of the US to the DPRK.

Our development of absolute weapons like the ones possessed by big powers is a great success, but we are happier to see that a large contingent of outstanding scientific and technological talents has been built in the course of that and this is a success our Party holds dearer, he noted.

He said that the defence science research sector and the munitions industry should implement the Party's line of defence upbuilding faithfully and perfectly under the uplifted slogan of "Higher and Faster" in order to attain the already-set phased targets while maintaining the principle of self-reliance and Juche from A to Z.

Stressing the need to continue to devote nationwide efforts, deep concern and unstinting support to the defence upbuilding for firmly ►

► guaranteeing the national sovereignty and security and the people's happy future according to the strategic policy advanced by the Party, he called on officials and scientists in the defence industry to throw themselves into the sacred activities for bolstering up the national defence capabilities in every way in the spirit and mettle with which they developed the nuclear war deterrent through a three-year-long arduous struggle and with invariable loyalty to the Party and the revolution.

He raised the tasks for launching an intensive Party-wide, nationwide and society-wide campaign against anti-socialist and non-socialist practices, improving the work of working people's organizations and tightening moral discipline throughout society.

He referred to the need to strengthen the Party, the general staff of the revolution, and markedly increase its leadership ability.

In order to make a vigorous advance by breaking the present deadlock in the way of advance, big efforts should constantly be channelled into strengthening the Party in view of the practical experience of the Korean revolution and the historical lessons of socialist construction, he noted, referring to the fact that the biggest effort has been directed to developing the WPK into an invincible party guiding the revolutionary cause of Juche as intended by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il over the past eight years.

He said that what is important for the Party to discharge its leadership mission as the general staff of the revolution is to correctly indicate the orientation, fighting goals, tasks and ways to Party members and other working people in every period and proficiently organize and mobilize them in the implementation of them, and what is important in consolidating the Party's leadership ability into an invincible one is to build it to be a party that enjoys the absolute support and trust of the masses of the people and has formed an integral whole with them.

He advanced the tasks of principle and practical measures for further strengthening the Party organizationally and ideologically and enhancing the role of cadres in line with the requirements of the times and the developing revolution.

The Korean revolution is advancing dynamically, but the hostile forces' challenge to it is getting more persistent and the current difficulties are serious, he said, adding that our Party has decided to wage another arduous and protracted struggle in order to win the final victory of the revolution and make our great people well-off.

He continued: Victory or defeat at today's

crossroads of the destiny of socialism is decided only by the strength of unity and the guiding role of our Party. Our Party will exercise its correct leadership ability and will never waver in the face of the challenges. It will stand firm and continue to deal heavy blows to the US and its following hostile forces. And it will always share weal and woe with our people.

Kim Jong Un said that the Korean people learned to live on their own, deal with enemies and difficulties and defend their dignity and rights in the protracted and harsh environment unprecedented in history, and clarified that it is our firm revolutionary faith that we will defend the dignity of the country and defeat imperialism by achieving prosperity by dint of self-reliance and even by tightening our belts.

Confirming that if we all continue to wage a dynamic struggle with the indomitable revolutionary faith, ardent patriotism and indefatigable fighting spirit, we will be able to overcome the difficulties and greet the day of fresh victory when the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* has become the actual life of all the people, he appealed that we should break through head-on the formidable barriers to the revolution and dynamically open a road of victorious advance as pioneers and standard-bearers in the current glorious struggle for realizing the aspirations and ideals of building a powerful socialist country.

Concluding the Plenary Meeting, Kim Jong Un mentioned the significance and importance of the meeting in making a breakthrough head-on under the prevailing situation and bringing about a new upsurge in our revolution.

He stressed that the basic idea, the basic spirit, of the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK is to conduct the offensive for a breakthrough head-on, not to wait for the situation to turn better, and said: In other words, we should never dream that the US and other hostile forces would leave us to live in peace, but make a breakthrough head-on on the strength of self-reliance to tide over the difficulties lying in the way of advance of our socialist construction. We should not look for the way of getting ourselves adapted to the objective factors to be controlled by them in the current struggle, but make a breakthrough head-on to put the objective factors under our control.

In order to carry on the revolution, revolutionaries should regard the valuable trust of the people as their lives, he said, earnestly appealing that we should become faithful and diligent servants of our excellent people, who work heart and soul for them. □

# Infinite Devotion to the People

ETERNAL GENERAL Secretary Kim Jong Il of the Workers' Party of Korea regarded it as his noble historic mission to serve the country and the people, and found his greatest pleasure in the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people.

**"We should establish it as a principle to give whatever is good to our people first." "We should do everything as the people require and desire." "We should pay primary attention to and direct everything towards the improvement of the people's living standards in doing anything." "I only think of how to help our people lead the happiest and richest life in the world." "There's nothing to spare for our people, and I wish to pick even a star from the sky if they want it."**

These quotes just reflect the Chairman's spirit of serving the people.

All his thoughts and activities were always centred on the people. He paid regard for the people's requirements and will, and ensured national governance in accordance with them.

One day in 2001 the Chairman talked to officials concerned about something wrong in traffic rules, that is, the fact that cars were given priority over the public buses at the

crossroads. Saying that things popular and those of the masses' own had to be given priority in the country where the revolution and construction were under way with the Juche idea as their guideline, he stressed the need to correct all regulations that slighted the masses against the requirement of the Juche idea.

From then on priority was given to public buses and trolley buses over cars.

At every opportunity the Chairman stressed: We should think of the people first and thoroughly defend their interests in doing anything.

He instructed that even a single road should be built or improved in such a way as to provide convenience to the people and that coloured paving stones should be produced a lot to be used first in improving the pavements used by lots of people.

The Chairman liked most the officials who were called after the word "our" by the people; he was most pleased to meet such a kind of officials and spoke highly of them. Unusually attached to the word "our," he inwardly repeated it frequently. During his inspection of military units and civilian establishments he was so glad when he heard soldiers and other people call their bosses "our so-and-so," and he regarded such officials as his revolutionary comrade-in-

arms and true comrade sharing his idea and purpose.

In October Juche 92 (2003), during a talk with officials, the Chairman made a meaningful remark about the title "our." People were referring to the officials who worked with devotion for them as "our chief provincial Party secretary," "our chief county Party secretary" or "our general manager," and they respected a neighbourhood head who cared for them as she would do members of her own family, calling her "our neighbourhood head," he said, and added: The word "our" is highly significant.

When soldiers or people call the senior officers of their units "our so-and-so" and not simply "so-and-so," the vocative has a different meaning. "Our" connotes neither an official post nor an honorary title; it is the highest distinction and esteem awarded by soldiers and people to officials who devote themselves to their good, and it is an expression of the respect, affection, trust and intimacy they feel for their true servants. It mirrors the genuine feature of our society, where the leader, the Party and the masses form an integral whole and all the people trust and love one another.

Kim Jong Il helped officials become the people's true servants good enough to earn the noble distinction "our" as the Party



► expected. He made sure that officials provided anything good to the people preferentially and solved the people's knotty problems in a responsible manner, thus fulfilling their duty.

One March day in 2006 he visited the construction site of the Samsu Power Station. He said he was there not only to see how high the dam rose but also to acquaint himself with the construction of houses for the local people to be evacuated from the area to be submerged. Estimating the number of the families to be evacuated with the start of the power station project, he instructed that a thorough measure should be taken to solve the problem of houses for the families. And mentioning that the most urgent matter for the evacuees' life was the housing problem, he said that houses should be built for all the families so that they could sincerely trust and follow the Party.

Substantial service for the people—this was the top criterion the Chairman used to estimate the value of all affairs. It was his intention to make sure that even a single factory or commodity was built or produced in such a way as to benefit and serve the people substantially. One day he learned that a foodstuff factory in a mountainous county developed a kind of children's nourishing food from kelp. Doubting how the county far away from the sea could make the nourishing food from kelp, a kind of aquatic

product, he said it was wrong to try to run a local industrial factory like that, that such a factory should use locally available raw materials and that mountainous counties would be able to produce good foodstuffs if they used wild fruits like wild grape, fruit of tara vine, acorn and fruit of *Crataegus pinnatifida* as they were rich in such wild fruits.

When he saw even a single costly article, the Chairman asked who the article was for, and recognized it as valuable only when it was intended for the people's use in reality.

One year, during his inspection of the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, he emphatically said: Now women's demand for cultural life has reached an incomparably higher level than before. But the quality of cosmetics has hardly changed as compared with the level. You should discard the old viewpoint of attaching importance to quantity alone while feeling content with production itself without any heed to poor quality. You should become the one held in affection by the people by producing quality cosmetics a lot.

In June 2002 the Chairman visited the Taedonggang Brewery. Mentioning that not long before he had tasted beer from the factory only to find it not so good in quality, he said that though perhaps all people now liked the draft beer as they had never drunk the kind a lot, they would assess it in terms of its taste with the passage of some

time. He added that they had to improve the taste of the beer while increasing the supply to the people.

Later he said the beer the brewery had made by a new method was good in taste and that its taste and quality should be further improved by having many people try it and accepting their opinion.

The Taedonggang Beer, the Korean people's favourite drink, was developed thanks to the warm care of the Chairman who worked hard to provide the people with the best beer.

In 2009 the sturgeon farming turned out successful in Korea. The Sinchang Fish Farm that succeeded in raising the fish was the one the Chairman had proposed to build with a far-sighted plan when the country was in a difficult economic situation. He had inspected the farm several times. On his visit to the farm in June that year he said he intended to help the Korean people become the best off in the world. The people deserved to taste such world-famous high-grade dish as sturgeon, he said and added: Sturgeons back to the sea, Korea forward in the world. What a laudable reality it is! Everything for the people—this is the fundamental principle of my activities, and the goal of my life.

The Korean people never forget the revolutionary exploits of the Chairman who devoted all his life to the welfare of the people.

*Ri Jong Nam*

## Matter of Primary Concern



**Chairman Kim Jong Il examines a newly produced blanket and names it Maansan Blanket in March 1984.**

## “Okryu Restaurant” of Anju

ON OCTOBER 18, JUCHE 64 (1975), while giving on-the-spot guidance for the construction of Anju City, Chairman Kim Jong Il looked round the Chilsong Restaurant under construction in Chilsong Park.

In the front yard of the restaurant he looked carefully at its building while changing his position several times, and said with satisfaction: It is well built. A Korean-style building is still good to look at. This gable-roofed Korean-style building seems to be floating in water as it is built with its pillars fixed into the bottom of the Chilsong Pond. It is just as good as Okryu Restaurant.

After looking round different parts of the ground floor, the Chairman dropped in at Room No. 2 on the first floor. Mentioning that it would be pleasant to have a bird’s-eye view of Chilsong Park and Anju Street, he said that the interior of the building should be completed quickly so that the restaurant could be opened soon.

While having a look at Anju City from the balcony of the building, the Chairman said: The situation of the Chilsong Restaurant is really good. It is the best site where we can see Chilsong Park and Anju City as a whole. In the future city planning best places should be dedicated to theatres, libraries, restaurants, hospitals and so on to be frequented by the people.

And mentioning that if they failed to serve good dishes when the building was decent, the people would speak ill of it, the Chairman said the restaurant should serve Korean dishes as well as Korean foods, and that it should specialize in Korean foods such as noodle, rice cake, pancake, fried rice cake and hot rice in warm meat soup, and lots of Korean dishes such as *sinso-*

*lo*. Especially, it had better put emphasis on noodle, national food of Korea, he stressed.

He went on to say that for the restaurant to serve good foods to be liked by the people, it should have skilled cooks and be well provided with raw and other materials. Then he instructed that cooks be selected for the restaurant and sent to the Okryu Restaurant in Pyongyang for practice, and that it organize dish shows frequently so as to raise the quality of dishes.

After giving specific advice about the construction and operation of the restaurant, he, out in the yard, had another look at the building, and said the restaurant was well designed and built and that he would visit it again when it was in operation.

## Animal Brought in Large Plane

One April day in 1986, during his inspection of the Central Zoo, Chairman Kim Jong Il looked round a rhinoceros house. Mentioning that people would be glad to see the rhinoceros, he said he was most pleased to see the people enjoy themselves.

Earlier, when the rhinoceros had to be brought from an African country, the relevant officials were of different opinions. Some suggested using a Korean ship which was cruising near the country, and others proposed to use a foreign ship bound for Korea.

Knowing this, the Chairman disapproved of the officials’ economic calculation, saying that although the transport of the rhinoceros seemed to be a simple matter of an animal it was related to the work for the people. Then he proposed to bring the animal by air. Thus a plane left for the country.

But on the spot the officials faced an unexpected situation. The rhinoceros was too large to go into the door of the plane.

Reported on the problem, the Chairman said the animal should be brought in a foreign sky truck even if it would cost a lot, and added: What is pleasure to us? The people’s pleasure is just that of ours.

## Reason for His Pleasure

One October day in 2011 Chairman Kim Jong Il inspected the Phyongsong Synthetic Leather Factory. President Kim Il Sung had fixed the site of the factory, and named it. In the early 1970s the President saw to it that the factory was built, saying the 500-year-long history of the feudal Joseon dynasty had left the Korean people nothing but straw and rubber sandals and that they should surely help the people wear leather shoes in the era of the Workers’ Party.

Looking round different places of the factory, the Chairman carefully examined the real state of synthetic leather production and the specifications of the equipment.

Mentioning that the factory’s capacity was great and that all processes from feeding to forwarding were automated, he said that the officials, technicians and workers of the factory had done lots of things true to the lofty intention of the President who had made painstaking efforts to provide the people with quality shoes and daily necessities.

Now the Chairman made for the sample room where there were on display kinds of synthetic leather including those for outer coating and lining of shoes and shoes and clothes made of the materials by different factories.

Looking at the products with satisfaction, the Chairman delightedly said all the synthetic leather products there were of good quality and that if such products were made a lot and sold in shops the people would be pleased. □

# Supreme Leader and Architecture of Korea

## Ideal City for the People

KOREA’S CONSTRUCTION is now in its heyday thanks to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un’s guidance. Typical examples are the renovation of Samjiyon City, the construction of the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort and that of the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery, which were all completed in December last year.

Samjiyon City is the hometown of Chairman Kim Jong Il. So the Korean people regard it as their noble moral obligation to develop the city better and better to be admired for all ages.

In December Juche 106 (2017), during his inspection of the then Samjiyon County in Ryanggang Province, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un pointed out the mistakes in conducting the first-stage project of the development of the county—which had been done in a passive,

makeshift way and in an insincere manner. He instructed that the county development project should be done in a brand-new and big way so as to turn it into a fine example of mountainous county bearing a concentration of modern civilization.

Later the Supreme Leader solved all problems arising in the project from the formation of a strong construction unit to the supply of equipment, materials and fund, and inspected relevant construction sites several times, giving scrupulous guidance to the builders so that they

An apartment house, a school and public welfare facilities in Samjiyon.



A bird's-eye view of Samjiyon.



► could complete the project of the county town on the highest possible level.

True to his plan and guidance, the Korean people turned the area into an ideal community in a little over two years.

The city represents a fine combination of national identity, modern features and local characteristics with the main road in front of the statue of Chairman Kim Jong Il as the central axis, and a new phase in developing

architectural utility, and formative and artistic values. Clearly divided into educational, residential, commercial and other sections, the city keeps a perfect harmony of multi-storeyed buildings, and all dwellings and public facilities embody the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty. And new standards were established from the architectural formation of the city as a whole to each building, traffic facility, promo-

tional fixtures like slogans and catchwords and decorative illuminations. Also, the area has got a marvellous landscape which goes well with the northern alpine region.

The fact that working people enjoy socialist civilization to their heart's content in the ideal city at the foot of Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the nation, enables the Korean people to picture their prosperous future in their mind. ►

### ► Crystallization of Care for the People

It is the Supreme Leader's intention and will to enable the people to enjoy the best civilization on the highest level.

In July 2018 he looked round Jungphyong-ri, Kyongsong County, North Hamgyong Province to turn it into a large-scale vegetable greenhouse farm. The locality had been used as an airfield by that time.

Looking at the vast expanse of fertile land, he said that if a vegetable greenhouse farm was built there it would be wonderful and that he was most pleased to find and do one worthwhile thing after another for the sake of the people. The farm village should be developed into a good place to work and live in, a fine example of socialist rural area and a socialist paradise, he said and gave the general direction related to the construction and

management of the farm, for example, organization of the headquarters for the construction of the farm, appointment of managing directors for different fields of the project, manufacture of greenhouse equipment, supply of building materials, training of greenhouse engineers and securing of seeds and manpower.

A month later he went to the construction site again to direct the preparation for the project.

As soon as it was reported that a greenhouse farm for the diet of the provincial people was about to be built, graduates of Chongjin University of Agriculture were the first to volunteer to work at the farm, and lots of builders from across the country went there and pushed ahead with the infrastructure and foundation work in the greenhouse, residential and tree nursery districts and the construction of buildings. Thus they wrought a miracle of completing 320 greenhouses, a tree nursery and houses for hundreds of families in the area of 200 hectares in a little over a year. ►

The Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and Tree Nursery, and houses.



► The great change in the locality is the fruition of the Supreme Leader's lofty intention for the care of the people as well as his wise guidance, and it is another treasure that makes it possible to picture the future of Korean-style socialism developed by self-reliance.

### **Comprehensive Hot-spring Treatment Base and Multifunctional Sports and Recreational Complex**

Hot springs in Yangdok, South Phyongan Province, contain lots of sulphur and a negligible amount of radon, gush out in large quantities and are high in pharmacological and medical efficacy. Especially the springs do not contain such pollution indicators as ammonia, nitrous acid, ion nitrate and pathogenic

microorganisms at all.

It was in August 2018 that the Supreme Leader inspected Yangdok to build a comprehensive hot-spring treatment base there. He climbed up and down low and high hills to designate the position of a general hotel, and instructed that modern comprehensive service facilities should be built there so as to provide different kinds of hot spring bath.

In April 2019, during his inspection of the construction site, he said: If a skiing ground is built around the hot spring resort people will be glad to ski in the daytime and have a rest while taking a hot-spring bath in the evening. Then he instructed that the area should be turned into a comprehensive sports and recreational base and medical service base.

Later he inspected the con-

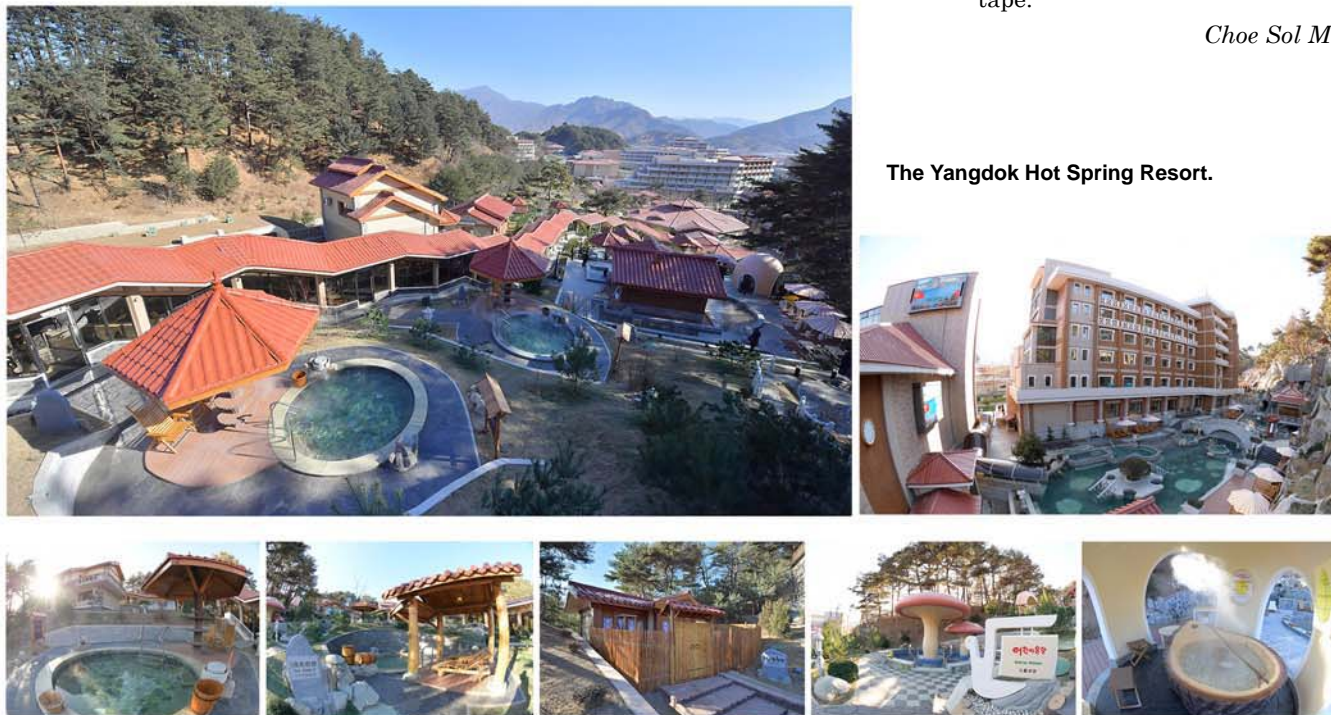
struction site many times to give specific directions, for example, the matters of combining national identity and modernity properly, ensuring harmony, distinctiveness and diversity and holding on to the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty.

Care engenders trust, and results in a miracle. True to their national leader's intention for the care of the people, the Korean people completed in a short span of less than a year the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort consisting of both indoor and outdoor spa baths, skiing areas, a riding park and hotels, all perfect in utility, mutual combination and formative and artistic qualities.

On December 7, 2019 the Supreme Leader participated in the inauguration ceremony of the resort and cut the inaugural tape.

*Choe Sol Mi*

**The Yangdok Hot Spring Resort.**



## **Seventy-five Years of WPK (2)**

# **Independent Line of Founding the Party**

**F**ROM THE LATE 1920S TO THE EARLY 1930s the Korean people intensified the violent mass struggle against the Japanese imperialists who occupied Korea militarily. Their struggle, however, would suffer setbacks in the face of the Japanese imperialists' armed repression as they failed to be free from spontaneity and dispersedness.

In 1930 the Left-leaning May 30 Uprising broke out across East Manchuria. The uprising was instigated and led by the factionalists who busied themselves with extending the influence of their factions. They incited the people to the reckless uprising. As a result, many people were killed and arrested, and revolutionary organizations were destroyed. In such a situation the Korean people were at a loss to know which road they should take.

The ever-changing situation required the Korean communists to lead the popular masses towards the road of victory with a scientific guiding ideology and correct strategy and tactics.

To create a new guiding ideology arose as a matter of special importance in view of the peculiarities of the historical development, and the complexity and arduous nature of the Korean revolution. At this juncture Kim Il Sung paid close attention to establishing a correct guiding ideology while pioneering a new path of the Korean revolution.

From the autumn of Juche 18 (1929) to early May of the next year he was behind bars in the Jilin prison. During the period he critically analysed and summed up the essential shortcoming of the nationalists and the communist champions in the early days, and found out the principle of the revolution, the starting point of the Juche idea. He grasped that there were two essential shortcomings in the mode of their thinking and activity. One of the two was that they did not believe in the strength of the popular masses and neglected them, thus divorcing themselves from them, and the other was that their factional strife, flunkeyism and dogmatism were serious.

Kim Il Sung saw that one cannot develop the revolutionary movement substantially by indulging in empty talk apart from the masses, that the masters of the revolution are the masses of the people, and that one can win victory in the revolution only when one goes among the masses, and educate, organize and mobilize them. And he clarified the truth that one should carry on the revolution in a responsible manner in accordance with one's own faith not with someone's approval or by order and solve all problems arising in it independently and creatively.

In order to indicate the path of the Korean revolution he convened the meeting of leading personnel of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League in Kalun from June 30 to July 2, Juche 19 (1930).

At the meeting he delivered the historic report *The Path of the Korean Revolution*. In the report he clarified the idea that the masters of the revolution are the masses of the people and that only when they are organized and mobilized can they win the revolution. And on the basis of the idea he elucidated the idea that the masters of the Korean revolution are the Korean people and that the Korean revolution should be carried out thoroughly by the Korean people themselves in the way suited to the actual conditions of their country. He also said that serious lessons should be learned from the dissolution of the Korean Communist Party and that effort should be made to found a party on a sound basis, and suggested the way to found a revolutionary party. He went on to say that the party should be founded with their own effort.

Previously there had been two ways of founding such a party of the working class. One of them had been to proclaim the central committee of the party by rallying different communist groups acting individually, and the other was that a revolutionary faction separated from a social democratic party to form a party.

At that time the so-called communists in Korea included many factionalists completely infected with flunkeyism, so it was impossible to found a revolutionary party by reconstructing the already-dissolved party or by relying on the older generation engrossed in factional strife.

From this point of view Kim Il Sung put forward the line of founding a party by setting up basic party organizations whose cores consisted of the communists of the new generation who had nothing to do with factions, and expanding and strengthening the organizations. He instructed that the preparation for founding the party should be closely linked with the struggle against the Japanese imperialists. Only then would it be possible to train fine revolutionaries steeled and tested in struggle and build the party into a militant unit with powerful fighting capacity.

The line of party founding put forward at the Kalun meeting showed the way to found a party independently and on the basis of a strong organizational and ideological foundation.

*An Chol Ho*

# During Founding of Regular Army

ON AUGUST 15, 1945 Korea was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, and it was faced with an urgent task of building regular armed forces to

guarantee the building of a new country reliably and defend the sovereignty of the nation.

It, however, was not an easy job when all the people turned out to build a new Korea empty-

handed. The country was short of military and political cadres possessed of modern military science and technology, and devoid of an industry capable of manufacturing and providing military equipment.

Still, Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, decided to develop the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the Korean People's Army, the regular revolutionary armed forces, reflecting the prevailing situation and the lawful requirement of the building of the revolutionary armed forces.

In November 1945 he went to Jiul-ri, Tami Sub-county, Ryonggang County, South Phyongan Province, to select a site for an educational institute which would serve as the first military and political cadre training base in Korea, and stressed that the education of the school should be the revolutionary and popular one serving faithfully the Korean revolution and people from A to Z. He also emphasized that the institute should be developed in the future so as to make preparations for founding new military schools for different services and arms at the required time. And he named the institute Pyongyang Institute, saying that it was the first institute they established after return to the country.

As honorary head master of the institute, Kim Il Sung went to it to give the first lecture of the first term to its instructors and students. In February 1946 he attended the opening ceremony of the institute and made a congratulatory speech.

The establishment of the institute made it possible to lay a foundation for training military and political cadres for the first time in the country which had had no native cadres owing to the Japanese imperialists' military

rule.

Later, Kim Il Sung ensured that the training of military cadres was separated from the Pyongyang Institute to set up the Central Security Officers School in order to train cadres for different services and arms. And he accelerated the preparations for organizing and reorganizing the core units of services and arms into a regular army.

Together with this, he put his heart and soul into the making of the military uniforms suitable for the regular army. He said that as the People's Army is the genuine army of the people the uniform should have a symbol telling that the army serves the people, and saw to it that a red stripe in the form of 人 (it means *man* in Korean) was sewed on the sleeves of the uniforms of the officers, and that a pattern symbolizing the People's Army was fixed on the military caps.

Under his guidance the regular military uniforms were completed in a short period of time, and they began to be supplied to the students of the Security Officers Training Centre, Naval Security Force and Pyongyang

Institute, and those of other military schools at all levels in May 1947.

As required by the building of the regular army Kim Il Sung saw to it that military organization was revised, that military ranks were newly fixed, and that military regulations and manual, colours as a symbol of the regular army, and military code of conduct were fixed and enforced.

In September 1946 he gave writers the task of creating a song to be sung by the revolutionary regular army in the future, and when the song, entitled *People's Army March*, was completed, he designated it as the song of the army.

In order to guarantee unified guidance over the regular revolutionary armed force, he organized the National Defence Bureau under the People's Committee of North Korea early in February 1948. The bureau was to be in charge of the military and political guidance of the revolutionary armed force.

At last, on February 8, 1948, a splendid ceremony took place in Pyongyang to proclaim the founding of the Korean People's

Army. That day Kim Il Sung reviewed the military parade, and delivered the historic speech *On the Occasion of the Founding of the Korean People's Army* before the delegates from different circles, and hundreds of thousands of people.

In his speech he proclaimed the founding of the regular armed force, and clarified that the KPA, inheriting the glorious traditions of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, was a genuine people's army made up of the sons and daughters of workers, peasants and other working people, and a revolutionary army which would fight for the liberty and independence of the Korean nation and the happiness of the people against the aggressive forces abroad and reactionary forces at home.

With the KPA founded as a regular revolutionary army, the Korean people became able to avoid repeating the bitter experience of being stateless people like in the past, and firmly defend the security of the country and the national sovereignty from the invasion of the enemy.

*Sim Chol Yong*



The first military parade of the Korean People's Army held on February 8, 1948.

Different services and arms are established.



# Energy-saving, Green Street

IN APRIL JUCHE 106 (2017) Ryomyong Street went up in the capital city of Pyongyang on the occasion of the 105<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung.

In March 2016 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un came to the site and declared the beginning of construction of the street. He named it Ryomyong Street as it would go up on a significant place where the dawn of the Korean revolution broke, and taught the general direction and principles of the project.

He saw to it that not-so-tall but good-looking buildings were built cosily in the direction of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, and that skyscrapers were built intensively on the principle of symbolism in the direction of the local tower to the immortality of the President and the Chairman at the Ryonghung Crossroads so as to form a magnificent architectural group. Examining the scale model, the general plan of layout and relief model of the street the Supreme Leader clarified in detail the issues of principle for building the street into an energy-saving and green type in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, setting forth tasks arising in building the future-oriented street of the Juche-based architectural arts.

True to his intention the groundbreaking of the project started in April 2016. The project included the construction of 44 blocks of skyscrapers and high-rise and multistorey apartments for more than 4 800 families and over 40 blocks of public establishments including nursery and kindergarten in an area of over 90 hectares, and the renovation of over 70 blocks of apartment houses and public facilities.

The builders completely removed over 30 blocks of old

buildings and debris of hundreds of thousands of cubic metres, finished footing excavation of over five hundred thousand cubic metres and started ground concrete tamping for apartments in less than twenty days after the groundbreaking. On average the frames of flats for over 100 families were completed every day, and thus those of the skyscrapers, 70% of the architectural group, were completed in a little over three months after the groundbreaking. A 70-storey apartment, the highest one in the street, is over 200 m high with a total floor space of over 120 000m<sup>2</sup>, and its builders created a legendary speed of construction by finishing its frame in only 74 days.

During the building of the street the Supreme Leader gave energetic and scrupulous guidance to the project ceaselessly. He examined many scale models without omission, and gave scrupulous instructions as to the details of the formation of the street which even experts had failed to think of. He taught the principled matters to be adhered to in the construction of the skyscrapers and multistorey apartments, including the matter of setting different apartment sections and constructing the buildings with their own unique characteristics in each section; and the matter of linking the lower floors of the 70-storey and 55-storey apartments so as to set up a shopping mall.

He examined a thousand and several hundred scale models. Thanks to his meticulous guidance highly artistic distinctive buildings went up on the region where the Jangsan Stream was flowing, thus forming a modern architectural group of skyscrapers round the tower to the immortality of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, and the ideologi-

cal and artistic quality and practicality were ensured thoroughly in the construction of Ryomyong Street.

Especially, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un gave instructions that geothermal cooling and heating system should be introduced into public establishments and apartments with the main emphasis put on constructing power-saving buildings, and that welfare service facilities should be designed to be well lighted naturally. Thus energy-saving technique and green architecture, which ensure the effective use of renewable energy including geotherm, were widely applied to the construction of Ryomyong Street, and the surroundings were distinctively turned into groves and parks.

Scores of advanced construction techniques were applied in the project. In particular, energy-saving techniques were actively introduced: a passive solar heating technique; a sunlight-guide illumination technique; an air-cooling load reducing technique; a sound- and light-sensing illumination technique; a geothermal ventilation technique which reduces the consumption of power; a geothermal floor heating technique; and a geothermal cooling and heating system.

Green architecture was introduced in the construction of the street such as a hydroponic cultivation technique which automatically controls the plant growth by computer, a rainwater-using technique, a thin-layer roof greening technique and a wall surface greening technique.

The thin-layer roof greening technique was widely applied to the apartments and public establishments of the street. Planting on the roofs of the apartment buildings and public establishments with good species of trees and turf makes it possible to pre-

vent indoor temperature from rising in summer, and prevent the temperature from falling in winter.

The roofs of scores of blocks of apartment buildings, interconnected service networks and public establishments were covered with thin layers of light substratum to be planted with trees and turf.

Meanwhile, natural lighting was actively introduced in the service facilities and public establishments so as to save electricity as much as possible. And sunlight-guide illumination devices were installed at the service facilities such as underground garage, equipment room and underground shop that the sunlight cannot reach.

Anion-generating plastic wallpaper and paint were used in the apartments. Such wallpaper and paint always generate anion, thus they produce good effect on the health of people and provide a wonderful green environment.

The World Health Organization made it public that the anion density in the air good to the health is 600/cm<sup>3</sup> normally,

and that almost all diseases break out when its density is below the normal level.

Researchers of the State Academy of Sciences surveyed and extracted natural tourmaline which can generate anion permanently. They made plastic wallpaper and inside-coating material with it, and it was proved scientifically that anion density of them is 1 760/cm<sup>3</sup> and 1 530/cm<sup>3</sup> respectively.

A rainwater-recycling system was applied to the buildings with their roofs covered with greenhouses. The system gathers the rainwater, and supplies the water through its own feed-water network when the precipitation is not sufficient. It was also applied to kindergartens and nurseries.

Different energy-saving techniques were introduced in the buildings and gymnasiums of several primary and senior middle schools such as a technique of preventing summer sunlight from streaming indoors with a shade-style light-interrupting structure to keep indoor temperature from rising and reduce air cooling load, and a technique of

saving electricity which ensures interior ventilation and temperature in summer by using geotherm and waste heat from ventilation.

Good measures for heat insulation of buildings were taken to provide a proper indoor temperature merely with natural lighting. And a passive solar heating technique was applied to scores of blocks of apartments: windows are fixed at south verandas to keep warm their sunny aspects, and enhance the capacity for absorbing solar heat.

A children's park, volleyball and badminton courts and a roller rink also went up in Ryomyong Street that covers an area of over 57 000m<sup>2</sup> in total. And the street is decorated with tens of thousands of trees of over 50 species, and turf of over 100 000m<sup>2</sup>.

Teachers and researchers of Kim Il Sung University and ordinary working people are enjoying a happy life in the street built as the model and standard of modern architecture with the country's own strength, technology and raw material.

*Yom Song Hui*

A panorama of Ryomyong Street.



# Active Development of Renewable Energy



A sci-tech discussion is under way.



The geothermal device laboratory.

**T**HE RENEWABLE ENERGY Institute of the State Academy of Sciences has made not a few achievements through vigorous research, development and application.

Dr. Kim Chol, head of the solar cell application laboratory, says, "Recently the International Energy Agency commented that solar energy would account for one fourth of electricity produced worldwide by 2050. In keeping with the global trend, my laboratory has intensified the research on effective use of solar energy."

Researchers of the institute established a process for assembling solar panels capable of generating electricity of 1 000kw annually, and introduced the so-

lar power system in the Ryuwon Footwear Factory, Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory and many other units.

The institute also established a technique of forming and controlling separate and parallel solar power systems, a technique of forming a system for heating a large amount of water by using a vacuum-tube solar water heater and a technique of passive solar heating.

And after deciding on the designs of production cycle-based solar greenhouses suited to the actual conditions of all regions in Korea, they introduced them in the rooftop solar hydroponic greenhouse of the aforesaid footwear factory, the one of Wisong

Scientists' Residential District and those of different farms.

Wind energy is worldwide recognized as the one representative of the future. The wind power resources survey laboratory of the institute completed the country's wind power resources distribution chart and a system for search of relevant data in a short period of several months. And the wind power machine and wind-driven generation laboratories developed 5kw, 10kw, 100kw and 250kw wind-driven generators, and completed the research on the technical process for designing and manufacturing 1Mw and 2Mw wind-driven generators.

The institute has also made

▶ a great progress in developing geothermal energy. What catches the eye is the development and introduction of a geothermal cooling and heating system using groundwater at 4°C. Now the system has been introduced and favourably commented upon in the Samjiyon Schoolchildren's Palace, Samjiyon City House of Culture and many other units. And it has developed 4.5kw, 7.5kw and 200kw submarine pumps and hot spring water-based 5kw geothermal generating machines, making a breakthrough in developing and using geothermal energy.

Besides, it has developed and introduced lots of renewable energy-based equipment including a waterwheel-based water pump that uses no electricity, sand clearing machine, devulcanizer, rice-chaff gas stove and methane-driven generator.

Dr. Kim Kang Il, vice director of the institute, says, "It is our consistent stand and strategy to increase the production of electricity by dint of renewable energy and keep expanding the range of their utilization."

Now the institute is focusing its efforts on projects for raising the efficiency of power production system based on various kinds of renewable energy, de-



Specifications of wind-driven generators are examined in a residential district.

veloping a geothermal generating system based on hot spring water, producing biofuel by dint of small algae, using the energy of purple eulalia and developing a heat pump with air used as its heat source.

Meanwhile, the institute has a plan to work on developing tidal power. Korea has the fifth biggest tidal difference in the world, and is very rich in tidal resources. Especially, the west coast of Korea is one of the areas with the richest tidal power resources

in the world. Researchers of the institute are confident that tidal power research and development will make a great contribution to the country's increased production of electricity and the development of its economy.

The institute will continue to make efforts to actively develop and use inexhaustible renewable energy that causes no environmental pollution.

Article by Choe Sol Mi  
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok

The solar panel assembly shop.



The biofuel laboratory.



A panorama of the institute.



## Goods in Increasing Demand

**S**OSIN-DONG IN RYOKPHO DISTRICT, Pyongyang, has the Pyongyang Building Materials Factory, a large-scale general building materials producer. It mass-produces over 50 kinds of building materials, including plastic-framed windows, tiles and artificial marbles, with the brand of *Ulmildae*.

“*Ulmildae* building materials are strong and very convenient to use and add to the beauty and quality of buildings. The building materials are the best.” This is a unanimous opinion of the builders who used *Ulmildae* building materials during the construction of Changjon Street, the apartment blocks for teachers of Kim Il Sung University, the Mirim Riding Club, etc. and Pyongyang citizens.

The technicians and workers of the factory turned a heavy oil-based production process into a coal gasification-based one from December 2010 to April 2012 by pooling their wisdom and efforts.

Now the factory produces different kinds of tiles, artificial marble, interior and exterior painting materials, waterproof plates and sanitary ware with domestic raw materials alone. Meanwhile, the factory is making untiring efforts to develop programs necessary for production lines and raise the quality of the products. As a result, it has developed and introduced in production various programs, including the one for control of automatic tile transport robot and a PLC interface program of a tile grinder, and control units. In 2014 it succeeded in making the production of sanitary ware moulds CNC-based by dint of 3-D measurement and CAD/CAM technique.

*Ulmildae* building materials from the factory have been highly rated at different festivals and exhibitions at home and abroad, winning lots of patents and diplomas. Such building materials won the technical prize and exchange prize at the Pyongyang international furniture and building materials science and technology exhibition held in 2017.

The factory is putting much effort into diversifying its products. Last year, for example, it developed over ten varieties of new goods such as ditch-like urinal and checkered plastic ceiling panel.

The varieties of sanitary ware from the factory number over 20, including urinals for children, 0.5 m- and 0.7 m-high perpendicular urinals, kitchen sinks, washstands and toilet stools for ships.



**Efforts are made to improve the quality of building materials and increase their variety.**

Especially, the production of sanitary ware moulds has been made CNC-based, making it possible to develop new products rapidly and raise their quality radically.

Great progress has been made in the development of tiles, one of the factory’s main production indexes. Scores of varieties of relief tiles, interior and exterior tiles, floor tiles, underwater tiles and ceramic drainage gratings from the factory are favourably commented upon by the users as they add to the beauty and quality of buildings and are convenient to use.

The factory also produces and makes to order acrylic-styrene water paint, water-glass exterior paint, decorative interior wall paint, decorative stone exterior paint and other interior and exterior materials, waterproof denatured asphalt plates, artificial marble of different colours and plastic-framed windows of different forms.

Flower pots and vases of different forms and sizes, including a quadrangular flower pot embossed with patterns of dragon, from the factory are making a contribution to the people’s cultural life.

Thus the users of the goods from the factory are on the increase now.

Yun Myong Sik, vice chief engineer of the factory, says, “Our goal is to make *Ulmildae* goods everybody’s favourite everywhere, and famous ones with a competitive edge in world market.”

The workers of the factory are striving to attain the goal.

*Kim Son Myong*

## Enterprising People

**W**HEN MANY PEOPLE REFER TO THE Wonsan Disabled Soldiers’ Plastic Daily Necessities Factory in Kangwon Province, they count kitchen utensils first such as rice-clean bowl, basin, water dipper and noodle vessel. The products of fine colours, good quality and diversified forms are favourably commented upon by the users.

Actually, the factory could develop itself with the production of kitchen utensils alone. The administrators and workers of the factory, however, were not content with that.

Whenever some construction projects were ongoing in the province, plastic pipes were badly needed at any of them. At that time the province imported or purchased those pipes from other provinces.

Now the officials and employees of the aforesaid factory decided to take charge of the problem. Later, plastic pipes of different sizes produced by the factory were sent to all construction sites in the province. Last year it fully supplied plastic pipes to construction sites in the province including those of several power stations.

A few years ago there was underway the modernization of the Kangwon Province December 6 Children’s Camp, and the workers of the factory volunteered to solve the problem of changing the seats of the auditorium into new ones. It was a hard job for them because they had to produce new seats in a short span of time, with no relevant experience. Making of moulds did not go smooth. But the officials and workers of the factory solved the knotty problems by pooling their strength and wisdom, thus making a contribution to wonderful renovation of the camp.

When they were arranging the artificial turf production process at the factory, there was no experience of producing artificial turf in the country until that time. Now they made concerted efforts with the scientists in the province to know the principle of artificial turf production, and designed and manufactured the relevant equipment, and thus succeeded in making the turf for the first time in the country.

Later they updated the equipment through technical innovations, thus expanded the width of the turf 2.5 times and improved its quality higher. Last year they further increased the capacity of production, thus making it possible to meet not only the demands of schools, children’s camps and industrial establishments in Wonsan but also that of the whole country.

Whenever they developed new products one after another, the factory gained richer experience, and the zeal of its workers grew further. Recently they succeeded in producing lamps for decoration, lithium-gel battery and sponge, and are arranging the process for producing vinyl chloride flooring. And they recycle the waste vinyl to produce new products, which is also a noteworthy success of theirs.

The factory, which had only 17 workers in its early days, has been changed into a large-scale plastic goods production base. However, the workers are not satisfied with it.

Yom Chol Jun, general manager of the factory, says, “It is our determination to produce all the plastic products needed by our province.”

*Rim Ok*

**Production lines for plastic lamp shade and artificial turf production.**





## Enormous Pleasure

**T**HE MUNCHON MUNICIPAL Foodstuff Factory is situated at the foot of Mt Mangdok in Munchon, Kangwon Province. Every morning of the factory starts with honks of soya milk vans arriving, rolling into the compound in a row. When loaded with pails of soya milk the vans leave for nurseries, kindergartens and schools in the city, and workers of the factory see them off wearing a smile of satisfaction.

The factory also churns out biscuits, candies, corn syrup, jelly, and other foods with raw materials it produces by itself. The workers feel pride in their job as their foodstuffs are favourably commented upon by the local people.

Established in the 1980s, the factory produced a small number of kinds of foodstuffs at the time. The officials and workers of the factory were an enterprising kind of people, so they brought under cultivation the land of a mountain valley over 20 kilometres away from the factory, and expanded the field stage by stage, thus creating its own raw material base of over 50 hectares.

Meanwhile, they pushed ahead with stockbreeding, and thus spread 40 tons of manure

per hectare in the field of the base so as to increase their fertility. Then they planted various kinds of crops and used corn and soya from the base to produce corn syrup, jelly, candies, biscuits, *makkolli* (raw rice wine), soya milk, sugar-coated beans and beans coated with starch jelly. And vegetables from the base were used to produce *jang-jorim* (vegetables pickled in soy sauce), while meat was turned into processed foodstuffs such as sausages and ham.

The factory made all the relevant production equipment by itself. As a result, the varieties of foodstuffs from the factory kept increasing, and the production capacity increased scores of times compared to that in its early years.

The factory established a production cycle of agriculture and animal husbandry, and has increased productivity by relying on its own raw materials—this is the unique business strategy of the factory and its laudable tradition.

Foodstuffs from the factory took first place in the 7<sup>th</sup> national processed corn show and were rated as excellent at national sci-tech festivals successively in recent years. Thus the workers

are in high spirits.

They are now vigorously vying to develop new kinds of foodstuffs, especially, natural functional ones. Previously natural colours were extracted from fruit of red vine spinach and pine pollen to be used in making foodstuffs. Recently they have developed foodstuffs to which *Polymnia sonchifolia* is added. *Polymnia sonchifolia* contains a lot of fructo-oligosaccharide.

Candies, biscuits and drinks containing the *Polymnia sonchifolia* additive help treat and prevent diabetes, urinate and neutralize poison, and are especially effective in retarding ageing and treating cancer, arteriosclerosis and hypertension, thus being popular with the public. The factory has decided to turn all its products into natural functional foodstuffs containing the *Polymnia sonchifolia* additive.

And it plans to turn its raw materials base into a *treasure* base by planting it with lots of medicinal plants like *Aronia melanocarpa* and *Schizandra chinensis*, further modernize its production lines and keep developing new foodstuffs.

Officials and workers of the factory are not merely wedded to their old experience but rely on

## With Scientist's Conscience

**S**KIN DAMAGE DUE TO burn and other accidents can be healed only by covering the wound with some materials as soon as possible, which helps prevent infection and septicemia. Artificial skin made with some artificial materials can be cited.

Now artificial skin researches have been conducted worldwide, thus producing artificial skins for various purposes.

The researchers led by Han Jong Chol, a laboratory head of the High-tech Bioengineering Goods Company, the Bioengineering Branch of the State Academy of Sciences, invented a kind of artificial skin through years of painstaking efforts. They created biological support by using a kind of organic material whose source is abundant, implanted a stem cell into the support and cultured the cell in it to make the artificial skin.

"It took us some years to complete the artificial skin. During the period we realized we can do anything if we believe in ourselves," says Han.

First of all, the researchers read various reference books to find out a material to be used in making the artificial skin. Their goal was to make it with a domestic material instead of the imported.

But it was not easy. The experiments based on materials they found out with painstaking efforts merely showed that those materials were not good

in tensile strength and could not function as properly as the original tissue. Then some of the researchers suggested making the artificial skin on the basis of the preconceived theory first.

But Han said, "If we shrink from difficulties today, we'll do so tomorrow, too. There is no other way opened to us. Only when we advance along the road we've chosen can we succeed."

Then Han decided to make a new start. He encouraged all the members of the research team, saying that if they gave up the research, others would waste time following suit, and that if they failed again, they would have to tell the younger generation that their country had no material to make the artificial skin with.

His words touched the heartstrings of the researchers who were determined to support the building of a socialist power conscientiously and with science as scientists. Thus they restarted the research with a conviction that there would be surely a material for the artificial skin in the country.

One day Choe Jin, the youngest of the research team, suggested doing experiments with skins of domestic animals. After the material was confirmed, they intensified stem cell research. In the course of this they made clear the biological characteristics of stem cells, the method of their isolation culture and their action of clinical treatment.



Researchers implant and cultivate a stem cell in a biological support.

Scores of times of animal experiments proved them. Thus the researchers' painstaking efforts resulted in the completion of the artificial skin.

Their research success was awarded a state certificate of invention in 2017, and a state certificate of introduced sci-tech achievement and a state certificate of registered sci-tech achievement in 2018.

Han says, "Certificates of invention and introduced sci-tech achievement are also important to scientists. However, it is more important to make an artificial skin similar to the natural skin in quality and save the suffering patients concerned."

To this end they are now engrossed in the relevant research.

Kim Il Ryoung

Different foodstuffs are produced and supplied to children.



► science and technology to make progress.

Last year, for example, 38 of the workers graduated in engineering at Wonsan Jo Kun Sil College of Technology while working on the shop floor.

General Manager Jong Phyong Ok of the factory, a Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism and deputy to the Provincial People's Assembly, has led the factory for over ten years, winning the fame of mas-

ter of invention. She says, "I feel pleased when I hear that the foodstuffs from my factory are favourably commented upon by the people. We'll redouble our efforts for such pleasure."

Rim Ok



## Good Pupils Grow

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL AFFILIATED with Sinuiju Teachers Training College is well known for its training of good pupils. Among the old pupils are Kim Wi Jin and Kim Won Nam who are now distinguishing themselves as gifted talent at Pyongyang Secondary School No. 1, the educational institution of national importance with highly intelligent children. Ju Myong Su and Ri Yun Hong who are No. 1 students in the computer genius class of Kumsong Secondary School No. 1, also come from the abovementioned school.

Kim Ryong Hui, head teacher of the school, says, "You can't make a talent even if you are eager for it, and it is in no way a windfall. We know we have to provide a fresh content and environment of education while elevating the qualifications of the teachers."

Kim recalls she felt thoughtful when she heard



the 12-year compulsory education was introduced. She was an ambitious kind of person, and yet she felt at a loss. She thought hard what to do first. Now she, together with some teachers, visited a number of primary schools in Pyongyang, to say nothing of Pyongyang Teachers Training College, to learn a lot. Over the days she found that her school was a hostage to old-fashioned ideas, system and mode regarding education.

Now the teaching staff decided to develop different means of education for the pupils taking advantage of the school which is affiliated with Sinuiju Teachers Training College. They pooled their wisdom and intelligence in order to train the pupils as pillars of the country. A lot of things were projected for the purpose, including the one of using multimedia preparations for lessons.

One of those days the head teacher proposed to introduce the virtual-reality mode into lesson which had been developed by Pyongyang Teachers Training College. A plan was worked out for the purpose, but it was not so easy as expected. No one of the teachers had any experience in developing a VR program. Nevertheless, the teachers rose to the challenge. With the assistance of experts they succeeded in making the first program in a few months. Developed by Jong Hye Suk and Kim Sol Hyang, it projected images on the screen in accordance with the theme of a given song in a music lesson, helping the pupils to enjoy the music and improving their

cognitive faculty. When the program was demonstrated for the entire teaching staff, it exerted a tremendous effect.

Some teachers, who had thought it too much for them to develop a program, engaged themselves into the world of program development. As a result 18 programs were successfully completed, and the one made by Jong Myong Hyon was assessed as the best of all in the school.

When images which were dedicated to the show of the message of a certain poem recited in a literature lesson were projected on the screen, pupils who had been inclined to distraction were pulled into the poetic world and assimilated the idea of the poem with ease. When VR programs were introduced into lessons of different subjects such as maths and mother tongue, the academic attain-

ments of the pupils improved noticeably.

The school's pupils always win academic contests arranged by the city. Using the Tuesday panel discussion of each department and the Thursday department day program, the teachers build up their abilities further. Discussions often take place on introduction of new teaching methods, leading to energetic efforts to apply them in reality.

Meanwhile, the distance education system is in good use to elevate the teaching skills and improve their attainments in close contact with the college.

The head teacher says that as education is more and more oriented to introduction of artificial intelligence her school will concentrate on combining education and artificial intelligence.

*Article by Kim Il Bong*

*Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol*



## Worthwhile

**L**AST YEAR A GROUP OF women from Ryokpho District, Pyongyang, was ranked high in the national amateur entertainers' folk music contest. Their programme was the hour-glass drum ensemble *Niliriya about Moran Hill* which received a big hand for excellent presentation of the specific features of the Korean folk music.

Curious about the secret of their attainment as admirable as the professional entertainers, I went to the Ryokpho District House of Mass Culture to see them. There I heard a story from the chief of the house.

Thanks to energetic mass-based artistic activities the residents in the district became quite interested in them. One day some housewives from Sosin-dong, Ryokpho District, gathered to have a discussion. One of them proposed to participate in a national vocal contest which was to be held months later. With unanimous agreement a female ensemble was formed headed by Kim Hyang Suk who had once been a member of an artistic motivation team before

she got married.

Later when they took first place at the national working people's vocal contest (housewives' event), their husbands and other family members were quite happy and more enthusiastic about their work. They encouraged their wives to continue with their activities, saying, "I feel vigorous when I see you sing." Now the women realized music has such a great power.

They wanted to bring pleasure to more people by their singing, so they joined the art circle of the Ryokpho District House of Mass Culture. They were of different characters, hobbies and ages, but they shared the same purpose and mind developing their skills on the stage of the house of culture. Then, they toured factories and enterprises in the district on various occasions to encourage the workers with their singing and put on congratulatory performances together with members of the local factories' art circles. In the course of this they felt more keenly that greater sounds of music are the sign of greater

Efforts are made to improve artistic skills.



zeal for increased production.

When the Ryomyong Street project was launched they felt an irresistible urge to go there and encourage the builders who were working indomitably day and night to erect the street as a model of modern architecture. The sounds of their singing contributed a lot to completing the framework of the 70-storeyed apartment block in 74 days and tiling the outer walls of the block in 13 days—which was no less than a miracle.

The team of amateur singers could also be seen at other sites of important construction projects in the city. Pak Un Jong, a member of the team, recalls, "We had some difficulties—we knew we had to improve our artistic qualifications if we were to conduct more functional activities. Now we decided to go to college."

The team members enrolled at distance education courses, a type of study-while-working system, of Pyongyang University of Dramatic and Cinematic Arts, Pyongyang Kim Won Gyun University of Music and other colleges. Songs of the students could be heard in different parts of the country where grand construction projects were under way—typically, the Wonsan Kalma Coast Resort and Samjion Development.

They are no longer simple housewives who are indulged in looking after their own families. They are just leaders of the mass-based artistic development who are working devotedly for the sake of society and the collective with a good sense of citizenship.

Whenever they receive bouquets from the audience, they say, "We find our life worthwhile as we promote the development of the times with our songs."

Rim Ok

## Small but Practical



A mobile roentgen-generating device is assembled.

**T**HE NATIONAL PUBLIC health sci-tech achievements exhibition 2018 was held in that year in the capital city of Pyongyang, the DPRK. At the exhibition a mobile roentgen equipment developed by the scientists and technicians of the Pyongyang Medical Appliance Technology Company won special prize as a valuable medical appliance.

The equipment is convenient to handle and costs less compared to the previous ones. As it is small and light, it can be used at any place with less power consumption.

One day, when Kim In Chol, director of the company, dropped in at a provincial people's hospital to learn about the state of its medical appliances, he happened to meet a young woman from a remote forestry workers' village who said that she was there for her checkup as she thought there was something wrong with her body. Hearing her words Kim

felt sorry as people had to take the trouble to come and go a long distance because his company had failed to provide medical examination equipment in time.

felt sorry as people had to take the trouble to come and go a long distance because his company had failed to provide medical examination equipment in time.

Back to the company he held a meeting with his scientists and technicians, and proposed to develop mobile roentgen equipment which can be used at any place. It was not an easy job to make it small and light. But they pooled their wisdom, designed and made the equipment which consists of an X-ray generating device, a CCD camera for image photographing, an image formation device, a general control panel and so on.

The gross weight of the equipment is 25 kg, so it is easy to move, and it can photograph at any place with its X-ray generating device and image formation device alone. It does not need much power. As it has hardware and software that make it possible to do checkup in the mode of photographing, it can ensure

promptness in case of a group examination, examining 60 to 100 people per hour and 300 to 500 people a day.

The equipment developed by the company has been applied to hospitals of scores of units, enjoying popularity among the users. Previously it had invented and developed such simple and convenient medical appliances as an electronic scanning ultrasonic diagnosing device, an audiometric device, a portable ultrasonic diagnosing device, an ozone generator, a portable health checkup device and a remote speed meter.

In November last year the company presented an ultrasonic Doppler blood flowmeter, a prostate treating device and a passive inhaler at the national public health sci-tech achievements exhibition 2019. Previously, the company had won special prize and first place several times at the nationwide exhibitions of medical-appliance sci-tech achievements. It was awarded certificates of the DPRK patent, certificates of invention, certificates of registered sci-tech achievement, certificates of introducing sci-tech success, certificates of new idea, and certificates of registered program quite a lot.

Today the scientists and technicians of the company are striving to develop small and light medical appliances.

Sim Hyon Jin

# Target: Olympic Gold Medal

EVERY ATHLETE WANTS TO BECOME an Olympic gold medal winner during their career. So they all strive hard to attain the goal. Among them is Pak Yong Mi, a female wrestler of the Pyongyang Sports Club.

## World Wrestling Star

World championships held before the Olympic Games are usually recognized as fierce. So was the 2019 World Wrestling Championship. Moreover, it was participated in by many more wrestlers from many countries and regions, thus being larger in scale than the one held in 2018.

The participants included lots of those who had won or ranked among the first three winners at major international competitions including the last Olympics. Among them was Pak Yong Mi who was to take part in the women's 53kg-category event.

Pak, who had begun to distinguish herself several years before, displayed her overwhelming technical superiority in matches before the final. She went up to the final after finishing all the matches ahead of fixed time.

Her rival in the final was a Japanese, who had previously had matches with her at the Asian Wrestling Championship and the World Wrestling

► Championship. The Japanese rival was beat by Pak at the 2019 Asian Wrestling Championship, so the former attempted to make up for the defeat by all means.

The final, which attracted the attention of all experts and enthusiasts, was quite fierce as expected. At first the two wrestlers were engrossed in a seesaw battle without a great margin in score. After a while, Pak launched an active, stout attack. While checking the rival's attack, she scored four points through two successive backward grips. And during wrestling in a kneeling position, she gained control of the rival's one arm and turned the body of the latter in succession to score eight more points, thus finishing the match ahead of fixed time. The spectators were struck with wonder because Pak, as an Asian champion, won the world championship by defeating the Japanese rival, once a world champion.

When many foreign reporters asked Pak about her impression of her victory, the secret of the success and her hope, she, full of confidence, replied, "As a beautiful flower is attributable to a good horticulturist's effort, my success can be attributed to my coach's sincere effort. I want to report the news of my victory to my homeland that valued the bud of my talent and helped me develop the talent to my heart's content. I'll train hard to win a gold medal at the coming Olympics."

## Possessed of Strong Fighting Spirit

Pak Yong Mi was born the second daughter of an ordinary soldier's family. A sincere girl of few words, Pak was good at drawing in her childhood. Her neighbours said she was likely to become a good artist. She, however, had a dream of becoming an athlete while frequently following her mother to the Pyongyang Sports Club. Her mother was a cook of the sports club. *I'll hoist the national flag of the Republic in front of the eyes of the world instead of drawing it on paper.* With this determination she volunteered to do wrestling others hardly dared to. At the time she was 14.

An unusually assiduous girl, she soon began to distinguish herself at domestic competitions. After her win at the Asian Wrestling Championship held in 2013, she kept training hard with a view to becoming a world champion and Olympic gold



Pak in training (right).



medalist.

But not every athlete can keep enjoying their victory. Most of those who succeeded must have undergone difficulties during training. Pak was no exception. Once she got injured while training, and it badly affected her in a match. Then she went so far as to think of giving up her career as an athlete. She, however, changed the thought, and redoubled her efforts.

Recalling those days, Kim Kuk Song, a wrestling coach, says, "Yong Mi is possessed of strong fighting spirit, I think. Any athlete has a moment when they lose spirit. But it is not easy at all to bear it. Yong Mi, however, managed to do it."

Like that, Yong Mi overcame difficulties in training, and improved her physical and technical ability, thus becoming a world champion and People's Athlete.

The following is from the first page of her training diary.

"One cannot say one knows the weight of the national flag as one wears it on the chest. Only an athlete who knows the weight can hoist the national flag in every international competition."

Pak Yong Mi



## Anecdotes of Little Table-tennis Players

**I**N THE SPRING OF LAST year there took place a national schoolchildren's games in Pyongyang. The boys' table tennis team from Tongsang Primary School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang, won the primary schoolchildren's table tennis event in total by taking first place in the team event, and first and third places in the singles. Thus the team won the trophy of the event once again in ten years. And they left the following episodes during the sports meeting.



### 53 Apple Pieces

Perfect was team spirit of the school's table tennis circle members as well as the team's ability demonstrated during the sports meeting.

Asked about the secret, Yang Il Hyok, captain of the team, told the following story.



It was one day before the sports meeting. Hong Sun Sil, instructor of the circle, found some appetizing apples put on her desk. A member of the circle had secretly put the apples on the desk for the instructor who was striving to improve their ability.

But that evening, during the review of the day's training, the instructor sliced the apples into 53 pieces, and equally distributed each of the pieces to each of the circle members.

Yang added, "The instructor always distributed even a single candy or biscuit equally to us. This enabled us to rally as one and redouble our efforts."

### It's Really Incredible!

Kim Ryong Ung, a member of the circle who took third place in the singles, attracted special attention of experts and enthusiasts.

It was in April 2018, just a year before the games that Ryong Ung, once captain of a similar circle of Ryomyong Primary School in Taesong District, Pyongyang, transferred to Tang-

sang Primary School.

Previously he had challenged the Tongsang team for matches out of his confidence in his table tennis ability, but he had lost even to second graders as well as fourth graders like him. This made him decide to change his school, and thus he began to learn the sport at the circle.

Under the guidance of Sun Sil he changed from the shake-hand grip to the penholder grip, and steadily polished his skills.

As a result he took third place in the singles of the afore-said competition and beat all his rivals in the team event, thus making a decisive contribution to the victory of his team.

Watching the boy play, not only the instructor of the table tennis circle of his former school but also similar instructors of other schools exclaimed, "It's really incredible!"

### For the Sake of Their Village and School

Standing on the podium for the winners, members of the team shouted, "We want to pre-



Proper posture is developed.

sent these medals to our neighbours and the teachers and pupils of our school."

It is Sun Sil's consistent principle to make her charges aware of the obligation to their village and cherish a desire to display the honour of their school.

She is always concerned to make sure that all the circle members remembered the trust of their parents and neighbours who were bringing them up carefully, and the honour of their school.

She saw to it that they did the warming-up exercises of her

invention to the tune of the song *Mother's Request*, and listened to *Patriotic Song* before starting their training so that they felt the importance of medals. This aroused voluntary enthusiasm from the circle members, and graduates from the circle ranked among the top three winners at different international competitions such as the 2017 ITTF Challenge Pyongyang Open.

For the sake of their village and school—with this desire the circle members are invariably training hard.

Article by Kim Hyon Ju  
Photos by Hwang Jong Song

### Instructor Hong Sun Sil.



# I'll Remain a Winner

(5)

Kang Ho Jin

**I**F I PUT DOWN THIS weight now, how could I bear anything more difficult and harder? Kye Sun Hui, you are not to give it up and fall down. The honour of the country rests on your shoulder.

With this thought Sun Hui braced herself up to overcome great physical exhaustion. And in order to master even a single technical movement, she steadily made painstaking efforts doing imitation or repeated training thousands of times.

At last the day came for Sun Hui to leave the country to participate in the Olympic Games. The then Olympic team of Korea had many world-famous athletes including Kim Il, gold medalist of the 48kg freestyle wrestling event at the 25<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games, and People's Athletes Kim Myong Nam and Ri Yong Sam, and Sun Hui, at the age of 16, drew no special attention as she was an unknown female judoist with no experience in international competition.

In July Juche 85 (1996), the Olympic team of the DPRK arrived in Atlanta, the US. The 26<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games, participated in by teams from 197 countries and regions, drew the attention of many sports experts and enthusiasts as it was the largest international competition in scale

and number of participants. Such a large-scale international competition would be participated in by stars of each event, so many experts would predict the likely winners, and their predictions would be usually correct.

The absolutely likely winner of the women's 48kg judo event of the 26<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games was Tamura Ryoko of Japan. She was the gold medalist of the women's 48kg judo event of the Barcelona Olympic Games, and later won 84 consecutive victories in the World Judo Championships and other international competitions, thus being called "national hero" of Japan. For this reason lots of Japanese filled the terraces to cheer her. They all counted on their fingers her rivals, and were confident that she would surely win. They, however, did not include Kye Sun Hui in the rivals.

But soon after the beginning of the competition, the name of Kye Sun Hui gradually began to be talked about.

Beyond predictions, Sun Hui beat her Dutch, Spanish and other rivals in succession, and was to have the final with Tamura Ryoko. This instantly aroused people's interest and doubt.

*Who is Kye Sun Hui? How old is she? Which school does she attend? Where did she learn judo?*



*What kind of family is she from? How could the unknown girl be through to the final?* But nobody could give detailed answers to the questions.

Sun Hui demonstrated what she was like with her amazing success. It was on July 26 (the morning of July 27 by the Korean time), 1996, the day for the final. Pak Chol had stayed awake all the previous night working on tactics for the match. Sun Hui, however, did not look worried or restless at all. Just in the waiting room she still looked calm. This made Pak Chol restless inwardly, but he did not express it as it was just ahead of the match.

In fact Sun Hui's heart was beating faster compared with Pak Chol's. The girl now felt as if she were entering the field of decisive battle.

Sometimes noises came from inside the arena—cheers, the voice of the announcer informing points and the noise of strange music.

Without any heed to all the noises, Sun Hui took out a small cloth pouch from her breast

► pocket, opened its mouth and smelt the bitter and yet fresh fragrance of the content. It was the soil of her homeland her parents had given her when she left the country.

"Sun Hui, you should never forget your country wherever you go. Only then can you be courageous and surely win the competition. We hope you will hoist the national flag of the Republic without fail, keeping this soil of the homeland in your bosom," Sun Hui's grandmother and parents had said encouragingly, giving the pouch of soil to her. So she always kept the pouch in her bosom without forgetting their words.

While holding the pouch of soil in her hands before entering the arena, Sun Hui found herself becoming calm obviously.

Sun Hui asked Pak Chol who, with a fixed expression, sat by her, "Mr Coach, may I have a sleep?"

The coach was surprised at Sun Hui's abrupt words because other athletes were training hard here and there in the room before entering the arena.

Unable to believe his ears, the coach asked her, "What? How can you have a sleep now..." Then his expression became bright.

"Do you mean you want to have a sleep? Ok! As you please," he agreed, realizing that she was full of confidence. He nearly shouted for joy. The inner peace of an athlete before competition is an important factor on which his or her win rests.

Pak Chol quickly stood up from the bench and put the bag

filled with training suits under Sun Hui's head. Then, with a bright expression, the coach walked up and down beside the sleeping girl as if he was guarding her.

On the opposite side the coach of Tamura Ryoko and a Japanese reporter, who had been whispering to each other while stealing furtive glances at Sun Hui, were now looking at Pak Chol and Sun Hui in doubt.

Still, Sun Hui tried to sleep, lying down on the bench. Looking at her, Pak Chol inwardly shouted for delight. *Good, very good! You show your mettle after sleeping soundly.* He now became confident that they would win the final.

At last the time came for Sun Hui to enter the arena. With a light heart, Pak Chol called up Sun Hui, humorously shouting, "Hey, late riser! Get up, it's time to have a match!"

While they were talking again about their tactics, the head of their team and several other members entered the room.

"Are you ready Mr Coach?" the head asked Pak Chol.

Casting a sidelong glance at Sun Hui, the coach said in a laughing voice, "Sun Hui has had a nap."

"What? Has she had a nap?" the head asked in wonder before smiling cheerfully. Sun Hui blushed scarlet, and the head patted her on the shoulder.

"That's good," he exclaimed and proudly said to other athletes and coaches of the team, "Look, an athlete should be courageous like this. The final today

is an important game which will decide whether our team will win the first gold medal or not in this Olympics. And you see Sun Hui is courageous like this. I dare say we have almost won the game."

Then People's Athlete Kim Il, the gold medalist of the men's 48kg freestyle wrestling event in the Barcelona Olympic Games, came up to Sun Hui and tapped her on the elbow, saying, "My heart always beats fast even before a national match. But this youngest sister of ours has a strong heart. I really envy you."

Now People's Athlete Kim Myong Nam, a weightlifter, said with a smile, "I won only a silver medal this time. I hope you will win the gold medal without fail. When you receive the gold, I'll shout hurray, holding you up high to be seen by all in the land of America." Kim had won a silver medal at the men's 70kg weightlifting event on July 23.

Sun Hui only kept blushing at the pep talk of the famous athletes, but inwardly she made a firm resolve to win the gold medal without fail.

But the moment she entered the arena, Sun Hui was somewhat surprised to see the Japanese occupying most of the terraces and shouting, flying the Hinomaru flags here and there.

The next moment, however, Sun Hui felt a surge of anger.

*I would not be Korean if I lose the game to you. I'll humble you by winning without fail.*

Now Sun Hui's eyes began to gleam.

(To be continued)

## Sister Workers of Merit

**K**IM HYANG SUK, HEAD of the Jonsung Seafood Store in Moranbong District, Pyongyang, and Kim Hyang Sim, a worker of the Mangyongdae District Fuel Company are sisters. As servants of the people they are honoured with the title of Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism. Their siblings are one man and seven women. Hyang Suk is the third and Hyang Sim the fourth of them.

The following story shows how they started to work in the service sector. Their siblings grew up without any cares and worries from childhood. The state provided them with free education while supplying uniforms and other school things. Whenever they received them, they felt grateful though young and would make up their mind to repay the state. Hyang Suk decided the way to repay was to work devotedly for the people and volunteered to work at a seafood store after she had finished school. One day when there was a supply of pollacks to the residents she knew some families had yet to get the fish because they were too busy with work. Hyang Suk left for mobile service after the day's work, instead of returning home.

Looking back upon her thirty years at the seafood store, she says, "The residents were delighted to see me bring nice and fresh pollacks to them and I felt refreshed and proud of my work. I have been to all harbours in the east and west seas and crossed almost all passes to enrich the residents' diet."



Kim Hyang Suk (right) and Kim Hyang Sim.

When she heard there was nice and fresh fish in a fishery station, she would rush there without delay and bring twice as much fish as others for the residents in her area.

Thanks to her sincere manner of work she became head of the shop after two years' work as a saleswoman and she has since been working hard as such for thirty years.

In those years she has improved the quality of service. Her workers not only sell seafood to the residents but also give lessons on fish cooking in keeping with their tastes. This is the merit of service in the Jonsung Seafood Store.

Hyang Suk knows the population in her area like the back of her own hand. And she is also familiar with the tastes and hobbies of the residents. She herself offers multifarious service ranging from instruction on the nutritive value of each fish to the cooking method, and she is strict with her workers.

She shoulders the work of assisting the People's Army and supporting grand construction projects—typically Ryomyong Street. Thus she is held in love and respect by the local residents and many other people. She is a model for her younger

sister Hyang Sim to learn from. Hyang Sim, working at the fuel company, was not satisfied with kind service alone. She invented a blower-equipped coal-fired range, which was the result of her constant speculation and study aimed at solving the fuel problem of the local residents. This earned her the fame of worker inventor.

People all across the country, to say nothing of the residents in Mangyongdae District, enjoy the benefit of her invention. The people in her area elected her to the district people's assembly in appreciation of her assiduous work to look after their life. When she was honoured with the title of Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism along with her sister, the residents immediately called on her for celebration. The two sisters find their happiness and pleasure in devoting themselves to the welfare of the people and share the effort for better service. When they are tired they encourage each other, and the mutual affection is quite admirable. They say, "Everybody's affair is important in our society. We regard all people as our own family. We will do more good things for them in the future."

Rim Ok

## Story of A War Veteran

**K**IM KWAN HUN, 86, WHO lives in Neighbourhood Unit No. 16, Namsin-dong No. 1, Songyo District, Pyongyang, is a war veteran.

During the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) Kwan Hun, as a 16-year-old boy, volunteered for the Korean People's Army and served as a signal man. Seventy years have passed since then.

He is now called veteran grandfather. But he is still as enthusiastic and vigorous as in his youth when he braved a rain of shells and powder smoke.

Whenever he has an opportunity, he visits factories, enterprises and schools to tell their workers and students the story of how his comrades-in-arms dedicated their youth and lives to defending the country. The old front-line soldier calls upon them to support conscientiously and dutifully the country defended at the cost of blood and sweat of his comrades-in-arms. His words are always etched in the listeners' minds.

In Korea, all the people respect these war veterans and take care of every aspect of their life like they should do their own parents. And this ethics and morality prevail in the society. Among the people are the staff of a marine products direct sales store of the cooperative fishery management bureau under the Ministry of Fisheries. When we met Kwan Hun some time ago, he told us the following story.

One July day five years ago strange women visited his house. They were the staff members of the aforesaid direct sales store. Producing various marine products, sweets and cakes and restorative medicines to him, they congratulated him on the

anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War while singing wartime songs.

At the first meeting, Kwan Hun felt as if they were his own daughters and granddaughters. From then on the women visited his home more frequently. They did so on national commemoration days, New Year's Day and public holidays, especially, on February 8, the founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army, on July 27, the anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, and on August 15, the anniversary of national liberation.

They paid attention to his life and would solve the problems arising in his home life.

It was one day in autumn last year. Kwan Hun was in sickbed with a cold. Knowing this the head of the store Pak Yong Suk and other saleswomen came to his home in haste. They brought a medicine and seafoods including octopus, Kwan Hun's favourite, so as to stimulate his appetite.

After work, they always visited his home to inquire after his

health and put their heart and soul into his treatment. This greatly impressed him.

After finishing his story, he showed us a book. The book contained all of what the saleswomen had done for not only him but also all other war veterans in the district by date. Every line of the book just reflected the great sincerity of the women who were looking after all the war veterans in the district like they should do their own parents.

Impressed by Kwan Hun's story we visited the direct sales store as well. The head of the store and other saleswomen were ordinary women like those who can be seen anywhere else.

The women said unanimously: If there had not been war veterans who fought for the country and people at the cost of their blood during the Fatherland Liberation War we could not think of our socialist country and happy life of today. So it is natural for us as the new generation to take good care of them. We will keep doing so in the future too.

Sim Chol Yong



# Developers of New Plating Technique

RECENTLY THE PORCELAIN production unit of the Mansudae Art Studio has developed and introduced into practice a nano-spray chemical plating technique of advanced level. This new technique of processing surface ensures a colour-plating effect with the method of conventional spray based on the principle of chemical reaction.

Generally, spray painting is a technique which turns paints of organic and inorganic solution into spray by compressed air from nozzle, thus coating the sur-

face of something to be painted.

When things with their surface already processed by activation are put in the solution, and agitated in a certain temperature, the coating metal ion, which forms complex salt, is reduced to be induced to the surface. This is chemical plating, that is, the process of oxidation-reduction.

The nano-spray chemical plating is a unique method of combining such spray painting and chemical plating, and is characterized by the way of spraying for the pretreatment of material and reducing extraction and coating of metal.

In practice there are not a few cases that materials to be plated

cannot be put in the plating solution as they are considerably large, and the spraying-based chemical plating can be said to be an effective method of solving such problem.

Kim Il Hyok, a section head of the aforesaid unit, and the technicians of the unit waged a vigorous campaign to develop and introduce a spraying-based plating technique. Through different experiments they were convinced that they can do chemical plating by relying on raw materials abundant in the country. In close cooperation with teachers of the Kim Chaek University of Technology including Jang Ryong they found out the raw materials of plating reagent materials and their ratio of composition.

The technicians established the hyperpure manufacturing process of high quality, which can be said to be a pivotal element in the spraying-based chemical plating technique, and completely ensured the domestic

production of coating metal solution, complex formation solution, reducing agent solution and other chemical plating agents.

They also solved by themselves all scientific and technical problems arising in the whole process of plating such as spraying, cleaning and drying. At last, the research team succeeded in developing the nano-spray chemical plating technique which can do activation treatment of the surface of material, and extraction of its oxidation-reduction successfully.

This plating method costs low as compared to that of the previ-

ous plating method, and its process is simple with less negative effect on environment. It was awarded a certificate of invention at the 15<sup>th</sup> National Invention and New Technology Exhibition.

As it has a wide range of use, the technique enjoys increasing popularity.

Now the technical team of the unit is doing services to those units which require gold, silver and bronze plating on different kinds of products.

Article by Sim Chol Yong  
Photos by Hwang Jong Guk



Main developer Kim Il Hyok.



Members of the ceramics production pool their efforts.





# Optimistic about Future



**H**OECHANG COUNTY IN southeast South Pyongan Province has long been well-known for its many mountains and trees. The name of the county means it has a lot of fir trees. The county is mostly mountainous with forests covering more than 82% of its total area.

In the past the County Forest Management Station invariably conducted the work to actively protect and conserve the forest resources and develop and use them effectively in conformity with the geographical characteristics of the county. The station did afforestation in a planned way and planted many trees of good species on mountains, thus creating forests of economic value such as those for timber and paper production. This has enriched the county's floral and fauna resources, and improved its ecological environment further.

In 2015 when a state measure was taken to wage an all-people forest restoration campaign, the station's work to create, protect and conserve forests got more animated. It put primary effort into strengthening the material and technical foundation of the tree-nursing division in order to increase the production of saplings needed for afforestation.

In March 2016 the station started the modernization of the division. In a short span of one year and a half it built a sapling greenhouse, an outdoor cultivation ground, and a circular cutting ground on modern lines, and rearranged sapling plots into standardized ones. At present it produces 800 000 saplings of different species annually at the cultivation ground of 10-odd hectares, including Changsong larch, pine nut trees, chestnuts and Siberian alder. And wild fruit trees take a large proportion of them. In the past five years it planted different species of wild fruit trees such as chestnut, date, wild vine, tara vine, wild pear and hawthorn, getting much profits.

Now the county has wild fruit tree forests of about 1 000 hectares, including pine nut tree forests of 500 hectares and chestnut forests of 120 hectares, thus gathering over 20 tons of pine nut, 200-odd tons of acorn and other wild fruits, and a dozen tons of medicinal herbs and fruits every year.

Besides, the station created a Korean evodia forest of more than 500 hectares, thus supplying oil for industrial use, and annually produces over 5 000m<sup>3</sup>

of timber to be used for the economic development of the county and the improvement of the local people's standard of living.

It also protects and conserves the forests well. What is notable in the station's work for forest protection is the use of *Trichogramma evanescens* Westwood to exterminate harmful insects. It annually sets free millions of *Trichogramma evanescens* Westwood in the forest regions within the county, resulting in noticeable effect.

Jo Myong Son, manager of the station, says, "Now afforestation of all mountains in the county has been concluded mainly. And it is our target to turn all the mountains into orchards in the future."

To this end, the station has set a goal of creating a wild pear forest of 200 hectares, a pine nut tree forest of 300 hectares, a chestnut forest of 100 hectares, and wild vine and tara vine forests of over 500 hectares in 2020. (It is the station's plan to create wild fruit tree forests of over 2 000 hectares within five years.)

The workers of the station are optimistic about their bright future.

Article by Kim Son Myong  
Photos by Hwang Kum Myong



# Mt Kuwol (1)



The road to the Kuwolsan Fort.

**M**T KUWOL IN THE NORTHWESTERN part of South Hwanghae Province has long been known as one of the six celebrated mountains in Korea as it has a unique beauty of mountains and valleys. It was named Kuwol (September) for its beautiful scenery of golden leaves in that month.

The mountain has 99 high and low strange peaks including Sahwang Peak (954 m) as the main peak of the mountain, O Peak (859m), Jugo Peak (823m), Sam Peak (615m) and Asa Peak (688m).

It is composed of granite, biotite granite and hornblende. Having long been cut by the action of the weather and erosion, it consists of curious rocks and cliffs, cone-shaped and pyramidal peaks and deep valleys. In the deep valleys like Sansong, Obong, Ungye, Hwajang and Wonmyong valleys there are waterfalls like Ryongyon Falls characterized by a rainbow and Samhyongje (three brothers) Falls and small ponds. From the valleys rise streams like Hanichon, Hanilchon, Namdaechon, Kuwolchon and Sanchonchon. In Samsudong situ-

ated up the Hanichon that flows down the northern slope of Mt Kuwol there are Puyon, Mayon and Yoyon. And on the side of the mountain there is a famous spring, called Sokdam, that did not dry even in a severe draught lasting for seven years. Small ponds like Madangso and Kamaso are also seen on the western slope.

As a typical forest area in the western region of the province, the mountain has tens of species of trees like pine, oak, chestnut and maple. Various kinds of flowers bloom at the foot of the mountain and ripening fruits like chestnut, jujube, persimmon and wild persimmon can be seen there in autumn.

Now Mt Kuwol with rich vegetation resources is a nature reserve. In this area, more than 1 291 species of plants are growing; 86 of the species are high trees. Many medicinal herbs including wild *insam*, astragalus, forest asiabell, *Angelica sinensis*, *Schizandra chinensis*, *Arisaema japonicum* and wild ginger grow in the mountain, and its animals and birds include roe deer, wild cats, pheasants, orioles,

▶ little cuckoos and owls.

The mountain has different sceneries according to the seasons.

In the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, the peasants' armed group led by Rim Kkok Jong based themselves in the mountain to fight against feudal position discrimination and cruel exploitation. During the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of the country, the mountain served as a base for the patriotic Korean volunteers who fought against the aggressors.

It also has lots of historical spots and ancient buildings like Phaeyop Temple built in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century, Woljong Temple, Hungryul Temple, Rak-san Temple, Talma Temple, Jonggok Temple, Sinwon Temple and Myogak Temple. In the mountain there are the site of the Kuwolsan Fort 5 230 metres around, which was one of the five great forts in Hwanghae Province in the past, and the site of a kiln in which celadon porcelain were fired in the period of the Koryo dynasty.

The mountain also has scenic spots like the Tanphung Recreation Ground, the Sansong Recreation Ground, the Jonggok Recreation Ground and the Phaldam Recreation Ground, all associated with legends. Now it serves as a popular public resort for sightseeing and recreation. □



A three-tier waterfall in the mountain.

Mt Kuwol covered with frost.



## Folk Holiday—*Jongwoldaeborum*



**JONGWOLDAEBORUM** IS one of the folk holidays celebrated by the Korean people from olden times. It covers the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the lunar January, the former called Minor Full-Moon Festival and the latter Major Full-Moon Festival. According to the old document *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms) the Korean nation has long celebrated the day while eating *yakbap* (boiled glutinous rice mixed with sugar, dates, chestnuts, pine-nuts, sesame oil, etc.).

Koreans organized various functions on the occasion wishing for luck and a bumper harvest in the New Year. Typical were erecting a pole for grain stack, enjoying the view of the rising full moon, and carrying manure out to the fields. On the 14<sup>th</sup> they set up the pole fastened with cotton bolls and ears of different grains to depict a bumper rice stack, and children turned around it, singing and dancing. And adults carried manure out to the paddy and dry fields early in the morning. Such custom started from the working life of the Korean nation

who regarded farming as the basis of everything.

The most impressive of the functions was to enjoy the view of the rising full moon. On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> people went outside to enjoy the full moon. It was believed that the person who was the first to see the rising full moon would enjoy good luck that year, so people let young persons stand in front of them to see the full moon. And they would tell their hopes as they believed that if they did so their hopes would come true.

There was a custom of cooking *ogokbap*, *yakbap*, and a dish prepared with nine kinds of dried wild greens to share them with neighbours. Koreans cooked and ate *ogokbap* (boiled rice admixed with glutinous millet, millet, barley and red beans) out of not only their confidence that the five grains are good for human health but also their desire for a bumper harvest and the five blessings (longevity, wealth, health, blessing of children and peaceful death) in the New Year as well.

On the morning of *Jong-*

*woldaeborum* people used to eat dishes cooked with nine kinds of dried wild greens including boletus, leaves of chillies, bracken, aralia shoots and broad bellflower as it was said that if one ate such dishes that morning, one would not suffer from illness that year. *Yakbap*, as one of the typical foods of the day, is steamed glutinous rice mixed with honey, sesame oil, chestnuts, dates and pine-nuts, and it is also called *yaksik* (medicinal food).

Various folk games took place on the day such as a tug-of-war, kite-flying and pinwheel play. According to the historical data the tug-of-war, the most exciting game in the festival, took place between children in early January by the lunar calendar and then between villages and between regions. Furthermore, a rope long enough to be grasped by all villagers was used to compete in collective strength.

Customs of *Jongwoldaeborum* reflect the noble and beautiful moral traits of the resourceful and diligent Korean nation.

*Choe Sol Mi*

## Unchangeable Ambition

**JAPAN'S HISTORY OF** aggression against Korea spans hundreds of years. Japanese pirates started their invasion of the Koryo dynasty (a feudal state of Korea that existed from 918 to 1392) from the 1220s.

Toyotomi Hideyoshi, after completing unification of Japan in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century by terminating the civil war spanning over one hundred years, unleashed a war (1592–1598) to occupy Korea in order to ease the difficult situation at home, but Japan was defeated in the war.

The insular country, which belatedly set out on the road to the capitalist development after the Meiji Restoration (a bourgeois revolution) in 1868, started its invasion of the continent in real earnest in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the mid-1870s it switched over to the stage of naked armed provocation against Korea. From April to May of 1875 the *Unyomaru* and other warships of Japan cruised along the coast of the East and South seas of Korea, committing reconnaissance and armed demonstrations. In August that year the *Unyomaru*, under the pretext of measuring a sea route to Niuzhuang of China, intruded the coast of Korea, destroying the latter's garrison batteries and killing innocent people.

The *Unyomaru* incident was a planned armed provocation staged to make up an excuse for

invading Korea. With this incident Japan threatened the feudal government of Korea with arms, and buckled down to forcible conclusion of an unequal treaty that would bind Korea to the Japanese control.

On February 27, 1876 the Korea-Japan Mutual Defence Treaty, the so-called Kanghwado Treaty, was concluded. Extraterritoriality, duty free and circulation of Japan's currency and other stipulations in the treaty gave a favourable condition to Japan which was running amuck to plunder wealth from overseas for rapid growth of militarism. It was the first humiliating treaty the feudal government of Korea signed with Japan.

With this as the start Korea was drawn into the vortex of semicolonialism rapidly. Later, many treaties were concluded between Korea and Japan owing to the latter's threat, blackmail, fraud and deception.

Japan ignited the Sino-Japanese War (1894–95) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05), removing the tentacles of Qing China and the czarist Russia from Korea. In 1905, it fabricated the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty," turning Korea into its complete colony. During its military occupation of Korea for over four decades Japan made an attempt to eliminate the nationality and national culture of the Korean people and turn them into "imperial subjects," and plundered a huge amount of human and ma-

terial resources from it.

One hundred and forty-four years have passed since the conclusion of the Kanghwado Treaty. However, Japan's ambition of aggression has never changed. In 1965 it cooked up a "treaty" and "agreement" with south Korea, modern versions of the "Ulsa Five-point Treaty," thus opening up the road of reinvasion. On this basis it intensified military ties with the US and south Korea while dreaming of taking the whole land of Korea.

Recently it fawned over the US to threaten south Korea, and thus brought the general security of military intelligence agreement, which had been previously abrogated, back to effect.

All the agreements between Japan and south Korea are oriented towards helping the former's realization of reinvasion of Korea. To this end, Japan has been on a headlong rush to a military giant and militarization. The Self-Defense Forces of Japan has become able to carry out overseas aggression at any time, and the moves for revising the constitution to lay a legal guarantee for going to war are continuing tenaciously.

This clearly shows the international community that Japan's militarism is no longer a specter but a dangerous political and military entity posing a grave threat to peace and security in and around the Korean peninsula.

*Yang Ji Song*

## Korean Architecture of Tower

**T**HE KOREAN-STYLE tower architecture can be traced back to megaliths in primitive times. Primitive Koreans, in the Bronze Age, built up megaliths facing the sky with a desire to protect and strengthen their tribe by soliciting nature for power. And such stones developed into vertical towers.

The towers were made of wood in their early days. They were three-, five-, seven-, nine- or thirteen-storeyed, and many of them were quadrangular or octagonal in plane.

What is famous for its large scale is a nine-storeyed pagoda at Hwangryong Temple. It is the highest of old wooden pagodas in Korea. It is about 78.75 metres in height, and its platform about 22 metres in width.

The architecture of wooden towers developed into that of stone ones. Stone towers, in their early days, were made of plain stones, and they were large in

scale and many-storeyed.

Later they were reduced in base area, scale and number of storeys, and made of whole stones, and necessary elements and decorations were carved on them.

Change in Korean-style stone tower architecture was accelerated in the latter half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century. And there began to appear those with two-storey platforms, and their platforms, towers and roofing stones were based on pedestals and stone props. The stone towers were exquisite in general expression.

Stone towers show a marked trend toward carving and are small in scale compared to the wooden ones.

Still, both kinds of Korean towers have things in common with each other: platform, tower body and head; and the decrease based on the same arithmetic progression in height and width for each storey. Such decrease

makes the line linking the edges of the eaves form a straight line.

Such a style of tower architecture is still used at present, including the structure of platform, tower body and head and the decrease based on arithmetic progression.

A typical example is the Tower of the Juche Idea that rises in Pyongyang on the bank of the Taedong River. It is a granite tower 170 metres in total height. It consists of a platform, tower body and head, and is based on the abovementioned decrease in order based on an arithmetic progression similar to that of a 13-storeyed octagonal pagoda of Pohyon Temple in Mt Myohyang, in such a way as to suit modern aesthetic taste.

The traditional Korean-style tower architecture was registered as No. 88 on the list of the national intangible cultural heritage.

*Kim Chol Hyon*

## Ceramic Kiln Site Newly Unearthed

**R**ECENTLY SCIENTISTS of the Archaeological Institute, the Academy of Social Sciences, have unearthed a ceramic kiln site together with researchers of the Rason Municipal National Heritage Conservation Agency.

The relic is situated some 10 kilometres northwest of Muchang-dong, Rason. At the site there remain only a ceramic kiln chamber and a chimney facility.

The kiln is a vertical one with

an arched ceiling surrounded by a mud-and-brick-wall fixed a little under the ground of a mountain slope. Discovered in the site are ceramics, a prop and a brick.

According to relevant research data the relic is recognized as the one that dates back to the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910).

The Muchang-dong ceramic kiln site, as a kiln site from the dynasty discovered for the first time in the Korean east coast,

testifies to the extent to which the Korean ancestors' ceramics developed.

In the kiln site there was discovered for the first time heat adjustment facilities fixed in the middle of the kiln. Also found were three earthen beads pasted on the base of each ceramic piece so that the ceramics could be easily separated after being fired.

The beads and the mud-and-brick wall of the kiln unlike the previously discovered stone walls from the same dynasty serve as the valuable data for the study of the art of ceramics in those days.

*Pak Thae Ho*

## Fantastic Service Establishment Yangdok Hot Spring Resort

