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The African Peace Award and Diploma presented to Chairman Kim Jong Il by Hon. Clems Emeka Aneke, the International President of the African Peace Foundation, in March 2012



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Front Cover: New houses mushroom in the flood-damaged areas

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA



Back Cover: Cholima Street in autumn

Photo by Ri Song Ik

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Everything for the People

FROM THE FIRST MORNING OF JANUARY to the close of this year the words *party* and *people* have recurred in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as frequently as never before. And unheard-of emergency measures have been taken for the safety of the people, and Party meetings have taken place in succession including the 13th Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the 14th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee, the Fourth Meeting of the Executive Policy Council of the Seventh WPK Central Committee, the 16th Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee and the 20th Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Seventh WPK Central Committee.

In March this year the WHO declared COVID-19 as a worldwide pandemic and called upon all countries to draw up an all-inclusive, comprehensive strategy to curb and overcome the disease.

From the first period of the outbreak of the disease on the planet the DPRK took strong preventive measures.

An enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee held under the guidance of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un stressed the need to establish a strict order by which all sectors and units unconditionally and absolutely obey the command and control of emergency epidemic disease prevention agencies, and carry out their orders thoroughly. Other meetings held later, too, stressed the need to intensify the state emergency epidemic disease prevention campaign. Accordingly, all channels and gaps that might allow the inroads of the disease were completely blocked, and check-ups and medical inspection and quarantine were further intensified.

In August and September South and North Hamgyong Provinces and other areas of the country suffered great damage from successive floods and typhoons at the same time, which left lots of people homeless.

The Supreme Leader was so grieved by the sufferings of the people that he visited a flood-hit area and set relevant reconstruction sites as the most important fronts on which the Party had to concentrate all energies. Thus the main construction forces of the country and Korean People's Army units were speedily dispatched to the reconstruction sites.

In September the Supreme Leader looked round a seriously damaged area of South

Hamgyong Province, and convened an enlarged meeting of the Executive Policy Council of the WPK Central Committee, in which he expressed his determination to tell WPK members of Pyongyang, the capital city, about the matter of forcefully helping South and North Hamgyong Provinces in rehabilitation projects. Then, on the spot, he wrote an open letter to the Party members. In the open letter ***To All the Comrade Party Members in the Capital City of Pyongyang*** he said, **"The WPK Central Committee calls on Party members in the capital city, by demonstrating the warm care and solicitude of the Party and deep affection of Pyongyang, to offer heartfelt consolation to the people in the devastated areas, help them and work with devotion so that they can return to a normal life as soon as possible."**

The day after the open letter was made public hundreds of thousands of Party members in the capital city volunteered to join the rehabilitation campaign in the provinces. Fifty-eight hours later two divisions which comprised a total of 12 000 Party members from the city, left for the provinces immediately.

Thanks to their devoted struggle of over 70 days, the rehabilitation projects were successfully completed: Model villages that might serve as a standard of socialist rural construction appeared in the damaged areas of Hongwon, Riwon and Hochon counties in South Hamgyong Province and Kimchaek City and Orang County in North Hamgyong Province, along with the construction of roads and the improvement of rivers.

Earlier, there had taken place a grand ceremony for starting the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital in accordance with the Supreme Leader's plan to erect an admirable hospital for the precious people.

On October 10 the Korean people significantly celebrated the 75th founding anniversary of the WPK. Addressing the military parade to celebrate the anniversary, the Supreme Leader said, **"I have only one heartfelt, sincere word for our people: Thanks."**

Listening to the speech he finished with the shouting, **"Long live our great people!"** all the people in the country burst into tears.

Seeing off this year in which they had to undergo a lot of difficulties and hardships, the Korean people keenly feel that all their dreams and ideals will surely come true as long as they have the Supreme Leader who holds them in boundless affection.

Yom Song Hui

Change in Taechong-ri

IN EARLY AUGUST LAST Taechong-ri, Unpha County, North Hwanghae Province, suffered serious damage owing to a downpour that continued for days. Over 730 single-storey houses and 600-odd hectares of paddy fields were inundated and 179 blocks of dwelling houses destroyed. The flood victims, who were left homeless, shed tears, only quarreling with

Providence.

Moving into New Houses

Told of the flood damage, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the afflicted area to learn about the state of the damage. Looking around different places in the area he gave detailed tasks and indicated the ways relating to

the rehabilitation.

Now units and subunits of the Korean People's Army were dispatched to the reconstruction site, and reserve cereals of the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission were supplied to the flood victims. Besides, office buildings of the County WPK Committee and County People's Committee, and public buildings changed into shelters for the victims, and a lot of bedding, daily necessities and medicines were supplied to them.

On October 15 there took place a ceremony of moving into the completed 820-odd dwelling houses. That day all the people in Taechong-ri shed tears of happiness and danced in delight, cheering, "It's wonderful to move into new houses."

Old Man's Recollection

The old man Ryang Kwan Yong in Neighbourhood Unit No. 20, Taechong-ri, is one of the

natives of the locality. His father and grandfather were born and lived there. So the old man says the history of his family is that of the village, and that of local changes.

Before the liberation (August 1945) of the country from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation his family lived in a house which was no better than a ramshackle hut. After liberation they demolished it and built a thatched house. Later, a co-operative was organized in the ri, propelling the agricultural cooperation, and socialist construction made headway in real earnest. And his house changed into a tile-roofed house under the State concern and support to liquidate all sorts of backwardness of the countryside and remove disparities between the urban and rural communities. This time his family has moved into a modern house befitting socialist culture, which can survive any natural calamity.

Stroking the nameplate of his house bearing the name of his son Ryang Yong Nam the old man says in tears, "My house is over 80m² and it has 12 doors. I

feel as if I were still in a dream."

Newlyweds Provided with House

"The State has relieved me of a great anxiety," says Ko Cha Suk, resident in Neighbourhood Unit No. 26, Taechong-ri.

In December last year she had a daughter-in-law in her family but had a problem. Though her house had two living rooms, it was too small for two couples to live under one roof. Moreover, she has another

son who is single. So Ko wished to provide her married son with even a single-room house.

Understanding her wish the State gave her married son a new house, too. Caressing her son's certificate of the house she said to her daughter-in-law, "We should name your coming child Kuk Bok (benefit from the State)."

Tears were streaming down the faces of all her family members.

*Article by Kim Son Hui
Photos by Ra Phyoung Ryol*



First Choice—Their Own Exertion

TROLLEY BUSES OF A new type are running along streets in Pyongyang. With improved capacities and appearances they provide more convenient means of transport to the citizens while convincing them of a better future and implanting in them a pride in their own things. One of these days I visited their manufacturer, the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory.

Labour- and Energy-saving Model

All the production processes are on a labour- and energy-saving basis. When I stepped into the assembly workshop, I found all the processes streamlined.

According to a manager of the factory, a mobile assembling platform in the workshop and all overhead cranes in the factory have been put on a wireless control system, thus reducing the labour consumption drastically. The profit from modernization of the electrodeposition process

and the power supply system is also enormous, I was told.

An energy-saving induction furnace was introduced and a far-infrared heating device was set up to cut the general power consumption considerably. A factory-wide wireless communication network was installed to make the production control much more functional.

All this led to a double production capacity while saving manpower and electric power by 30% compared to the earlier years.

Manufactured by Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory

The production processes of the factory have one thing in common: Almost all the equipment have been manufactured by the factory's own effort. The hundreds of items of equipment in operation for production of rolling parts and motors are the result of the concerted efforts of the managers, workers and technicians. In particular,

seven kinds of facilities, including the traction and speed testing platform, the side car wall shaper and the body boring machine, have marvellous specifications.

What is noteworthy is that some old facilities have been remodelled into those with higher processing capacities and precision standards through introduction of CNC technology. These machines make it possible to produce different kinds of parts like the electrotome, which had been impossible for the factory to make in the past.

The workers of the motor workshop have developed a new type of motor which has an admirable control function and 1.2 times greater traction.

The plate bearing the words "Manufactured by Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory" may be a sign of the high spirit of the workers and the bright future of the factory.

*Article by Kim Tae Song
Photos by Ri Song Ik*



Trolley buses run in Pyongyang.

Recycling Pays off



Problems are under discussion on the spot.

THE PHYONGCHON DAILY Necessities Factory in Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, produces consumer goods for the residents in the district. Not a few of its products are made from plastic waste. Among the products are plastic roofing tiles.

Roofing tiles are a traditional roofing material of Korea, and its kind, shape, colour and size are varied. Korean-style tile-roofed dwelling houses and structures such as the People's Palace of Culture, the Pyongyang Grand Theatre and the Grand People's Study House are ubiquitous in streets and villages across the country, and their number is still on the increase. But the traditional method of tile production is complicated, and the tiles produced by the method have a disadvantage as they are heavy.

Kim Jong Gil, manager of the factory, and its workers decided to arrange a process for making plastic tiles with plastic waste. After painstaking efforts

they managed to complete the process. Then they succeeded in making plastic colour tiles using various additives. Now different kinds of colour tiles from the factory are in great demand in not only the district but also other districts.

A resident in Ansan-dong No. 2, Phyongchon District, says, "The roofs of different dwelling houses in the district are covered with the plastic colour tiles from the Phyongchon Daily Necessities Factory. They are convenient to handle, durable and especially good for beautifying the streets."

The factory is also producing artificial turf using plastic waste. In the country the demand for artificial turf is growing, but only a few factories are producing it. Through repeated failures the factory developed a new twisting machine whose productivity is four times higher than those in other factories, and thus completed an artificial turf production process. Now the artificial turf from the factory

is favourably commented upon by schools, kindergartens and many other units in the district.

Meanwhile, the factory modernized a former small-scale plastic sack production process into the one which can produce tens of thousands of sacks annually and is establishing additional processes for making different goods with plastic waste. This makes it possible to increase the annual average income of the workers of the factory.

The manager says, "We have great economic profits from recycling the plastic waste. The greater profit is that the ability of technicians and skilled workers to carry out the recycling project has further improved. This guarantees the sustainable development of the factory."

At present the factory is improving the technical knowledge and skills of its workers through the regular operation of its sci-tech learning space, and applying advanced recycling techniques developed by them.

Sim Chol Yong



Secret of Increased Production

THE SONGYO FOODSTUFF Factory in Songyo District, Pyongyang, has recently increased the variety of products and the volume of production four and five times respectively by putting efforts into modernizing production lines.

After acquainting themselves with the actual conditions of the factory in detail, the management decided to make small but highly productive equipment instead of imitating large ones of national foodstuff factories. In other words, they held fast to it as one in the main links of modernization to establish electricity- and labour-saving production lines to suit the actual conditions of the factory. For example, they introduced the structure and mechanical features of the large bread production equipment while lessening the size, thus making and installing over ten machines necessary for the relevant process, reducing the relevant investment and power consumption by a third and a fourth respectively as compared to the large type.

Kim Myong Ae, head of the technical preparation laboratory, says, "We renovated all the

noodle, biscuit, drop and other production lines, and with the help of scientific research institutes, we made and installed hygienic passes, multi-functional sterilizers, air disinfectors and air showers."

Even the same products from the factory are different in packaging size from 10g to 10kg and in label and vary in packaging amount.

Rational values were derived from the analysis of consumption by different ages and constitutions so as to set the weight of bread per piece as 10g, 50g, 100g and so on.

Kim Son Hwa, a saleswoman of Songyo Grocery No. 1, says, "Recently the sales of bread, drops and biscuits from the Songyo Foodstuff Factory have been the highest. This is because all the foodstuffs are produced to suit the consumers' tastes and features."

This year the factory received the certification of foodstuff safety management system for its bread, noodle and three other production lines, and four kinds of products were registered as February 2 Products.

Sim Chol Yong

The variety of bread is on the increase.



Developers of Stone Processing Tools



Efforts are made to develop new products.

ONLY A DOZEN YEARS have passed since the inauguration of the Pyongyang Stone Processing Tools Development Company, but it has got a considerable position in the development of stone processing tools.

In its early days it imported a lot of parts and materials for production. Pak Kum Hak, director of the company, and its employees put in efforts to develop and produce stone processing tools with domestic materials, and thus they maintained the sustained development of the company. The first tool they developed themselves was an extra-hard cutting disc. It was followed by the development of a corner processing tool, a crown, a plastic grinding tool and scores of other stone processing tools. The examination of the quality of the tools done by a relevant unit concerned showed that they met the international ISO standards. Chang Jae Ryong, general manager of the Osoksan Granite Mine, says, "The extra-hard cutting disc made by the Pyongyang Stone Processing Tools Development Company can cut 45m² of granite a day, and its life lasts until it cuts 170-200m². This has got a greater cutting capacity than the imported ones."

According to the general manager, the section surface of granite processed by the extra-

hard cutting disc is smooth, and it causes the least noise while working. The load factor of the motor is only half as compared to the previous ones, and thus it is popular with the miners.

In recent years the company has developed diamond-based stone processing tools. It solved the problems arising in the ultrafine pulverization of diamond, the size separation of diamond powder and the ensuring of its functionality. Based on it they succeeded in making an extra-hard cutting disc by means of high-temperature pressing of diamond powder and metallic bond.

Pak Yong Nam, senior official of the Onchon Granite Mine, says, "Last year we developed a granite field with a large deposit. This year, while cutting the granite here, we have enhanced the processing rate of goods 5-10% higher than before. The secret is that we've used the tools developed by the Pyongyang Stone Processing Tools Development Company."

Along with domestic production of tools the workers of the company have renovated the heating furnace into an electricity-saving one, thus cutting the power consumption by 70% as compared to the early years of the company.

Today they are continuing research to develop new kinds of tools of higher-performance.

Sim Chol Yong

Hero Workshop Manager of Osoksan

PAK HO CHOL, A Workshop manager of the Osoksan Granite Mine, is a Labour Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He has been working at the mine for over three decades.

Actually he was born in Pyongyang and spent his childhood there. At that time a revolutionary upsurge was in full swing in the socialist construction of the country. During the days of the campaign to create the speed of the '80s and the construction speed of the West Sea Barrage, many monumental edifices mushroomed in the country including the Tower of the Juche Idea, the Arch of Triumph, Kim Il Sung Stadium and Dressing Plant No. 3 of the then Komdok General Mining Enterprise along with the aforesaid barrage.

What was badly needed everywhere was stone goods. And it was none other than young people who responded first to the requirement of the era and the call of the country. Pak also did after graduating from middle school. In this way he started his job as grinder at the Osoksan Granite Mine.

At that time the mine was waging a dynamic campaign to produce processed stones needed for the construction of Kwangbok Street and Thongil Street in Pyongyang. And Pak always led model workers.

In those days he cultivated himself mentally. *I'll become a cornerstone adding lustre to my hometown and supporting my country.* Imprinting this will in his mind he has trained a lot of skilled hands while working as workteam leader and workshop manager, and overfulfilled his yearly plan at over 200%. He rendered service to the construction of the Sci-Tech Complex, the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery, Mirae Scientists Street, Ryomyong Street, Samjiyon City, the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, and many other edifices across the country.

Whenever edifices go up one after another, he is wont to say, "A stone buried under the ground can never shine. But if it is found out and processed well, it surely shines like a gem. So we should keep the conscience of living like a gem."

Kim So Yong

Pak Ho Chol (left).





Care for Each Article

PHYONGOT-BRAND CLOTHES come from the Pyongyang Children's Clothes Factory, and they are popular with the public.

General manager Kim Song Chol says, "My factory makes different kinds of children's clothes for each season to suit their ages and sexes. Each of our products is well associated with great care of the workers."

Most of the employees are women with children, and this may be the reason why they have great enthusiasm for development of new products for children and improvement of the quality. Thanks to their effort the factory developed and produced dozens of new kinds of children's clothes last year.

One of them is a children's windcheater. It was first made by Hong Hyon Ju, chief engineer who has worked at the factory for more than 20 years.

One spring day last year Hyon Ju, on her way back home from work, she happened to see

some children leaving the factory's kindergarten with their mothers. She looked at the clothes of the children with attention. The kids played, often rejecting their mothers' hand. When mothers took them by the hand, their clothes were pulled up, betraying their underwear, and it was the same when they squatted. Mothers were hastily chasing them to straighten up their attire.

Hyon Ju thought what kind of clothes was suitable for the children. Now she felt like making a sort of windcheater, whose kind was worn by the grown-ups in all seasons.

The idea developed into designs of different kinds of windcheaters which are varied in colour and style to suit children's tastes and worn by kindergarten and primary school children. The new products ranked within the top three places at an exhibition of children's goods sponsored by the Pyongyang Children's Department Store in autumn last

year.

The factory developed 20 odd new kinds of clothes for children in the first half of this year, including a children's dress. The demand for the dress was enormous, says Ri Hwa Suk, assistant at the Pyongyang Children's Department Store.

Choe Kyong Suk, resident in Central District, Pyongyang, says, "I bought the dress for my daughter, and I found it good in many respects. Children can put it on and off by themselves, and it is strong and active. The style and colour are also good and my daughter insists on wearing it alone."

The dress was presented by Ri Mi Yong, a seamstress, to the product show of the factory last April. She had made it for her daughter first and corrected the disadvantages to complete the design. In January last she also designed a new children's one-piece garment which can also be used for a baby's quilt. So she has become a model worker favoured by the women with babies.

The general manager says, "Every piece of our clothes is associated with the effort of the mothers to provide more beautiful clothes to children, the king of our country."

Thanks to such an endeavour still better types of clothes are developed and produced in numbers.

Pak Yong Il



Different kinds of children's clothes are produced.

Self-reliance, Korean People's Mode of Creation



THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea is the Juche-based power winning victory after victory under the banner of self-reliance.

The Korean-style socialism is advancing steadfastly by dint of self-reliance, which is the source of its ever-victoriousness.

In history no other country has been so good as the DPRK in maintaining its existence in such difficult and complicated conditions, breaking through severe trials and adversity at every stage of its development.

It is common knowledge that historically, the DPRK has had to bear the brunt of attack from the imperialists and dominationists as it is the bulwark of independence. In its early days the State was compelled to undergo a disastrous war. After finishing the postwar rehabilitation with difficulty while tightening their belt, the Korean people were faced with a new threat of aggression. When they decided to develop the economy, they came across unprecedented sanctions and blockades. Despite the challenge and pressure quite difficult to deal with, they, without giving up the principle of self-reliance, have readily carried out the important historic mission

of defending justice and opening up the road of socialism.

It is thanks to its great vitality that the country has remained alive and grown strong. The Korean people refer to the vitality as power of self-development. They boast a tradition of self-reliance. They say that the history of their country is the one that started and has moved ahead victoriously on the strength of self-development.

By dint of self-reliance they liberated their country from the Japanese aggressors' military occupation, built a new Korea, defeated the invaders and safeguarded the dignity of the country and nation, reconstructed the destroyed economy and pushed ahead with socialist construction, thus building a strong bulwark of socialism on their land.

The great vitality enabled the people to survive the severe ordeals in the 1990s when the country was in the most difficult condition in its history.

In recent years the country has made remarkable achievements and wrought miracles in the fields of economic construction and defence upbuilding. This is also the fruit of self-reliance.

The country has a plan to realize its desire for a great power by dint of self-reliance.

In the Report to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea on the Work of the Central Committee held in May 2016, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un put forward the task of holding fast to the spirit of self-development first as the permanent strategic line for the building of a powerful socialist country.

In subsequent important meetings, too, the WPK reaffirmed that self-reliance is its unshakable political line.

To the Korean people, advancing under the banner of self-sustenance and self-reliance is not a temporary countermeasure adopted to cope with the prevailing difficult situation but the fundamental principle to be held fast to and thoroughly applied in the whole course of nation building.

The DPRK's history of building a prosperous, powerful state shows the priceless philosophy that self-reliance and self-development is a driving force for each country and nation to develop most rapidly, and the greatest wealth and resource of the country and nation.

Presumably no other people in the world would imagine that a small country can maintain its existence by its own efforts while containing the threat of war, blockade and temptation.

At present many developing countries are being further reduced to commodity markets and weapons markets. The DPRK alone has established a solid foundation for the independent economy.

The fact that the DPRK is vigorously advancing along the track of self-development makes me confident that the might of the country will grow stronger with the passage of time and the Korean people's dream and ideal will surely come true as long as they have the mighty foundation for the independent economy consolidated under the wise leadership of the WPK and they regard self-reliance and self-sufficiency as their immutable form of struggle and life.

Raid Habib, secretary at the Syrian Embassy in the DPRK

Precious Legacy

REVERENCE FOR Chairman Kim Jong Il is growing deeper in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with the approach of the ninth anniversary of his demise.

Every year the Korean people hold important events to extol the Chairman's exploits and pray for his immortality on not only the anniversaries of his birth and demise but also other national anniversaries. They also visit his statues all across the country and lay flower baskets and bunches before them on such occasions.

Kim Jong Il was not only a great leader but also a benevolent father of the people and peerless patriot.

The Chairman loved the country and people ardently. His care reached all parts of the country and all the people, and he bore the responsibility for both contemporary and future destiny of the country and people. During one of his field guidance journeys, he was quite sorry to see thinly-wooded mountains and said: From of old our country was called silk-embroidered land of three thousand *ri*, so we should turn the country into a fine land of beautiful scenery in the era of the Workers' Party so as to hand it down to the coming generations.

In 1983 he visited a foreign country. During a break of talks, the host served candies and biscuits made of wild fruits. Among them were tasty biscuits made of haws.

One day, soon after returning home, the Chairman had a talk with officials. Then he, without forgetting the biscuits made of

haws, said they, too, could make such biscuits if they had a sample, and that he regretted that he had failed to bring some of the biscuits to be used as sample. Mentioning that he was sorry he seemed to have come back to his people empty-handed, he earnestly said: Whatever we see anywhere, we should think of the people first, not ourselves.

The Chairman always thought of his country and people. It was his lifelong desire to turn his country into the most dignified and powerful one, and the people into the happiest and most civilized.

In the DPRK the introduction of CNC technology into the national economy which brought about an industrial revolution in the new century was initiated by the Chairman.

It was in the 1990s when the country was undergoing trying ordeals that he made a plan of introducing CNC technology. Though worried about the people who were suffering food shortage, he allocated funds, which could be said to be all of the country's money, to introduce CNC technology, shedding bitter tears inwardly. This was the best and bold option, the result of his patriotic will to develop the country's strength without importing machines so that it could become a prominent part of the world. Thus, in a dozen years, the machine-building industry of the country reached the level of those countries which were said to be leading the industry.

The Chairman devoted all his life for the sake of the country and people. He held the opinion that one should love his or

her country practically, not by words, and that one should dedicate himself or herself to the call of the country and people, instead of paying lip service.

While leading the country and people for more than a half century he gave guidance to all fields, sectors and regions on the spot, not in his office.

The 1990s and the new century marked the climax of his field guidance. In the first three months of 2009 he inspected four times more units than in the same period of the previous year. During the period he reduced the hours of his meal time and rest to the minimum, taking humble rice balls and having a fitful sleep over work even at night while continuing the most intense forced march for field guidance. Whenever he had difficulty with walking owing to a long journey by train or car, he massaged his legs himself before getting down, saying that the soldiers and the people would be worried if they saw him walk with difficulty.

In Russia, Japan and other countries mass media expressed surprise at the fact that the reports on the Chairman's revolutionary activities increased explosively from 2009 to 2011, and reported: The reports on General Secretary Kim Jong Il's revolutionary activities in 2010 numbered 161, the record high.

From August 1960 when the Chairman gave field guidance to Seoul Ryu Kyong Su Guards 105th Tank Division of the Korean People's Army to the last period of his life in December 2011 the units he inspected numbered over 12 790, covering more

Life of Devotion

ONE DAY CHAIRMAN Kim Jong Il told some officials: What do you think a life is? It is the one to be dedicated to the good of the people. Our life makes sense when we work devotedly for the prosperity and development of the country and the happiness of the people.

With such a view of life the Chairman devoted all his life to the good of his country and people.

One December day in Juche 97 (2008) he visited the Migok Cooperative Farm in Sariwon. After acquainting himself with the operation of tractors, land realignment and rice production, he looked at the vast Migok Plain for a good while. The plain was very splendid, he said, and added: This farm is well associated with the care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, and it is my dear farm.

His words greatly moved the accompanying officials, for they were reminded of how often he had visited the farm, always thinking how to improve the people's living standards. During a visit he indicated the ways and means to do farming well. When its workers had moved

into new houses, he had visited it again showing loving care for them.

Other places were no exception. Without minding a cold wind in January and the scorching sun in midsummer he visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill, the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory, Pothonggang Shop, the Restaurant Street in Hoeryong of North Hamgyong Province, the Manpho Restaurant in Manpho of Jagang Province and many other light industry factories and service facilities across the country.

The traces of his devotion to provide the people with affluent and cultured life can be found in large-scale ostrich, cattle and pig farms and fish farms, the renovated East Pyongyang Grand Theatre and North Hwanghae Provincial Art Theatre and other leisure facilities.

One day the Chairman said to officials: I know you're worried that my health is failing as I work day and night. But I'm all right. I'll work with greater devotion in order to make sure that our people, the best in the world, are well off. You've suggested that I have a good time

with my family on the coming holiday. I know I want to spend the holiday happily with my family. But my heart goes out to our people.

The Chairman found pleasure in devoting himself to the good of the people. So, in the year of 2009, he continued super-intensity forced march, a long journey of boundless devotion for the country and the people, inspecting over 200 units across the country. In the days he regarded his running train and car as his office and his dear home. He once said: Now in my train I feel as if I were at home; on the contrary, when I am in my home I feel as if I were in a hotel.

Remembering his words the Korean people keenly felt that his devotion to and love for them was based on the idea of "The people are my God."

If it is the wish of the people, I will pluck a star from the heavens or grow flowers even on a rock—this was the noble expression of his affection for the people, and his will.

One autumn day the Chairman made a night journey to Jagang Province. As soon as

▶ than 629 992 kilometres.

Thanks to his selfless devotion powerful political, military and economic foundations were laid in the country, making it possible to ensure the security of the country and people, and eternal happiness of generations

to come.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism, the noble patriotism displayed by the Chairman, now serves as the ideological and spiritual sustenance of the Korean people and the motive force that encourages them to advance

along the road of patriotism vigorously. Thus they hold him in high esteem invariably, regarding Kim Jong Il's patriotism as their precious spiritual legacy and greatest wealth.

Sim Chol Yong

► he arrived there he inspected many units. When officials suggested that he should have a rest even for a while, he earnestly said: My guerrilla-style forced march for the happiness of the people will continue in the future, too. I find pleasure and happiness in the pleasure of the people. I will have nothing more to want if the people are well off and pleased.

Indeed, his mind was always filled with the word *the people*. He spent holidays, Sundays and even his birthday making a journey to visit the people.

On February 16 one year, his birthday, the people wished he would have a day off, but he left for Wonhwa-ri, Phyongwon County, South Phyongan Province. On arrival there he slowly walked up a sloping road of an orchard on a hill. Looking round the village from the orchard for a while, he asked the local officials about the per-hectare grain yield, production of meat and fruit, construction of modern dwelling houses, and other specific affairs of the farm.

Then, walking up and down the road, he set both immediate and prospective tasks to be carried out by the farm. He stressed the need to accelerate preparation for farming so as to do farming better, renovate the village as befitted a modern socialist rural community, develop fruit farming actively and so on. Only at dusk did he walk down the hill.

On May 1, 1997, too, the Chairman set out on a journey for the happiness of the people. What he visited first that day was Mt Jongbang in Sari-

won, North Hwanghae Province. Looking round different places of the renovated pleasure ground on the mountain, he was delighted that all leisure facilities there were arranged to go well with the natural scenery of the mountain. He said: I'm happy we've now prepared another fine leisure centre for the people.

After a while he left for Mt Kuwol, picturing the people having a good time in the pleasure ground in the mountain.

All journeys of the Chairman were for the sake of the people, and all his care was for their happiness.

During a visit to a chicken farm, he expressed his great satisfaction at the report that the people had begun to benefit from the farm, saying that he, too, was pleased that the people liked it. During a visit to the Amusement Park of Kaeson Youth Park, he repeatedly asked if the people liked it, and earnestly instructed that the workers of the park should offer better service bearing in mind the slogan "We serve the people!"

During his on-the-spot guidance journeys there came into being various anecdotes and bywords the Korean people still remember in tears, for example, a fitful sleep over work even at night, and humble rice ball, padded field clothes, field train, forced march in midsummer and forced march in a snowstorm.

The impressive story of children going to their camps singing, "The General (Kim Jong Il) goes to the front, when children go camping," is just one of such anecdotes.

Regarding the happiness of the people as his lifelong aim, the Chairman visited the Kwangbok Supermarket, a public service centre, in the last days of his life.

On December 16, 2011, the day before his demise, he signed a document on the supply of fish to Pyongyang citizens. Thus the fish associated with his loving care was supplied to the citizens during the mourning period.

The Chairman's life for the country and the people was really like a flaring flame.

After his demise the Korean people felt more keenly what a great leader and father they had had.

While bidding their last farewell to him in Kim Il Sung Square where they had always greeted him with cheers of joy and along the streets of the capital city, the people tearfully remembered the painstaking efforts of the Chairman who had continued a long journey of devotion visiting over 14 290 units across the country, covering more than 1 674 610 *ri* (A *ri* equals 392.73m), the distance long enough to go round the earth 17 times. And they felt more sorrowful at the loss of him, the father of the Korean nation, than that of their relatives.

Nine years have passed since his demise, and the all-people paean *The General Is Immortal as the Sun* is still sung widely in the country.

The Chairman who continued his journey of devotion to the people is still alive in the mind of the Korean people.

Kim Kum Hui

Genuine Sense of Patriotism

Juche and Patriotism

ONE APRIL DAY IN JUCHE 74 (1985) an official told Chairman Kim Jong Il that he had failed to give a satisfactory answer to a question raised by foreign and overseas Korean scholars. The question was about the correlation between the Juche idea and patriotism.

Then the Chairman said he thought of Juche when referring to patriotism, and added: Patriotism of the Korean revolutionaries shines brilliantly with Juche we hold fast to.

He continued to say: The Juche idea is a man-centred philosophical world outlook that man is the master of everything and decides everything, and it is the idea of love for the people by which to regard them as the most valuable being and consider everything with priority given to them, and that of love for the country and nation by which to regard the independence of the country and nation as lifeblood and struggle to demonstrate their dignity and honour and bring prosperity to the country.

Referring to the Juche idea as the one of valuing and loving man most in the world, he said: So it is the idea of loving the country and nation most ardently. There is no idea as patriotic as the Juche idea of loving the country and nation. The Juche idea is the one which inspires people to value the independence of their country and nation like their life, carve out their destiny in a responsible way and do everything for the prosperity of the country. In this sense it can be said that Juche means

patriotism.

The Chairman went on to say: The blood of Juche flowing in our hearts is that of patriotism, the hammer of Juche we hold up in the building of the country is that of patriotism, and the course of Juche along which we are advancing through storms and raging waves to the future is that of patriotism. Patriotism is Juche and vice versa. All the struggles we Juche-type revolutionaries are waging are patriotic ones run through with Juche.

His instructions were a valuable lecture that gave a clear answer to the question of the correlation between the Juche idea and patriotism.

Thinking, New Idea and Enthusiasm Make Patriot

One day in February 2007 Chairman Kim Jong Il visited the Lake Jangyon Fish Farm in Orang County. Standing before the plan of cage-net rainbow trout farming based on cast of rope and the plan of freshwater king crab habitat, the Chairman heard an official explaining about the prospective plan of the local fish farming.

The official said, "In the future we are going to breed fish fries for a given period and put them in cage-nets and the lake to breed. And here in this spot where the water from the lake flows into the sea we will lay out a bay to make a freshwater king crab habitat and breed young crabs to be put in Mugye and Tongyon lakes. At the same time we will catch grey mullets, daces and trout, which come up to the

lakes to spawn, so as to collect the spawn and supply fishes to people. And we will set free fries from the spawn and catch them again when they grow and come up to the lakes again a few years later."

The Chairman said the prospective plan was incredibly marvellous. Looking around newly built ponds for fry one by one he asked if the lake had natural feed and if mud piled up in the lake continuously. An official answered that the lake was rich in plankton such as water fleas and floating plants, and small fish like whitebait, and that its mud contained a lot of organic materials.

The Chairman said that that was nice natural feed, that there would be no better place than the lake with plenty of natural feed conditions, and that it was a novel idea to do fish farming in the lake both by cage-netting and leaving them free. Then he said: A man who racks his brains, gets a good idea and works hard to improve the people's living standards using physiographical conditions of his locality is just a patriot.

The accompanying officials came to understand the genuine sense of patriot required by their era. A man who blocks the enemy's gun muzzle with his body or regards every blade of grass and every tree as his own flesh is a wonderful patriot, and a man who works enthusiastically to improve the living standards of the people while creating new things of Korean style by thinking of a novel idea in an innovative way is also an ardent patriot not inferior to the former. □

How Fields Were Rezoned

IN KOREA, SOON AFTER ITS liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation on August 15, 1945, peasants became masters of land through the land reform. And after the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953) agricultural cooperation took place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, thus liquidating completely feudal relations of land ownership in the countryside and turning peasants into socialist working people. The farmland, however, was little rid of their image of the feudal age.

Chairman Kim Jong Il proposed to realign the land of the country, and led the project wisely.

He regarded land realignment as a gigantic nature-remaking project for completely removing remnants of feudal land ownership and radically transforming the appearance of the country so as to translate into reality the peasants' dream to do farming with machines to their heart's content and bring about a turning point in agricultural production. So he paid close attention to the project.

One early morning in May Juche 87 (1998) the Chairman was passing by Taebaek-ri, Changdo County, Kangwon Province, on his way to a Korean People's Army unit, when he got off his car for a rest. There he happened to see the local paddy fields, and he looked at them for a long while.

He noticed that they were typical of the poorly scattered patches of paddy peculiar to the mountainous province.

The patches of paddy were, it is said, so numerous that in older days a peasant lost one of his patches and tried to find it all day long before managing to locate it under his hat. And there is a story that tells they could not till the plots with an ox as it

was too small for the animal to turn around.

Now Kim Jong Il said land realignment in Kangwon Province was a matter he had been considering and his firm decision, and that it was time to start the project. This meant the declaration of land realignment in the province with no ceremony in a field early in the morning when cold dew was falling.

On July 22, 1998 there was issued the DPRK National Defence Commission's order "On Realigning the Land in Kangwon Province through National Mobilization."

Instructing that land rea-

ignment should be done on a large scale so as to turn all paddy and dry fields into straight, neat ones, the Chairman said it was his intention to realign land in such a way as to meet the prospective needs of ten or fifty years to come even if it meant no harvest for a year. He added that the project should be done on the principle of turning the fields into large and small paddy plots each of which would be 1 000 or 800 *phyong* (a *phyong* equals 3.954 sq. yds) in area and doing the smaller patches of paddy into dry fields.

At that time the country was in difficulties with everything

► in short supply. The Chairman, however, decided to develop the land of the country as befits that of a socialist state in the true sense of the word, and saw to it that land realignment was done in the province first through national mobilization.

The completion of the project was followed by similar projects in North Phyongan Province, South Hwanghae Province, South Phyongan Province, Pyongyang, Nampho and all other parts of the country.

In his work *Improving the Layout of Fields Is a Great Transformation of Nature for the Prosperity of the Country, a Patriotic Work of Lasting Significance* and his other works and instructions, the Chairman set detailed tasks to be carried out in land realignment, and inspected the relevant

sites to ensure the projects were done properly.

One February day in 1999, the Chairman inspected Majang-ri, Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, after hearing the report that land realignment had been finished in several counties of the province. Enjoying the sight of realigned fields for a good while, he highly appreciated that the fields were rezoned as neatly as a checkerboard. Now the land of Kangwon awoke from a centuries-old sleep, he said and added that it was a miracle to have completed land realignment in the province in several short months, which had been inconceivable for centuries. In the following month, during his inspection of Phunghwa-ri, Anbyon County of the province, he said there was left no vestige of the old appearance and that it

was worth being called a wonder as great as the creation of the world. For a little more than half a year he visited the province six times to give guidance on land realignment.

Later the Chairman inspected many other plains around the country including North Phyongan and South Hwanghae Provinces.

In those days there appeared standard fields as neat as a checkerboard in not only lowlands but also mountainous areas to say nothing of those in middle areas.

Deeply etched in the country's history of agricultural development are the exploits of the Chairman who strove to turn all its fields into standard ones where farming can be done by machines.

Ri Su Gyong

A panoramic view of the realigned Handure Plain.



Forest Restoration Makes Headway

AKOREA TODAY REPORT-er had an interview with Kim Song Jun, deputy director of the General Bureau of Forestry under the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection, on the matter of the ongoing forest restoration in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Forest destruction is a big problem facing the world and the DPRK declared forest restoration as a war to improve nature. What would you talk about it?

A huge acreage of forests is being devastated globally owing to natural calamities, illegal felling, blights, harmful insects and other causes. According to a report released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, 420 millions of hectares of forests have disappeared in the past three decades due to felling. In my country mountains account for 80% of the territory, and we conducted an all-people campaign in the past to create and conserve forests for economic, protective and scenic purposes.

In the 1990s, however, forest resources decreased considerably due to the ever-intensifying isolation and suffocation moves of the hostile forces and consecutive natural disasters. As there were few trees in the mountains, even a little more rain than normal in the rainy season caused flooding and landslides, and rivers and streams went dry during the dry season, inflicting a serious hindrance to the economic construction and the people's livelihood.

To tackle the problem the Workers' Party of Korea and the State declared the forest restoration as a war to improve nature with an intention to turn

all the mountains into "treasure mountains" and "gold mountains" covered with thick woods in the coming ten years. In other words, they raised the forest restoration as a matter of crucial importance vital to existence of the State and the people. So the forest restoration campaign has been under way in real earnest since 2015.

What are the main thrusts of the campaign?

On February 26, 2015 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un made public the immortal classic work *Let the Entire Party, the Whole Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods*. True to it we are propelling the programmes of simultaneously accelerating afforestation and forest conservation, developing forest science and technology, intensifying supervision and control of afforestation and forest conservation, and conducting mass movement and information and motivation undertakings for successful completion of the restoration campaign.

What kinds of successes have you achieved in the campaign?

Now people and service personnel have turned out as one in the campaign, bringing about unprecedented successes. A forest equipment factory has been built, and modern tree nurseries have been erected or are under construction across the country.

Tree Nursery No. 122 of the Korean People's Army went up as a scientific, industrialized and intensive tree sapling production base in keeping with the requirement of the knowledge-based economy. And Kangwon



Kim Song Jun.

Province constructed a tree nursery which can produce 20 million saplings a year. Tree sapling greenhouses have been newly arranged in the parent nurseries of almost all cities and counties, thus providing a guarantee for industrial production of saplings twice a year.

Meanwhile, scientists of the Academy of Forestry of the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection solved scientific and technical problems arising in tree planting and improving the rate of rooting, laying a foundation for planting trees all the year round. Thanks to the patriotic zeal of the entire nation the first-stage target of the forest restoration campaign was finished successfully, and the second-stage campaign is going on forcefully. In the first half of this year we planted over 504 million trees in the area of more than 140 000 hectares.

In the course of this scores of units won the title of Forest of Socialist Patriotism this year, so the number of such units has increased to over 230, and it is on the steady increase.

I am convinced that all the mountains in my country will turn into "treasure mountains" and "gold mountains" before long. □

Out of Patriotism

THE KOREAN PEOPLE boundlessly love their socialist country, and unstintingly dedicate their all to the prosperity and development of their country.

Everywhere there can be seen those who love their job and discharge their duty in a responsible manner whether they are recognized or not.

Ha Yong Suk, a workteam leader of the Mabang Cooperative Farm in Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, is a National Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism.

It was over ten years ago that Yong Suk, a nurse of the County People's Hospital at the time, volunteered to do farming, learning that she should support the lofty intention of the Workers' Party of Korea stressing the need to boost agriculture in order to solve the problem of food for the people.

She, however, found farming difficult. Still, she always worked earnestly without leaving her fields even a day. In the course of this she developed into a good farmer well versed in any aspects of crop growing.

Later, while working as a sub-workteam leader and then leader of workteam No. 1 most backward in the farm, she tended the fields with sincerity.

Thanks to her devoted efforts her workteam could overfulfill its annual plan for years, producing over 12 and 13 tons of rice and maize per hectare respectively.

When asked about how she could turn her workteam into a model, harmonious and united collective, she says, "What was important was to implant in all the workers the sense of being responsible for the country's granary. Then we came to know that we can do anything if we think of the workteam and the

farm before ourselves."

Kim Myong Ho, a Sangwol-ri forest ranger of the Rinsan County Forest Management Station, North Hwanghae Province, is also one of those patriots who have invariably worked in their workplaces whether they are recognized or not.

It was 20-odd years ago that back home after being discharged from military service, Myong Ho became a forest ranger with a determination to turn all the local mountains into green "gold mountains."

For the past decades he has planted the mountains with lots of trees and tended them so that they have become habitat of all sorts of birds and animals. To plant trees of high economic value, he never minded going a distance of hundreds of *ri* (A *ri* equals 392.73m) to obtain such a species. As a result, the local people harvest pine nuts, chestnuts, wild fruits, herbs and wild vegetables on the mountains. And he has helped with bee-farming and animal husbandry to contribute to the improvement of the local people's living standards.

Now, taking pride in the sight of the mountains growing thicker with trees day after day and in the happy looks of the local people benefiting from the mountains, he is invariably tending the mountains with sincerity.

Among such patriots are miners who are working with sincerity deep underground to increase the wealth of the country; educators who voluntarily work at branch schools of islets or schools in front-line areas and those of mountain villages, devoting all their life to the education of the rising generation; model farm workers who faithfully support the Workers' Party of Korea with rice; and street cleaners who work honestly rain

or snow to maintain streets for decades.

The State highly appreciates their patriotism and confers upon them such titles as National Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism, People's Teacher, Merited Coal Miner and Merited Street Cleaner, and inspires the whole country to follow their spirit.

Besides, there are people who regard others' problems as their own or think of State affairs before their families'. Among them is Kim Chun Hwa, a member of the department in charge of items for labour protection, the Hoean Youth Coal Mine, the Pukchang Area Youth Coal Mining Complex. She has followed the road of patriotism for over 30 years.

Chun Hwa's husband is a disabled ex-serviceman of special category. The government provides the condition for the wives of such ex-servicemen to stay at home and exclusively take care of their husbands. Still, Chun Hwa volunteered to work at the aforesaid department while taking care of her husband. At first the mine opposed it, but she did not change her mind. She also went to socialist construction sites and Korean People's Army units bringing a lot of aid materials with her.

Many people have adopted and raised parentless children to live up to the expectations of the country, or looked after childless elderly folks like their own parents.

The future of socialist Korea is bright because such patriotic people support the country firmly.

All the Korean people are now working hard with patriotism in order to proudly answer the question, "What have you done for your country?"

Pak Yong Il

Supreme Commander and His Soldiers

TO THE SOLDIERS OF the Korean People's Army Kim Jong Il was rather their father than their Supreme Commander. Regarding them as his children he always took good care of them, giving heed to his duty as their father rather than to his power due for his military rank. Rain or snow, he visited soldiers wherever they were, showing all his warm care.

It was a scorching hot day in the summer of Juche 90 (2001) when he drove along the threateningly precipitous Chol Pass to pay a visit to his soldiers. When some officers asked him earnestly not to cross the pass any more, the Supreme Commander said: I know full well that the pass is steep and dangerous. Nevertheless, I often cross it because I know my beloved soldiers stand guard there in defence of the country while wishing to see me, their Supreme Commander.

While visiting soldiers, he looked into every nook and cranny of their living conditions. Even a solitary islet post was under his concern—regarding the food supply, bedding, wash-cum-bathroom, daily necessities storehouse, and what else that was related with the soldiers' life.

One day he inspected a naval base. Learning about the sailors' life on land in detail, he looked into a barracks. Then, he said the beds were in a wrong direction. Noticing the officers' inquiring look, the Supreme Commander said: In this arrangement bed heads lie under the windows. So, when the sailors get up they are faced with the wall in front and they, in bed, might be exposed to the wind that might come through the windows. You had better change the bed layout so that the sailors may see the clear sky of the country first

when they get up.

After he left, the beds were all placed in a different direction immediately.

Whenever he stepped into the barracks he never forgot to scrutinize the toiletries, sometimes asking if the soldiers had enough supply of soap and towels and which they preferred, toothpaste or tooth powder.

When there was the first snowfall one year, he called some officers and asked to provide the soldiers with warm meals. One early morning he left to see some soldiers, but afraid he might rouse them from their sweet sleep he stopped halfway and stayed in the open air for over two hours.

The Supreme Commander is there for the sake of the soldiers; he would have to bring a flower into bloom even on the stone if the soldiers wanted to see it—this was the principle Kim Jong Il maintained in looking after them.

One day he inspected Height 351 on the frontline. There he checked how thick the quilted clothes and winter shoes were, which were worn by two soldiers on duty. Then he told commanding officers: You officers are there for the sake of the soldiers; you should not think the soldiers are there for you officers. You ought to be faithful officers working for the soldiers.

When a women's coastal artillery company visited Pyongyang for sightseeing, Kim Jong Il made sure that a company album was prepared for them containing the pictures they had taken in Pyongyang and that individual albums were also made and provided to each of the soldiers. Also, he saw that some first pages of the albums for individual soldiers were left blank so that the wedding photos might be pasted after they got married.

Kim Jong Il paid close attention to the need to keep the soldiers' mentality sound and cheerful all the time.

In early February Juche 93 (2004) the Korean peninsula was on the brink of war due to the provocations of hostile forces. At the time the Supreme Commander issued an order to put songs in karaoke facilities to be supplied to all companies of the Korean People's Army. He said that if the karaoke facilities with the soldiers' favourite songs in them were sent to units and subunits it would be of great help to the soldiers' recreational activities. He also asked to put lyrics and pop songs as well as marches and chorus ones in the music facilities.

Each of the over 800 pieces of music in the karaoke facility was meticulously selected, arranged and put in under the Supreme Commander's close concern. And they soon got on the lips of all soldiers.

Kim Jong Il made sure that popular musical instruments and different kinds of books were supplied so that the soldiers could enjoy diversified recreational activities. When he, on his way of frontline inspection, noticed a soldier good at calligraphy, he appreciated his skill and later sent him a set of calligraphic utensils. When he saw an artistic performance of a subunit he noticed a bud of talent in a singing soldier and took a measure to train him as a professional singer.

The infinite care of the Supreme Commander was the source of the encouragement for the soldiers to support the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea faithfully keeping their mission in mind.

Kim Song Il

Immortal Juche Idea (8)

Socio-historical Movement Is Creative Movement of Masses of People

THE JUCHE IDEA NEWly elucidated the socio-historical principle that the socio-historical movement is a creative movement of the masses of the people. That the socio-historical movement is a creative movement of the masses means that nature and society are transformed by the creative role of the people. The principle gives an answer to the question of how history progresses by whom.

Human history progresses through creative activities of the people to remodel nature and society in accordance with their independent requirement.

Above all, nature is conquered and material wealth needed for people's subsistence and progress is continuously created through the masses' creative activities.

Ever since human beings came into existence in the world they have been labouring without a day's break to master nature and acquire material wealth. The masses of the people have made and improved labour tools and are doing it now through their creative labour. It is thanks to their creative endeavours that stone implements were replaced by bronze implements, which, in their turn, by iron implements, and now modern machines and intelligent robots are developed and used.

Further, the masses ceaselessly produce materials for living with the help of manufacturing tools. At first people covered their body with grass or fur. Today they produce artificial and chemical fibres and varieties of daily necessities as they wish. At the same time, they, through their creative labour, have transformed unfavourable natural environments into the favourable, for example, enlarging land and producing electricity by damming the sea and rivers.

Human history is a history of the people's ceaseless creation of cultural wealth of society through their creative activities.

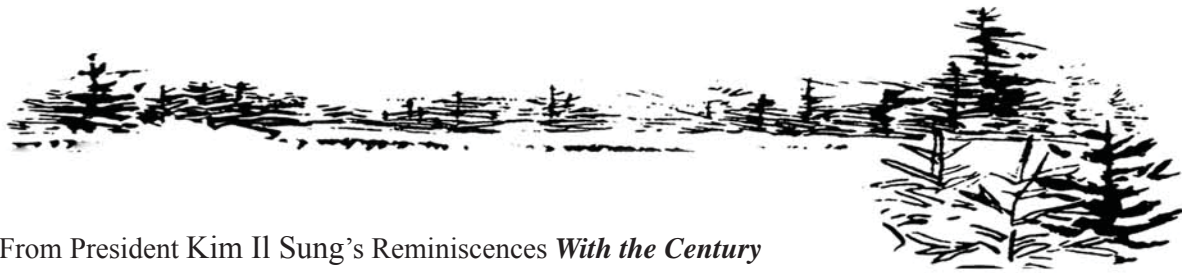
All the progressive culture of mankind is created according to the requirement of practical activity of the masses for independence. The masses not only set the creation of cultural wealth as a vital requirement but also acquire the relevant experience and materials and create necessary material and technical means. Science, which is directly related to the productive activity of the masses, and progressive art, too, have been created according to the requirement of the practical activities of the masses for independence. The masses' struggle for independence is the very source of all cultural wealth including science and art, and provides necessary materials.

The masses create not only conditions for cultural development but also cultural wealth through their creative activity. All the valuable cultural wealth mankind has so far created is the fruition of the creative activities of the masses. They have not only conquered nature and created material and cultural wealth but also transformed and developed society.

Whether the masses lead a happy life as true masters of society or not depends on the character of social system. Ever since the beginning of human history the masses have continued to transform society through their creative efforts for changing old things for a free and happy life. The old social system is replaced by the new one and society progresses by dint of the masses' creative efforts to transform society to meet their independent requirements. It is thanks to the masses' creative endeavours that human society which began with primitive society has proceeded to socialist society going through different stages in its development.

Thus, human history is the history of creation in which the masses have continuously increased material and cultural wealth of society and developed society through their creative activity.

Choe Sol Mi



From President Kim Il Sung's Reminiscences *With the Century*

Homeland Party Working Committee

(Continued from the last issue)

LATE IN MAY 1937, WE held at the Paektusan Base the second session of the Homeland Party Working Committee, where we adopted measures to enhance the HPWC's function and role and intensify its leadership to the work of building party organizations and the revolutionary movement in the homeland. The meeting reviewed the result of the building of party organizations following the formation of the HPWC and debated in a serious atmosphere tasks and ways to build party organizations in the homeland.

At the meeting I stressed opposing the worship of great powers and dogmatism in the building of party organizations and in party life, and pointed out some ways to admit communists scattered in the homeland into party and other various revolutionary organizations and establish a proper party organizational leadership system to suit realities, where party organizations were increasing in number.

The deliberations and decisions of the meeting marked a clear milestone in stepping up the advance of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the interior of Korea and developing the creation of party organizations and the revolutionary struggle in the homeland.

We subsequently dispatched a political workers' group, en-

trusted with the mission of helping the work of party organizations in the homeland. In summer and autumn 1937, the political workers' group, consisting of Kim Phyong, a member of the HPWC, Kwon Yong Byok, Jong Il Gwon, Kim Ju Hyon, Ma Tong Hui, Kim Jong Suk, Paek Yong Chol, Ri Tong Hak, Choe Kyong Hwa, Kim Un Sin, Ri Chang Son, Ri Kyong Un and Ri Pyong Son, was dispatched to various areas of northern Korea; it conducted the work of building party organizations and work with the population there. This group was called the Pukson political workers' group. It directly helped build party organizations in the homeland by making the areas of northern Korea revolutionary.

We assigned the members of this group districts for their political work. In those days we called such areas political districts. We divided them into political districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5. Kim Phyong had discussed the size of political districts with me and set it. Political districts ranged from the east to the west coast and their numbers were given accordingly.

The members of this group could conduct organizational and political work either directly in the area under their charge or indirectly by dispatching excellent workers they had trained.

One detachment of this group, headed by Ri Tong Hak and guided by Ri Je Sun, went

to Unhung Sub-county, Kapsan County, in early 1937, to create favourable conditions for laying the groundwork for building party organizations in the homeland; they scattered hundreds of declarations and appeals, inculcating anti-Japanese patriotic ideas and advocating Korea's independence in rural villages there and conducted the information work among the population, before quickly returning to their unit.

The detachment headed by Ma Tong Hui, and another led by Ji Thae Hwan, both in charge of Samsu County area, also advanced into the homeland one after the other and conducted political work in a superb and prudent manner, stirring up public sentiment in the area north of Machon Range (Ryongbuk).

We dispatched a young orderly to Pak Tal for his convenience in work. His name was Son Jang Bok.

I instructed Son Jang Bok that he should, on entering the homeland, enroll in the family register at the Japanese government office and behave like a man born and bred in Korea.

Pak Tal took Son Jang Bok to the police sub-station and slyly told the police chief:

"Mr. Chief. Congratulate me, please."

The police chief looked at both of them in turn, agape. The chief had been fairly kind to Pak Tal since the latter had sat the police exam.

"What makes you so happy?"
"Well, I've earned a younger brother for nothing."

Pak Tal proudly pulled forward Son Jang Bok who stood back hesitantly, and talked uproariously in the sub-station.

"Until now I regretted that I had no younger brother. And my father gratified my desire."

"Do you mean, then, that this boy is your sworn brother, your father has approved for you?"

"What do you mean by sworn brother? He is my half-brother my father begot out of wedlock, when he was living in Kilju. After his mother died, this boy wandered about as an orphan. Hearing of his half-brother living in Kapsan, he called on me here. So, I have decided to take care of this boy."

"Oh! You mean your father earned such a son for nothing? Your father seems to have a knack of making profits."

At the chief's remark, the policemen burst into laughter. Feeling pleased, the police chief had all the procedures done smoothly without cavilling at anything.

Pak Tal had Son Jang Bok entered in the family register in the name of Pak Yong Dok. Then Son Jang Bok started his underground activities.

Some days later, however, an unexpected incident happened, damaging the activities of the underground organizations in Kapsan. There was a burglary at a farmhouse in Taejung-ri, Unhung Sub-county, Kapsan County. The burglar got away with 20 *won*, pretending to be a man from the mountain, in an attempt to conceal his crime. In those days the guerrillas were called the "mountain people" and political workers from the guerrilla army were called "men from the mountain". The burglary coincided with the moment, when Pak Tal had been to Taejung-ri to guide the work of a subordinate organization of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland. Owing to this coincidence, Pak Tal was taken into custody by the police on the

suspicion of being the "man from the mountain". At that time, the police, aware as they were that Ri Pyong Son from Kilju had been frequenting Pak Tal's, attempted to arrest him as well, but failed because the suspect went missing.

Ri Pyong Son had been involved in the case of the Red peasant union in Kilju and had come to Kapsan the previous year, together with Kim Yong Guk. After Kim Yong Guk had joined the guerrilla army, Ri Pyong Son worked at a lumber station in Pochon Sub-county, while guiding the organizations of the national liberation union in that area. On that day the Japanese police raided Pak Tal's house, mistaking Son Jang Bok for Ri Pyong Son. Once they had confirmed that Son was not Ri Pyong Son at this age, the police returned.

In those days we dispatched many political workers into Changbai and the homeland, but could not meet the demands for political workers with only the soldiers of the KPRA. To meet the demand for all political workers needed, we required one regiment of political workers. But the guerrilla army could not conduct only political activities, away from military actions. We selected members of the underground organizations in the area of Changbai, boasting rich experience in political work, and others who were prepared and experienced in work with the masses in the past, when they had been affiliated to revolutionary organizations in eastern Manchuria, and sent them to the homeland. At the same time, a number of political workers from the organizations of the ARF in Changbai County, too, were dispatched by Ri Je Sun to the homeland.

The work of dispatching political workers was mainly dealt with by Kim Phyong, a member of the HPWC.

Kim Phyong was then political commissar of the 7th Regiment. A talented political worker and military officer in charge at the Headquarters of the KPRA of

the activities behind enemy lines, he had rich experience in underground activities. In both the first and second half of the 1930s, he helped me a lot in my work. Kim Phyong was a political-military officer I loved and trusted most during the anti-Japanese revolution.

As a matter of fact, he was later arrested by the enemy due to a turncoat's betrayal, went through trials and left some blots in his political life; but he remained faithful to me. As he was fully involved in the affairs of the Headquarters and the Party Committee of the KPRA and was in direct charge of these affairs, when we were strengthening our ties with the revolutionaries in the homeland, extending the armed struggle into the homeland and accelerating preparations for popular resistance, he knew more than anybody else what had happened then. In addition to military affairs, the facts related to secret political activities included quite a few details, which had been open only to him. His recollections of all the details, events and chronology were mostly exact. I think his records rendered a great contribution to enriching the revolutionary history of our Party. It would have been better for Kim Phyong, if he had fought to the last in the guerrilla unit and greeted the day of national liberation. I still remember Kim Phyong, who helped my work as faithfully as he could at the time of our struggle on Mt. Paektu.

The political workers, dispatched to the homeland, engaged in labour unions, peasant unions and other existing organizations, as well as individual communist circles, making tireless efforts to promote the building of party organizations and expand the network of ARF organizations.

Thanks to their remarkable activities, the "wind of Mt. Paektu" seized the people in the homeland inexorably: their influence ensured they had a correct understanding of the KPRA. Many people came to Mt. Paektu to join

► the KPRA.

As another measure for building party organizations in the homeland, we organized a homeland party team, comprising hardcore elements trained in the KNLU. Historians call this team, headed by Pak Tal, a “troika”. It aimed to act as the basic party organization and, at the same time, as parent body for building party organizations in the homeland.

What I found peculiar about Pak Tal’s methods of work to expand party organizations and increase the ranks of party members was his formation of nameless party organizations. These organizations lacked any official title, but in actual fact they were organizations of party members, who were working in a secret way. Such organizations were also formed inside the ARF.

Building nameless underground revolutionary organizations is a peculiar way of building organizations, when the enemy’s suppression reaches its extremes.

According to this method, no title was given to an organization and no meetings of members were held; instead members were seen individually to be educated, learn the ways of struggle and be assigned duties, so that even if one of them was arrested, the others could be free of harm.

After leaving us and returning to Kapsan, Pak Tal devoted his whole heart and soul to the work of building party organizations in the homeland. Guided by our policy, he turned the areas of Kapsan and Samsu into a seedbed for building party organizations in the homeland, and used it as a stepping-stone to gradually extend his activities to other counties and provinces.

We chose this region as the most suitable seedbed for building party organizations in the homeland, because we had taken into account the special socio-economic conditions of the region.

Samsu and Kapsan had been known before anything else as regions for exiles. The Korean proverb “Although I may be sent to

Samsu and Kapsan” was derived from the fact that this region had been notorious for exiles. The descendants of noblemen, who had been ruined and exiled to this region, owing to the persecution of the feudal governments during the Ri dynasty, turned to be either slash-and-burn farmers or mine workers, living on the last rungs of the social ladder. The vagrants, who had thronged into the Kaema Plateau, in search of a living after the “annexation of Korea by Japan”, also settled in this region, all doing difficult slash-and-burn farming, chopping off stumps with pickaxes and setting fields on fire. The composition of the population in this region can be analyzed to have been based on good backgrounds, in the light of class origin.

The mysterious nature of the highlands convenient for guerrilla activities had been transformed, from the 1910s, into the battlefields for Righteous Volunteers and Independence Army soldiers, fighting with matchlocks in hand with the ideal of defending the country with their lives, into the safest of shelters in Korea, embracing the social movement campaigners. The social movement campaigners, who had been deprived of their right to legal activities, had gathered here from nearly all parts of northern Korea to take refuge. Men of great ambition had flocked to this region from the interior of the homeland and also from faraway regions, such as north and west Jiandao and Siberia.

According to Pak Tal, in the mid-1920s, four anti-Japanese movement campaigners, who had been guiding the student strike at the Pyongyang Sungsil Middle School, moved to Samsu and Kapsan and organized a circle studying socialism, comprising slash-and-burn farmers, thereby launching the socialist movement in the area.

Later, all those who had been engaged in the movements of labour unions and peasant unions in various regions along the east

coast before taking refuge there, joined their hands with the four campaigners in organizing a youth union, peasant union and vanguard union.

For these reasons alone, Samsu and Kapsan were fully equipped with the requisite conditions to serve as the seedbed for building party organizations in the homeland.

The Kapsan Working Committee was initially formed as an organization without any particular name. Starting its work from May 1934, the organization admitted Ri Kyong Bong first, and then Kim Chol Ok, Sim Chang Sik and others and fought against the coercive cultivation of flax, superstition and early marriage. About two years later, when the members discovered each other’s identity, they named their organization Kapsan Working Committee.

On the basis of such experiences we gained in building party organizations in the homeland, I later formalized this method in my article on how to manage the work of party branch organizations, and in the first half of the 1940s instructed comrades, who were to be dispatched to the homeland, to conduct their work by applying this method.

After liberation, one member of such an organization recollected as follows:

“I joined a certain organization, but I didn’t know its name and the contents of its work, because they were kept secret from me.”

A revolutionary, hailing from Kapsan, said that Pak Tal had given him a secret book, telling him to read it with precaution; therefore he had read it and had only run errands for Pak Tal. However, for this very reason, the Japanese judicial organ sentenced him to a heavy penalty and imprisoned him until the day of national liberation. These people were probably members of organizations lacking any particular name.

(To be continued)

Crystallization of the People’s Will and Interests



Paek Song Il.

DECEMBER 27 IS THE ANNIVERSARY of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. On the occasion a *Korea Today* reporter had a talk with Doctor and Associate Professor Paek Song Il, a department head of the Faculty of Law, Kim Il Sung University.

They say the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK is the most popular constitution. Why is that?

The popular characteristics of the DPRK’s Socialist Constitution can be proved by its historical root first.

In the first half of the 1930s during the anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung a lot of guerrilla bases in the form of liberated area were established in the areas along the Tuman River. In the bases at the time original and popular people’s revolutionary governments were established with their political programmes proclaimed and put in force. In May Juche 25 (1936) there was founded the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, the first anti-Japanese national united front body in Korea, and announced the Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland that reflected the unanimous will of all the Korean people. The Socialist Constitution is just rooted in the political programme and practical experience of the peo-

ple’s revolutionary government and the follow-up Ten-Point Programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland.

The popular characteristics of the DPRK’s Socialist Constitution can be also proved by the way it was established. In September 1948 the DPRK was founded and its constitution adopted. Before the adoption of the constitution over one million copies of the draft constitution were printed and distributed throughout the north and south of Korea for all-people discussion from February to April 1948. The draft constitution completed that way was presented and adopted with unanimous approval at the First Session of the Supreme People’s Assembly organized through the general election by both the north and the south on September 8, 1948. The Socialist Constitution, too, was established in a similar way. In order to further consolidate the socialist system established in its northern half and push ahead with the struggle for the complete victory of socialism, the DPRK adopted the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the First Session of the Fifth Supreme People’s Assembly held on December 27, 1972. Before the meeting the draft of the constitution was deliberated and discussed by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for National Reunification which involves different political

parties and social organizations. Like this the Socialist Constitution was established after being accepted and discussed by all people. This is why we call it a popular constitution.

Would you like to tell me about the structure and content of the constitution?

The constitution is regarded as the most popular one in the aspect of structure and content as well. In view of the structure constitutions of other countries generally consist of articles with the main stress on the state organ system. But the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK, through specific chapters on politics, the economy, culture, national defence and the like, stipulates in detail and extensively all principles to be observed in the fields.

In view of its content, too, the constitution thoroughly defends the interests of the working masses, grants them genuine freedom and rights and guarantees all legal conditions for providing the freedom and rights substantially. Now in the country ordinary people like industrial and farm workers are elected deputies to the Supreme People’s Assembly, and everyone is benefiting from free education and free medical care. This is a good example which shows that all the people, as true masters of national sovereignty and the means of production, are fully provided with genuine democratic freedom and rights. □

Four Decades with Venomous Animals

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DOCTOR Hong Son Hui, researcher of the Zoology Institute of the State Academy of Sciences, has studied the venom of animals for 40 years.

When she was assigned to the institute after graduating from the University of Sciences, her first research object was the viper. The moment she saw the venomous snake baring its teeth and darting its tongue in and out as if it was ready to attack her, she was frozen in horror. The researcher, however, took courage to control its head and tail and did her first anatomical observation.

Kim Kum Ju, deputy head of a laboratory of the institute at that time, says, "People, especially girls, are frightened even at the sight of a small insect. Hong Son Hui was no exception. She, however, was never afraid to experiment with poisonous snakes. Her firm will to carry out her research had contained physiological reaction." In the process of intensifying the research Hong learned that when even a small amount of snake venom is injected into the human body, it causes a disease, but an infinitesimal or ultramicro amount of the venom causes medicinal effect. In particular she came to know that an ultramicro amount of the venom definitely acts as an anti-cancer agent in the human body. Then she volunteered to conduct research to make an anti-cancer medicine using the snake venom. Through the repeated experiments she finally clarified the key component of the venom effective in treating cancerous diseases, and established a method of making the medicine.



Later she completed a technique of extracting the venom and bile from the snake periodically without having to kill it and that of separating a thrombolytic substance, a hypotensor and so on from them. Afterwards she wrote the paper *Physiological Feature of Snake Venom and Its Use*, which brought her a doctorate.

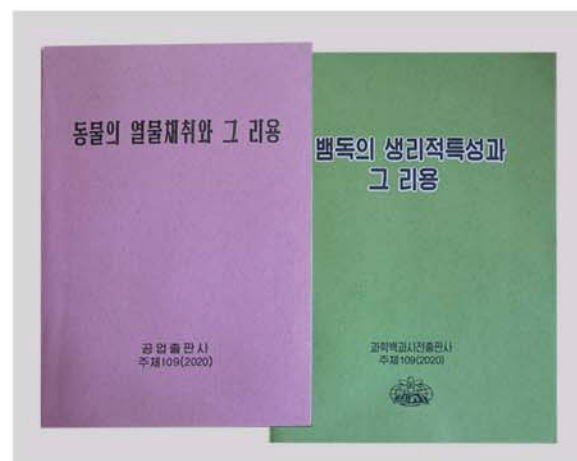
Not content with the success the doctor used the toad venom to develop a kind of Koryo medicinal material, which can be used in treating inflammation and killing pain. She also succeeded in making a thrombolytic injection from the leech, and extracting from *Eisenia oetida*, scorpion and trepang Koryo medicinal materials which can be used as a thrombolytic agent, anti-cancer and immunity-restoring agent and nervous system-restoring agent, and in treating arthritis.

Meanwhile, she found out how to use the bile from animals to obtain Koryo medicinal materials good for treating engorgement, gallstone, hepatitis, hyperlipemia, hypertension, diabetes and arteriosclerosis, and preventing postpartum diseases. When the demand for animals' bile was up and its pharmacological effect grew, she completed a method of extracting the bile from living animals. Her paper *Extraction of Bile from Animals and Its Use* was recognized as the one of high practical value. The method is now in wide use in the Koryo medicine field.

Today she is deepening the research on different animals to extract and separate Koryo medicinal materials from them.

Sim Chol Yong

Some of the books written by Hong Son Hui.



By New Teaching Methods

IN KANGSO DISTRICT, Nampho, there is a school known as that of best students in the city. It is the Kangso District Hero Kangso Technical Senior Middle School that has produced 13 Heroes of the DPRK and Labour Heroes.

Ri Yong Ok, head teacher of the school, says, "My school used to be called Hero Kangso Senior Middle School, and recently we have got a new name, that is, technical senior middle school specializing in information technology. This set us many tasks, for example, establishment of the relevant education system, drawing up of necessary teaching plans and development of new teaching methods."

The school set it as an important matter to improve the teachers' IT-related ability and renovate teaching methods. It put in effort to renovate the method of panel discussion about teaching aimed at raising the teachers' ability. Teaching material studies were intensified through teaching method discussions, operation of the day of the department concerned and so on according to plans for improvement of qualifications, and an example was set in a unit to be introduced throughout the school. What was distinctive was that during a teaching method discussion each of the teachers of a given department gave a lesson on the same problem. This made it possible to distinguish clearly the gaps

Teachers' experimental apparatuses are under discussion for the purpose of improving their ability.

between teachers in the level and estimate who gave a priority-first and plain lesson. Thus it served as an opportunity for teachers to follow the example in their teaching.

It resulted in an amazing effect: Distinctive teaching aids and IT-related multimedia programs were made; and competition took place between departments and between teachers in inventing new teaching methods. Jong Jin Hyok, head of the physics department, developed *The Method of Teaching Physics Using Electronic Blackboard*, thus winning a certificate of registered education-support program at a national education sector's program show last year, and the teaching method was introduced throughout the school.

Won Yong Nam, deputy head teacher of the school, says, "It inspired the whole school with a stronger zeal for competition. And department meetings, which used to be oriented to simple prepara-

tion of lessons, are developing into those for inventing new teaching methods."

Teachers of other departments, including those of mathematics and biology and chemistry, too, produced new methods of using programs in teaching. This just led to the improvement of students' ability, thus producing students excellent at programming day after day.

The teaching experience of the school was introduced in other schools in the city, and many teachers of the school were given the floor at a national symposium on educational science and national meetings for swapping experience of instruction and edification and those for discussing about subject-specific teaching methods.

Teachers of the school are still unstintingly dedicating their wisdom to improving the educational quality.

Sim Chol Yong



Fighting against Breast Cancer

CANCER IS STILL A MALIG-
nant disease threatening hu-
man life.

Researchers of the breast disease laboratory, the Breast Tumour Institute, the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, have made noticeable achievements in the endeavour to deal with malignant tumours.

Previously it was common-
place to remove both focuses and
related lymph nodes in breast
cancer operations because it was
believed in general that the route
of the cancer metastasis had to
be cut in order to prevent the dis-
ease from recurrence. The opera-
tions, however, caused addition-
al pains to the relevant patients:
The arm whose axillary lymph
nodes were removed swelled
and was difficult to move, which
caused trouble to such patients
in work and life. An ideal treat-
ment was to preserve the lymph
nodes with no cancer metastasis
as much as possible. This gave
the researchers the new task of
identifying the signal nodes that
was affected by the cancer first
and checking the extent of the
spread scientifically.

Through their painstaking

efforts the researchers estab-
lished a technique of raising the
rate of search of signal nodes up
to 95% and over without doing
any harm to the human body.
This made it possible to save
many patients the excessive bur-
den of operations and postopera-
tive pains, and the preservation
of their lymph nodes helped raise
the immunity of their bodies.

A teacher of the Moranbong
District Pipha Senior Middle
School, Pyongyang, benefited
from the researchers' success. If
she had been put to an old treat-
ment she would have had to give
up her career because of the dis-
ability with her arm after the op-
eration. But she is still working
as a teacher without any diffi-
culty since she had an advanced
technique-based operation for
the preservation of lymph nodes.

A young woman who lives in
Sochon-dong, Sosong District,
Pyongyang, is taking care of her
family without any inconven-
ience though several years have
passed since she had a similar
operation on her cancer.

The researchers are also
conducting on a high level the
research to vary anticancer

medicine treatment according to
individual patients and make it
scientific.

Anticancer medicine applica-
tion is recognized as imperative
in postoperative cancer treat-
ment. But the patients who got
the same treatment were differ-
ent in the rate of recurrence of
the disease and lifetime. This is
because cancer-related genes in
the human body are different in
character and sensibility to an-
ticancer medicines according to
individuals.

Accordingly, the researchers,
through the test of breast can-
cer-related genes, established
the foundation for varying the
anticancer medicine application
according to individuals and
making it scientific.

As a result, a patient did not
have to get the postoperative
anticancer medicine treatment,
and similar patients could select
an anticancer medicine suited
for their own condition, and get
scientific treatment according to
the advance of the cancer and
the danger of the recurrence of
the disease. This led to remark-
ably higher efficacy of treatment
compared to before, and the re-
duction of harm from
side effects caused by
the improper use of
such medicines.

Kim Sun Ae, head
of the laboratory,
says her researchers
will keep striving to
put an end to breast
cancer and defend
the happiness and
health of women.

Rim Ok

A clinical seminar is
under way.



Top Wrestling Coach

KIM KUK SONG, WREST-
ling coach of the Pyong-
yang Sports Club who is also
an international referee, was
selected as one of the top ten
coaches of the Democratic Peo-
ple's Republic of Korea in 2018
and 2019. The coach is son of
Labour Hero and People's Ath-
lete Kim Chol Hwan, so he
enjoys all the greater public
interest.

His father won gold med-
als at the 22nd and the 23rd
World Freestyle Wrestling
Championships. In less than
five years from 1981 he partic-
ipated in large-scale interna-
tional competitions 15 times
and snatched 14 gold medals.
This earned him the honour
of sports hero of the country.
Later, he worked as coach of
the Pyongyang Sports Club,
and dedicated his all to the
effort to train world-famous
wrestlers till the last moment
of his life.

Such a family environment
encouraged Kuk Song to have
attachment to wrestling. In
his childhood he used to grap-
ple with his younger brother
or colleagues to imitate wres-
tling. When he was 14, he
started to learn wrestling at
a juvenile sports school. After
he joined the aforesaid club,
he distinguished himself at do-
mestic games, cutting a figure
as a promising wrestler.

Several years later he,
however, found himself at the
crossroads of his life whether
to continue his engagement in
the wrestling or give it up—be-
cause his condition was failing.

Giving up the ring which his
father and he were so fond of
meant abandoning of life to Kuk
Song. So, he became a wrestling
coach of the Pyongyang Sports
Club after attending Korea Uni-
versity of Physical Education.
He was determined to train
world-famous wrestling cham-
pions at the club where his fa-
ther had made his career, the
place where he had nurtured
his dream.

The first wrestler Kuk Song
took charge of was Pak Yong Mi.
Both of them made painstaking
efforts to reach their target of
world championship. It was not
an easy job. Not a few times he
worried himself as they failed
to get due result. Sometimes
he writhed in agony when she
was defeated in the match. And
when Yong Mi crumbled with
tears unable to bear her physi-
cal burden, he felt dispirited
himself. At that time, however,
the coach rose again and made
exact demands on himself and
his trainee.

“The gold medal goes to the
one with strong mental power.”
This was his creed, and it en-
couraged Yong Mi to work a
miracle. In 2018 she won first
place in the women's wrestling
event of both the Asian cham-
pionships and the 18th Asian
Games. As a triple Asian
champion she won gold medal
at the 53kg-category of wom-
en's wrestling event of the 2019
World Wrestling Champion-
ships which drew nearly 1 000
wrestlers from 100 countries
and regions.

Her matches reminded peo-



Kim Kuk Song.

ple of Kuk Song's father: he had
been kept deeply in the mind of ex-
perts and audience as he managed
the competitions tenaciously to
the end without losing confidence
even in unfavourable circumstanc-
es. When Yong Mi performed his
fortes such as slipping through
under the opponent's shoulder and
throwing the opponent backward
by the waist, the audience gave
her a big hand. Her high technique
supported by strong mental power
led her to beat off the Japanese ri-
val, a double world champion, who
had a better physical preparedness
than her, in the final of the 2019
world championships.

Yong Mi became the first wom-
an world wrestling champion in the
country. Commenting the fact peo-
ple are unsparing of their praise of
Kuk Song as *Like father, like son*.
Not content with the success the
coach is redoubling his effort to add
lustre to the honour of the country
by winning more gold medals.

Kim Il Bong

Feminine But Not Feeble

NOT A FEW OF ANIMAL KEEPERS OF THE Central Zoo in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, are women. The following is about some of the women.

With Tigers All Her Life

Kim Sun Ok, leader of Workteam No. 1 of Animal Keeping Workshop No. 1, has dedicated her life to the care of tigers. So people refer to hers as a "life shared with tigers." It reflects the public respect for her.

During her career of 57 years the workteam leader has trained a dozen good beast keepers. She also has reared over 80 tigers and lions. In particular, she has bred many Korean tigers which are larger, nimbler and braver, and have more beautiful fur patterns than other subspecies. Thus she was awarded the title of Merited Animal Keeper. In

Juche 102 (2013) she was honoured with the title of Labour Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Artificial Suckling Expert

"What is most important in keeping ferocious animals is to provide for young animals and breed them well. Suckling is especially important," says O Song Hui, head keeper of the leopard house.

Those beasts which have been "immigrated" to the zoo from the wilds often reject their young after giving birth to them. But none of the workteam members is worried about it because O, an artificial suckling expert, readily looks after the young beasts. Young beasts become intimate with her—a few minutes after they are born.

During her career of over four decades she has reared a lot of tiger and leopard cubs by dint of ar-

Kim Sun Ok (centre).



O Song Hui (right).

tificial suckling. Now she is rearing the tiger cub *Chongmyong*. Indeed it seems that she has the "charisma" to attract even such beasts.

Woman Good at Taming Bears

Kim Mi Ran is a keeper of the bear house. Her childhood nickname was *Sanaebonjigi* (tomboy) because she would readily play with boys. As an energetic and impetuous girl, she was so tenacious that she would stop playing only when she won. Such personality of hers seems to have enabled her to become competent to tame wild bears. She says she is quite pleased when she has tamed fierce bears into obedient things.

For the past 19 years she has tamed scores of wild bears. A dozen of them were sent to the zoos of Kuwait and other countries in the world.

Who Is a Happy Person?

Who is a happy person? Kim Ju Ok, a hippo keeper, thought and thought to find the answer to the question from her girlhood. Her father used to tell her, "You can find genuine happiness only when you devote yourself to the good of others."

His words encouraged her to volunteer to work at the zoo when its second-stage renovation was in full swing in 2016. Since then she has worked as a hippo keeper.

The zoo has visitors all the year round, and they, regardless of sex and age, enjoy getting familiar with hippos. This has made Kim regard her job



Kim Mi Ran.

as the most worthwhile and happiest.

Still, she is striving to answer the childhood question with her practice.

Article by Kim Son Myong
Photos by Hwang Ryo Jong

Kim Ju Ok.



Phyongphungdok Goat Farm

THE PHYONGPHUNGDOK Goat Farm in Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province, is situated in an area 500 to 1 200 metres above sea level. As the local mountain valleys are deep and rugged it was a habitat of wild boars, bears and other wild animals alone for a long time.

In 1996, the farm began to be built in the mountain by young people of the county. They created thousands of hectares of pastures, and built the farm consisting of dozens of branch farms and the road connecting them.

Today the farm raises over 10 000 goats. Their milk and dairy products are enriching the economic condition of the farm.

The morning of the farm starts with the sounding of milk-delivering vehicles' horns. Each of the branch farms waits for the vehicles with the milk they have just gotten from goats. When the

morning sun spreads its beams over the mountain, flocks of goats go up to pastures. Tinkles of goat bells and sweet singing of the workers reverberate through the mountain.

After collecting fresh milk from the branch farms running along the ring road over 40 kilometres long, the vehicles go to the milk processing workteam. The workteam is located on the mountain side where a crystal-clear spring gushes out. It produces hundreds of tons of butter, cheese and kefir annually.

In recent years the farm has increased the variety of dairy products such as yogurt and curds. The products are quite popular inside and outside the county.

Not content with goat grazing and milk processing, the farm is raising rabbits and pigs in numbers and creating medicinal herb fields using favourable



topographical features. The officials and young workers of the farm are assiduously learning new knowledge so as to translate

▶ their dream into reality. Choe Myong Chol, manager of the farm, says, "The changed appearance of my farm today is

stimulating. Our dream of making all other mountains valuable in accordance with the Workers' Party of Korea's plans will come

true without fail."

*Article by Pak Yong Il
Photos by Hwang Jong Hyok*

Anti-epizootic work is regularly done for goats.



Goats are put out to pasture.



Farm workers enjoy the evening hours.



Dairy goods are produced.



Joy of Flower Family

THERE IS A FAMILY GOOD at cultivating flowers in Neighbourhood Unit No. 83, Jungsin-dong, Sosong District, Pyongyang. Over 20 kinds of flowers are in bloom in the veranda all the year round, attracting the eyes of pedestrians.

Kim Yong Ae, grandma of the family, formed connection with flowers in her teens. Her native village had so many fruit trees that in spring it was surrounded by apricot, peach and other fruit flowers in full bloom. As she grew up in such a village she loved flowers unusually and was fond of planting and cultivating them with her own hands.

After graduating from college she became a teacher of her old middle school with a determination to dedicate her life to education, when her love for flowers grew stronger. She saw the faces of her dear students in the buds of flowers. Whenever she put in more effort to tend those flowers

that needed delicate conditions, she would think of her duty as educator to train all her students different in personality and hobby into fine persons. Her simple habit of growing flowers became a course to cultivate her mind, as well as part of her life.

After getting married she moved several times following her husband who was an officer of the Korean People's Army. Each time, her kitchen garden turned into a flower garden, and the first thing she would do after class was to tend the flower garden at her new school. After daily class she looked after flowers together with her students, and strove to implant spirit as beautiful as flowers in them. When they graduated, she would give them flower seeds in commemoration of their graduation. And she found pleasure in reading the letters from her disciples telling that they would remember her expectation while tend-

ing those seeds in their workplaces.

It is long since she became a pensioner, but her habit has not changed. When she heard that a tropical tree greenhouse would be built in the Central Botanical Garden she contributed a pot of ten-year-old agave to the garden. Struck with wonder by the plant the horticulturists there said that they had not cultivated such a large agave, and asked if she would feel sorry to let it go. Then she said, "I will be pleased if this plant helps children to have a wide range of knowledge."

Still, in spring, she plants flowers in the flower garden of the school where she had worked. She is busy visiting the Botany Institute, the Pyongyang Floriculture Institute and the Central Botanical Garden. She often receives calls and letters from enthusiasts for cultivating flowers across the country for her advice on flower cultivation. So she regards it as a worthwhile job to help them with her 46 years of experience and deep knowledge.

Her three daughters who cultivated flowers from their childhood with their mother also love flowers. Humus soil and flower seeds and roots are valuable gifts to them. *Let's make flowers bloom in not only our homes but also our workplaces, villages and streets.* With this intention they take pleasure in cultivating and propagating flowers. Their children, too, are attached to flower cultivation. The tradition of the family is carried on.

Rim Ok

The family grows many flowers.



Father and Son Work Together as Industrial Artists



Chon Yong Il.



Chon Song Nam.

CHON YONG IL AND CHON Song Nam are father and son working as artists at the Korea Industrial Art Studio.

Chon Yong Il is an authority in the field of industrial art. He began his career 46 years ago, that is, in the 1970s when the industrial art grew more important with the national economy making a leap forward.

From his childhood Chon was interested in both fine art and engineering, and he felt like working for development of the industrial art.

He cut a conspicuous figure from the beginning of his work. His first product which was a candy label got well known across the country, and, encouraged by his first success, he created one design after another that demonstrated his individuality.

One day he was assigned to make a label of the Taedonggang beer. He called at a Taedonggang beer house almost every day. Trying the beer and hearing the customers' comment on it, he finally got the idea of the label. Then, he made an original and impressive label of the beer which carries the refreshing and mild taste.

Chon's individuality in creation may be succinct description of a given object. He has long worked hard to give life to the concise, intensive and symbolic

qualities of the label designing, and in the course of this he got an unusual creative technique.

When people see labels of *Pommaji*-brand condiments which he designed, they would guess the designer might be of young age. But when they see labels of porcelain ware he designed, they might say they must have been designed by a woman considering the soft and delicate patterns and shapes.

Chon once worked as a section chief of the label designing production, and then as the head of the production.

Over the years he produced novel and unique label designs which brought him top honour at national industrial art exhibitions held in celebration of the Day of the Sun (President Kim Il Sung's birthday).

Though well past the age of retirement, he is still a full member of the studio. His colleagues ask him to take it easy, but he declines their advice, saying he feels ten years younger whenever his designs earn a good comment.

His creative enthusiasm is now shared by his son, Chon Song Nam. According to his father, Song Nam, from his primary school days, was good at applying perspective to pictures, and had unusual sensitiveness to colours.

Song Nam's childhood dream

was to be an industrial artist. Following his father's principle that reality is the basis of creation and a fertile field for development of creative talent, he chose to go to a workplace instead of college, which brought him a lot of experiences.

Song Nam has been working at the studio for a little over a year. Still, he is attracting attention of his colleagues. When there was a design prize contest for the development of Samjiyon City in northern Korea, he put forth an ingenious style of signboard design for buildings. As the proverb goes, "Like father, like son," his work was highly evaluated and given a prize.

Moreover, as his father's calligraphic style for signboards won the prize, the signboard design turned out to be a joint work of the father and son. Enjoying the signboards along the street in the beautiful city on one of his visits there, Song Nam renewed his determination to remain an industrial artist all his life.

He learned in reality the truth that the secret of success in designing lies in representing national feelings boldly. He is trying hard to improve his ability.

The father and son go to and from work together, sharing the same goal and unsparing in their effort for a good design.

Rim Ok

Disabled But Not Dispirited



Ju Su Yang.



Ryu Jin Hyok.

A discussion on a dance piece.

RYU JIN HYOK AND JU SU YANG with hearing impairments are members of the dancing circle of the Korean Art Association of the Disabled. They played a hero and heroine in a lot of dancing programmes.

Their performance is perfect, including their graceful movements and expressive countenances that accord well with the musical accompaniment, so the audience always wonders whether they are really disabled with their hearing.

Ju Su Yang was not deaf from birth. When she just began to lisp she unfortunately became unable to hear at all with her auditory nerve paralysed by the side effects of an antibiotic.

Her aptitude for rhythm was unusual.

Her mother recalls, "One late night I went to sleep, when I noticed Su Yang's bed shaking. So I went to her bed and saw her in a lying position imitating dance movements she had just seen on TV."

Su Yang always walked as if dancing, and she created dance movements of her own to the surprise of her parents.

She always had a dream of dancing on the stage.

But as she attained her years of discretion, she writhed in agony at her unusual condition time and again.

When she was 12, she joined the dancing circle of the aforesaid association thanks to the help of its officials. Her life has since been enlivened.

The same was the case with Ryu Jin Hyok.

Jin Hyok, too, lost his hearing in his nursery days.

When his mother brought a duck home, he carefully watched the duck move. Then he abruptly began to dance taking the duck by the feather. His dance was so charming and clever that not only passers-by but also all his villagers gathered to see him dance.

When he was 14, he visited the aforementioned association

▶ and happened to see members of the dancing circle in training. Deeply impressed by their happy dance, he made up his mind to become a dancer.

The girl and the boy thus began to learn dance systematically under the guidance of their instructor Jon Kyong Sim.

When creating the dance *On the Brook*, they played the roles

of hero and heroine respectively. Their attachment to and enthusiasm for dancing was so amazing.

One night the boy aroused his family members from sleep in spite of himself as he kept training until past two o'clock in the following morning in an effort to complete his role of restoring a girl's water jar after breaking it by mistake.

When she went to a hospi-

tal to get examined, Su Yang, too, struck doctors with admiration by practising her role while waiting for her turn.

During her hospital treatment, Jin Hyok went to see her every day, helping her learn the dance movements he had learned that day.

On their way back home from training they have a discussion to create a vivid performance suited to a relevant theme.

In the process of competing with each other and helping make up each other's deficiency, they developed into a pair of good dancers.

They are regarded as twin pillars of the dancing circle and the "image" of disabled dancers in the country, and when talking about the performance of such dancers, anybody thinks of them first.

They have accumulated rich experience and improved their ability performing over 30 dancing pieces including the folk dances *Trio Dance* and *Ong-hey*.

They are training hard to create better programmes.

Scenes from dances in which Ju and Ryu played the leading role (2019).



In Search of Old Famous Liquor

KAMHONGNO OF PHYONGAN PROVINCE and *Riganggo* of Hwanghae Province was long known as famous kinds of liquor in Korea.

They, however, disappeared owing to the Japanese imperialists' moves to obliterate the national culture of Korea during their military occupation.

After liberation on August 15, 1945, many Koreans made efforts to restore the old famous drinks. One of them is Pak Kyong Ran, head of the traditional drink development laboratory, the Taebak-san Traditional Goods Company.

Kyong Ran worked as a docent of the Korean Folklore Museum after graduating from Kim Il Sung University.

One day she was explaining about food culture in the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668) when the visitors asked her what Korea's old famous liquor was. She told them about it on the basis of historical facts. But it was merely data.

She recalls, "It grieved me to think that the cultural heritage created by our ancestors only remained intangible. Then I made up my mind to restore the famous drinks."

At first she went to the Folklore Research Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences to tell about her determination. Professor and Doctor Kong Myong Song, director of the institute, and Im Sung Bin, head of a laboratory there, actively helped her.

From then on she, after work, spent nights studying relevant old books in the Grand People's Study House or visited well-known distilleries in



Pak Kyong Ran.

provinces.

Once, on the basis of historical documents and the elderly's opinions, she searched nameless mountains for a relevant herb for several days.

It was not an easy job to restore the old famous drinks. In the course of repeated research and failures she sometimes got disheartened. At that time her husband So Mun Hyok encouraged her heartily. It was also thanks to his unknown support that she could succeed in the research.

With the help of the many people she finally managed to restore the real tastes of *Kamhongno* and *Riganggo* by dint of folk remedies in three years.

The techniques of making *Kamhongno* and *Riganggo* were put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage in 2018.

Ri Chol Man, an elderly man resident in Central District, Pyongyang, says, "The taste and flavour of *Riganggo* can be expressed only by those who have drunk it. It's wrong to regard *Riganggo* merely as liquor. It awakens posterity to a lot of things in having a better understanding of the good qualities of their nation and carrying on and developing the famous drinks."

Kyong Ran is striving to find other old famous drinks and traditional beverages of Korea and spread them widely.

Pak Yong Il



Twin Sisters in Chonsong

THE CHONSONG YOUTH Coal Mine hospital in Unsan County, South Phyongan Province, boasts 25-year-old twin sisters held in respect and affection by people. They are Ri Un Byol and Ri Un Hae.

There is nothing special about the features of the girls of ordinary stature and sturdy physique with big eyes in their oval faces. They, however, are unusual in the efforts for the sake of patients.

One autumn day in 2012 water spouted in a pit. Miners desperately struggled to stop the water. In the course of this one of the miners was badly hurt on his leg by a wooden prop. The miner was rushed to the hospital, and had several operations there. At that time Un Byol was in charge of him. Unfortunately, the patient turned weak, and almost lost his appetite as well—even special dishes were no good. So Un Byol drew up a menu for each meal for him to suit his conditions and his taste. And she worked hard for his treatment with all sincerity and in a responsible manner. Thus the patient recovered in a short span of time to return to work.

The same is the case with Un Hae.

One spring day a few years ago she heard that knotweed was good for the treatment of a sick miner. So she climbed up a mountain to gather the herb. It, however, was as difficult to find

the plant as to do strawberries in midwinter. She returned home late that night with half a basket of knotweed. Then, without relieving her fatigue, she stayed awake making a decoction of the herb well past midnight, and took the medicine to the patient.

When a parentless wife of a miner had a baby, the twins took good care of her like her relatives would do. Whenever patients saw their birthdays come round, the sisters prepared birthday dishes for them.

They also take special care of war veterans and honoured disabled ex-soldiers.

Kim Kil Hun, a 57-year-old special-class disabled ex-soldier, says, "A saying goes that 'A protracted illness wears out filial devotion.' But Un Byol and Un Hae have been taking care of me

as doctors in charge of me for a long time. Every month they regularly call on me bringing tonics with them, and treat me. It is not an easy job to do so. They are as good as my own children."

According to the director of the hospital, the twins have so far attended to hundreds of patients.

People often ask them if they find their job difficult. Then the sisters reply, "We're daughters of a miner. We think that what we've done is less than what miners conscientiously do deep underground. We only want to do something for society and the collective."

The sisters are working devotedly whether they are recognized or not, and people proudly call them *our twin sisters*.

Pak Yong Il

The twins and their parents make tonics for honoured disabled ex-soldiers.





Part of Hanggu District



Nampho Today

NAMPHO IS A GATEWAY to the capital city of Pyongyang. Known as an industrial city and port city of culture, it is changing for the better.

Developing Marine Transport

Nampho is located on the west coast of Korea. It has the West Sea Barrage which was built in the 1980s. Vessels with the tonnage of up to 50 000 tons can pass the barrage. The Nampho Port as an international trade port is the pride of the city.

The port has modern loading and unloading facilities, including various wharf cranes, and transport means. Loading and unloading large vessels with the tonnage of over 10 000 tons can be done at the same time. It also has enough cargo storage facilities.

► ties.

Recently another wharf crane has been installed in the port, which is being modernized on a higher level thanks to the effort of its technical personnel.

The city has dockyards where there are built various fishing boats, dredgers, passenger ships, cold-storage ships and large cargo ships, and fishing implements production bases. It also has fishing stations, includ-

ing the Nampho Fishing Station, and fishery cooperatives.

Changing Appearance of City

Now the city is changing its looks anew. High and low buildings between Hanggu District and Waudo District have been spruced up. The buildings are decorated with reliefs shaped like water drops, waves, seagulls, anchors, sailboats and floats. So the visitors may have an instant impression of the city as a coastal one.

Besides, many structures have gone up in a unique way in the city, including the Nampho Tree Nursery, the Nampho Kimchi Factory, the Nampho Spring Water Factory, the Nampho Municipal Catfish Farm, the Nampho Old People's Home and the Nampho Sanatorium for War Veterans, along with multi-storied apartment blocks of various forms built here and there to suit the local terrain condition, thus providing the local citizens with a stable life.

And there are public service facilities such as the Nampho Department Store, the Pyongyang Grey Mullet Soup Restaurant in Hanggu District, the Ryongsu House and the Mirae

House, all conducive to the citizens' cultural and recreational life.

Scenic Wau Islet

The city has Wau Islet, one of scenic spots in the West Sea of Korea. It looks like a bull lying there, hence its name.

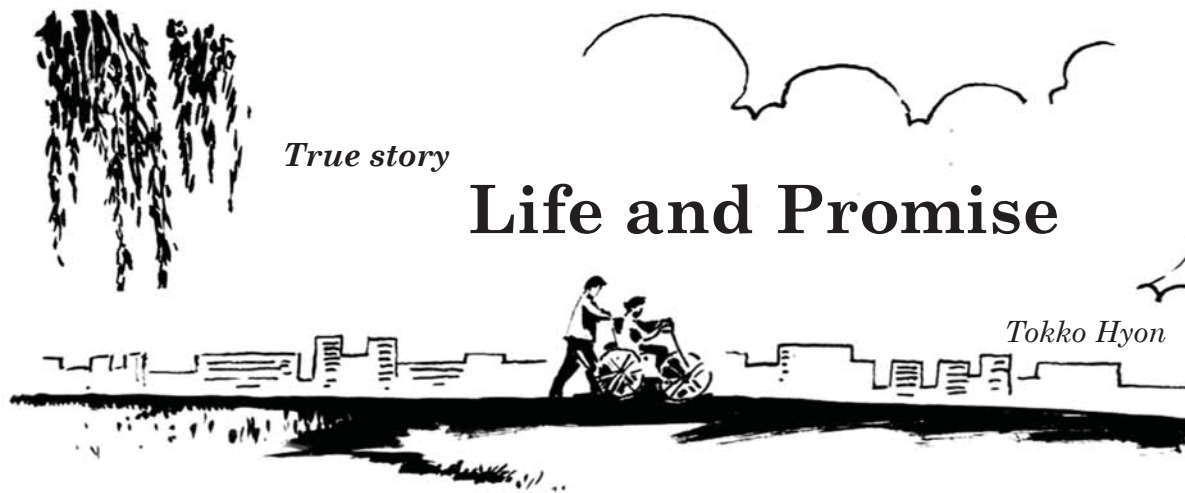
The place has several low hills including Wau Hill thick with different kinds of trees, mysterious rocks and cliffs, a sand beach and pine woods, which blend well with the Taedong River and the sea. In particular, its landscape is spectacular in spring with all sorts of flowers in full bloom, in summer with luxuriant verdure and in autumn with autumnal tints and all sorts of ripening fruits.

In summer it has many visitors from not only the city but also neighbouring provinces. It has cultural and sports facilities such as bathing resorts, boating grounds, volleyball and basketball courts and table-tennis houses and welfare service amenities. When you enjoy a bird's-eye view of the city from a pavilion on Wau Hill, it looks like a city on the sea.

Article by Sim Chol Yong
Photos by Ri Song Hak

The West Sea Barrage





True story

Life and Promise

Tokko Hyon

(Continued from the last issue)

“I’VE NEVER THOUGHT about such a kind of lover, and I’ll not do it in the future, either,” Kil Sun said.

Then I felt my heart beating faster. Still, having set about it, I said straightforwardly, “Kil Sun, I just want to be such a man.”

“What do you mean?” she asked in surprise.

“I really mean I want to love you, nay, I’ve loved you,” I declared.

Kil Sun’s face flushed red. She hung down her head for a while before holding up her face, her eyes seeming to reveal a determination of hers.

She said in a firm voice, “Thank you, Ki Chon. But I think we had better let bygones be bygones. Excuse me, but let me go first.”

Her wheelchair jumped to move as quickly as a rebounding ball as soon as she finished her words.

“Hey, Kil Sun!” I called after her, taking a few steps in my

bewilderment. Then I stopped. Looking at her back as she was gradually receding through the sparsely falling snow flakes, I regretted that I seemed to have astonished her too abruptly.

But I knew I had the reason for it. Until then I only read and saw some scenes of a young man declaring his love to his lover in a novel or film. It was the first time for me to say the word *love*.

And I did read her mind. She must have thought she, in an unusual condition, should never be a burden to others.

Anyhow, there came a start-up—that was important.

One evening after hesitating for several days I headed for her home again on my way back from work. She was at home with her mother alone. I wanted to call her out to meet her alone. But I knew it would cause some troublesome procedures for her again. Judging that I had nothing to keep secret now that I had proposed to her, I said directly

to her mother, “I’ve come here because I want to become your third son-in-law.”

“What? My third son-in-law?” the mother wondered, brightening up in pleasant surprise. Then Kil Sun, seated in a corner of the room, cried, “Ma!” in discomfiture to restrain her.

The mother hurriedly went out closing the door of the room behind her. Kil Sun and I were left alone in the room. Both of us kept silent awkwardly. Then I broke the silence.

“Kil Sun, I’m not good at talking. What is clear, however, is that I intend to have your disease cured by any means. Even if it is not cured after all, I’ll become your legs all my life,” I said.

She said nothing, her face turned away from me.

Looking at her I wondered how such a good-humoured girl could be cold suddenly at the matter of marriage. Well, why are women so shy? ▶

▶ She kept remaining frozen for a good while. Then she turned her face to me. In the reddish lamplight she calmly and coldly looked straight at me. Now she said in a low but clear voice, “First, I really appreciate your care for me, Ki Chon. I’m quite happy to know merely that there is a man like you who wants to love me so much. But marriage is impossible. I’ve never dreamed of marriage. And I still do not do, and won’t do. So I consider marriage as an insult to me.”

“What? Is it an insult?” I cried in astonishment. I felt anger inwardly at the moment.

“What is it then?” she went on to say. “Did you coldly and deeply think about the after-effects of your marriage to a girl like me? How will you be able to do your job properly if you marry a disabled woman like me? Now I’m a burden to the country as I can’t do anything at all. And because of me it might be the same case with you. I won’t be able to bear it.”

Tears welled in her eyes, and trickled down her cheek.

My anger of a few moments before disappeared instantly, and I felt a lump in my throat.

Now I felt more proud of her, and my determination grew firmer because I knew she felt so guilty, unable to do anything conducive to the country even after sacrificing her youth without hesitation to do a good deed.

I can’t marry anyone else

than this girl, I thought. I’ll surely marry her, and I know I am ready to carry her on my back all my life.

I came back home without any agreement but I felt light-hearted.

Life, however, was not simple. When I told my father about Kil Sun that evening, he unexpectedly shook his head at once.

“No. I am against your idea!” he declared.

His words struck me dumb. As you know, my father quite treasured me, his eldest son. In everyday life he was a brusque kind, but I often felt that my growth was associated with his deep affection for me step by step. Especially, since I returned home from military service, he did not merely take me admirable. He showed regard for me, and supported and sympathized with all my opinion unconditionally. So I had intended to tell him about my affair with Kil Sun after a certain relevant agreement. I had never expected he would deny my idea.

I asked him doubtfully, “Dad, you’re a war veteran, aren’t you?”

“Do you mean that as a war veteran I should just get such a girl for my eldest son’s wife?” he retorted, and went into the other room as if there were no room for discussion any longer.

The next day my mother advised me, “I think the girl is laudable. But why did you

choose her? You see all parents want to have good spouses for their sons and daughters they have brought up with so much care. Don’t blame your father!”

As soon as they heard of the matter my eldest and third sisters hurried to my home. They said, “Ki Chon, you’re the eldest son of our family. If you marry such a girl, how do you think she will take care of you and our parents? And you’re a man. There were many girls who married disabled young ex-servicemen, but I’ve never heard that a young man married a disabled young ex-servicewoman. Do you know why? That’s because women do absolutely much more things in family life than men. Why do you think people say, ‘Family depends on woman.’?”

The uncle, I was told, was startled at the news of the matter, crying, “What? Ki Chon must be crazy.”

On the first morning of this year I visited Kil Sun at her home. After exchanging New Year greetings with her family members I left the home. Then her father saw me off to a distance, telling me, “Thank you for your kindness. But how can I take no account of the other family’s son even though I value my daughter so much? Kil Sun and my wife and I think so. As the old saying goes ‘A protracted illness wears out filial devotion,’ you’d better reconsider it.”

(To be continued)

Forests Sway

DUSK BEGAN TO FALL OVER THE PINE tree valley in the Pukjin area in Unsan County, North Phyongan Province, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The valley is so thickly wooded with pine trees that you can hardly see the sky there even in the daytime. A man was hurrying down a narrow path of the valley. He was Merited Forest Ranger Kang Yong Su in Pukjin Workers' District of the aforesaid county.

He was returning home at the news that his eldest son Kang Chol was back at home to work as forest ranger in the area voluntarily after graduating from Sinuiju College of Agriculture. Memories of the past days passed through his mind. The first of the memories was what had happened after his return home, discharged from military service a dozen years before.

Back home at the time he first went to the aforesaid valley as it was associated with his father's painstaking efforts.

His father Kang Yun Gyong settled in the valley discharged from military service after the end of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July 1953).

The aftermath of the war was heartbreaking: All the mountains were stripped bare.

Before building his house Yun Gyong started with the laying of a tree nursery. He removed rocks, filled the holes with humus and planted pine saplings in the mountains.

By tending the trees with such care for over 40 years he turned the area into green forests. Thus he

became the first Merited Forest Ranger in the country. And the film *The Forest Sways* was produced on the basis of his life.

To Yong Su the pine forests just meant the image and soul of his father. During his military service he would picture the valley in his mind whenever he missed his father. Now Yong Su felt disappointed looking round mountains in the valley. They were seriously damaged owing to the aftermath of the Arduous March the country had to undergo in the 1990s because of the imperialists' harsh economic sanctions against it and their moves to isolate and stifle it.

Seeing the damaged forests with a heartache, he was reminded of his father when he said, "How can you talk about patriotism without planting even a single tree in your home village? We ought to live honestly for the sake of our country to be an honorable citizen, as invariably as the green pine tree." Then he decided to work as forest ranger.

However, it was not an easy job at all: There were consecutive natural disasters; tree nurseries were in deplorable conditions; and there was an absolute shortage of firewood for the local inhabitants.

Now Kang formed a workteam with members of his family to restore the forests. They laid tree nurseries in some clearings, and planted pine saplings with care in the bare mountains.

A dozen years of such efforts finally brought the valley back to the earlier shape.

The workers went on to create hundreds of hectares of more forests, wooded with pines, Korean

larches, and fruit trees and those for the supply of firewood. There also appeared fields of strawberry, forest asiabell and medicinal herbs—several hectares in all.

The State conferred the titles of Merited Forest Ranger and National Meritorious Person of Socialist Patriotism on Yong Su for his efforts to tend the mountains in the Pukjin area following in his father's footsteps. Thus, he was known throughout the country.

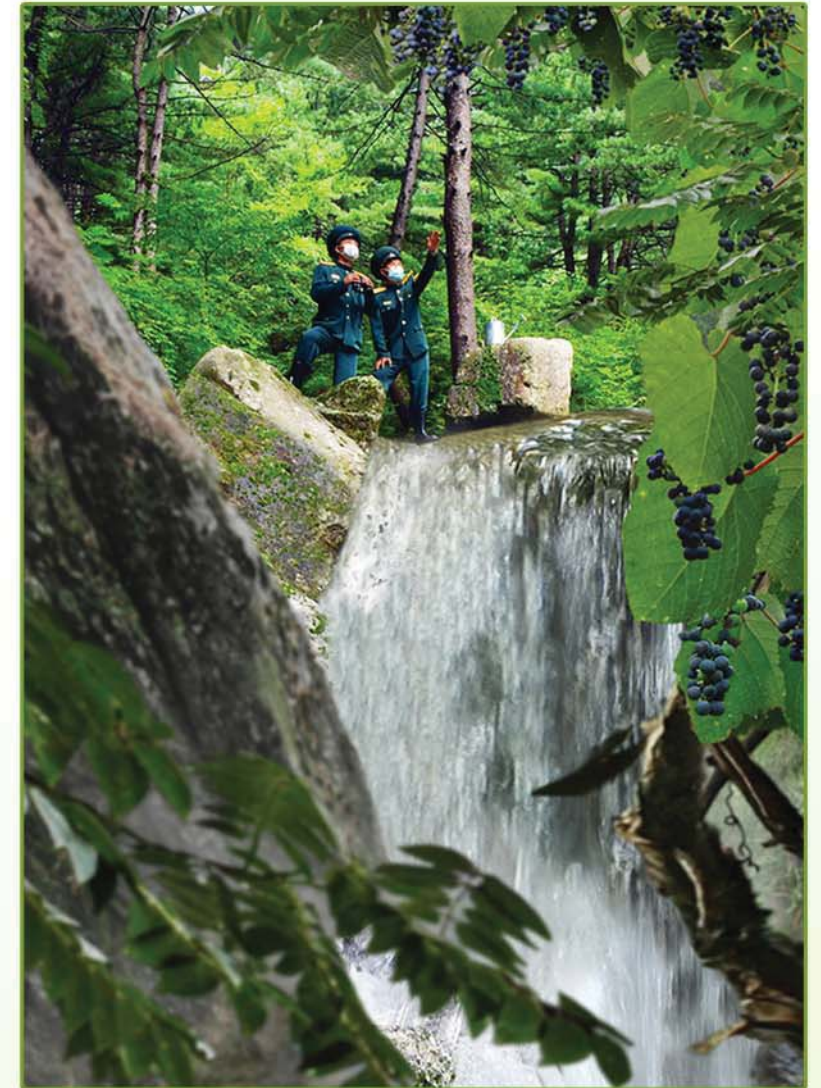
His son Kang Chol grew up seeing his grandfather and father working with sincerity. Now he decided to follow in his father's footsteps.

Recollecting the memorable events and calming down his excitement Yong Su was walking down a slope, when he heard a familiar voice.

"I want to keep the mountains like grandpa and you, Dad," said Ryon Yong while planting a pine sapling together with his father Kang Chol.

Yong Su was moved to tears to notice that his little grandson was also attached to the trees. He ran up to them and embraced them in the evening glow coming through pine trees.

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



Yong Su's father Kang Yun Gyong looked after pine trees for over four decades.

Kang Yong Su and his son tend the forest now.



Yonbaek Peasant Dance

PEASANT DANCES IN KOREA CAME into being in the primitive age when farm work started, and they had been developed continuously with the development of the work. Such dances were danced in all parts of the country, but they were different in composition and movement from region

to region.

Typical of them is the Yonbaek peasant dance. It attained a high level of development as compared to other areas and accordingly developed into a folk dance representing the kind in the country. The reason is that the Yonbaek Plain was a major granary in South Hwanghae Province, and that *ture* had been widespread earlier in the region.

Ture was a kind of collective labour union organized for doing collectively a job which requires much intensive labour. In the Yonbaek Plain region, during the busiest farming season, members of such a union came to and back from paddy fields while playing peasant music and dancing, and they did a peasant dance to recover from fatigue and raise their morale. After harvesting or on folk holidays they used to do a peasant dance on a large scale.

The major movements of the Yonbaek peasant dance reflected a variety of movements such as rice-transplanting, weeding, rice harvesting and threshing. It also showed merry dance movements in reflection of diverse sentiments of peasants' life such as pride of labour, unity of *ture* and joy of bumper harvest. The dance was accompanied with national percussion instruments like *jing* (a kind of gong), *janggo* (hourglass drum), big and small drums and *kkoenggwari* (a small kind of gong), and the instruments were also used for props for dancing. The *sogo* (small drum) dance, *janggo* dance and drum dance added to the pleasure of the peasant dance.

The peasant dance culminates in *sangmo* (decorative tassels on a cap) dance. The top of *jonrip* (soldier's felt hat) was decorated with bamboo or bead, and a white feather or a long-cut piece of paper was attached to the end of the decoration—this was called *sangmo*. Tassel dance is performed by several dancers turning round tassels different in length or one or two dancers turning round 12-fathom-long or longer tassels while performing their various tricks. The dance which is performed to the accompaniment of a variation of merry farm music is a distinctive one portraying the Korean people's optimistic sentiments of life with unique choreography.

The Yonbaek peasant dance is being carried on and developed as a traditional peasant dance. The dance, which reflects the Korean people's character—optimism, gentleness, broad-mindedness and vigorousness—is regarded as typical of both folk and national art of the country.

Peasant dance is danced at grand mass gymnastics and artistic performances as well.

The Yonbaek peasant dance is on the list of national intangible cultural heritage.

Rim Ok

Ancient Mural Tomb Unearthed

A GROUP OF RESEARCHERS FROM THE Korea National Heritage Preservation Agency and the Nampho Municipal National Heritage Preservation Agency recently unearthed a new mural tomb, dating back to Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), in the Undok Area of Ryonggang County, Nampho, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The tomb is situated halfway up a hill north of the area. The Ryonggang Large Tomb and the Twin-pillared Tomb, put on the World Heritage list, are 1.5 kilometres away to the west.

The earth-covered stone single-room tomb consists of a burial chamber and a passage.

At the entrance to the passage, there is a two-leaved stone gate made of granite plates with ring-shaped metal door knobs. The gate is 125 cm in height, 60 cm in width and 9 cm in thickness, and the knobs are 10 cm in diameter.

The passage leans to the east slightly from the centre of the south wall in the plane square chamber, and a low rectangular bier lying to the west is on the floor of the chamber. The south and west walls remain preserved comparatively well, with the length of 3.17 metres and the height of 1.5 metres for each side.

The main theme of murals in the tomb is four guardians. Depicted on the west wall is a white tiger with its head and eyes highlighted with red pigment, its body stretching and its tail crooked while leaping.

Unearthed in the tomb were pieces of mural paintings showing heads and forelegs of animals like tiger and dog and haunch of a horse, those of vine patterns painted on the skirting of the ceiling of the burial chamber and one nail used for coffin.

The Archaeology Society of the DPRK examined the excavation of the tomb and verified that it is the first Koguryo tomb with murals on the theme of four guardians ever discovered in the Ryonggang area and that it was built around the sixth century. It also estimated that the tomb is of great academic significance in the study of history, culture and especially burying custom of Koguryo since it has a stone gate with metal door knobs preserved in their original state, which is rarely seen in the kind of tombs. □



Where Is Japan Heading for?

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS have passed since the end of the Second World War. War maniacs started the aggressive and predatory war against other countries and nations for the purpose of enslaving all mankind and fascistizing the whole world, and unhesitatingly committed heinous inhuman crimes. They, however, could never defeat the progressive forces that unyieldingly fought for peace and democracy and national independence.

Among the countries that ignited the fuse of war only to be defeated is Japan.

The Japanese militarists had long coveted the vast continent, regarding overseas invasion as the only way for Japan to maintain its existence and develop. Then they invaded Korea as the first step of overseas invasion. They slaughtered over 1 million Korean people, took by force, kidnapped or abducted 8.4 million Koreans to be forced into the status of cannon fodder for their war or slave labour and forced 200 000 Korean women into sex slavery. Besides, they waged germ warfare, imposed forced labour on Koreans, obliterated the culture of Korea and robbed the country of natural resources at random. Their crimes against the Korean nation are so innumerable.

Even a Japanese publication said that if the documents on the criminal atrocities the Japanese imperialists had committed in Korea and other Asian countries were piled up, the pile would be 20 000 metres high.

The Japanese imperialists' decades-long history of colonial

rule is marked by extra-villainous inhuman crimes.

Nevertheless, Japan's ultrarightist forces, with an ambition of reinvasion, are frantically trying to restore militarism, far from apologizing for their past crimes against mankind.

Since the end of the war, complaining that the Japanese imperialists were defeated because they "were weak," the Japanese reactionaries have rushed to turn their country into a military power, reinforcing their armed forces and dispatching their troops abroad, in an attempt to realize their ambition of reinvasion.

The Japanese reactionaries have become more undisguised in trying to translate their ambition of reinvasion into reality by carrying out military operations in any region of the world and making it possible for the "Self-Defense Forces" to take part in actual fighting and modernizing them. This year they allotted ¥5. 3133 trillion, the greatest amount in history, to increase military expenditure in new domains such as outer space and cyberspace and purchase military equipment including the newest F-35 stealth fighters.

Having steadily increased the offensive power of the "Self-Defense Forces," they are even trying to free them from their nominal shackles by revising the constitution. And every year they, in groups, pay a visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, the spiritual symbol of militarism, making offerings to it, in an attempt to offer the war dead as "heroes" and inspire the Japanese society with chauvinism and enthusi-

asm for militarism.

Refusing to admit their past crimes such as those of forcing women into sex slavery for Japanese troops and imposing forced labour on people, the Japanese reactionaries went so far as to distort completely or reduce and lessen drastically Japan's filthy history of aggression in most of the textbooks to be used at middle schools in 2021 in an attempt to justify the history and imbue the rising generation with a militaristic view of history and revanchism.

Having emerged as one of the largest military entities in the world, Japan is frenziedly trying to start reinvasion at any cost. While plotting to cause an armed conflict by insisting on "dominium," the country has constantly waged war rehearsals under the pretext of ensuring the security of the archipelago, driving the situation of the region to a crisis. This year the world has been in utter confusion owing to the pandemic. Still, the Japanese reactionaries have waged war rehearsals under different pretexts, giving rise to concern in the international community.

The Japanese reactionaries' reckless attempts to realize their ambition of reinvasion are greatly threatening peace and security of the world.

It is the unanimous opinion of the international community that Japan, a war criminal that brought mankind great calamities in last century, should never be left free to revive as the "leader" of Asia and light the fuse of war to realize its ambition of reinvasion. □

Sinsollo—Epitome of Korean Cuisine

ONE OF THE TYPICAL Korean dishes may be *sinsollo*. There goes an interesting story about the origin of the dish.

There was a prominent man of literature during the feudal Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). Detesting the tyranny of Yonsangun, the tenth king of the dynasty, Jong Hui Ryang lived a life of hermit in mountains. He carried a strange burner with him, which he used to cook wild animals he hunted and wild vegetable he picked. People likened him to *sinson*, a Korean word for spirit, and called his burner *sinsollo*, that is, a cooker of the spirit. Originally it meant a cooking utensil, but gradually earned the meaning of a dish cooked in it.

The dish went by other names like *kuja*, *yolguja*, *kujathang*, *yolgujathang* and other nicknames as its taste is good enough to open your mouth in-

stantly.

As is denoted by the names, *sinsollo* ranks as a world-famous dish for its original taste and aroma.

A unique quality of the dish must be the shape of the cooking vessel. In a round body there is a burner at the centre and a round vessel around it to hold cooking materials. And the body stands on an elevated platform which can pass the air through it.

Sinsollo makes it possible to cook dishes without the help of any other utensils and to eat the dishes without any need to serve it in other vessels. In other words, the fine shape and the functionality of playing two roles simultaneously as cooker and serving vessel are what we call the uniqueness of *sinsollo*.

The original quality of the dish comes also from the variety of materials and cooking meth-

ods.

Sinsollo ranks first in the number of kinds of materials and seasonings among the Korean cuisine.

A number of compendiums published in the time of the feudal Joseon dynasty, including *Siuijonso* and *Kyuhapchongso*, give special descriptions of the cooking methods and materials of *sinsollo*; there are dozens of kinds of materials used, for instance, pheasant, chicken, mutton, tripe, trepang, ear shell and shrimp.

Also unique is the cooking method. What is most characteristic is that all the ingredients are cooked primarily before they are put in the cooker. These ingredients which seem to be ready enough to be eaten are put in the cooker in good and attractive arrangement. When cooked, the dish is not only delicious but quite healthy as it supplies a well-balanced diet of various nutrients.

A mixture of different colours of meat, seafood, wild vegetables and other materials, *sinsollo* reminds you of a marvellous piece of art work.

Different kinds of excellent materials, an elegant and interesting cooker and a mouth-watering layout ensure the excellence of *sinsollo* as the epitome of the Korean cuisine.

The complex of all tastes of the Korean cuisine was put on the list of national intangible cultural heritage as well as on the one of Korean delicacies.

Kim Hyon Ju



